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NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

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Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch
Other names/site number: Spear-O-Wigwam Mountain Campus; 48JO3686
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Intersection of Coffeen Park and Spear-O-Wigwam roads
City or town: Story State: WY County: Johnson
Not For Publication: [ ] Vicinity: [x]

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 ___statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A ___B x C ___D

Mary Westby / Regional Heritage Program 1/7/16
Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**
USDA Forest Service
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Mary Hopkins 10/6/15
Signature of commenting official: **Date**
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer
Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

2-23-16
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 ☐

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	8	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
9	9	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
Domestic: Camp
Social: Meeting Hall
Agriculture/subsistence: Animal facility
Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions
Education: College
Domestic: Camp
Social: Meeting Hall
Agriculture/subsistence: Animal facility
Domestic: Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Other (Rustic)

Materials:
Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood: log (walls); metal: steel (roofs)

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The 15-acre Spear-O-Wigwam Mountain Campus is located at an altitude of 8300' in the Bighorn Mountains of eastern Wyoming, two miles north of the Cloud Peak Wilderness Area and one-half mile south of the Sheridan County line. The property is situated on flat to gently sloping meadow and forest land at the southeast end of Park Reservoir. The campus is approached through a long, wide meadow bounded on the south, east and west with dense forest. The centerpiece of the former dude ranch is the unusual main lodge built in the shape of the ranch's brand, an arrowhead (or spear) jutting out from a "wigwam." Surrounding the lodge are a collection of more than a dozen buildings, many built in the 1920s and 1930s, including log guest cabins, a classroom building (formerly a recreation hall), utility buildings, a tack room, corrals, and staff housing. The cultural landscape of the ranch reflects more than 90 years of use, most of it as a recreational retreat for dudes from the East Coast. Although recently adapted for use as a mountain campus for the Northern Wyoming Community College District, the buildings and landscape retain their historic integrity.

Narrative Description

Cultural landscape: natural features
The natural features of the Spear-O-Wigwam campus and the surrounding area have greatly influenced the cultural features of the site. The site is located at an altitude of 8300', in a relatively flat meadow surrounded by forest. The peaks of the highest mountains in the Bighorns, such as Cloud Peak (13,167') and Black Tooth Mountain (13,009'), are not visible from the campus itself, but can be seen to the south from various nearby locations. Vegetation consists of evergreen trees interspersed with open, grassy meadows. Thick stands of lodgepole pine are present to the south, east and west of the campus, and tall spruce trees are planted in clumps throughout the campus itself. These trees form visual barriers between the various land use areas, screening the service area, corrals and employee housing from the lodge and guest cabins. The site slopes up slightly to the south/southeast. A tree thinning project in the forest to the south of the campus was in operation at the time of the field visit (September 2014).

The property contains two constructed water features, the Peralta Ditch from Big Horn Reservoir (1885; JO3711/SH1413), which runs south to north the length of the property, forming an effective eastern boundary to the campus proper; and a pond built to collect water from the ditch for recreational fishing. The ditch, built as part of a large-scale irrigation project that included Park Reservoir and Big Horn Reservoir, takes water from the Big Goose Drainage and passes it via Willow Creek into the Little Goose watershed. Overall, the environment of the campus is secluded and peaceful, in spite of its proximity to a Forest Service road. The fast-running ditch provides the constant sound of rushing water.

Cultural Features

The cultural traditions that inform the landscape of Spear-O-Wigwam are mainly related to dude ranching and its associated outdoor activities such as horseback riding, fishing, pack trips and cookouts. Dude ranches typically employed a rustic style of architecture in keeping with their emphasis on outdoor activities. Most buildings are constructed of log, with rustic guest cabins which are named and decorated in particular themes, such as “cowboys,” or “fishing.” Typical of dude ranching culture, there is a main lodge for meeting, eating, and socializing; a separate area for staff housing and amenities; a service area screened from guests’ view; and corrals for the horses.

The spatial organization of the campus is typical of dude ranches, with guest cabins roughly forming a half circle around the main lodge. The property is approached via Forest Service Road 293 (FS 293) which runs through the middle of a wide, flat meadow. At the entrance to Spear-O-Wigwam, the Forest Service road branches to the west, while the entrance road continues straight, through a gate marked with the Spear-O-Wigwam brand. Within the campus itself the dirt road forks, with one fork going straight and ending in a dirt parking area, and a fork to the west leading to the service area (and connecting with FS 293). Circulation within the campus is limited to foot travel with the exception of service vehicles.

The main lodge is roughly centered in the property, oriented to the southwest. The majority of guest cabins are situated within sight of the lodge, on a slight rise in the southeast sector of the property. The western edge of the property contains service buildings such as the shop, garage, power plant and gas, propane and diesel tanks, all largely screened by trees. Just north of the service area, on the west side of the entrance drive, are a single employee house and the former Recreation Room, now a classroom. To the north of the lodge on the east side of the road are more employee housing and the corrals and tack room.

The campus proper is bounded by post-and-rail or buck-and-rail log fences. The Peralta Ditch forms a boundary on the east, although the actual permit boundary extends beyond the ditch. Views from the campus are limited, due to its location in a flat meadow surrounded by forest. A short walk leads to Park Reservoir and views of nearby rock formations such as Finger Rock and Lamburger Rock.

Small-scale features that contribute to the cultural landscape include:

- A picnic/barbeque area with a permanent stone grill, a 9' x 12' concrete pad, picnic tables, and a pole tent frame with a canvas roof. The "cook-out" was an integral part of the dude ranch experience.
- A horseshoe pit.
- An iron dinner bell with a rope pull, mounted on two tall poles, along with a flagpole, located just to the north of the main lodge.
- Two open shelters, of pole construction with metal roofs (15' x 16' and 12' x 16'), presumably built for recreation.
- Log boundary fences.
- Three small log bridges spaced the length of the campus which provide access to the east side of the ditch. Two bridges are constructed of log posts set in the ground on either side of the ditch, connected by log beams topped with 2 x 6 decking. The third bridge is constructed of logs spanning the width of the ditch, covered with log decking. All three bridges have log hand rails.
- Service features such as power poles with electrical lines to each cabin; propane tanks (largely hidden from view); and a pumphouse/water tank (east of the ditch).
- A canvas tipi set up near the entrance.

Buildings, Structures, Objects:

All of the buildings, with the exception of the utility buildings, are built of log (or frame with log siding), giving an appropriately rustic look to the campus. Most buildings were constructed on stone piers, or with logs resting directly on large, flat rocks, with air space underneath as was typical of camps intended only for summer use. Some, but not all, of the guest cabins were originally built with running water. For those that did not have this amenity, men's and women's shower/bath houses were provided.

The log buildings are constructed of logs of varying diameter. An unusual feature of this collection of log buildings is that they demonstrate four different corner treatments: square notch, saddle notch, oversided (or upside-down) saddle notch, and two-sided (or double) saddle notch. In some cases the same building was constructed with more than one type of corner.

Most of the cabins retain their original windows, which are either 6-light-by-6-light horizontal sliding wood windows or 6-light wood awning windows. Original window trim is made of wide, 1"-thick boards, with the lintel board flared at the ends in a flat-arch motif, and wood sills. Most of the doors have been replaced, many with 1960s-era interior doors. Roofs have been (or are being) replaced with metal sheeting due to fire concerns. Many of the log buildings retain log fascia supported by pole knee braces, and some of the porches and decks have log railings.

Individual buildings are numbered and described below. Numbers in parentheses refer to feature numbers assigned by the Forest Service. Dates of the buildings have been determined by historic photographs, first-person accounts, historical records and newspaper articles; in a few cases where corroborating information was not available, the date was taken from the Wyoming

Cultural Properties Form.[1] Most dates are not exact, since precise building records have not been located. However, the numerous photographs that were taken of the ranch, many of them dated, help to determine the dates within a few years.

