NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 10024-0018

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 determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking ``x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

	[N/A] not for publication
	[X] vicinity
ty <u>El Paso</u> code <u>041</u>	1 zip code <u>80908</u>
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Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
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Ponderosa Lodge		El Paso, Colorado				
Name of Property		County/Sta	ate			
5. Classification						
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resour	rces within Propert ted resources.) Noncontributin	•		
[X] private[] public-local[] public-State[] public-Federal	[X] building(s) [] district	1	<u>b</u> uildings			
	[] site [] structure [] object	0	0	sites		
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The Architecture of Jul Benedict in Colorado 6. Function or Use	les Jacques Benois	0		_		
Historic Function (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Fur				
DOMESTIC/single dwelling		RECREATION and CULTURE/auditorium				
7. Description						
•						
Architectural Classific (Enter categories from instructions)	cation	Materials (Enter categories from	m instructions)			
Late 19 th and Early 20 th	h Century American	foundation	Concrete			
Movements			Brick			
Other: Rustic Style			Granite			
		walls	Log			
			Wood shake			
		other				
			<u>Metal</u>			

Ponderosa Lodge	El Paso, Colorado		
Name of Property	County/State		
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.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture		
[] A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Architecture		
[] B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Periods of Significance		
[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	1928		
individual distinction.	Significant Dates		
[] D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	1928		
Criteria Considerations (Mark ``x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Person(s) (Complete if Criterion B is marked above).		
Property is:	N/A		
[X] A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Cultural Affiliation N/A		
[] B removed from its original location.			
[] C a birthplace or grave.	Architect/Builder Benedict, Jules J. B.		
[] D a cemetery.			
[] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.			
[] F a commemorative property.			
[] G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.			
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)			
9. Major Bibliographical References			
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more co	ontinuation sheets.)		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:		
 □ 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 	State Historic Preservation Office ☐ Other State Agency ☐ Federal Agency ☐ Local Government ☐ University ☐ Other		
# recorded by Historic American Engineering Record	Name of repository: Colorado Historical Society		

	nderosa				_	El Paso, Colorado
Nam	e of Prop	erty			(County/State
10.	Geogra	aphical Da	ta			
Acre	eage of	Property	less than one	_		
	Refere e addition		nces on a continuatio	n sheet.)		
1.	13 Zone	524000 Easting	4318000 Northing	(NAD27)		The UTM reference point was derived
2.	Zone	Easting	Northing			by the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation from heads up digitization on Digital Raster Graphic
3.	Zone	Easting	Northing			(DRG) maps provided to OAHP by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management.
4.	Zone	Easting	Northing	[]Se	e cont	inuation sheet
Verb (Descri	bal Bou	ndary Des	cription y on a continuation sheet.)			
			n ted on a continuation sheet.)		
11.	Form F	Prepared B	у			
nam	e/title <u>A</u>	bbey Laine	Sienkiewicz			
orga	anization	La Foret C	Conference & Ret	treat Center		date <u>February 22, 2008</u>
stre	et & nun	nber <u>6145 S</u>	Shoup Rd.			telephone <u>719-495-2743</u>
city	or town	Colorado S	prings	state	e <u>CO</u>	zip code <u>80904</u>
Ad	ditional	Documen	tation			
Sub	mit the f	ollowing ite	ms with the com	pleted form:		
Con	tinuatio	on Sheets			Pho	tographs
Мар	s					Representative black and white photographs of the property.
 	A USGS r property's A Sketch	location. map for histor	minute series) indicatic ric districts and prope numerous resources	rties		litional Items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)
Pro	perty C	Owner				
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nam	ie <u>La Fo</u>	ret Confere	ence & Retreat C	enter		
stre	et & nun	nber <u>6145 (</u>	Shoup Rd.			telephone
city	or town	Colorado S	Springs	state	e <u>CO</u>	zip code <u>80904</u>
-						ational Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or uest is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National

Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to range from approximately 18 hours to 36 hours depending on several factors including, but not limited to, how much documentation may already exist on the type of property being nominated and whether the property is being nominated as part of a Multiple Property Documentation Form. In most cases, it is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form to meet minimum National Register documentation requirements. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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DESCRIPTION

