



NHL Executive Summary



Name of Property: Wink's Panorama
City, State: Gilpin County, Colorado
Period of Significance: ca. 1928—1965
NHL Criteria: 1
NHL Theme: II. Creating Social Institutions and Movements
4. Recreational Activities
Previous Recognition: 1980, 2014 National Register of Historic Places
National Historic Context: *African American Outdoor Recreation Theme Study*

NHL Significance:

- Wink's Panorama is nationally significant for its association with African American history as a rare Rocky Mountain destination for Black travelers seeking a mountain resort recreational experience during the era of segregation, when travel was challenging and potentially dangerous. The complex played a role in the areas of Entertainment/ Recreation and Social History.
- Obrey Wendell "Wink" Hamlet (1892-1965), an African American wood, coal, and moving business entrepreneur in Denver's Five Points neighborhood, completed the Rustic stone and wood shingle lodge about 1928-34, using on-site timber and stone, as well as salvaged materials brought from the city. Wives Naomi (1896-51) and Melba (1910-74) were critical partners in the operation of the facility.
- Listed in *The Green Book* and *Ebony Magazine*, Wink's Panorama provided rooms; delicious meals; and opportunities for recreation, relaxation, and contemplation. The facility offered a safe space for African Americans to pursue such mountain activities as hiking, horseback riding, sightseeing, and trout fishing in nearby South Boulder Creek, while enjoying views of the Rocky Mountains, fresh air, and nature.



- The lodge was significant socially, serving as a safe haven for Black people, created by a Black man, where visitors could interact freely. Wink’s Panorama was a rare opportunity in the intermountain West where African Americans could experience leisure activities in an environment that was largely controlled by Black people.

Integrity:

- Wink’s Panorama retains a high degree of historic integrity dating to the period of national significance (ca. 1928–1965). The complex retains all original historic resources, including the lodge, a guest cottage, privy, picnic area, and landscape features. It exhibits no new construction. Principal changes are reconstruction of lodge front stairs and basement level entrance, as well as installation of a railroad tie retaining wall and a wood fence adjacent to the parking area.

Owner of Property: Historic Winks Lodge LLC, Denver, Colorado, and Shelly A. Catterson, Pinecliffe, Colorado.

Acreage of Property: 0.7 acres

Origins of Nomination: The nomination was funded in a collaboration between the National Park Service Heritage Partnerships Program (Regions 6, 7, and 8) and Historic Winks Lodge LLC.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation of Wink’s Panorama will recognize a Rocky Mountain example of the network of recreational resources serving African Americans during the era of segregation.
- Designation would also raise awareness for preservation of the complex and further efforts by Historic Winks Lodge LLC to interpret the site.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of August 21, 2023):

- Patrick Eidman, Chief Preservation Officer, Colorado Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation (Colorado State Historic Preservation Office)
- Stephen Shepard, Former Chair, Board of Directors, Black American West Museum and Heritage Center
- Catherine Stroh, Executive Director, Colorado Historical Foundation
- Judge Gary Jackson, Denver County Court
- Pam Flowers, Boulder, Colorado
- Larry and Patty Schoenwald, Denver, Colorado

Landmarks Committee Comments:

- Add information about other resources in Lincoln Hills from the period of significance.
- Add how many people the property could accommodate.



- Add a sentence or two about Bertha Calloway, a later owner of the property who was significant in African American museums in the West.

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Wink’s Panorama in Gilpin County, Colorado, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

Advisory Board Recommendation: The National Park System Advisory Board recommends to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of Wink’s Panorama in Gilpin County, Colorado, as a National Historic Landmark.