

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. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Smith/Friskey Ranch

other names/site number 5CF.2879

2. Location

street & number County Road 339 (0.5 miles west of road) X not for publication

city or town Buena Vista X vicinity

state Colorado code CO county Chaffee code 015 zip code 81211

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

Signature of certifying official/Title State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, History
Colorado
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official Date

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 Date of Action

Smith/Friskey Ranch

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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	
3	0	buildings
0	0	district
1	0	site
0	1	structure
0	0	object
4	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Animal Facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Storage

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural Outbuilding

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Pioneer Log

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: WOOD
STONE

roof: ASPHALT

other: BRICK

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Physical Description

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

The Smith/Friskey Ranch is a 160-acre cattle and hay ranch located 4.9 miles southwest of Buena Vista in Chaffee County. The summit of Mount Princeton (14,197'), 5.3 miles distant, dominates the view to the southwest. The ranch includes late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century ranch resources, including two log dwellings and the ruins of a barn, root cellars, sheds, a corral, and other outbuildings. The property features a large meadow of native grasses in the drainage of Silver Prince Creek, a dryland grazing zone, and densely forested areas with Ponderosa and lodgepole pines. Elevations vary from approximately 8,603' at the northeast corner to 8,852' at the southwest corner.

Elaboration

An unpaved, two-track ranch road from County Road 339 crosses treeless grazing land for half a mile before reaching the eastern boundary of the Smith/Friskey Ranch. The road then dips to cross the Silver Prince Creek drainage, reaching a large natural grass meadow around which the ranch headquarters is located. To the north is the ca. 1911 Gus Friskey House, which stands in pine trees with a chicken coop, artifact concentration, and outbuilding ruins in its vicinity. About 500' southwest, on the west slope of the meadow, is the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin (ca. 1888-94), which features a view of Silver Prince Creek and a grove of aspens along the meadow's eastern edge. Extending for about 260' southwest along the west edge of the meadow are the ruins of root cellars and outbuildings built into the slope of the land. Two-track ranch roads flank the meadow and also access the southeastern corner of the property. Discussed below are the ranch resources that are listed in Table 1. With the exception of a 1996 irrigation pipeline, all resources within the nominated area were present during the period of significance and are assessed as contributing.¹ Sketch maps include an overview map of the entire property, a detail map of the south area, and a detail map of the north area.

Smith/Friskey Ranch, Resource 1, Site, Contributing, Photographs 1 through 32

The entire 160-acre ranch parcel, corresponding to the original 1891 Cash Entry Patent, is treated as one contributing site. The rural historic landscape characteristics of the ranch are discussed below.

Land Uses and Activities

Cattle ranching and hay raising comprised the dominant and longest-lived land uses on the ranch.² The topography of the land, especially the 9.4-acre meadow adjacent to Silver Prince Creek, influenced land uses and activities established by the Smiths in the late 1880s and continued by subsequent owners (Photograph 1). Silver Prince Creek rises on a mountain slope 1.6 miles to the southwest and flows north-northeast through the western half of the property. The creek receives most of its stream flow from melting snow in the mountains and carries modest amounts of water, recording its highest flow in the spring and lowest in the fall. It provides water for the lush meadow, which local rancher Bryce Kelly reports also contains a natural spring. The presence of a year-round water supply that could be utilized for domestic and agricultural purposes was an important factor in selecting homesteads and in determining the location of a ranch headquarters. Hay harvested from the meadow was stored in a stack adjacent to the barn.

Cattle grazing took place in the dryland area at the northeast corner of the property (about 26.6 acres) (Photograph 2). This area lies above the Silver Prince Creek drainage and is unirrigated. Most of the remainder of the ranch features a tree cover of Ponderosa and lodgepole pine. The ranch has not been occupied since 1964, and leased grazing and haying activities ceased in the 1980s.

¹ Only real property, not water rights (per 36 CFR 60.6), is the subject of this nomination.

² Ranching and hay raising reflect Euro-American settlement. Native peoples likely used the greater area for much longer than the more recent ranching activities.

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Patterns of Spatial Organization

The township containing the Smith/Friskey Ranch was surveyed by the U.S. General Land Office in 1880. The public land survey system determined the framework within which the ranch was created: the area selected for patent consists of the northwest quarter-section (160 acres) of section 35, removed from the public domain in 1891. Architectural historian Howard Wight Marshall observed: "People may have established their enterprises on blocks of land cut from the gridiron of governmental land office squares, but there were no written rules to guide or limit the way a ranch would be situated on a 640-acre section or part thereof."³ This quarter section probably proved desirable for settlement due to the presence of Silver Prince Creek and the adjacent natural meadow. The land also includes dryland grazing in the northeast and extensive areas of pine forest for timber.

The headquarters area was established at the north end of the meadow along the creek drainage (Photograph 3). There are no buildings or structures outside this developed area of less than two acres. A cabin, artifact concentration, and the ruins of root cellars and outbuildings stand on the west side of the meadow. A house, artifact concentration, and ruins of outbuildings lie above the north end of the meadow. Some differentiation of uses is reflected in the presence of the ruins of a corral, barn, and sheds on the east side of the creek away from the two dwellings. The ranch headquarters appears to have been developed between 1888 and 1920 based on the needs and activities of its owners. The ranch remained undivided after its initial settlement ca. 1888, with two long-term occupancies: Andrew Smith and family, ca. 1888-1900 and Gustave and Ernest Friskey, 1900-64.

Response to the Natural Environment

Settlers availed themselves of sloping topography to build root cellars, dugouts, and other buildings. The Smiths and/or Friskies took note of the rising land along the west side of the meadow and constructed two root cellars and two outbuildings into the slope. The root cellars employed logs for sidewalls and roof beams as well as stone retaining walls. The partially subterranean root cellars had roofs covered with earth and facilitated food storage by maintaining more even temperatures.⁴ The two buildings to the west were built into the slope and featured log and drylaid stone walls. The hillside location had the further advantage of facing east-southeast, away from the prevailing west and northwest winds and enhancing solar exposure for warmth and quicker snowmelt in winter. The ranch's corral, barn, and livestock sheds were placed across Silver Prince Creek at some distance from the dwellings. This downwind location helped curtail the impacts of animal odors.