1. Main Lodge (F1). 1924; Addition 1933-1934 (Herschel Elarth, architect); Contributing

The main lodge, built entirely of 8”-10”-diameter logs, has an irregular shape in the form of the Spear-O-Wigwam brand, consisting of three parts: a six-sided arrowhead (pointing southwest), a shaft and an octagonal wigwam (at the northeast end). For simplicity the orientation of the building henceforth will be referred to as “south.” The lodge is located near the center of the property, and is set in its natural landscape surrounded by grasses and groves of trees. The foundation throughout is of poured concrete, probably added to shore up an original foundation of stone piers. The log walls have oversided (upside-down) saddle-notched corners, with the lower log being notched to fit the log above it. The oblique angles formed by the canted walls of the building create unusual oblong log ends. Some of the corners are heavily chinked with cement covering the notches. The three-section log purlin roof has metal fascia and roofing. The roof of the north (octagonal wigwam) end of the building is topped by a central octagonal log cupola with metal roof and includes a large kitchen ventilation fan. The center post from the main section of the south (arrowhead) end extends about 5 feet above the roof, and to the south of it rises a massive stone chimney. At the south end, a roof extension terminates in a point, with the terminus supported by a log post with surrounding bench. The walls, however, do not extend to a point, but rather are cut back about 8’ by a short, south wall. This elevation serves as the main entrance, with a single vertical-plank door with a small horizontal light and a wood screen door.

From the corners of the south elevation, the sides of the arrowhead angle out to the east and west for a span of two bays with original 6-by-6 sliding wood windows in each bay and log splices slightly north of center. The base of the arrowhead is formed by shorter (one-bay) walls, each with a single 6-by-6 window, which angle slightly back in toward the center, and very short north-facing walls which angle in to meet the shaft section. Where the arrowhead meets the shaft are triangular inset porches sheltering doorways on each side, with plywood ceilings and a 4’ by 4’ post at the outside center of each roofline. The door on the east side is a rustic vertical-plank door with an upper horizontal light and a screen door, while the west side has a horizontal wood-plank door with heavy metal strap hinges.

The middle section of the building (the shaft) is a simple rectangular section with a three-part replacement awning window with modern trim on each of the east and west elevations. On the east elevation are the remains of a concrete block chimney and a 3’-high metal apron covering the logs closest to the ground to protect them from moisture.

North of the shaft, the walls angle out again to form the octagonal wigwam portion of the building. The east and west sides of the octagon are matching, with replacement awning windows in the four angled walls, and no windows in the intervening walls. The north wall,

[1] Rick Laurent, *Wyoming Cultural Properties Form for Site 48JO3686* (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, 2006).

which serves as the staff entrance, has a replacement door and wood screen door and a recently added frame gable-roofed porch with log supports.

Interior: The interior space defined as the "arrow" is divided into two sections by a massive (15' across by 9' deep) fireplace and chimney. The fireplace is built of local granite blocks laid up with cement mortar. The visitor enters through a single wood door into a relatively narrow space, with walls canting outward. The massive back wall of the fireplace provides a backdrop to the registration desk and leaves only a slim passage on either side leading to the main hall, thus creating a dramatic entry into the hall. Couches and chairs are arranged around the wide stone hearth and huge fireplace with a 4.5'-high opening. Rock shelves are built into the side piers flanking the fire box. The chimney narrows gradually as it approaches the ceiling.

The main feature of the hall is a stout log post from which radiate eleven angled purlins supporting the log rafters at the widest portion of the room and the two main rafters that connect with the shaft portion of the building. A center ridge pole runs between the central post and the chimney structure giving the latter a role in the structure of the building. The rafters in the forward portion of the hall run from the ridge pole and rest directly on the log walls. The high ceiling, irregular shape and pattern of rafters and purlins, along with the majestic fireplace, make this a very dramatic space. Four wagon-wheel light fixtures hang from the rafters. At the end of the hall, a log staircase with log railing on the right (east) side of the building ascends to a narrow balcony. The interior walls of the lodge are log with sapling chinking and the window and door trim is constructed of wide 1" boards with a flat-arch shaped lintel piece, and a flat sill with a wide board beneath it.

The shaft portion of the interior houses the dining hall and consists of two wall sections, the original 1924 walls which extend most of the length of the room, and the walls of the 1933-1934 addition which extended the original space south about 15 feet. The roof structure consists of log purlins which run the length of the room and rest on two sets of three cross beams that tie into the side walls.

The original wigwam portion of the building has been completely modernized for a kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and storage area, although the original log roof structure is still intact and can still be seen by accessing a trap door to the attic.

2. Hemingway Cabin (F2). 1924; Contributing

Hemingway Cabin is a one-story, rectangular log guest cabin divided into two units. The cabin is special for the fact that Ernest Hemingway stayed here with his wife Pauline in 1928 while working on his masterpiece *A Farewell to Arms* (1928). The cabin (approximately 42' by 18') is located in the guest cabin area in the southeast quadrant of the property, and faces west. The log walls rest on piers built of river rock laid up with mortar, except for the north end which has a solid foundation wall of river rock. Logs are of various dimensions with a combination of oversided and undersided saddle-notched corners. The eave-front, log purlin roof has a thin log fascia supported by log knee braces, and is covered with standing-seam metal roofing. A concrete chimney with a tall, metal flue extends from the east slope of the roof. The façade consists of three bays, with replacement doors with three offset lights (c. 1968) in the north and

south bays, and a 6-light awning window in the center bay. There are small wood stoops at each door. The north and south elevations match, with a 6-by-6 sliding window centered in each. The east elevation has 6-by-6 sliding windows in the north and south bays, and a log-sided water-heater enclosure offset to the north in the center bay. The cabin is set in its natural landscape along Peralta Ditch.

The interior is log with sapling chinking and window trim matching that of the exterior. The two interior doors are made of vertical planks with handmade wooden latches (one with a leather strap on one side) and full-length sapling hinges. Like other guest cabins, this cabin is decorated with a theme, in this case cowboys, with cowboy-boot lamps and artwork depicting cowboys and horses.

3. Little Giggling Creek (F3). 1924; Contributing

This cabin is almost an exact match of the Hemingway cabin. It is a one-story, rectangular log guest cabin divided into two units, located in the southeast quadrant of the property and facing west. The 36' by 16' cabin rests on piers of river rock with cement mortar. Walls are constructed of logs of various dimensions with double (two-sided) saddle-notched corners. The eave-front log purlin roof has log fascia with knee braces along the eaves and metal sheathing. A concrete chimney with metal flue and two small metal vents extends from the east slope of the roof. The three-bay façade is symmetrical, with a smaller center bay. Doors in the north and south bays are c.1968 replacements, each with a small individual wood stoop. There is a 6-light awning window in the center bay. The north and south elevations match, with a 6-by-6 sliding window centered in each. The east elevation has 6-by-6 sliding windows centered in the north and south bays and a log-sided water heater enclosure offset to the north in the center bay. The cabin is set in its natural landscape along Peralta Ditch.

The interior is log with sapling chinking and window trim matching that of the exterior. The two interior doors are made of vertical planks with log top and bottom hinges and twig handles. (One door has a metal handle on one side.) The interior decor has a fishing theme, with fish and creel lamps as well as artwork and bedding depicting anglers and fish.