Ponderosa Lodge is located on the property of the La Foret Conference and Retreat Center, north of Colorado Springs, Colorado, in a region known as the Black Forest. The 1928, Rustic style, two-story log building has a steeply pitched cross-gabled wood shingled roof and four massive clay tile chimneys. The basic floor plan of the building is "T"-shaped (approximately 62' x 75') with the top of the "T" towards the south. The general structural system consists of heavy log-timber construction for the walls, roof, and second floor, resting on a running bond brick-faced concrete foundation with a rowlock top course below the logs. The main floor is framed of light wood framing. A shallow crawl space is located beneath the majority of the building. Large gabled entries on the west and east sides and a similar gable on the south contain large vertical log structural members as well as vertical log walls with wide stucco daubing. Most of the other walls are composed of horizontal logs with saddle notched corners. Log rafter, purlin and joist ends are exposed. The raking trim is similar with projecting verges and exposed log ends. The sash are predominantly wood frame multi-light in-swinging casements in flat openings with plain moldings of half-round logs. The sash and doors are original.

Ponderosa Lodge is itself part of a general grouping of buildings on the 430 acres that make up La Foret's grounds. The Lodge is a single detached building surrounded by native vegetation and ponderosa pine trees. The trees are typically at least 10 feet away from the building. To the north native growth comes up to the foundation of the building. Beyond this is a concrete sidewalk that wraps the building from the east and continues to the west. To the northwest is an outdoor recreational area, including a tennis court, basketball court and an original swimming pool. To the west is a raised patio. A sidewalk leads west from the base of the patio towards the dining hall. The south side of the Lodge has one pine growing close to the southeast corner of the building. The gravel parking area comes up to the foundation at the east end of the south elevation. To the east is a reddish-colored concrete patio, immediately adjacent to the gravel parking area to the east. In this parking area is an outbuilding, identified as the original icehouse. Beyond the gravel parking area is a gravel drive.

The west side contains one of the two main entrances. The double-leafed French doors with wrought and hammered iron hardware are centered in a projecting gabled porch. Similar single doors flank each side of the center entry. The gable contains another set of double-leafed French doors opening onto a shallow balcony protected by a log balustrade with a chain swag supporting hanging lights at each end. Vertical logs fill the remainder of the gable. The four vertical structural posts contain painted floral carvings. The walls on each side of the entry projection contain vertically aligned double six-light sash in vertical log walls. The north wall of the south wing contains two six-light sash flanking a nine-light wood door. The west gable end of the "T" contains two double six-light sash on the first story and four six-light sash in the gable end.

The east side generally mirrors the west side. Lacking is the first-story window opening to the south of the entry. The north wall of the south wing contains a pair of six-light sash. The east gable end of the "T" contains a centered clay tile chimney of 8" x 5" blocks, a six-light sash and a wood panel door on the first story, and a single six-light sash in the gable.

The south side includes a large central gable with vertical log walls. The first story contains a four-light wood panel door and three sets of double six-light sash. The gable contains two double six-light sash.

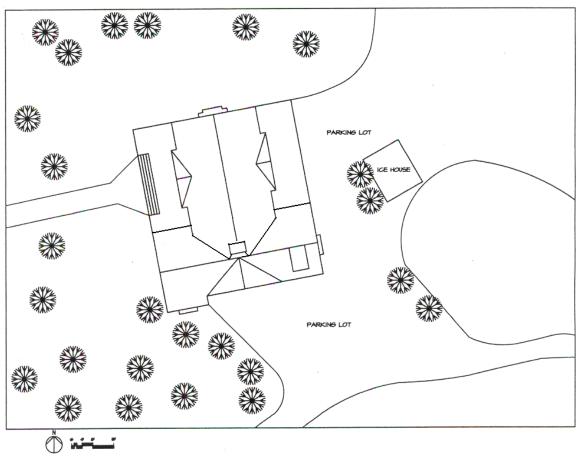
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Site PlanBased on site plan by SlaterPaull Architects, November 2007



To the east of the central gable are two six-light sash on the first story and a shed dormer above with multi-light sash. To the north of the central gable is a projecting section containing a chimney with a pair of flanking narrow six-light sash.

The symmetrical north gable end contains a centered chimney flanked on each side by vertically stacked nine-light sash on the first and second stories. The walls contain both vertical and horizontal logs with half timbering in the gable.