The natural environment provided materials used in construction throughout the historic period, with ready supplies of timber and stone present on the parcel. The somewhat isolated location resulted in ranch construction employing simple, functional designs that required little beyond the ability of the owners, perhaps assisted by neighbors, to construct. The southeast, south-central, and western edge of the property is forested with Ponderosa and lodgepole pine trees; these areas are not separated by fencing. Logs were used in the construction of the ranch dwellings, the barn, and outbuildings. Some logs used in the walls of the Smith/Ernie Friskey cabin (Resource 2) are up to 10" in diameter. Trees also provided the raw material for fence posts, as well as fuel for heating. Some fence posts on the ranch are pitch pine logs, which survived an ancient fire and are quite durable and decay resistant.⁵ Mounds of stones found along the west edge of the meadow were purposefully removed to facilitate haying operations and prevent damage to mowers (Photograph 4). The ranch residents used the stone for retaining walls and foundations.

Abutting the ranch on the west is part of the Pike-San Isabel National Forest. Created as the Leadville Forest Reserve in 1905, it became the Leadville National Forest in 1907 and then part of the Pike National Forest in

³ Howard Wight Marshall, *Paradise Valley, Nevada: The People and Buildings of an American Place* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1995), 36.

⁴ Allen G. Noble and Richard K. Cleek, *The Old Barn Book: A Field Guide to North American Barns and Other Farm Structures* (New Brunswick, New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 1995), 142; Byron D. Halsted, *Barns, Sheds and Outbuildings* (New York: O. Judd Press, 1881; reprinted Lexington, Massachusetts: Stephen Greene Press, 1977), 224.

⁵ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 22 June 2016. According to Bryce Kelly, pitch pine logs come from native pine trees that experienced a rapid forest fire in the past, sealing the sap but not destroying the wood. Such posts are resistant to rot and are extremely dense and durable.

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1930. Local rancher Joe Cogan reported the Friskeys supplemented their grazing area by permitting their cattle to find food farther up the Silver Prince Creek drainage on the adjoining federal land.⁶

Cultural Traditions

While the geographical backgrounds of the inhabitants are known, specific cultural or ethnic traditions they brought are not readily identifiable. Andrew J. and Josephine Smith, the initial settlers on this land, were both natives of Indiana; his parents hailed from Kentucky and Indiana, while hers were born in Georgia and Indiana.⁷ The 1880 Census showed Smith working on his family's farm in Boone County, Indiana, where he presumably learned farming practices of the area.⁸

Gustave and Ernest Friskey, the second inhabitants of the ranch, who lived here for more than half a century, were born in Illinois to German immigrant parents.⁹ The family resided in Michigan and Illinois before coming to Colorado City in the late 1870s, where Charles Friskey worked as a teamster. After his death in 1880, Johanna C.S. Friskey moved her family to Chaffee County to pursue ranching. She became a naturalized citizen in 1887.¹⁰

Circulation Networks

An east-west two-track road links the ranch to unpaved Chaffee County Road 339, which passes a half-mile east of the ranch boundary. The 1955 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map for the area shows this road entering the ranch, curving past the Gus Friskey House (Resource 3), and ending at the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin (Resource 2). A north-south road outside the eastern edge of the property is also shown. Nomination fieldwork and aerial photographs identified other two-track roads on the ranch. One road extends from the Smith/Ernest Friskey Cabin southwest along the northwest side of the meadow to the west property boundary and then turns southward. Another two-track road heads south-southwest from the corral area along the east side of the meadow paralleling Silver Prince Creek (Photograph 5). These roads provided access to the meadow for haying and other operations. Another two-track road extends southwest from the eastern boundary through the southeast and south central parts of the property. Aside from the ranch access road, these roads appear to have developed through use, with no or minimal grading or other overt construction. The "two-track" term stems from the appearance of the road as two tracks created by the tires of vehicles with vegetation growing in the center. The term is usually applied to rural roads, often on farms and ranches, carrying small numbers of vehicles with little formal maintenance.

Boundary Demarcations

The ranch consists of a single parcel under one ownership. The perimeter of the parcel is fenced with four- or five-strand barbed wire on metal and unmilled native log posts, separating the ranch from the national forest to the west and adjacent properties. Barbed wire, patented in the late 1860s and 1870s, provided an effective means of confining animals and delineating property lines. The corral at the ranch headquarters with its log post and rail fences ensured confinement of livestock to specific areas, facilitating their protection, care, and transportation to market. Downed chicken wire fences are present north of the Gus Friskey house (Resource 3), perhaps once comprising a chicken yard associated with the extant coop. A short section of barbed wire fence is also present in the area of the root cellar/building ruins. The forested areas are not separated by fences from other areas of the ranch.

⁶ Joe Cogan, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 22 August 2016.

⁷ U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Chaffee County, Colorado, 1900.

⁸ U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Perry Township, Boone County, Indiana, 1880.

⁹ Dianne Hartshorn, Colorado Springs, Colorado, email to Thomas H. Simmons, 1 November 2016. Friskey descendant Dianne Hartshorn remarked: "For as long as they owned the property, information of the family is very hard to come by."

¹⁰ Johanna Friskey, Colorado, State and Federal Naturalization records, 1868-1990, 22 August 1887, www.Ancestry.com (accessed 21 August 2016).

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Vegetation Related to Land Use

The ranch headquarters buildings were constructed around the north end of the 9.4-acre meadow in the Silver Prince Creek drainage. Rancher Bryce Kelly described it as a “pure natural meadow,” composed of fescues, timothy, and wire grass, as well as white clover.¹¹ Historically, the meadow was mowed and the hay was used as livestock feed for the ranch’s cattle.

Joe Cogan believes the Friskeys or the earlier owner may have tried to grow potatoes on the ranch, but today the land bears no evidence of such cultivation. The high altitude and relatively short growing season make the land an unpromising location for field crops. The northeastern quarter of the property is dryland without a water source and was historically used for grazing. The remainder of the land is forested with Ponderosa and lodgepole pine and was not used for growing agricultural products (see Overview Sketch Map). According to Joe Cogan the Friskeys grazed cattle in the treed areas; however, he noted that the land was not particularly good for this use given the shade from the tree cover and “terribly light soil.”

It is likely the ranch had a garden plot. During a 2011 cultural resource survey canning jars were found at the Smith/Ernie Friskey cabin that still held food products.¹² Artifacts found in 2016 included canning jars and lids. The presence of the root cellars suggest the ranch residents stored large quantities of foodstuffs. Other vegetation noted in the vicinity of the cabin and house included sage, Indian paintbrush, bitterbrush, rabbitbrush, currant, bluebell, penstemon, and a large group of chokecherry bushes located close to the Gus Friskey House and possibly harvested by the site occupants.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects

As noted earlier, the ranch headquarters occupies a small area near the north end of the meadow, with developed areas along the western, eastern, and northern edges. Ranch headquarters typically included a variety of buildings filling roles needed for self-sufficient operations in a relatively isolated rural area. The Smith/Friskey Ranch headquarters includes standing buildings and ruins associated with residential, animal care, and storage functions. The two standing buildings at the ranch are the ca. 1888-94 Smith/Friskey cabin and the ca. 1911 Gustave Friskey house. Both dwellings are constructed of hewn logs. The earlier, one-story Smith cabin features logs up to 10” in diameter and V-notching (Photograph 6), as well as two shed-roofed additions, one log with dovetail notching and one of vertical boards. Original homestead cabins often were expanded to meet changing needs of settlers. The cabin became the dwelling of Ernest Friskey after Gus Friskey acquired the ranch in 1900.