4. Chipmunk (F4). 1924; Contributing

Located in the southeast quadrant of the property and facing west/northwest, this one-story, rectangular log guest cabin measures 42' by 18' with a 42' by 6' deck. The cabin rests on a series of piers, some of mortared river rock and some of concrete. The walls are constructed of logs of various dimensions with oversided (upside-down) saddle-notched corners. The interior partition walls have both oversided and undersided saddle-notched junctures. The log purlin gable roof has a very shallow eave, metal fascia and metal sheathing. On the east slope of the roof is a metal chimney vent. Four steps built of river rock with concrete topping lead to the full-length deck. Four square stone piers and two log posts form the original supports for the front of the deck, which has recently been replaced with a floor and railing of dimension lumber. The symmetrical façade is divided into three bays separated by log ends, with the center bay smaller than the north and south bays. There are replacement doors in the north and south bays and a 6-light awning window in the center bay. The north and south elevations are identical, each with a central 6-by-6 sliding window. The east (rear) elevation has 6-by-6 windows centered in the

north and south bays. The cabin is surrounded by an apron of large gravel, with a border of river rock. The interior is log with sapling chinking. The two interior wood, vertical-plank doors have wood pole hinges.

5. Porcupine (F5). c. 1972; Non-contributing (due to age and construction).
This one-story rectangular guest cabin measures 30' by 16' and is located in the southeast quadrant of the property, facing northwest. It rests on a continuous foundation of concrete blocks and is constructed of frame walls with log siding. The rafter roof has open soffits, metal fascia and metal sheathing. Two metal vents are located on the northwest slope of the roof. Attached to the façade is a wood deck supported by concrete blocks. The asymmetrical façade has two wood doors, each with nine upper lights above a cross-hatched panel. To the outside of each door is a 2-over-2 wood window. The windows and doors have standard (modern) wood casings. The side elevations are identical, each with a 1-over-1 centered window. The rear elevation has two 1-over-1 windows. The cabin is surrounded by an apron of large gravel, with a border of river rock.

6. Bear's Den (F6). c. 1938; Contributing
Located in the southeast quadrant of the property and facing north, this one-story rectangular log guest cabin measures 42' by 38'. It is built on a gentle slope, with a foundation of mortared stone at the front, and concrete at the rear. The log walls have saddle-notched corners and cement chinking. The eave-front log purlin roof has metal fascia and metal sheathing, with concrete-block chimneys with metal flues rising from the northeast and northwest corners. On the north-facing façade, a central intersecting gable shelters an inset front porch with a central, oversized wood-plank door. The porch is accessed by wood steps with a log railing. Six-by-6 sliding wood windows light the east and west bays of the façade. At the east end a crawlspace hatch has been cut into the foundation. The west elevation has three bays defined by log ends. The north and south bays have 6-by-6 sliding windows, and the center bay has a 6-by-6 casement window. Attached to the north bay is a 3' by 3' log-sided water heater addition. The south elevation has three bays defined by log ends. The east and west bays have 6-by-6 windows, and the center bay has two small symmetrical four-light windows. Two metal vents extend from the south slope of the roof. The east elevation matches the west elevation, with the wood-sided water heater enclosure attached to the south bay. In the north bay, the south half of the window has been replaced by a door, which is accessed by a wide wood deck with log supports and railings. The cabin is surrounded by an apron of large gravel, with a border of river rock.

The interior is log with sapling chinking and features original vertical-plank doors with curved trim. Most of the windows have curved trim as well. Decorative elements support the bear theme. The cabin has rustic twig furniture and log beds. This cabin reflects the second period of Spear family ownership, when the camp was expanded to accommodate more guests. It was used as an owners' cabin by subsequent owners of the camp until the Big Horn cabin (#15) was constructed.

7. Washakie (F7). c. 1924; addition, c. 1934; Contributing
Located in the southeast quadrant between the guest cabins and the main lodge, this east-facing 42' by 12' rectangular log building is the former men's and women's shower/bath and toilet

facility. It was built in two stages, as evidenced by historic photographs and the building itself, whose roofs do not quite line up. The building is now used for laundry (north section) and linen storage (south section). No foundation is visible. The log exterior has saddle-notched corners that are heavily mortared, making it difficult to discern the orientation of the notches. Its purlin gable roof has a narrow eave, metal sheathing and metal fascia. The façade has three asymmetrical bays, with a hinged door of diagonal wood planks in the south bay, a vertical wood-plank door in the center bay and a 2-light horizontal window in the north bay. The north elevation has a central wood-plank door. The west (rear) elevation has a 3-light horizontal window in the center bay. On the south elevation is an electrical box and conduit. A light pole supporting yard lights extends through the roof. The building is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron.

8. Jack's Cabin (F8). c. 1924; Contributing

This rectangular, gable-front, one-bedroom, log guest cabin is in the southeast quadrant of the property facing east, and measures 20' by 12'. Its foundation is minimal, consisting of randomly placed stones in-filled with concrete and concrete piers at the corners. The exterior walls are of rounded logs with cement chinking and square notches at the corners. The log purlin roof has metal sheathing, with log fascia supported by log knee braces on the side elevations and metal fascia on the gable ends. A recently constructed wood deck leads to the wood-trimmed replacement door. A sign made of twigs above the door reads "CABIN JACK BUILT." Each of the north and south elevations has an original 6-by-6 sliding window, and the south elevation has an exterior metal vent. The west elevation has an offset, high awning window which was added after the cabin was built. The cabin is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. The interior is log with cement chinking. The cabin was built by Jack Moody.

9. Antler (F10). c. 1938; Contributing

Antler is a relatively large T-shaped, three bedroom guest cabin located just southwest of the main lodge. The 36'-wide façade faces south; short (8') side walls form the top bar of the T. Extending north from the north elevation is the base of the T which measures 30' N-S by 18" E-W. The foundation is a combination of poured concrete, mortared stone piers, stacked rocks and cement blocks. The walls are constructed of logs of varying dimensions, with heavily mortared and caulked saddle notches. The log purlin roof has intersecting gables and is sheathed with standing-seam metal roofing, with wood fascia at the gable ends and no fascia on the eaves. The two-bay asymmetrical façade has a 6-by-6 window in the west bay. In the east bay is a replacement door and a replacement sliding 1-light window. A porch along the east bay features log corner posts and railings, a roof and deck of replacement lumber, and concrete-block supports. On the east elevation of the southernmost section (top of the T) is a log-sided hot water enclosure with a gable roof, and the north elevation of this section has a single replacement window. Continuing counter-clockwise around the building, the east elevation of the north section (base of the T) is asymmetrical, with a replacement door in the south bay and an original 6-by-6 sliding window in the north bay. The north elevation has a central 6-by-6 sliding window and the word "Antler" – with antlers used to form its letters – in the gable end. The west elevation includes the remains of a concrete chimney at the north end and a replacement square window at its south end. At the south end of the west elevation (top of the T) is a centered 6-light window. The cabin is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. A non-historic

addition on the north elevation which provided access to a shallow basement under the building has recently been removed.

The interior is log with cement chinking and has a supporting top truss in the center of the top section and another in the center of the base section of the T. Wide boards and flat-arch lintels are used for the interior window trim. The walls feature hooks made of horseshoes. It is likely that this cabin was built around the same time as the Bear's Den (#6) since it does not show up in early photographs. It reflects the increase in capacity under the management of Jessamine Spear.

10. Power Plant (F11). c. 1995; Non-contributing

Located on the western edge of the property about midway between its north and south borders, the power plant measures 42' by 15'. It has steel wall construction and a trussed roof, entrance doors on the south and north elevations and garage doors on the east and west elevations. It houses the generator for the camp.

11. Garage/Shed (F12). c. 1964 (FS); Non-contributing

Connected to the power plant by a 12' long breezeway, the garage faces west and measures 42' by 24'. It has no visible foundation. The low gable roof is constructed of log rafters on purlins. The wall construction of the north and south sections of the building differs, with the north section framed with posts and beams and finished on the exterior with flush board siding with corner boards, and the south section framed with dimension lumber, with board and batten siding. The west elevation has a large, sliding, two-leaf, plywood garage door. At the center of the east wall is an opening (but no door). A breezeway with a solid north wall and open south wall connects the garage to the power plant. The garage is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. The garage and power plant were constructed on the former location of the original 1920s bunkhouse. Although the date assigned by the Forest Service places the garage within the period of significance it has likely been modified from its original form and with the adjoining modern power plant does not contribute to the historic district.