Interior

The first floor contains a double-height main room. The symmetrical room terminates on the north with a massive masonry fireplace. The walls are of exposed horizontal and vertical logs with plaster daubing. The floors here and throughout most of the building are of random width tongue-and-groove oak. Exposed peeled log king-post trusses span the 32'-wide hall. Peeled log purlins support peeled log rafters covered with 2" x 6" tongue-and-groove boards. The south end of the main room contains a large double-return stair. The initial seven steps ascend from the main level and divide at the landing to

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access the balconies that run the full length of the hall. Each step in the lower flight is formed of a single log. There are six carved balcony support extensions in the main lodge room, each carved into a rustic animal head. The cross-gable portion of the first floor contains two storage rooms (made from the former kitchen), Mrs. Taylor's former bedroom, the former maid's room, a bathroom, a mechanical room, and an accessible restroom. The ceilings have 1' x 1' acoustical tiles between exposed logs.

The second-floor cross-gabled section contains a large meeting room. The second floor also contains the balconies along both sides of the main room. Chain balcony supports are anchored in the roof trusses. The balustrade consists of a pattern of paired log balusters with connecting chain swags beneath a wood top rail.

Light fixtures throughout the building are original and made of custom hammered iron. The most prominent of these fixtures is a large ceiling mounted wrought iron chandelier in the middle of the main hall. The bottom fixture features a wagon wheel with arrows above forming the lamps. A buffalo and a hunter on a horse silhouettes rest on four of the arrows. Other lighting features throughout the Lodge include electric candelabras and a sconce hanging from an eagle head bracket. The fireplace screens are also made of hammered iron. Wrought iron door hardware appears throughout the building.

Alterations

All of the exterior building materials are original with the exception of some caulking at the daubing and daubing repaired or replaced in the past. The east side colored concrete patio immediately adjacent to the gravel parking area was installed in 2006.

On the interior, the southeast corner of the first floor originally held the kitchen and a small mechanical room that housed the heater. Since occupancy by the Rocky Mountain Conference of United Church of Christ (RMC UCC), the current owners, the kitchen has been removed and turned into two separate storage rooms, and the bathroom off the original kitchen had the bathtub removed to allow the room to serve as an accessible restroom. The dates of these alterations are unknown.

The second floor originally held two guests bedrooms. At some point early in the RMC UCC occupancy, two bathrooms were added to the second floor. At an unknown date a small mechanical room was installed at the top of the west stairs. In 2006, the bathrooms were removed as well as the partition between the two bedrooms.

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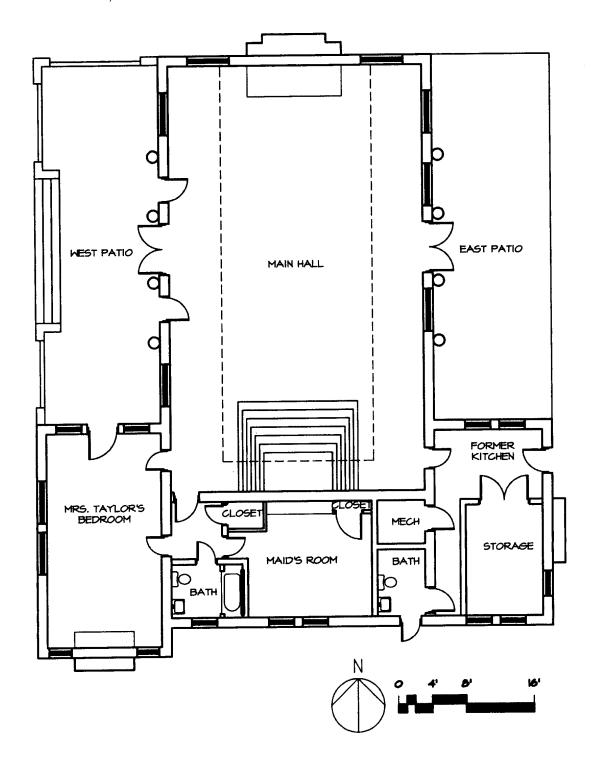
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First Floor Plan SlaterPaull Architects, March 2008