The ruins of the root cellars and buildings southwest of the Smith cabin may date to the Smith period or to the early years of the Friskey occupation (ca. 1888-1920). Local rancher Bryce Kelly recalled they were in ruins by the mid- to late 1950s. Deterioration of the buildings makes determination of their original functions difficult; it is possible they may have served as early barns or stables. The level area on the east side of the creek included a large three-bay barn, two smaller sheds, and a corral with three pens, a loading chute, and a squeeze chute. These resources are now in ruins and the area is densely vegetated.

Clusters

As discussed above, the resources comprising the ranch headquarters are clustered around the north end of the hay meadow and Silver Prince Creek (see description of resources by area below). There are no other standing buildings, structures, or ruins on the ranch.

Archaeological Sites

Historic non-aboriginal archaeological sites within the nominated area consist of building ruins, artifact concentrations, trash middens, and possible privy pits. This evidence provides information about land use, historic activities, and patterns of development. Artifact concentrations surround the two dwellings on the ranch, including numerous cans and bottles, and are described more fully in the discussion of each resource below.

¹¹ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 22 June 2016.

¹² R.L. Simmons and T.H. Simmons, Smith-Friskey Ranch, 5CH.2879, Architectural Inventory form, October 2011.

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Small-Scale Elements

Few small-scale elements were noted on the ranch. West of the Gus Friskey House (Resource 3) is a metal and wood buck rake, which was used to collect and transport mown hay (Photograph 7). A wagon, buck rake, and 1946 Ford tractor once used by Gus Friskey on the ranch are now at the Kelly Ranch, 3.5 miles to the east, along with various smaller agricultural implements and tools. A 40'-section of fence is present in the area containing the ruins of root cellars and outbuildings (Photograph 20). The fence is notable for its use of pitch pine posts, which are extremely durable and were harvested from the area.

Description of Resources by Area

This section describes the resources of the Smith/Friskey Ranch organized by the following areas: Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin; root cellar and building ruins; Gus Friskey House; and corral, barn, and shed ruins. Where applicable, archaeological components are discussed in association with any standing buildings. Ruins, small-scale objects, fences, roads, and artifact concentrations are considered features of the ranch site and are not included in the count of resources; they are labeled as features on the sketch maps. The resources are also listed in Table 1 at the end of this section and shown on three sketch maps.

SMITH/ERNIE FRISKEY CABIN, AREA A

This area (area A on the sketch maps) includes the oldest known resource on the ranch, the ca. 1888-94 Smith Cabin, in which Ernie Friskey later lived ca. 1900-45. Surrounding the cabin is an artifact concentration.

Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin, Resource 2, ca. 1888-94, Building, Contributing, Photographs 8 through 11

This one-story, irregularly-shaped log cabin stands above the north end of the meadow. The location on the west edge is 8' to 10' above the level of the meadow. The main portion of the cabin (25' x 16') faces northeast; has a shallow, side gable roof with projecting purlins; and exhibits hewn log walls (with some logs up to 10" in diameter) joined with V-notching at the corners. The log faces display adz marks. The northeast wall has a center entrance flanked by tall window openings. The northwest wall has no openings. The main roof is clad with deteriorated wood shingles, which are missing in places. A roughly 15' x 15' shed roof projection, attached to the rear (southwest wall) of the cabin, has hewn log walls with dovetail notching. Its southeast wall contains rectangular door and window openings, while no openings are present on the northwest or southwest walls. Its roof is mostly missing but some corrugated metal roof sections are present. A roughly 10' x 6' shed roof projection is on the southeast wall of the main cabin. It features vertical board walls and an entrance on the southwest wall.

The cabin interior is divided into two rooms and the walls are clad with horizontal beadboard. Newspapers attached to the rear wall of the main part of the cabin date to as early as 9 November 1894.¹³ Artifacts within the cabin are discussed below. Square and round nails are present; the cabin additions may date to the early years of the Friskey tenure.

Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin Artifact Concentration (Feature 1A). Artifacts are found in a dense concentration on the surface and extend approximately 65' to the east directly in front of the cabin front door, and also extend down slope approximately 50' to the southeast near the drainage bottom (Photographs 12 through 14). Artifacts include a mix of domestic, ranch-related, and structural/construction-related items. Glass artifacts include earlier-dating items (purple glass ca. 1885-1920),¹⁴ later period artifacts such as a clear glass jar fragment with a Hazel-Atlas Co. trademark dating from ca. 1920-1964,¹⁵ and an Owens Illinois Glass Co. trademark on a clear glass bottle fragment and a brown beer bottle fragment dating to ca. 1929-1954.¹⁶ Artifacts include clear window glass; numerous clear and aqua glass canning jar fragments, zinc lids, metal bands, and milk glass and metal liners; brown, aqua, and bright green-colored beverage glass fragments; a sanitary coffee can; crockery fragments; leather boot and shoe fragments; a few very large tin cans; strap iron; square machine-cut and round nails; earthenware fragments; fragments of a metal bucket; a metal haying

¹³ This cabin is shown on the 1955 Buena Vista, Colorado, USGS quadrangle map.

¹⁴ Jonathon C. Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook* (Montrose, Colorado: Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc., 2005), 1.

¹⁵ Toulouse, Julian Harrison, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks* (New York: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1971), 239.

¹⁶ Toulouse, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, 403-406.

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machine fragment; gun cartridges; a metal washtub; a possible remnant of a homemade wood ranch-related sled (not a child's toy); and several bundles of baling wire (possibly more recent).

Similar to the artifacts associated with the Gus Friskey House (Resource 3), the majority of these artifacts, with the exception of the canning-related items, lack characteristics indicating occupation by women and children (for example, toys and decorative earthenware, china, and glassware). In contrast, there is a notable absence of smaller-sized tin cans that contained food products at the cabin in comparison with the artifacts at the Gus Friskey House. The numerous canning jar-related artifacts associated with this cabin suggest that home canning/food preservation may have been more common than utilizing store-purchased canned food goods.