12. Heartbreak Hotel (F13n). c. 1938 (moved); Contributing

Heartbreak Hotel, also called the "Girls' Bunkhouse," is a 15' by 21' rectangular, gable-front log cabin. Its construction, including the consistent size of the logs and saddle notching, matches that of the Bear's Den, although its form is closer to that of Jack's Cabin. Its location in the west/central section of the property and its relatively new concrete-block foundation suggest that the building was moved from its original location. The cabin faces southeast and has log walls with cement chinking and saddle-notched corners. Its front-gable purlin roof has log fascia capped with metal and metal roof sheathing. An 8'-deep porch with log posts and rails and a log truss in the gable end leads to the central door. The north and south elevations have central 1-by-1 sliding windows, which are likely replacements. On the west elevation is a plywood water heater enclosure with a metal vent. The cabin is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. Although a firm date for construction of this cabin cannot be determined, its construction is consistent with other historic buildings on the property and thus is considered to date from the period of significance. The fact that it has been moved from its original location does not impact its integrity, since its moving is consistent with cultural traditions.

13. Recreation Hall (F14). 1974; Non-contributing (due to age)

Located on the original site of the barn and tack room in the west/central section of the property, the east-facing, rectangular recreation hall is 42' by 24' with an enclosed entry room extending from the west elevation on the south end. It rests on a concrete-block foundation and has frame walls sheathed with log siding, with vertical log siding in the gable ends. The side-gable roof is framed with dimension-lumber rafters and has metal sheathing. Attached to the façade is a 9'-deep, full-length porch with a shed roof, log posts The façade is symmetrical, with a central 9-light-over-cross-panel door flanked by large 1-by-1 sliding windows. A matching window is centered in the north elevation. The west elevation features a large shouldered chimney of river rock. On the south elevation are two doors with wood steps. The recreation hall is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. The interior consists of a large room with stone fireplace and a utility room in the southwest corner. The Rec Hall was one of the first buildings built by the Riehm family when they acquired the ranch in 1974.

14. Storage/Workshop (F16). 1974; Non-contributing (due to age)

The rectangular, 27' by 22' storage/workshop building is in the southwest quadrant of the property and faces north. It has a concrete block foundation, rough-cut board-and-batten siding with 1-by-4 battens and a metal-clad gable roof with cropped eaves and metal fascia. The façade has two vertical-plank doors, one in each bay, with strap hinges. The door on the east elevation is identical to those on the façade. The building is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. Although non-contributing due to its age, the building fits well into the landscape of the ranch.

15. Big Horn (F17). 1977; Non-contributing (due to age)

This gable-roofed log house in the northeast quadrant of the property was built by local log-building contractor Randy Stout for the Riehms, to serve as the owners' home. The square 42' by 42' building faces (south)west and rests on a foundation of river rock. The exterior is of composed of logs, trimmed flat to lie close together and saddle-notched at the corners. The eave-front gable roof is framed and has metal sheathing. The façade has an inset two-thirds-length porch leading to a wood-plank front door with the Spear-O-Wigwam brand on it. The house has 1-over-1 double-hung windows of various sizes, singly and in pairs, and picture windows. The south elevation has a door and a wood deck. The east elevation has a gabled dormer with a double-hung window, and the north elevation has a massive, shouldered stone chimney. The building is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron.

16. A-Frame (F18). 1995; Non-Contributing

Used in the past as the ranch manager's cabin, this 27' x 18' rectangular modified A-frame home is located behind Big Horn in the northeast quadrant of the property and faces west. It has a poteaux en terre foundation with plywood skirting on the north elevation. The walls are constructed of shaped logs. It has a steeply pitched purlin roof with metal sheathing. On the façade the front gable is in-filled with two lights, and there are 1-over-1 windows, singly and in pairs on all four elevations. Attached to the façade is a wood deck with log rails across the front. The east (rear) elevation has a shed-roofed addition. The building is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron.

17. Boar's Nest/Tack Room (F19). 1974; Non-contributing

Located in the northeast quadrant of the property, this two-story building faces west and is built on a slope, with a single story at the front and basement access at the rear. The upper (front) story has two bedrooms and a bath. The building measures 42' by 24' and has a concrete-block foundation and a shallow side-gable roof with metal sheathing. The walls are of log siding, with 1-by-1 sliding windows, singly and in pairs. The façade has a low-pitched gable-roofed porch and a door with nine lights over cross panels. The building is set in its natural landscape, with no gravel apron. The east (rear) lower level, which holds the tack room, has a shed-roofed porch, opening to the hitching area which has log hitching stands and an iron gate latch made of horseshoes.

18. Corral (F20). c. 1978; Non-contributing

The two-section, multi-sided corral in the northeast quadrant of the property is constructed of wood-pole posts and log rails and has gates at the north and west sides. The corral is approximately 6' tall, with posts every 8'.

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.)

- [x] 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.
- [x] 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 N/A
(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

Areas of Significance
Architecture
Landscape Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance
1923-1947

Significant Dates
1933-34: Addition built on lodge to create Spear-O-Wigwam shape
1947: sold by Spear family

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Architect/Builder
Herschel Elarth (architect)
Willis Moses Spear (builder)

Summary Statement of Significance

Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch is significant under Criterion A in entertainment/recreation for its association with dude ranching in the Bighorn Mountains from the 1920s through the early 21st century. Dude ranching was an important economic activity that brought hundreds of visitors from the East to the Bighorn Mountains and other areas of Wyoming, many of whom eventually settled in the area and contributed greatly to the culture and economy of the state. In addition to contributing to local economies and attracting investors to the state, dude ranching has been credited with helping preserve western traditions such as hunting, fishing, pack trips, campfire gatherings, round-ups and brandings. As one of the longest surviving dude ranches in Sheridan and Johnson counties, Spear-O-Wigwam represents the "Golden Age of Dude Ranching" in the 1920s, as well as its survival into the early 21st century. When Spear-O-Wigwam closed as a dude ranch in 2011, it was one of only five early 20th century dude ranches from the "golden age of dude ranching" still operating in the area.[2] The period of significance begins in 1923, when Willis Spear first began inviting guests to his cow camp for fishing and hunting, and ends in 1947 when the Spear family sold the property, ending twenty-four years of Spear family ownership and ending the excursions to the Spears' Montana ranches and the Crow Reservation.

[2] The other four, HF Bar, Paradise Ranch, Eaton's Ranch, and Rafter Y are still operating as dude ranches. See Bucky King, *The Dude Connection* (Laramie, WY: Jelm Mountain Press, 1983), page 54.

The property is also significant under Criterion C for its rustic-style dude ranch architecture, especially the multi-sided lodge in the shape of the ranch's brand, a spear extending from a "wigwam." This and other buildings on the property were designed and built by the owners and their employees, although there is evidence that a professional architect contributed to the design of a 1933-1934 addition to the lodge. The historic log buildings date from 1924 to 1938. It has additional significance in landscape architecture for its layout and setting representative of Western dude ranches of the early 20th century.

Spear-O-Wigwam retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. Although individual buildings on the property have been replaced over the years, the overall layout remains the same. It retains a strong association with early 20th century dude ranches. All contributing buildings retain original log walls and most original windows, although roofs have been replaced with metal sheeting for fire purposes.