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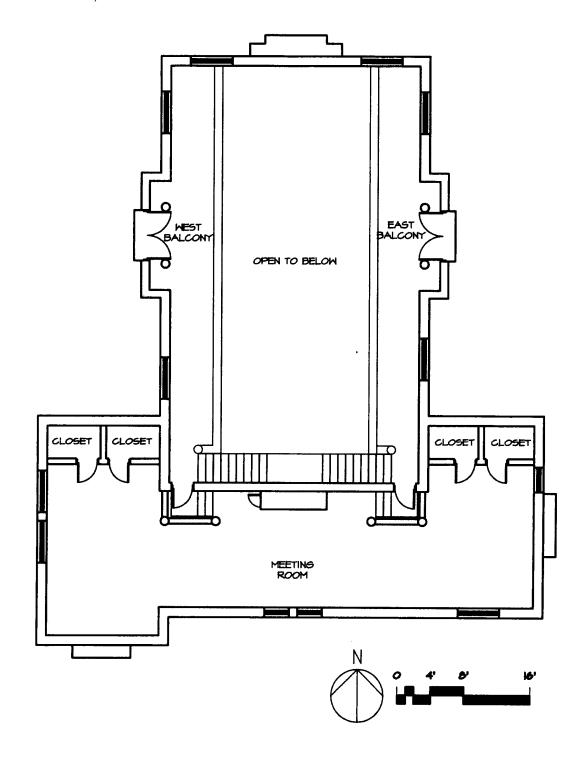
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Second Floor Plan SlaterPaull Architects, March 2008



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SIGNIFICANCE

Ponderosa Lodge is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for its architectural significance. The 1928 building meets the registration requirements for Domestic Buildings established in the multiple property documentation form (MPDF), *The Architecture of Jules Jacques Benois Benedict in Colorado*. The Lodge is an excellent example of Benedict's use of the Rustic, or "Alpine," style in a single-family dwelling. The summer home in the Black Forest north of Colorado Springs represents the type of residence he often designed for wealthy clients. Originally the summer home of Alice Bemis Taylor, the Lodge possesses ample historic integrity with only minor alterations to Benedict's final design.

As noted in the MPDF, domestic dwellings formed the majority of J.J.B. Benedict's body of design work. The planning of large urban and mountain residences for the wealthy constituted one of the major sources of commissions for Benedict throughout his career. His mountain homes represented a unique blending of the work he displayed in his urban residences along with his extensive work in the rustic settings of the Denver Mountain Parks. Benedict's mountain homes and lodges were built using native construction material, primarily log and stone. He was known for his attention to detail and insistence on the finest craftsmanship.

Beginning in 1915 and extending through the mid-1930s, Benedict designed most of the stone and log buildings and structures within the Denver Mountain Parks, a system of parks in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains west of Denver. Most of these buildings were designed and constructed in the Rustic style, a style Benedict called Alpine, characterized by the use of natural materials, including native logs and stone, interior wood paneling, and such accents as wrought iron fixtures. His most significant work for the Denver Mountain Parks was the 1917 Chief Hosa Lodge and Picnic Shelter (National Register listed). The stone Chief Hosa Lodge contains many design features in common with Ponderosa Lodge, including a pitched roof, timber gable supports, exposed log beams, and massive fireplaces.

In addition to Ponderosa Lodge, known Benedict designed Rustic style residences include Waring Lodge (pre-1922), Phelan Cabin (pre-1922) and Baehr Lodge (1928). The current status of the first two properties is unknown; the latter is listed in the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties.

Benedict combined his extensive experience in Rustic design with a wealthy patron in Alice Bemis Taylor to design a truly outstanding piece of architecture suited to its wooded context. Similar to his other Rustic style properties, Ponderosa Lodge used native resources. The ponderosa logs were cut from the western slope of Pike's Peak. Benedict carefully used the logs both as structural and decorative elements. The basic structure is timber-framed supplemented by horizontal logs with saddle-notched corners. Large vertical logs provide framing in the gable ends with visible rafter ends, purlins and floor joists. Smaller vertical logs are used as spandrels and in the gable ends. The wide bands of daubing, which in some gable ends actually form half timbering, give the building a Tudor feel, as does the use of clay tile in the massive chimneys rather than stone. An early plan actually called for stone chimneys. Floral patterns carved into the large vertical logs at the west entry provide an additional connection between the building and its setting.

