

# THE 2002 CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY OF THE AMK RANCH PROJECT AREA, GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK, TETON COUNTY, WYOMING



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## ♦ ABSTRACT

A class III cultural resource inventory of a 32 acre area surrounding the AMK Ranch/University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center along Jackson Lake was conducted by the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) for the National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park. The inventoried area surrounds the 12 acre AMK Ranch Historic District (48TE968), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was previously inventoried by OWSA in 2001. The project was conducted as a part of a fire fuels reduction program to help protect the AMK Ranch from natural fires.

No cultural resources were noted. No further work is recommended, as the fire fuels reduction program will have no adverse effect on the AMK Ranch Historic District. As a result, cultural clearance is recommended with the standard stipulation that should archaeological remains be uncovered during any future construction, the appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies be contacted immediately.

## *PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SETTING*

This report presents the results of a class III inventory of a 32 acre area surrounding the AMK Ranch/University of Wyoming-National Park Service

Research Center on the east shore of Jackson Lake (Figure 1). The inventory was conducted by the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist (OWSA) for the National Park Service (NPS), Grand Teton National Park (GTNP). The inventoried area surrounds the boundaries of the AMK Ranch Historic District (48TE968), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (Table 1). The project was conducted as a part of a fire fuels reduction program to help protect the AMK Ranch from natural fire. Much of present report is taken from a prior OWSA inventory of the AMK Ranch in 2001 (Sanders 2002). The 12 acre area inventoried by OWSA in 2001 was not re-inventoried during the present project. Additionally, the fuels treatment analysis was written by Pam Holtman, NPS seasonal historian, based on information obtained from GTNP's Lisa Elenz, Fire Management Officer and Mack McFarland, Fuels Management Specialist.

The project area is located on the east shore of Jackson Lake about 0.5 mi (0.8 km) to the north of Leeks Lodge and Marina (Figure 1). Love et al. (1992) have mapped much of the east side of Jackson Lake as composed of debris from the late Pleistocene age Jackson Lake moraine. As a consequence, the soil over most of the project area consists of grayish brown silts, sands, and gravels. Elevations for the project area are approximately 2060 m (6760 ft) to 2085 m (6840 ft). Vegetation is a conifer forest (mainly lodgepole pine) with some spruce, aspen, sagebrush, currant, raspberry, whortleberry, and

various grasses and forbs (Figure 2). Surface visibility within much of the project area was estimated at 5 percent.

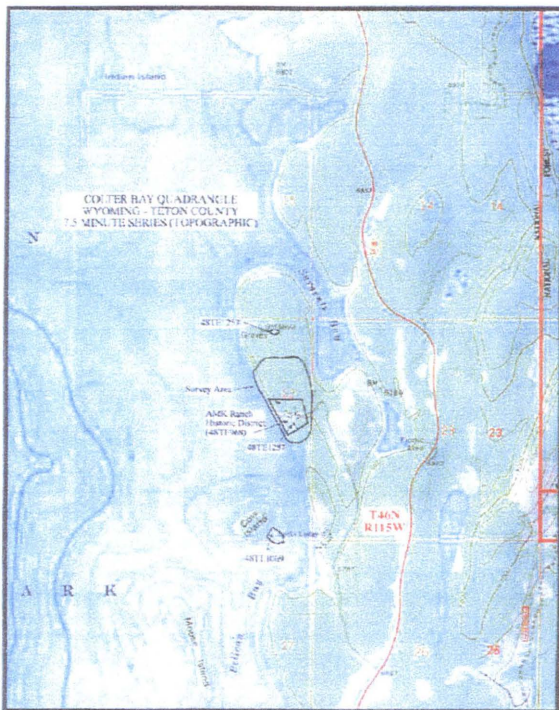


Figure 1. Location of the project area and recorded sites. Map adapted from USGS Colter Bay quadrangle, 7.5' topographic series.



Figure 2. Photograph of the project areas. View north in the northern portion of the project area.

Weather conditions during the inventory were warm and dry. David Eckles served as principal investigator; Paul H. Sanders was project director, Brian Waitkus was field director, with crew members consisting of Carmen Clayton and Alan Wimer.

## FILE SEARCH RESULTS

A file search was conducted by OWSA through the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Cultural Records Office (WYCRO) in Laramie on August 15, 2002. The file search identified four accessioned archaeological projects and four previously recorded sites within Section 22, T46N, R115W.

The first inventory was a class III inventory of the Jackson Lake shoreline (Accession No. 85-970) for GTNP conducted by the NPS, Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC). The inventory coincided with a time when lake levels were lowered to facilitate repairs on Jackson Lake Dam. As a result, the large shoreline expanses exposed numerous archaeological sites. Their survey bordered the west edge of the project area. The only site recorded in the vicinity of the project area is 48TE1069, a prehistoric lithic artifact and fire-cracked rock scatter, adjacent to Cow Island (Figure 1). This site was recommended as eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with SHPO concurrence, but is normally under the waters of Jackson Lake (Figure 1).