The interior of the cabin contains numerous domestic-related and other artifacts including clear and aqua glass canning jar fragments, lids, liners, and bands; tin cans; a tire; a stove pipe fragment; wood boxes and shelves; square machine-cut and round nails; clear bottle and window glass fragments; and a white milk glass 4-hole button. The 1894 and 1895 newspaper fragments, likely utilized as insulation, suggest probable construction and occupation of at least portions of this building by the first ranch owners, the Smiths. The majority of the surface artifacts appear to date to the occupation of the ranch by the Friskies starting in 1900. Ernie Friskey reportedly occupied this cabin until his death in 1945, and the surface artifacts are primarily reflective of this time period.

Although there is no obvious evidence of the exact location of a privy pit on the surface, it is likely that there are one or more privy pits associated with the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin, and these features are likely to contain additional buried archaeological remains associated with the earliest occupation of the site by the Smith family and later by the Friskies.

ROOT CELLAR AND BUILDING RUINS, AREA B

This area (area B on the sketch maps) extends from about 30' south of the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin southwest along the western edge of the meadow for about 260'; the area is about 8' to 10' above the level of the meadow. Included are what appear to be the ruins of two root cellars, two buildings, a section of barbed wire fence, and a mound of stones. There is no documentary or oral history evidence as to the date of construction of these resources. Local ranchers Bryce Kelly and Joe Cogan both recalled the root cellars and buildings in this area as being in ruins during visits in the mid-1950s. Construction techniques and artifacts are not definitive for dating; a few round nails were observed during fieldwork. The resources could date from the Smith tenure or the early years of the Friskey ownership (ca. 1888-1920). These ruins likely contain buried archaeological deposits. At the current time, duff (partly decayed organic matter on the forest floor), dense vegetation, and roof/wall fall inhibit examination of the sediments within each root cellar or building ruin.

East Root Cellar Ruin (Feature 1B). This root cellar ruin is built into the slope of the land and faces south-southeast toward the meadow (Photograph 15). Roughly 28' x 8', the root cellar has a log and milled lumber entrance flanked by drylaid stones. The roof, featuring log beams, has collapsed adjacent to the entrance, but a section at the rear is still intact. Round nails were observed.

West Root Cellar Ruin (Feature 1C). About 6' southwest of the first root cellar is this second one (Photograph 16). Also built into the slope of the land and facing south-southeast, this root cellar measures about 20' x 6'. Vertical logs mark the entrance and logs and milled timbers served as roof beams. A few round nails were visible. The roof is now collapsed, but one large log beam is still present.

East Building Ruin (Feature 1D). This roughly rectangular building ruin is built into the slope of the land about 58' west of the west root cellar ruin and faces southeast toward the meadow (Photographs 17 and 18). The ruin consists of an east part (20' x 8') with round log walls and a west part (20' x 15') with stone walls. The east section has two standing log walls joined with square notches at the corner. The west portion has three drylaid stone walls; the log roof has collapsed into the interior. The debris includes log poles and boards displaying round nails. Wagon parts, metal panels, and chicken wire were noted in the debris.

West Building Ruin (Feature 1E). The west building ruin lies about 125' southwest of the east building ruin (Photograph 19). The rectangular ruin (28' x 14') is built into the slope of the land and faces southeast. Walls are composed of round logs joined with V-notching. The building appears to have had two sections divided by

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a log wall. The walls of the southeastern section have collapsed. The roof, which originally featured log beams, has also collapsed. Round spikes and nails were observed.

Fence Posts (Feature 1F). A 40' section of fence with some extant barbed wire stands between the east and west building ruins (Photograph 20). The fence originally featured six strands of barbed wire. The posts are log and some are pitch pine.¹⁷ It is not known what function the fence played or if it was once part of a longer stretch of fence.

Stone Pile (Feature 1G). Northwest of the east building ruin is a roughly circular mound of stones about 18' in diameter and 2' to 3' high (Photograph 4). The stones vary in size from small boulders to softball-sized stones. Local resident Bryce Kelly related that such piles are not unusual in the area, representing the efforts of farmers and ranchers to clear fields of stones to permit plowing, mowing, and/or harvesting.¹⁸ The stones likely came from the adjacent meadow. Similar but smaller mounds of stones are located near the southwest end of the meadow.

GUS FRISKEY HOUSE, AREA C

This area (area C on the sketch maps) is located on the west side of the Silver Prince Creek drainage on the north side of the access road from County Road 339. The house stands on a rise about 20' above the creek drainage and overlooks the corral area to the southeast. This section of the ranch includes the Gus Friskey house, a chicken coop, ruins of an outhouse and shed, and an extensive artifact concentration.

Gus Friskey House, Resource 3, ca. 1911, Building, Contributing, Photographs 21 and 22

This one-and-a-half-story log dwelling (30' x 28' with a 7' x 5' rear projection) faces south toward the ranch access road.¹⁹ The gabled roof has overhanging eaves, is clad with composition asphalt shingles, and has a short brick chimney near the center on the east roof slope. The gable faces are clad with square, coursed unpainted shingles. The front gable face contains a vertical board door with a small light; a bat box near the east end is most likely a recent addition. The rear gable face has a tall boarded-up window. The walls are composed of round and square hewn logs with daubing and corners are boxed with wood boards attached with round nails.

The front (south wall) features an off-center, boarded up entrance onto a wood stoop with boards missing. Piles of milled lumber are present between the house and the road. The east wall has an off-center four-paneled and glazed door (glazing area boarded-up) toward the north end, a wide boarded-up window opening toward the south end, and a partly boarded up two-over-two-light window near the center. The north wall (rear) has a low shed roof projection with a board roof and a vertical board door with strap hinges on its east wall; two boarded-up windows flank the projection. The west wall has two boarded up window openings. The house rests on a poured concrete foundation under its south and east walls. According to Bryce Kelly, the house interior had about five rooms on the first story. The southeast corner near the entrance held a wood stove, table, and chairs, while the northeast room was used for storage.²⁰ A low retaining wall of drylaid stones is present to the east and north. To the west a log retaining wall lies a few feet west of the house with a remnant of a wood and woven wire gate at its south end.

Chicken Coop, Resource 4, ca. 1911, Structure, Contributing, Photograph 23

The low chicken house (roughly 6' x 3') is about 45' north-northeast of Resource 3 and features metal panel roofing and horizontal board walls. The roof slopes downward from the top of the west wall to the ground. The opening is on the south wall. Lengths of downed chicken wire are present in the area north of the house.

Gus Friskey House Artifact Concentration. Surface and buried archaeological remains are located around the house and especially to the north, northwest, and west of the building (Photographs 24 through 27). An

¹⁷ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 22 June 2016. According to Bryce Kelly, pitch pine logs come from trees that experienced a rapid prehistoric forest fire in the past, sealing the sap but not destroying the wood. Such posts are resistant to rot and are extremely dense and durable.