In 2009, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office concurred with the Bighorn National Forest staff's determination of eligibility for both Spear-O-Wigwam (48JO3686) and the Peralta Ditch (48JO3711/SH1413) which runs through it.[3]

Narrative Statement of Significance

Background history

Willis Moses Spear, founder of Spear-O-Wigwam, was born in Missouri in 1862 and traveled to Evanston, Wyoming Territory, with his parents on a wagon train at the age of 12. His family soon moved to Phillipsburg, Montana Territory, where they began ranching, and in 1883 they moved their operation to Big Horn where they purchased a homestead. Two years later Willis married Virginia Belle Benton. Willis and Virginia had four children, Sylvia Jessamine, Willis Benton, Philip Torrey and Elsa Hannah. The two daughters, especially Jessamine, were active in the dude ranch operation. Virginia, Jessamine and Elsa were all photographers, and documented the ranch and Spear family activities.

Willis Spear and his brother Doc formed the Spear Brothers Cattle Company in 1896. They built a large cattle operation whose leases included all of the huge "Leiter Estate" in eastern Sheridan and Johnson counties (including Big Red, now the Ucross Foundation) as well as all grazing lands on the Crow Indian reservation east of the Little Horn and lower Big Horn rivers, comprising 1.2 million acres. At the peak of their operation the Spear Brothers controlled about 3 million acres of grazing land where they grazed 56,000 head of cattle.[4] Around 1900 they began running cattle and horses in the Little Goose Grazing Division of the Bighorn National Forest, near the confluence of Cross Creek and the east fork of Big Goose Creek at the head of Park

[3] Betsy H. Bradley to Clarke M. McClung, October 8, 2009, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office files.
[4] "Elsa Spear Byron, 1896-1922," biographical information, vertical files, Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library.

Reservoir.[5] The Spear brothers sold their cattle company in 1915, but Willis continued in the cattle business alone and with various partners, and continued to use his Forest Service grazing permit, mostly for grazing horses.

In addition to his ranching activities, Willis Spear was active in politics and community affairs. He served as a Sheridan County Commissioner in 1893-1894, and as a state senator from Sheridan County from 1918 to 1932.

Like many dude ranchers, Willis Spear began by inviting friends from Chicago, Omaha and other eastern cities to visit him at his home ranch in Bighorn, or one of his many working ranches in eastern Wyoming and Montana. In 1922, after a particularly harsh winter for range cattle, Spear formally opened his ranch on Little Goose Creek near the town of Bighorn as a dude ranch operation. The ranch included four lakes for swimming and fishing, as well as landscaped grounds with flowering shrubs and a large vegetable garden.

The following year, Spear took dudes from the Spear Ranch in Bighorn up to his cow camp in the mountains, where he had begun constructing cabins for guests. In a newspaper clipping inserted in Elsa Spear (Byron)'s diary entry of June 26, 1923, in which she noted that her father opened his "fishing camp" that day, Willis Spear wrote,

> Notice to Campers and Fishing Parties:
> I have established a camp at the mouth of Cross Creek on Big Goose and am prepared to take care of fishing parties, furnish pack outfits and guides or rent saddle horses to parties who have their own camp. Parties can run to camp with their own cars. Side trips will be made to Lake Geneva, Solitude and Clouds Peak where the scenic beauty of frozen lakes and glaciers is excelled only by Glacier National Park. [6]

A savvy businessman, Willis Spear recognized the suitability of his cow camp for a dude ranch. It was ideally located in the heart of the Bighorn Mountains, not far from Cloud Peak (the range's highest peak at 13,176 feet) and close to myriad lakes full of mountain trout. "You don't have to go to the mountains from this camp . . . you are already in their midst, making it merely a question of how deeply you wish to penetrate into the boundless forests, how high above timberline you wish to explore, what degree of adventure you want to undertake."[7] In 1924, the Bighorn National Forest granted Spear a permit to run a tourist operation on his cow camp lease, and leased him an additional five sections of the Little Goose Grazing Division as a "tourist allotment" for grazing the horses used for backcountry trips.[8] The camp was officially opened as Spear-O-Wigwam Camp in 1924, the year Spear constructed the "wigwam," an octagonal lodge that served as the centerpiece of the operation.

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[5] Rick Laurent, *Wyoming Cultural Properties Form for Site 48JO3686* (Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, 2006), page 54.
[6] Elsa Spear diary, 1923 (Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library).
[7] Dude Ranches in the Big Horn Mountains," Burlington Route brochure, 1927, page 37 (Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library).
[8] Laurent, pages 54-55.

Early history of Spear-O-Wigwam: 1923-1931

Willis Spear had a ready source of logs for building the lodge and cabins at his former cow camp. During the winter of 1920-1921, an unusual weather sequence of unseasonably warm weather followed by a deep freeze had killed many of the trees in the area. Spear and his crew cut the trees and prepared and peeled logs for construction of the buildings. They also set up a sawmill on the site to produce the dimension lumber needed for floors, roof decking, porch decking, and door and window trim.[9]

The main lodge at Spear-O-Wigwam was a 40'-diameter octagonal building in the form of a Native American wigwam, or as the Spears called it, a "council lodge." In an undated (pre-1933) brochure for the operation, a guest described the dude ranch as "Log Bungalows set in a semi-circle around the biggest 'wigwam' you ever saw." Like the tepees inhabited by the Crow Indians nearby, the lodge had an open fire in the center of the floor, which vented directly through a cupola on the roof. "Large enough to accommodate 200 people, it is the assembly hall and recreation building or, more properly, the camp council lodge. On the walls hang hides and heads, antlers, guns, Indian relics and other interesting trophies of the hunt and pioneer days. In the exact center is an open hearth where they build a roaring campfire every night." Guests ate around the campfire, exchanged stories of the day's adventures, and listened to Willis Spear's stories of his early days as one of the first ranchers in this part of the country.

> And in the evening, back in camp, you'll join the crowd that gathers around the blazing campfire built in the center of the council lodge with the smoke wafting out through the peak at the top in true tepee fashion. Here, with a group of kindred spirits, you'll go nightly to recount the experiences of the day, brag about this feat of horsemanship, the size of that trout you almost landed, to loaf and chatter happily; join in the singing led by Senator Spear strumming his Big Horn banjo; and best of all to listen with rapt attention to the endless fund of yarns spun by this same genial king of storytellers.[10]

Extending from the council lodge was a narrow, rectangular room that held the kitchen and a "commissary."

For his overnight guests, Spear built simple, rectangular log cabins, most of them containing two units and many equipped with running water from a nearby spring. In the dude ranch tradition, the cabins were given names. Three of the original two-unit cabins remain on the site today: Hemingway (originally "Rosebud"}, Little Giggling Creek, and Chipmunk (originally "Sunflower"). Various other cabins were arranged in a semi-circle around the lodge, with tent cabins in an area directly in front of the lodge. The guest commenter quoted above described the accommodations as "inviting little homes with clean pine floor, gay window curtains, Indian blankets for bed covering, boxed spring mattress" and furniture of peeled native logs. Cabins had hot and cold running water (unusual for mountain camps at this time) and some even had

[9] Laurent, page 55.
[10] "Spear-O-Wigwam Camp," Ranches, Dude: Spear Ranch, Pamphlet file, Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, undated.

bathtubs.[11] Other buildings dating from this period include Jack's Cabin and Washakie. Historic photographs show an almost treeless site ringed by stands of dead trees. However, there is evidence that as early as 1928 evergreens were being planted around the lodge and other buildings.

Spear-O-Wigwam attracted guests from as far away as New Jersey and as close as Laramie, but the Spear family's most celebrated guest was Ernest Hemingway, who made frequent visits to Wyoming and stayed at various ranches and dude ranches in the Bighorn Mountains. He and his wife Pauline checked into Spear-O-Wigwam on August 19, 1928, and stayed for one week, during which time he completed the first draft of his novel *A Farewell to Arms*. [12] After his stay, the cabin he occupied, which had been named Rosebud, was renamed Hemingway. A plaque identifies the room he occupied, which is now decorated in a cowboy motif.