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On the interior, the full-height main hall echoes the European tradition of the grand hunting lodge and the more recent American form of the Rustic style hotel. The symmetrical design and the flanking second-floor balcony focuses attention on the massive north-end fireplace. Equally impressive is the counterpoint of the south-end double-return stair positioned against the masonry chimney. The exposed log walls and massive log roof trusses continue the Rustic treatment. The Lodge interior is an exceptional example of the attention Benedict paid to ornamentation and detail in his domestic buildings; the rustic touches throughout are some of the building's most interesting elements. The lighting fixtures and fireplace screens throughout the Lodge were constructed of custom hammered iron featuring various western and nature motifs. The chain balcony supports include decorative elements. The double log baluster pattern with chain swags beneath the top wood top rail provides a distinctive design element.

The Ponderosa Lodge was Benedict's last known Rustic style residence and it clearly represents the architect at the height of his creative powers.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

In 1927, Alice Bemis Taylor commissioned Jules Jacques Benois Benedict to construct the main lodge at her newly purchased summer property, which she called La Foret. Mrs. Taylor's family had moved to Colorado Springs from New England when she was a little girl. Her home throughout childhood still stands as part of the Hearthstone Inn (National Register listed). The Bemis family had a great history of philanthropy in Colorado Springs, including the donation of Bemis Hall at Colorado College and the Colorado Day Nursery for underprivileged children.

In 1903, Alice married Frederick Morgan Pike Taylor, a wealthy outdoorsman. They adopted a daughter, Doree, around 1905. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor continued the Bemis family practice of community philanthropy and social service throughout Colorado Springs. Mrs. Taylor worked directly with a variety of architects who designed and built her contributions of community resources. She first commissioned William White Stickney to design a Tudor Revival style mansion to house the Day Nursery founded by her mother. The Taylors also endowed the Taylor Library at Colorado College, and the Cogswell Theater and Bemis School of Art at Colorado College. With the support of Elizabeth Hare and Julie Penrose, Mrs. Taylor founded what may be her most well known project, the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, designed by well-known Santa Fe architect John Gaw Meem.

Mrs. Taylor was very interested in architecture and the arts. She was known to hire only the best architects and builders, and her summer residence was no exception. She contracted J.J.B. Benedict in 1927 to design Ponderosa Lodge. It cost \$90,000 to construct and was complete in 1928.

The building has remained largely intact throughout the interior. However, from the original drawings, the Lodge was not built entirely as initially designed. The original drawings indicated single doors entering into the main hall, when in fact double doors were installed. The other openings into this room were also changed during construction. Benedict originally designed the second story with a hipped roof on the east side. The gable roof constructed provided additional space.

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Mr. Taylor passed away during the construction of the Lodge. In his memory, John Gaw Meem, a well-known architect from Santa Fe, designed the Taylor Memorial Chapel (National Register listed), which was dedicated to Mr. Taylor in 1929. Meem also designed the Blue Spruce Lodge, located at La Foret, and the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. Mrs. Taylor continued to use the property as her summer getaway until close to her death on June 22, 1942.

In 1944, the Bemis Taylor Foundation, established after Mrs. Taylor's death, donated La Foret to the Rocky Mountain Conference of United Church of Christ. La Foret is currently used as a conference, retreat center, and camp, still run by the RMC UCC. Their primary focus is to provide a haven nurturing the program needs of all groups visiting La Foret.

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Referenced web pages include:

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- http://www.cssd11.k12.co.us/taylor/our_school.htm information on Mrs. Taylor, accessed February 1, 2008.
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- http://www.9news.com/advertorial/exploreco/2007/nm-story.aspx?storyid=69640 information on Mrs. Taylor and John Gaw Meem, also an architect at La Foret, accessed February 1, 2008.
- http://staging.acorn-is.com/hearthstone/inforamtion-history.html information on Mrs. Taylor, accessed February 1, 2008.
- http://www.stmatthew-ucc.org/fc'98-laforet.html history of La Foret and Mrs. Taylor, accessed February 1, 2008.
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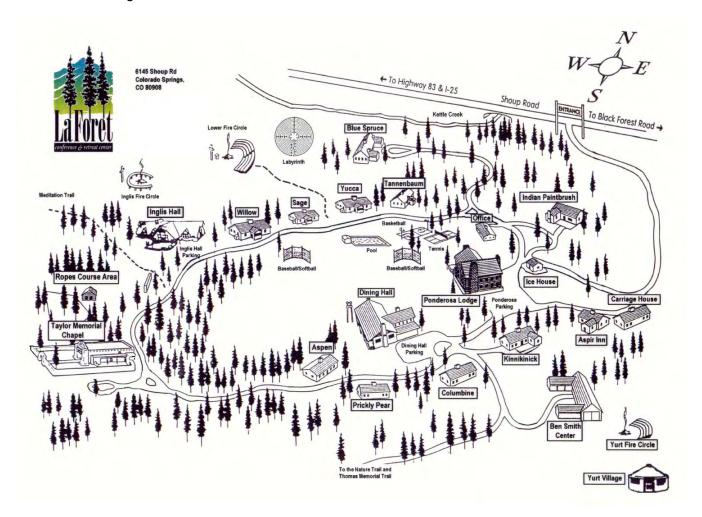
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon extending 15' out from the footprint of the building, including its porches.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the Lodge building and its immediate historic setting constituting its overall architectural design.



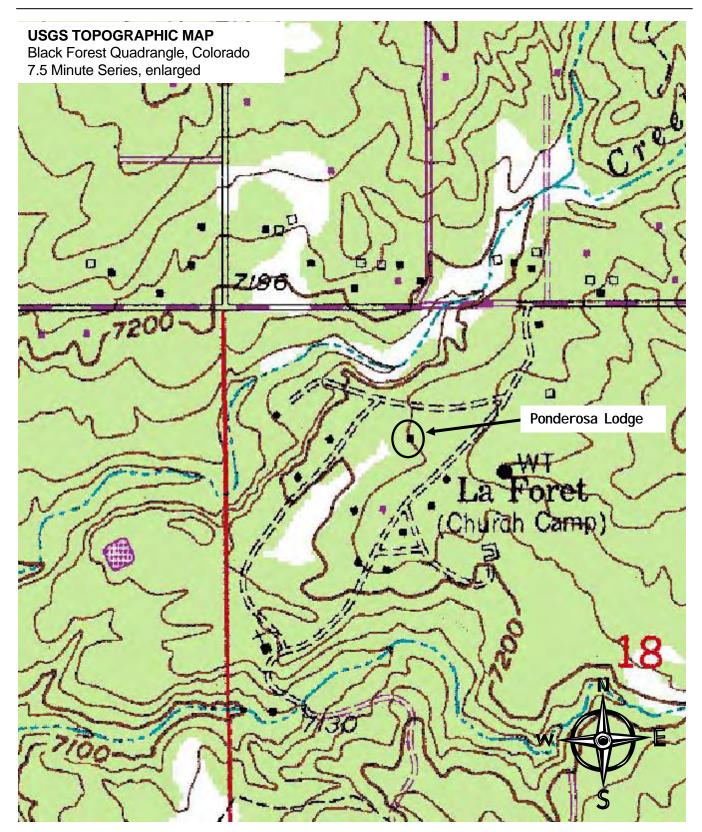
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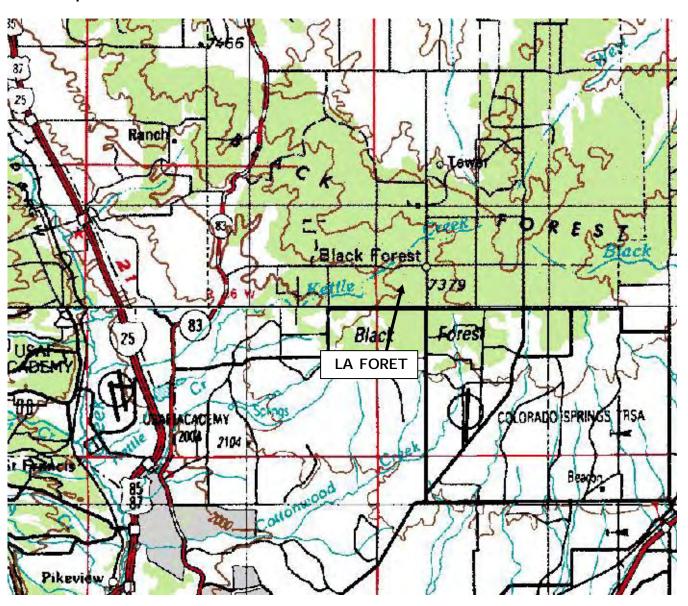
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LA FORET AREA USGS Map