¹⁸ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 22 June 2016.

¹⁹ This cabin is shown on the 1955 Buena Vista, Colorado, U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map.

²⁰ Kelly interview, 22 June 2016. Kelly knew Gus Friskey and visited the ranch.

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extensive trash dump/midden, approximately 50' east-west x 40' north-south, is located northwest of the house. This concentration of artifacts, many of which are partially buried, primarily contains domestic-related artifacts including numerous tin cans, whole and partial glass bottles, footwear fragments, metal fasteners, earthenware, and crockery. Limited numbers of tools, such as shovel fragments and ranching-related artifacts, are also located in this area. The artifacts on the surface range in date from as early as approximately 1911-29 to the early to mid-1960s.²¹ All of the surface-visible artifacts are located fairly close to the house. This pattern and the one found around the other cabin suggests the Friskeys followed a practice that longtime resident Joe Cogan noted at a location the brothers occupied on the east side of the Arkansas Valley: "As they opened a can—they kind of lived out of tin cans—they'd throw the tin cans out the door."²²

The domestic artifacts include glass bottles (light green, clear, brown, and aqua) with cork closures as well as screw-on metal and plastic caps. The majority of the glass bottles are whole and once contained a variety of liquids, including extracts and condiments, McCormick's Iron Glue (ca. 1916-1920),²³ and medicinal products including Dr. W.B. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin (ca. 1916-1929),²⁴ and Rawleigh's liniment with remaining contents (Owens Illinois Glass Co., 1929-1954).²⁵ A Bayer aspirin bottle was also found (Owens Bottle Co., 1911-1929).²⁶ Several canning jar fragments and zinc lids with milk glass liners are located in the trash dump.

Sanitary tin cans, ca. 1911 and later,²⁷ are the most numerous surface-visible artifacts and exhibit a variety of opening styles including knife, church-key, key-wind, geared rotary, and pull-tab.^{28, 29} The tin cans contained various foods including meat, fish/sardines, olive oil (Pompeian Olive Oil Corp., Baltimore, M.D., ca. 1909 and later),³⁰ and Hunts Tomato Paste. A large number of cans contained various liquids including evaporated milk, beer (Coors and Busch Bavarian Beer), non-alcoholic drinks (Town Pride Orange Drink and Welchade Grape Drink), and soda (A&W Root Beer, Pepsi, and Shur Fine Lemon Lime soda). Several empty tubes of Minit-Rub, dating to 1931 and later, are also located throughout the trash dump/midden area.³¹ Minit-Rub is a methyl salicylate topical for the skin that is used for temporary relief of muscle or joint pain caused by strains, sprains, arthritis, bruising, or backaches. Other artifacts include metal domestic-fasteners consisting of a variety of metal buckles and a metal button. Earthenware fragments, especially decorated dishware, are very limited in number and likely reflect the fact that Gus was the primary occupant of the cabin. Although he married late in life, his wife reportedly did not live at the ranch for very long, and similar to the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin, artifacts that would normally be associated with women and children are not reflected in the artifact assemblage.

The artifacts in the dump/midden area are located in several discrete concentrations, including some which appear to be in depressions dug out for trash disposal. Although there is some mixing of artifacts on the surface from different time periods, in general, the earliest artifacts in the trash dump/midden, dating to approximately 1911-1920s, are located farthest from the cabin. The more recent artifacts, some dating up to the early to mid-1960s (Gus died in 1964), are located the closest, about 50' from the cabin. Older artifacts, possibly pre-dating 1911, may also be located in buried deposits below the surface-visible items in the trash dump/midden.

²¹ Toulouse, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, 239, 264-268, 393, 403-406; Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook*, 1-6.

²² Cogan, interview, 2016. Cogan knew both Friskey brothers and visited the ranch.

²³ McCormick's Iron Glue, <https://www.etsy.com/listing/688155705/antique-mccormick-iron-glue-bottle> (accessed 12 August 2016).

²⁴ Dr. W. B. Caldwell's, Monticello, Illinois bottles. Dr. W.B. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, Illinois Glass Co. 1916-1929, <http://www.glassbottlemarks.com/w-b-caldwells-monticello-il-bottles/> (accessed 9 August 2016).

²⁵ Toulouse, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, 403-406.

²⁶ Toulouse, *Bottle Makers and Their Marks*, 393.

²⁷ Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook*, 4.

²⁸ Horn, *Historic Artifact Handbook*, 4.

²⁹ "At 50, Ring-Tab Beer Cans Are Now Officially Historic Artifacts," www.Westerndigs.org/ring-tab-beer-cans-are-now-officially-historic-artifacts/ (accessed 9 August 2016).

³⁰ Company Overview of Pompeian, Inc., <http://www.bloomberg.com/Research/stocks/private/snapshot.asp?privcapid=6859660> (accessed 16 August 2016).

³¹ Trademark MINIT-RUB, <http://www.tfile.com/mark/?q=713233023> (accessed 16 August 2016).

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Although the ruins of one privy are located behind and northeast of the house, based on the long-term occupation by Gus Friskey, it is likely that several privy pits are associated with the house. The exact locations of these privy pits were not determined based on surface evidence, but they may be visible if the duff is removed. Privy pits and other remains such as locations of outbuildings and associated activity areas are likely to contain additional buried materials associated with the Friskey site occupation from 1900-1965. Also, a number of artifacts that were once in the attic of the Gus Friskey House are now reportedly located at the Buena Vista Museum or are in the possession of Bryce and Suzy Kelly.³² Bryce has a 1946 Ford tractor, a M. Hohner's No. 50B harmonica, and an I. Wilson metal knife with a wood handle that reportedly belonged to Gus.³³ The I. Wilson markings on the knife indicate a date of 1825-1891.³⁴ These items and others that were in the attic may yield important information about the lifestyle of the Friskies during their occupation of the ranch.

Outhouse (Feature 1I) and Shed Ruins (Feature 1J). Roughly 45' northeast of the house is the ruins of an outhouse, consisting of a vertical board wall and two narrow poles nailed between a tree and a stump (Photograph 28). A two-seater milled board seat lies on the ground below the poles. Bryce Kelly stated that he remembered another standing outhouse northwest of the cabin when he visited Gus prior to his death in 1964.³⁵ Kelly also recalled a "half-baked" frame shed west of the house. The remnants of this shed lie about 50' west of the house and consist of a pile of wood boards.