Activities offered at Spear-O-Wigwam were similar to those at dude ranches throughout the west. Horseback riding and fishing in the area's many high lakes were the main attractions. Guests could go out for day-long rides and return for dinner at the lodge, or could embark on week-long pack trips on the Solitude Trail which circles Cloud Peak, the highest peak in the Bighorns. With their immense cattle empire, the Spear family was also able to offer guests a range of experiences outside the ordinary, from the genteel setting of the Spear Ranch in Bighorn to the Crow reservation to visit battlefields and view traditional Crow dancing, to participating in cattle roundups and brandings on the Spear Ranches in the Wolf and Rosebud mountains of Montana.

The Spears marketed their enterprise through advertising in the local paper, publication and distribution of illustrated brochures, and listing in vacation and dude ranching guides, published by the railroads and/or the Dude Ranchers' Association (DRA), which was organized in 1926 to market the dude ranch experience nationwide. In addition, Willis Spear traveled to eastern cities such as Chicago to promote Spear-O-Wigwam to prospective guests. Willis Spear had the background and personality needed to run a dude ranch. With his personal experience as a cattleman when Wyoming was new territory for Euro-Americans, to his career as a politician, Spear was a respected Wyoming "old-timer" who had the ability to make people feel at home, befriend them, and tell good stories, play the banjo and lead songs around the campfire.

Golden age of dude ranching, 1919-1929

The period during which Willis Spear started and developed Spear-O-Wigwam is known as the "golden age" of dude ranching.[13] The origins of dude ranching can be traced to the late 1800s in the West, when ranchers began accepting paying guests to offset their losses in the cattle business. Howard Eaton's Custer Trail Ranch in Medora, North Dakota, a popular destination for

[11] "Spear-O-Wigwam Camp."
[12] Judy Slack, *Ernest Hemingway: His 1928 Stay in the Bighorn Mountains of Wyoming: News Clippings, Photographs and Diary Entries Found in the Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library* (Sheridan, WY: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library, 2011), page 40.
[13] Lawrence Bourne calls 1919-1929 the "golden decade of dude ranching." Lawrence R. Borne, *Dude Ranching: A Complete History* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1983), page 40.

Easterners seeking an authentic Western experience, is generally considered to be the first dude ranch in the country. Eaton began accepting paying guests as early as 1882, and by the 1890s was actively soliciting guests with brochures that highlighted the ranch's scenery, facilities and ranching activities. Eaton developed the practices that would become standard to the dude ranching industry and in 1903, moved his establishment to Wolf, Wyoming, where Eaton's Ranch still operates as a dude ranch.

By the early 1900s, middle-class Americans were beginning to acquire the vacation time and discretionary income to allowing them to spend a week, or even a month, at a Western dude ranch. The growth of dude ranching in the early 20th century coincided with Americans coming to terms with the "closing of the frontier," and the subsequent romanticizing of frontier life, including cowboys, wide open spaces and the open range. The fact that dude ranching in the West developed naturally from conventional ranching activities helped to establish it as an authentic Western experience. Also contributing to the popularity of dude ranching was a belief in the healing qualities of nature as an antidote to the increasingly hectic urban and industrial life. Brochures advertising Spear-O-Wigwam, for example, referred to the healthful qualities of the dude ranching experience. "You'll get a coat of tan, acquire an appetite like nobody's business; sleep nine or ten hours a night under five or six blankets; the clean Wyoming ozone, keen as electricity, will give your lungs a new lease on life."[14]

Outside influences also contributed to the growth of dude ranches in the late teens and early 1920s. The outbreak of World War I made Europe and even the East Coast of the United States less appealing as vacation destinations, while the West offered a "safer" environment and one removed from the bad news of war.[15] The wartime and post-war agricultural depression prompted an increasing number of ranchers to exploit their resources—striking natural scenery and a truly western cultural experience—and turn to paying guests as a serious source of income. At the same time, small towns and cities in Wyoming and other Western states began to see the economic possibilities of promoting the "old-time West" to Easterners, and dude ranches were the perfect vehicle for this promotion. Dude ranch literature by authors such as Struthers Burt and Mary Holt Rinehart also contributed to the popularity of dude ranching in the 1920s.

During the golden age of dude ranching, partnerships developed between dude ranchers and railroads. Ranchers preferred that dudes arrive by rail, thus giving them a captive audience for an extended period of time, as opposed to the flexibility of those who came by private automobile. Railroads in turn were happy to advertise tourist destinations that would increase passenger traffic already impacted negatively by the automobile. In the 1920s and 1930s, passenger and freight train income doubled during dude ranching season.[16] The first annual convention of the Dude Ranchers' Association (DRA) in 1926 was attended by owners of 26 ranches in Montana and Wyoming as well as representatives of the major railways serving the Rocky Mountain region. The railroads subsequently published a series of brochures with enticing descriptions of dude ranches in the regions they served. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad offered

[14] "Spear-O-Wigwam Camp," undated brochure, page 10.
[15] Joel H. Bernstein, *Families That Take in Friends: An Informal History of Dude Ranching* (Stevensville, MT: Stoneydale Press, 1982), page 13.
[16] King, page 194.

an overnight train from Chicago to Sheridan, with special round-trip excursion rates during the peak dude ranching months of July and August.

With their ranching culture, natural scenic beauty, and proximity to tourist draws such as Little Bighorn Battlefield, the Crow Indian reservation and the Black Hills, the Bighorn Mountains were ideally suited for development of dude ranches. Between 1915 and 1924, the number of dude ranches in the region grew from 10 to 24, and by 1927 Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad Company's "Dude Ranches in the Big Horn Mountains" noted 31 dude ranches in the area, including Spear-O-Wigwam (then called Spear Mountain Camp), the Spear Ranch in Bighorn, and the Rosebud X4 in Montana, also a Spear property.

Further development of Spear-O-Wigwam under the Spear family, 1931-1947

In 1931 Willis' daughter Jessamine Spear Johnson took over management of Spear-O-Wigwam. Jessamine also managed the family's dude ranch in southern Montana, the Rosebud X4, where Spear-O-Wigwam guests sometimes went to participate in round-ups in the Rosebud Mountains. By this time the operation had outgrown the original two-room lodge building, and plans were developed for an extension in the shape of a spear, to complete the spear and wigwam form. A conceptual drawing by architect Herschel Elarth dated 1931 shows the addition, which would lengthen the narrow section of the lodge (the shaft) and expand the dining hall into the broad, spearhead which would also house a kitchen and office. Construction of the addition began in 1933 and was completed in time for the 1934 guest season. Historic photographs indicate that the kitchen was moved to the "shaft" area and the spearhead section became a combination dining room, lounge and music room, with a small balcony where musicians could play.

Although tourism in general dropped during the Depression and World War II, dude ranching continued to survive as an economical alternative to fancier resort vacations.[17] At the same time, increased automobile ownership meant that families on vacation had more options, and many chose the flexibility of staying at car camps and motor courts instead of committing to week-long or longer dude ranch vacations. In 1936, Spear-O-Wigwam offered accommodations for 20 people in two-room cabins with bathrooms and single- and double-room cabins without baths. The cost per person to stay in a two-room cabin with bath during the peak season in July and August was $55 per week, including all meals, saddle horses, pack trips and transportation to and from the Sheridan railroad station. The two-room "Bath Cabin" (Washakie) was fully equipped with bath and showers, toilets and lavatories. [18]

Several larger cabins were added to the camp during this period (1936-1938), increasing the camp's capacity: Bear's Den, built at the south end of the guest area, had four bedrooms and two bathrooms and was used as the "owner's cabin" by later owners, or rented to several families; and Antler, just west of the lodge, had three bedrooms and two bathrooms. By the mid-1930s, the small evergreens planted the previous decade had begun to grow up around the lodge and the cabins, creating a more forested appearance although there were still stands of dead trees to the east of the camp.