MWAC also conducted an informal inventory (Accession No. 90-438) of the AMK Ranch area during their stay at the ranch. Two sites were recorded, Sargent's Cabin (48TE1253) and the Lawrence House Scatter (48TE1257). Site 48TE1253 presently consists of a shallow depression and a scatter of historic ceramics and purple and clear glass, but at one time also contained a barn, corrals, chicken house, woodshed, boathouse, and outhouse (Connor 1990:3). Connor (1990:2-3) reports that John Sargent's cabin was built in 1890 and occupied until his suicide in 1913. Sargent's life is documented in Diem et al. (1986) and that:

After Sargent's death, the buildings were abandoned and intermittently used by hunters and trappers passing through the area. The buildings were apparently allowed to deteriorate until destroyed by W.C. Lawrence, under order of the Irving Trust Company, sometime between 1931 and 1936. The area of the barn and corrals were later used by the Berols for trap shooting, sometime between 1936 and 1968. The gun cabinet and concrete trap structure are still present [Connor 1990:3].

SITE SUMMARY TABLE 1

Smithsonian/ Isolated Find #	Previously recorded? (Y/N?)	Previous Eligibility Determin.	Site/isolate type	Land owner	Township	Range	Section	1/4, 1/4, 1/4, 1/4 Section	Collections
48TE968	Y	R	AMK Ranch historic buildings	NPS	T46N	R115W	23	SE/NE, N/N/NE/SE	None
48TE1257	Y	NE	Prehistoric lithic scatter	NPS	T46N	R115W	23	SW/SE/SE/NE	None

Smithsonian/ Isolated Find #	Current Eligibility Determination	Criteria	Contributing Portion? (Y/N?)	Proposed Mitigation	Effect?	SHPO Concurrence? (Y/N?)	Comments
48TE968	R	A-C			NAE		
48TE1257	NE				NE		

Eligibility: E (Eligible); NE (Not Eligible); U (Unevaluated)

**Previous Eligibility Determination:** R-Listed on NRHP Register; K-Eligible by NRHP Keeper; C-Eligible-SHPO/Agency concurrence; A-Eligible-Agency; E-Eligible-Consultant; U-Eligibility Unknown; N-Not eligible

**Effect:** NE for sites with no effect; NAE for site with no adverse effects; AE for sites with adverse effect; U for Unknown

**Proposed mitigation:** e.g., data recovery, avoidance, fencing, sign, etc.

The site is recommended as eligible to the NRHP, but is outside of the present project area.

The Lawrence House Scatter is a scatter of prehistoric materials located on the north side of the William C. "Slim" Lawrence house, which is one of the buildings within the AMK Ranch Historic District. MWAC (Connor 1990) recorded 12 steatite bowl sherds, a piece of ignimbrite, and a quartzite core. A local resident also noted that obsidian flakes were frequently found in the vicinity of the house (Connor 1990:3). Connor collected the sherds and observed that remnants of glue were present on their edges, suggesting that someone had tried to reconstruct the vessel. W. C. Lawrence who occupied the house at one time was a noted artifact collector that included steatite vessels. His collection is housed at the Jackson Hole Museum and the Teton County Historical Society in Jackson, Wyoming. Connor (1990:6) believes that the sherds are prehistoric in origin, but are not originally part of site 48TE1257, but rather, are part of his collection. The site is recommended as not eligible. It should also be noted that site number given for this site in Connor's (1990) report is 48TE1254, but this is a typographic error, and the actual number is 48TE1257.

Potential sources for the steatite have been identified by Love et al. (1992) within Late Archean age, ultramafic rock outcrops within the Teton Range. The outcrops occur west of Jackson Lake, along Moran Canyon and above Columbine Cascade on Waterfalls Canyon, and around Hidden Basin Corral on the South Fork of Bitch Creek on the west side of the Teton Range. Additional steatite sources are noted by Love (1972).

The next accessioned project (No. 94-985) consists of proposed renovations to two of the AMK Ranch buildings. No lands were inventoried or sites recorded as a part of this project.

A historic district, the AMK Ranch (48TE968), was recorded as a part of an unaccessioned project. A National Register registration form was completed by Steven F. Mehls, Western Historical Studies, in 1988. Mehls' (1988) description of the site is provided below:

The AMK Ranch is significant under Criteria C because it exemplifies another portion of Rustic architecture at Grand Teton National Park, the Rustic

architecture of the twentieth century vacation homes....The AMK Ranch as it stands today was designed by the New York architect George W. Kosmak with help from local Wilson, Wyoming, architect Paul T. Colbron. The AMK was built by Alfred Berol (aka Berolzheimer), then an officer of the family-owned Eagle Pencil Company, of which he would later become President and Chief Executive Officer. Berol acquired the property in 1936 from the estate of its earlier owner William L. Johnson, who at the time of his death in 1931 was an executive of the Hoover Vacuum Cleaner Company. During Johnson's ownership of the property, a small lodge, barn/garage, and boathouse were designed and built in 1927 of log to capture the western atmosphere and the feeling of the natural (pine forest) surroundings. After Berol acquired the property he added a number of cabins, a new boathouse, and the main lodge. Architect Kosmak followed the rustic philosophy and developed it to the degree that might be expected for someone of Berol's financial status, using extensive log detail and elaborate window and porch arrangements on the lodge.