Buck Rake (Feature 1K). A homemade wood and metal buck rake is located about 150' west of the house on the north side of the ranch access road (Photograph 7). According to Bryce Kelly, ranchers attached buck rakes to the front of old vehicles and used them to collect and transport cut hay to haystacks. The Friskies had a haystack by the barn in the corral area.³⁶ The Farm Collector website reported "before the transition from loose hay to baled hay, almost every farmer around here [Idaho] had converted an old motorized vehicle into a buck rake. Any old car or truck available was fair game."³⁷

CORRAL, BARN, AND SHED RUINS, AREA D

The ruins of a corral, barn, and sheds lie on the east side of the Silver Prince Creek drainage south of the access road from County Road 339 (Photograph 29). Neither documentary evidence nor oral history accounts provide definitive construction dates for these resources. The area might date to the Smith tenure or the early years of the Friskey occupation (ca. 1888-1920). Round and square-cut nails are both visible on the surface in the vicinity. The 1955 USGS quadrangle map shows two buildings in this area of the ranch, and Bryce Kelly recalls the corral and buildings usable in the mid- to late 1950s. He pointed out the loading chute is the right height to accommodate a Model A truck, suggesting it may date to the late 1920s-early 1930s. Pine trees lie on the hill to the east and an aspen grove borders the corral on the south. The corral and barn areas are densely vegetated. It is likely that ranching-related artifacts are also located on the surface and possibly in subsurface deposits around and within these features.

Corral Ruins (Feature 1L). The roughly rectangular (164' x 92') corral has its long axis oriented northeast-southwest (Photograph 29). The corral perimeter is composed of a log post and pole fence, portions of which are down or missing. Log post and pole fences (now mostly down) also once divided the corral into three areas: a north area (75' x 74'); south area (75' x 67'); and northwest area (51' x 21'). Near the northeast corner of the corral is a partially collapsed loading chute and squeeze chute composed of milled posts and horizontal board sidewalls (Photograph 30). Bryce Kelly estimates the corral accommodated about sixty cattle and recalled his family using it when they leased the ranch in the mid- to late 1950s.

Barn Ruins (Feature 1M). The ruins of the barn (roughly 69' x 21') enclose the south end of the corral (Photographs 31 and 32). The roof has collapsed into the interior (where aspen trees are growing), with pieces of corrugated metal roofing still attached to some roof members. The barn consisted of three main bays: east

³² Kelly interview, 22 June 2016.

³³ Kelly interview, 22 June 2016.

³⁴ Lee Burke, "Marks on I. Wilson Knives," *The Museum of the Fur Trade* 14(Spring 1978): 2.

³⁵ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by Marilyn Martorano, 22 June 2016.

³⁶ Kelly interview, 22 June 2016.

³⁷ Clell G. Ballard, "Homemade Buck Rake Shows Ingenuity," Farm Collector website, www.farmcollector.com (accessed 29 August 2016).

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section, with walls of round logs joined with square notching and a center door opening on the north wall; center section, with log walls with a wide entrance near the east end of the north wall; and west section, with log walls joined with saddle notching and a square window opening on the west wall. Bryce Kelly remembers the barn still had a roof with saddle racks on the interior in the 1950s.³⁸

Shed Ruins (Feature 1N). The ruins of two sheds are located along the west side of the corral. Abutting the barn and extending along the west edge of the corral are the ruins of what may have been a loafing shed. The shed features log posts, a log beam, and narrow log roof poles and measures about 37' x 15'. Also on the west edge of the corral, north-northwest of the first shed, are what appear to be the ruins of a loafing shed (22' x 17'). The remnant is roofless; the west wall, composed of round logs and milled lumber, is intact but leaning. The ground surrounding both former sheds contains numerous boards and logs.

Noncontributing Resource

One noncontributing resource is present on the ranch. About 30' of the 1996 Silver Prince Pipeline, which delivers water from the creek to the property to the north, is located in the drainage northeast of the Gus Friskey House.³⁹ This small resource is evaluated as noncontributing due to its date of construction after the period of significance.

Integrity

Located well off County Road 339, the setting and feeling of the ranch are undisturbed, with Mt. Princeton towering to the southwest. There has been no new construction on the ranch. Original materials and design are generally intact, but there has been some loss of building design and materials in the corral and root cellar/building ruins areas due to physical deterioration.

LOCATION

The ranch and its component resources are in their original locations.

SETTING

The setting of the ranch remains as it was during the period of significance. Lands of the San Isabel National Forest abut the ranch to the west.

DESIGN

The design of the ranch's principal dwellings remains intact and reflects Pioneer Log construction, including hewn and round logs, daubing, and a variety of notching techniques. Measures, such as boarding up the doors and windows of the house, were taken to protect the buildings from vandalism. The design and layout of the barn, sheds, and other supporting outbuildings is still apparent but reflects deterioration resulting from decades of disuse.

MATERIALS

The materials employed in the construction of the Smith/Friskey Ranch are still present and visible. Most materials were obtained from the site, such as logs for building walls, roof beams, and fences and stones for foundations, walls, and retaining walls.

WORKMANSHIP

The workmanship exhibits strong integrity, much of it simple and functional. Skill is evident in the careful siting of the ranch components, such as utilizing the slope of the land on the west edge of the meadow to facilitate construction of root cellars and buildings. The use of full dovetail notches on one part of the Smith/Ernie Friskey cabin illustrates a certain level of workmanship as do the square, V, and saddle notches found on

³⁸ Kelly interview, 22 June 2016.

³⁹ Application for Surface Water Rights, Concerning the Application for Water Rights of: Conrad W. Nelson, in Chaffee County, Silver Prince Pipeline, Case No. 97CW170, District Court, Water Division 2, State of Colorado, 30 December 1997; Judgment and Decree, Application for Surface Water Rights, Conrad W. Nelson, in Chaffee County, Silver Prince Pipeline, Case No. 97CW170, District Court, Water Division 2, State of Colorado, 9 August 1999. The pipeline diverts water from the creek at a point 30' south of the north section line of Section 35 and 1,500' east of the west section line.

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buildings and the assemblage of log walls. The drylaid walls in the ruins along the west edge of the meadow also appear to be well-constructed.

FEELING

The property still possesses the feeling of a high altitude cattle and hay ranch of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries through its isolated location, intact landscape qualities, vistas of Mt. Princeton and the mountain range to the west, the presence of log ranch buildings, and absence of nonhistoric resources.