[17] Bucky King refers to the period 1930-1939 as the "Dude Boom." *The Dude Connection*, page 54.
[18] "Spear-O-Wigwam Lodge," Ranches, Dude: Spear Ranch, Pamphlet file, Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library.

1947 - 2011

Jessamine Spear Johnson and her husband William retired from managing the dude ranch in 1943, and in 1947 they sold the operation to Cliff Carroll of Sheridan, thus ending twenty-four years of Spear family ownership and ending the inclusion of excursions to the Spears' Montana ranches and the Crow Reservation.

Carroll sold the operation in 1950, and it went through a succession of owners and managers over the next 24 years.[19] In 1974 owner Milt Sherman and his partners sold the ranch to J.W. "Jack" and Doris Riehm of Bronxville, New York, who had first visited the ranch the year before. The Riehms spent every summer at Spear-O-Wigwam from 1974 until 2011, when they sold the property to Northwest Wyoming Community College District.

During the post-Spear period, owners hired managers to run the ranch. Alice and Archie MacCarty of Story, Wyoming, began working as ranch managers for Milt Sherman in 1971, and continued to manage the property for the Riehms into the 1980s. Other managers during the Riehm era included Dale Voigtlander, Salvador Madrigal, Barb and Jim Niner and Ken and Beth Jones.

The Riehms made many improvements to the ranch, building the "Rec Room" in 1974 and a new owners' cabin (Big Horn) in 1977. The Rec Room was furnished with a pool table, a ping pong table and a television. They also moved the corrals to the north end of the property and built a new tack room with sleeping rooms above (Boar's Nest), and a manager's house. They constructed utility buildings in the forested area southwest of the lodge. A 1970s brochure noted that the ranch could accommodate forty guests in 1-to-3 bedroom cabins, all with private baths. On site recreation included pool and ping pong in the Recreation room, swimming in Park Reservoir, and dances in the former council lodge. The ranch had two stocked ponds including a "kiddie pond" filled by overflow from the spring on the property. Only this pond remains.[20]

While many dude ranches became fancier "guest ranches" or went out of business all together, Spear-O-Wigwam remained the same throughout much of its history. A 1970s brochure stated, "If you want wild night life, French cuisine, and elegant accommodations, don't come to Spear-O-Wigwam. But if you want superb scenery, good fishing, horseback riding, good home cooked food, and comfortable accommodations then Spear-O-Wigwam is the place for you."[21]

In 1983, visitors still stayed in the same rustic cabins built by the Spears, and while the lodge was rearranged and refitted with a modern kitchen, and there was no more indoor campfire, stories around the fireplace still centered on the day's activities, the beauty of the surrounding scenery, the personalities of the horses and wranglers and other traditional dude ranch topics.[22]

[19] The record of owners is not complete and includes the Eiseley family, Oscar "Swede" Carlson (1959-1963), Robert Duncan, and Milton Sherman (1968 – 1973). Sherman was in partnership with two other owners, who wanted to make the ranch a private club. However, the Forest Service would not permit this under the lease, so Sherman supervised renovations and the ranch reopened for guests.
[20] Pat Blair, *Sheridan Press*, July 21, 2005.
[21] As quoted in Nickerson, page 6.
[22] Author's experience, 1983.

Even today, when Red Grade Road has been graded for easy access, Spear-O- Wigwam retains a feeling of remoteness, with no cell phone or internet service.

Architecture

The rustic log buildings at Spear-O-Wigwam are similar to those found on other early 20th century ranches and dude ranches in the west. They were built by Willis Spear and his crew, based on traditional building methods. The workmanship is adequate but not particularly refined. The unusually shaped lodge is a significant departure from the typical lodge, which tended to look more like an oversized cabin. Willis Spear was familiar with the round form of the tipi, with the open fire in the center, through his relationship with the Crow Indians in southern Montana, and he adopted this style for his dude ranch, called it the "Council Lodge," and used it to create a sense of camaraderie among the guests and the staff. As noted above, the logs are connected at the corners with oversided (upside-down) saddle-notches, with the lower log being notched to fit the log above it. The oversided saddle notch is common in the West, and represents the Midland Anglo-American carpentry tradition. This type of notch is easier to construct than the undersided saddle notch, but is more prone to catching and holding moisture.[23] The fact that the cabins and lodge, which date from 1924 to 1938, exhibit several types of corner treatments, indicates that they were built by different builders who brought their own techniques.

In 1931, Willis's daughter Jessamine Spear Johnson took over management of Spear-O-Wigwam. That same year architect Hershel Elarth drew a conceptual plan for an addition to the council lodge. It is unclear how Jessamine knew Elarth, but it's possible that he was a guest at Spear-O-Wigwam. Elarth was from Omaha, Nebraska, and received his master's degree in architecture from the University of Illinois in 1930. Prior to graduation he apprenticed with Thomas R. Kimball, a well established Omaha architect who designed the Sheridan Inn in 1893. This is the only Wyoming connection found in Elarth's biography. His conceptual drawing is signed "H. Elarth, New York, 1931," although he never practiced architecture in New York. There is no indication that Elarth went on to develop blueprints for the addition; however, the addition does conform to his conceptual drawing except for allocation of interior spaces.

[23] Terry G. Jordan, Jon T. Kilpinen and Charles F. Gtitzner, The Mountain West: Interpreting the Folk Landscape (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), page 71.

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Photo collection. Wyoming Room, Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:
__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
__X__ University
__X__ Other
Name of repository: Sheridan County Fulmer Public Library

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __48JO3686_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 15 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: Longitude:
2. Latitude: Longitude:
3. Latitude: Longitude:
4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☒ NAD 1983

1. Zone: 13	Easting: 324245	Northing: 4935446
2. Zone: 13	Easting: 324478	Northing: 4935749
3. Zone: 13	Easting: 324551	Northing: 4935671
4. Zone: 13	Easting : 324330	Northing: 4935275

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Spear-O-Wigwam educational permit covers 15 acres in Section 22, T. 53 N., R. 86 W., 6th Principal Meridian. The 15 acres are fenced on all sides with the Peralta Ditch running south to north through the property.

Boundary Justification
The boundaries are those of the Spear-O-Wigwam educational permit from the U.S. Forest Service. The boundaries were selected to include all of what was originally known as (and used as) Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch. Within the boundaries are all of the buildings that

comprise the campus, as well as the features of the cultural landscape that made up the dude ranch, such as the pond, barbeque area, corrals, etc.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mary Humstone, Principal
organization: Humstone Consulting
street & number: 4420 Bingham Hill Rd.
city or town: Fort Collins state: CO zip code:80521
e-mail_humstone@uwyo.edu
telephone:_970 420-5275
date: April 15, 2015

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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch
City or Vicinity: Story vicinity
County: Johnson **State:**Wyoming
Photographer: Richard Collier
Date Photographed: July, 2015

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Southwest tip of Spear-O-Wigwam Main Lodge, photographer facing northeast.
1 of 15.

Northwest elevation of 'spear' end of Main Lodge, photographer facing southeast.
2 of 15.

Southeast elevation of Main Lodge, photographer facing west.
3 of 15.

Southeast elevation of Main Lodge, photographer facing north.
4 of 15.

Interior of Main Lodge, photographer facing southwest.
5 of 15.

Grand fireplace in Main Lodge, photographer facing southwest.
6 of 15.

Log supports in Main Lodge.
7 of 15.

Antler Cabin, photographer facing northwest.
8 of 15.

Bear's Den, photographer facing southeast.
9 of 15.

Chipmunk Cabin, photographer facing east.
10 of 15.

Little Giggling Creek, photographer facing southeast.
11 of 15.