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG – CURRENT

The following information pertains to all photograph numbers 1-35:

Photographer: Abbey Laine Sienkiewicz

Date of Photographs: February 14, 2008

Location of Negatives: Digital images submitted to National Register.

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	East side; view to the southwest.
2	South side; view to the north.
3	West side; view to the southeast.
4	West side gable; view the east.
5	West side and north side of wing; view to the southeast.
6	West side gable; view to the southeast.
7	West side column detail; view to the east.
8	West side second-story detail; view to the east.
9	West side gable; view to the southeast.
10	East side lamp.
11	North side; view to the south.
12	Main hall from top of stair; view to the north.
13	Main hall fireplace; view to the north.
14	Main hall fireplace; view to the north.
15	main hall fireplace, hearth and screen; view to the north.
16	Fireplace screen.
17	Main hall, wrought iron hanging light fixture suspended from hand-carved animal head
	beam.
18	Main hall, underside of wagon wheel chandelier.
19	Main hall, wagon wheel chandelier with wrought iron horse/rider and buffalo.
20	Main hall, wagon wheel chandelier, detail of wrought iron horse/rider.
21	Main hall south end stairs; view to the south.
22	Second-floor balcony; view to the northwest.
23	Main hall south end stairs; view to the south.
24	Main hall south end stairs; view down stairs to the east.
25	Second-floor south side bathroom.
26	Second-floor south side bathroom shower.
27	Southwest room; view to the south.
28	Southwest room; view to the northwest.
29	Southeast room (originally kitchen) from doorway to main hall; view to the east.
30	Southeast side; view to the southwest.
31	Wrought iron hanging lamp with bird head bracket, under west side stairs.
32	Second floor; view to the east.
33	Second floor from the east door; view to the southwest.
34	Second floor; view to the west.
35	Hall on southeast side of building; view to the south.

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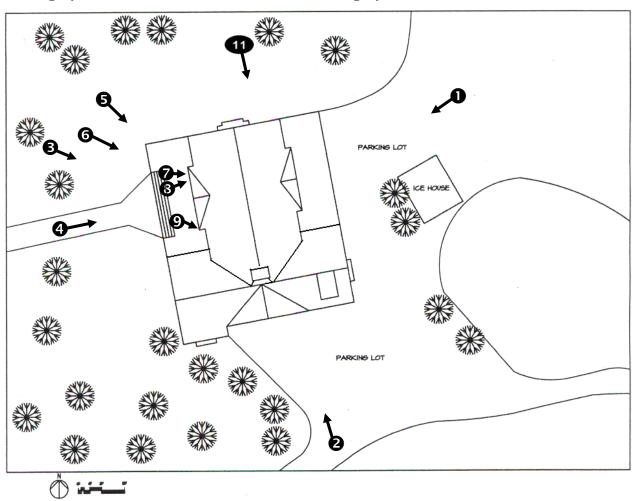
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Photograph Locations and Views - Current Photographs



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PHOTOGRAPH LOG - HISTORIC

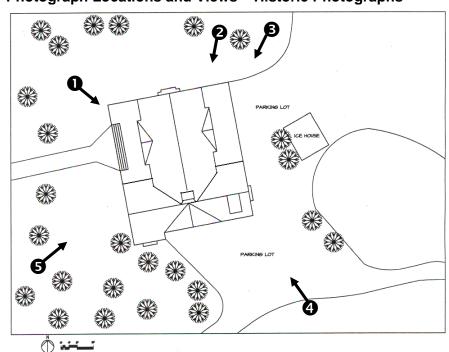
These photographs may not be included in Internet posted documents and other publishing venues due to copyright restrictions.

Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photographs: August 1928

Location of Negatives: Unknown; original prints at La Foret.