ASSOCIATION

Although ranching uses at the site ceased about thirty years ago, the property retains a high level of integrity of association with its high country ranching history, having never seen use for another purpose since and by maintaining a high degree of the other aspects of integrity. The current owner would like to see the land preserved as it is and is exploring the concept of a conservation easement.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

The archaeological remains at the Friskey Ranch are very significant due to the numerous archaeological deposits and high overall integrity of remains. After the Friskies died, the site appears to have been abandoned and the archaeological remains do not appear to have been significantly altered. The existence of numerous whole bottles on the surface of the trash dump/midden associated with the Gus Friskey House is not common and suggests that at least this portion of the site has not been visited by bottle/relic collectors. This undisturbed historic trash dump supports the assertion that those artifact deposits are intact and have very high potential to provide a detailed view of a 65-year span of the everyday life of one of the site occupants, Gus Friskey. In addition, there is high potential for other intact archaeological remains on the site associated with the other ranch buildings and structures and various features, including the other cabin, dugouts, corral, barn, chicken coop, additional smaller outbuildings, and the privy pits.

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**Table 1
 Resources within the Historic District**

Resource or Feature Number	Historic Resource Name and Year Built	Resource Type	Contributing Status
1	Smith/Friskey Ranch (ca. 1888)	Site	Contributing
1A	<i>Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin Artifact Concentration</i>	N/A	N/A
1B	<i>East Root Cellar Ruin</i>	N/A	N/A
1C	<i>West Root Cellar Ruin</i>	N/A	N/A
1D	<i>East Building Ruin</i>	N/A	N/A
1E	<i>West Building Ruin</i>	N/A	N/A
1F	<i>Fence Posts</i>	N/A	N/A
1G	<i>Stone Pile</i>	N/A	N/A
1H	<i>Gus Friskey House Artifact Concentration</i>	N/A	N/A
1I	<i>Outhouse Ruins</i>	N/A	N/A
1J	<i>Shed Ruins</i>	N/A	N/A
1K	<i>Buck Rake</i>	N/A	N/A
1L	<i>Corral Ruins</i>	N/A	N/A
1M	<i>Barn Ruins</i>	N/A	N/A
1N	<i>Shed Ruins</i>	N/A	N/A
2	Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin (ca. 1888-94)	Building	Contributing
3	Gus Friskey House (ca. 1911)	Building	Contributing
4	Chicken Coop (ca. 1911)	Building	Contributing
5	Silver Prince Pipeline (1996)	Structure	Noncontributing

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- 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

AGRICULTURE

ARCHAEOLOGY/Historic Non-aboriginal

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1888-1964

Significant Dates

1900

1964

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for Criterion A and Criterion D is ca. 1888 (the year settlement began) to 1964 (the year Gus Friskey died and occupation of the ranch ceased). The period of significance for Criterion C is ca. 1888-94 (when the initial building was erected) to ca. 1920 (probable year of last construction). A significant date is 1900, marking the beginning of the Friskey tenure.

Criteria Considerations (justification)

None

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Summary

The Smith/Friskey Ranch is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture, for its association with historic cattle and hay raising on high-altitude ranches in Chaffee County. The resource is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an example of a late nineteenth/early twentieth-century ranch displaying Pioneer Log construction. The ranch is locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Historic Non-aboriginal Archaeology, for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried and surface archaeological remains. The site contains archaeological deposits that have yielded and are likely to yield important information about the lifeways of the site occupants.

Elaboration

CRITERION A

The Smith/Friskey Ranch is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture for its association with the history of agriculture in Chaffee County, beginning as a homestead and serving as a cattle and hay ranch from ca. 1888 through 1964. The ca. 1888 beginning date of the period of significance reflects the initial settlement and construction by Andrew Smith, who removed the land from the public domain in 1891 and remained at the site with his family until 1900. In that year Smith sold the ranch to Gustave "Gus" Friskey. He and his brother, Ernest, undertook cattle and hay ranching here and expanded the ranch through patenting additional public lands and purchases from private parties.⁴⁰ The brothers raised cattle, hay, and lettuce on their holdings, and staged a fall roundup to ship cattle from Buena Vista. Ernest died in 1945, followed by Gustave in 1964.

CRITERION C

The buildings and layout are illustrative of the architecture and design of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century cattle and hay ranch. The two dwellings are good examples of Pioneer Log construction from that period, displaying hewn and round logs, daubing, V-notching, and gable roofs. The ranch's resources illustrate the functional layout of a high-altitude ranch through construction of discrete areas for dwellings and a corral, barn, and sheds for animal care and transport. Root cellars and other outbuildings took advantage of the slope of the land west of the meadow in their construction.

CRITERION D

A reconnaissance archaeological site inventory to gather National Register of Historic Places data was conducted at the Smith/Friskey Ranch by Marilyn A. Martorano, Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA), on 22 June 2016. The nomination archaeological sections were prepared by Ms. Martorano; no report was prepared. The Smith/Friskey Ranch is locally significant under Criterion D for non-aboriginal historic archaeology for its potential to yield information important to history due to buried and surface archaeological remains. The artifacts associated with the cabins and other site buildings, structures, and features can and

⁴⁰ Only the 160 acres associated with the original Smith patent acquired by Gus Friskey in 1900 is included in the nominated area. Other Friskays lands have not been surveyed and are in other ownership.

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have yielded data on a variety of topics including settlement patterns, socio-economic conditions, cultural traditions, subsistence/diet, and ranching practices.

Existing information is sparse about the earliest site occupants, the Smiths, and although their occupation at the site was apparently not lengthy, intact archaeological deposits related to that time period could possibly be found in the cabin, in privy pits or in one or more of the dugouts or building ruins. Important information about the Smith family lifestyle, such as dates of occupation, where they obtained their food and supplies, and which site features/buildings they may have built/occupied, could possibly be obtained from analysis of these archaeological materials.

The artifacts related to the Friskey occupation are the most numerous and can be utilized to examine many research topics including where they obtained their food and supplies; for example, what food stuffs were produced on the ranch and what items were purchased or traded for. The archaeological remains may also assist in answering specific questions such as whether potential cultural traditions related to the consumption of food and beverages are identifiable in the archaeological record. The Friskey brothers reportedly supplemented their diet with game from the vicinity of the ranch including venison, mountain sheep, elk, rabbit, and grouse. Analysis of the artifacts from trash deposits and privies may help to determine if this was true and if their diet and lifestyle may have reflected their German heritage. The artifacts may also show if the diet of the two brothers differed from each other, how it may have changed through time based on economic conditions, availability of purchased food and other goods such as medicine, and the health and age of the occupants.

The artifacts would also likely be useful to help understand the lifestyles of two male occupants in comparison with sites where there were known to have been long-term female and children occupants. The large numbers of canning jar fragments, especially at the Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin, suggest that either one or both of the Friskies canned their own food products or may have obtained them from non-ranch residents. These and other questions about diet and food consumption of the ranch occupants over time could possibly be studied through further analysis of archaeological remains at the site, and have potential to provide detailed data about lifeways at the ranch not generally available in the written record.