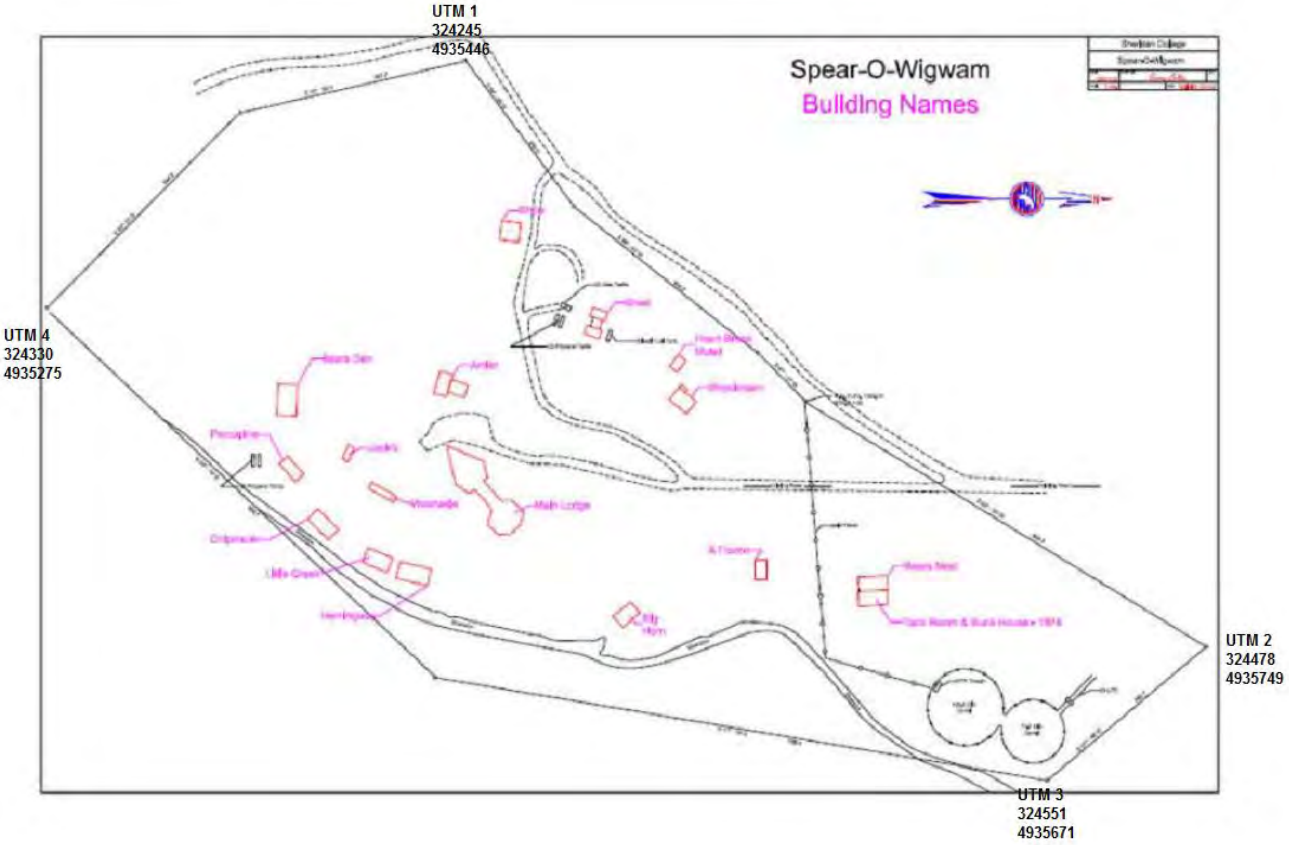
Hemingway Cabin, photographer facing southeast.
12 of 15.

Jack's Cabin, photographer facing west.
13 of 15.

Heartbreak Hotel, photographer facing north.
14 of 15

Aerial photograph of property from 1949.
15 of 15.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Site Map of Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch, Johnson County, Wyoming. Map not to scale.

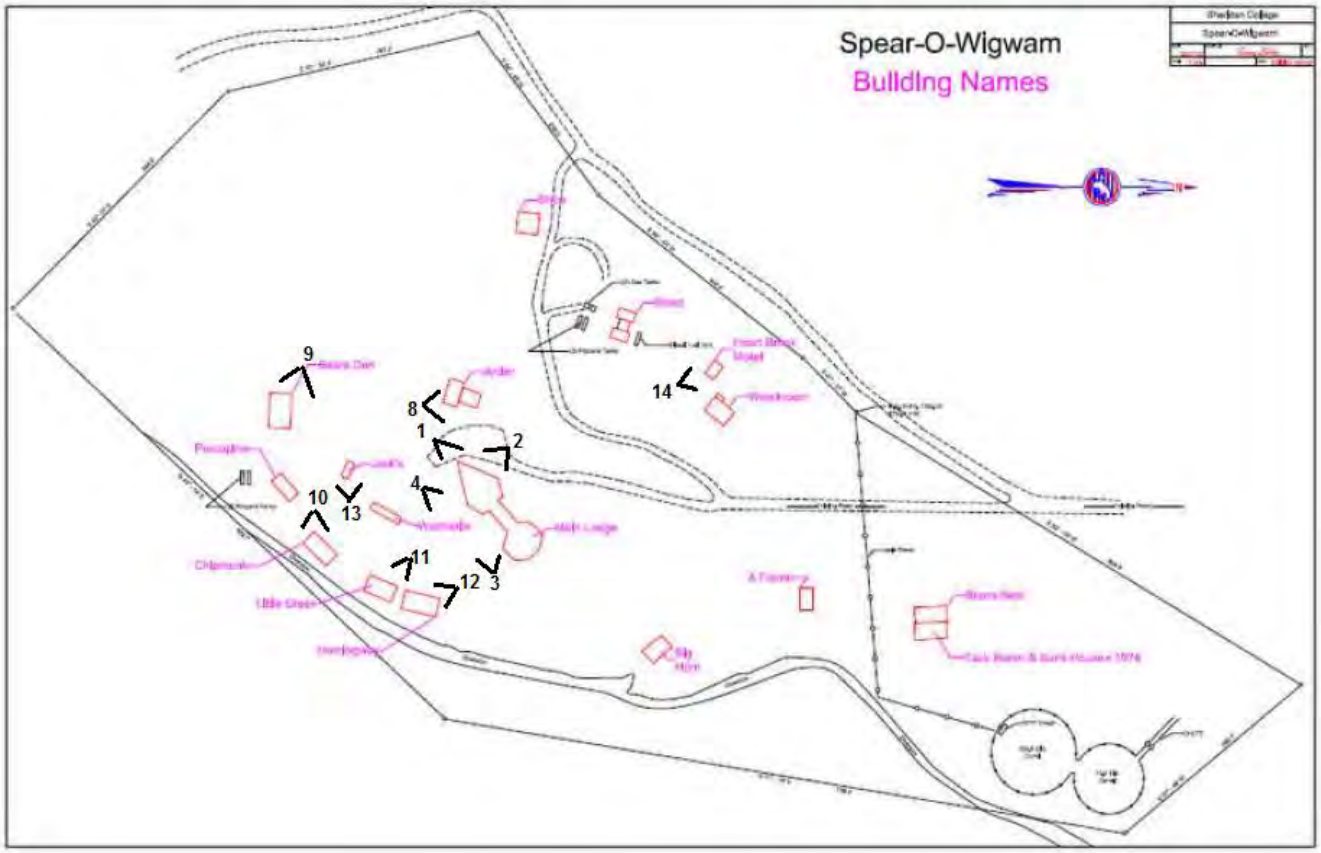


Photo key of Spear-O-Wigwam Ranch, Johnson County, Wyoming. Map not to scale.

SPEAR-O-WIGWAM
LODGE
Phone SHERIDAN 6815
BIG HORN, WYO. P.O. BOX 47

Jacks