The last inventory was conducted by OWSA for the NPS, Grand Teton National Park and the University of Wyoming (Accession No. 01-1730). This inventory was conducted as a part of a site inventory and site development plan for the University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center (i.e., AMK Ranch) (Sanders 2002:1). The 12 acre inventoried area coincides with the National Historic District boundaries of the AMK Ranch. No additional sites were identified, although five flakes (located on a concrete flag pole base) were observed at previously recorded site 48TE1257. Two shovel tests were also excavated at this site during the 2001 investigation, but no cultural materials were recovered. The site was recommended as not eligible (Sanders 2002:13).

As a result of the file search, a number of historic and prehistoric sites have been documented in the vicinity of the present project area. However,

it seems unlikely that additional cultural resources will be encountered within the present project area, due to the small survey area.

#### *Fuels Treatment Analysis*

The Fire Management Office of Grand Teton National Park developed a fuels reduction treatment plan for the historic AMK Ranch. The purpose of the mechanical treatment is to protect the historic complex from natural fire. The work is scheduled for spring or summer of 2003. The plan does not include the use of any heavy equipment during the treatment. Instead, the work will be done using chainsaws, handsaws, and manual labor. The Fire Management Office proposes to make the following mechanical cuts:

- Within thirty feet from all buildings, standing dead and physical hazard trees (trees showing signs of sickness), primarily aspens and lodgepole pines, will be removed.
- Within a 300-foot radius of building footprints, overstory conifers (>15cm DBH) will be mechanically thinned to maintain stem spacing of 10-12 feet between trees or groups of trees.
- Within a 300-foot radius of building footprints, pole (2.5cm – 15cm DBH) and seedling (<2.5cm DBH) sized trees will be thinned to a distance of 10-12 feet between trees or groups of trees.
- Within a 300-foot radius of building footprints, all remaining overstory, pole, and seedling trees will be limbed to 10 feet or 1/3 the height of the tree.
- This is the second entry into the AMK ranch area. Previous project work was limited to thinning heavy regeneration pockets and reducing dead and down ground fuels. Additional reduction of dead and down fuels will be evaluated to maintain approximately 10 tons/acre of course woody debris.

\*DBH = Diameter Breast Height

All dead and cut woody debris will be stacked vertically into cone shaped piles around the AMK Ranch. The piles will be placed in areas where they are not a threat to overstory trees or buildings. Large, heavy trees will be sawed into smaller pieces and carried to the piles, not dragged across the

ground. The cone shaped piles will be left to naturally dry until winter 2004, at which time, after significant snowfall, the piles will be safely burned. The center of the pile is the hottest, reaching temperatures as high as 1000 degrees Fahrenheit. After a few years of re-growth, the burn circles are indistinguishable.

As always, if unexpected cultural resources are discovered during the treatment, work will cease, and the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office and NPS Grand Teton National Park archaeologist will be contacted. The proposed fuels reduction treatment plan for AMK Ranch will have no adverse effect on cultural resources.

### INVENTORY METHODS

The present inventory followed standard archaeological inventory procedures accepted by the SHPO. Personnel were spaced at no more than 30 m intervals. In areas with lower surface visibility, special attention was paid to areas of subsurface disturbance (e.g., rodent burrows, animal trails, tree tipups, cutbanks, etc.).

A site was defined as consisting of two or more artifacts within 30 m of each other or one artifact and one or more features. An isolated find was defined as a single artifact, more than 30 m from any other artifact. Road trash and objects less than 50 years old were not recorded. Appropriate photographs were taken of the project area and any sites or features that might be present. All field notes, maps, photographs, etc. will be curated with the National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park. No cultural materials were collected during this project.

### SURVEY RESULTS AND MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

A class III cultural resource inventory of a 32 acre area surrounding the AMK Ranch/University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center along Jackson Lake was conducted by the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist for the National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park. The inventoried area surrounds the 12 acre AMK Ranch Historic District (48TE968), which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The project was conducted as a part of a fire fuels reduction program to help protect the AMK Ranch from natural fire.

No cultural resources were identified during the inventory. No further work is recommended as the proposed project will have no adverse effect on the AMK

Ranch Historic District. As a result, cultural clearance is recommended with the standard stipulation that should archaeological remains be uncovered during any future construction, the appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies be contacted immediately.

### ◆ ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The completion of this project has benefitted from the contributions of a number of individuals. Jacquelin St. Clair, Grand Teton National Park (GTNP) archaeologist, provided valuable assistance with the administrative aspects of this project. Pam Holtman, National Park Service (NPS) seasonal historian, provided historical guidance and wrote the fuels treatment analysis, based on information obtained from GTNP's Lisa Elenz, Fire Management Officer and Mack McFarland, Fuels Management Specialist. Hank Harlow, director of the University of Wyoming-National Park Service Research Center, graciously provided accommodations and other valuable assistance. OWSA staff contributing to this report included Carmen Clayton who drafted the project area map, Martha Rogers who provided editorial assistance, and Lavonne Haskins who compiled and paginated the final report.

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