Photo No.	Photographic Information
H1	West entry gable; view to the southeast.
H2	East side and partial north side; view to the south.
H3	East side and partial north side; view to the southwest.
H4	South and west sides; view to the northwest.
H5	West and south sides; view to the northeast.
H6	Main hall from top of stairs; view to the north.
H7	Main hall fireplace; view to the north.
H8	Main hall stair; view to the south.
H9	Mrs. Taylor's bedroom (now Meadow Room), first floor, southwest corner of building;
	view to the south.
H10	South bedroom.

Photograph Locations and Views – Historic Photographs



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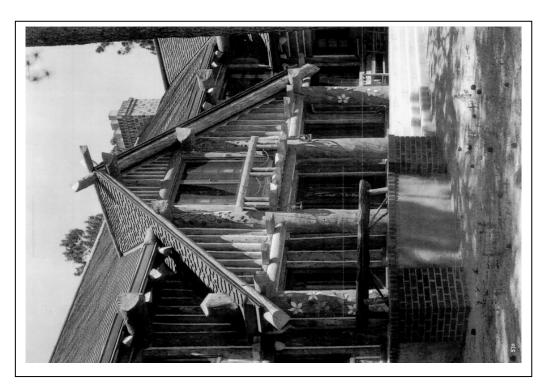
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H2

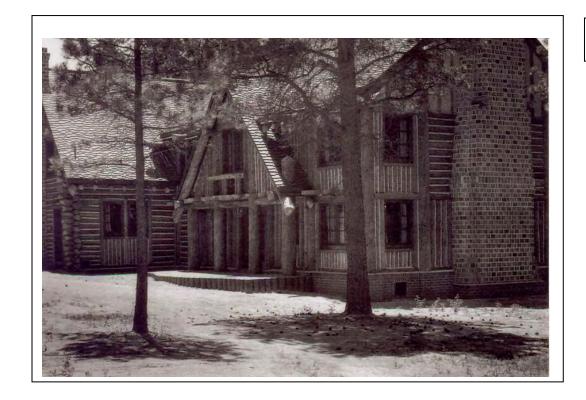


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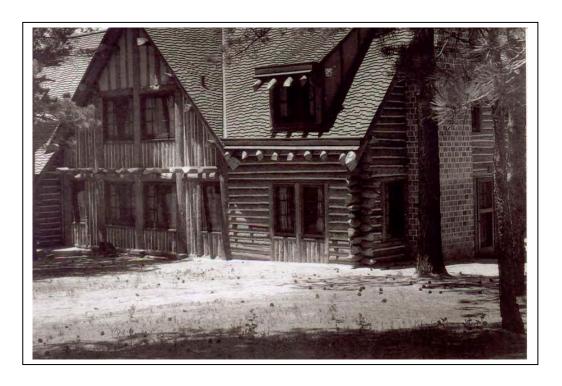
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Н3

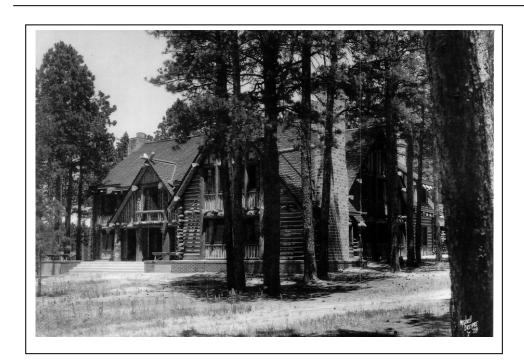


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Н8

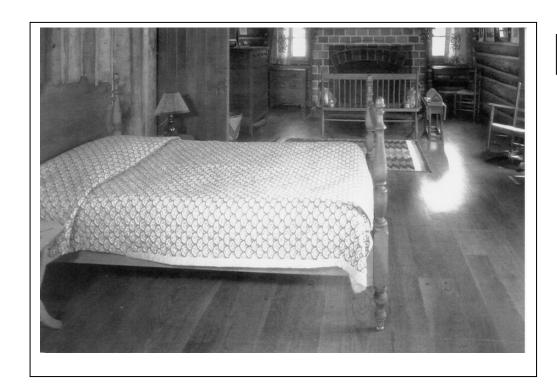


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H9