Archaeological remains that likely exist in other areas of the site, such as within and adjacent to the dugouts, buildings, and ruins could assist in determining dates of construction, the function(s), and uses of these ancillary buildings/features over time. Artifacts associated with the barn and corral could also yield significant information about both the Smith and Friskey ranching operations throughout the historic use of the ranch.

The Smiths and Settlement of the Ranch

Andrew J. Smith settled on this land in about 1888, removed it from the public domain, and resided here with his family until he sold it in 1900. Smith, born in Indiana in 1859, grew up in the Hoosier state and worked on the family farm in Boone County. He married Josephine Wallrann in Clark County, Indiana, in December 1887.⁴¹ Josephine was born in Indiana in 1865.⁴² By the following year the Smiths were living in Colorado, where their son Floyd F. was born that November. They likely settled on this quarter-section of land in 1888. In September 1889 the *Buena Vista Democrat* published a General Land Office notice that Smith was making his final proof for the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 14 South, Range 79 West.⁴³ He received a cash entry patent for the 160 acres in September 1891.⁴⁴ The log cabin overlooking the meadow (Resource 1) dates to the Smith period; portions of its interior walls are papered with newspapers dating to 1894 and 1895. The Smiths were listed in the Buena Vista vicinity at the time of the 1900 U.S. Census, which identified Smith as a

⁴¹ Andrew J. Smith to Josephine Wallrann, Clark County, Indiana, 29 December 1887, Indiana Select Marriages Index, 1748-1993, www.Ancestry.com (accessed 21 August 2016); U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Perry Township, Boone County, Indiana, 1880.

⁴² U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Chaffee County, Colorado, 1900.

⁴³ *Buena Vista Democrat*, 26 September 1889. The public notice listed the claimant's witnesses (one of whom was Otto Friskey) and provided an opportunity to challenge a claimant's right to acquire the land in question.

⁴⁴ Andrew J. Smith, General Land Office, Cash Entry Patent, Document 1419, 1 September 1891, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, www.glorecords.blm.gov (access 1 November 2012). The Smith casefile was ordered from the National Archives but staff reported it had been removed in 1934 and could not be provided.

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miner and rancher and also listed his wife, Josephine, and their son, Floyd, in the household.⁴⁵ The family continued to reside in the Buena Vista area after selling the ranch. Josephine died in 1910 and Andrew in 1914; both are buried in the town's Mt. Olivet Cemetery.⁴⁶

The Friskey Tenure

In November 1900, G.R. Friskey acquired the property from Smith for \$500, and the ranch remained in the Friskey family until the 1980s.⁴⁷ Gustave Richard "Gus" Friskey, the second youngest of nine sons of German immigrants Charles and Johanna C.S. Friskey, was born in 1875 in Illinois (see Figure 1). In the late 1870s the Friskys came to Colorado City, where Charles Friskey worked as a teamster carrying freight in the Colorado mountains. He died of typhoid fever in September 1880, and the 1880 Census listed Johanna Friskey, then 39 years old, and four sons (Otto, 16, Charley, 14, Gustave, 4, and Ernest, 2) still in Colorado City.⁴⁸ The young widow and her sons came to Chaffee County about 1880-81, and the family was listed in Chaffee County in the 1885 Colorado state census. According to local historian Suzanne "Suzy" Kelly, Mrs. Friskey "traded for a ranch at the base of Mt. Princeton" and settled there with her sons.⁴⁹ That 160-acre ranch lies about a mile south of the nominated property, on upper Maxwell Creek.⁵⁰

Gus Friskey attended school in Buena Vista, reportedly leaving after the first year of high school.⁵¹ As a young man he engaged in prospecting and mining, working in the Cripple Creek area and in Chaffee County at the Mary Murphy Mine near St. Elmo. After acquiring this property in 1900, Friskey was listed as a rural landowner in the Buena Vista vicinity in the 1903 Salida City Directory. At the same time, he continued mining and prospecting; in 1906 he had an interest in the Isaac Lode in the Turret area northeast of Salida.⁵² When Gus left the area in 1907 to spend the summer prospecting in Montana, the *Turret Gold Belt* noted his departure: "Gus is industrious and upright in his dealings. He has worked at mining all his life and knows his business well. He puts his money into cattle and a ranch instead of blowing it over the poker table."⁵³ On the trip Gus was joined by his younger brother, Ernest, and the two returned in October "convinced that Colorado is the greatest mineralized state in the Union."⁵⁴

Mining faded in importance for Gus in the 1910s, and he partnered in ranching with Ernest Harry Friskey (1877-1945). The two pursued cattle ranching on this ranch and other properties. Surface archaeological evidence suggests that the house (Resource 3) may have been erected ca. 1911, and subsurface artifacts in the associated trash midden could possibly reveal an earlier construction date. It is not known why Gus erected a relatively large one-and-a-half-story dwelling. Longtime residents recall that Gus resided in the house and Ernie in the older cabin overlooking the hay meadow.⁵⁵ Both brothers were original members of the Chaffee County Cattle and Horse Growers Association in 1916.⁵⁶ The 1917-18 World War I draft registration cards list Gus's occupation as farming and cattle ranching and Ernie's as ranching.⁵⁷ In 1927, Ernest received

⁴⁵ U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Chaffee County, Colorado, 1900.

⁴⁶ *Salida Mail*, 21 January 1910 and 25 January 1920; June Shaputis, Cemetery Records, Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Buena Vista, Colorado, U.S. GenWeb Archive website, files.usgwarchives.net (accessed 30 August 2016).

⁴⁷ Andrew J. Smith to G.R. Friskey, Warranty Deed, 3 November 1900, in the files of the Chaffee County Clerk and Recorder, Salida, Colorado.

⁴⁸ U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns and Mortality Schedule, El Paso County, Colorado, 1800; Shaputis and Kelly, *A History of Chaffee County*, 427. Five other sons died before reaching adulthood.

⁴⁹ Suzy Kelly, *Buena Vista's Tales from the Past* (Buena Vista, Colorado: Suzy Kelly, 2000), 143.

⁵⁰ Otto Friskey, U.S. General Land Office, Homestead Patent, Document 423, 27 December 1898, U.S. Bureau of Land Management website, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> (accessed 2 January 2013). Otto Friskey received a homestead patent for 160 acres east of his mother's ranch in 1898.

⁵¹ *Buena Vista Democrat*, 9 February 1888; U.S. Census of Population, Manuscript Census Returns, Chaffee County, Colorado, 1940.

⁵² *Salida Mail*, 7 August 1906.

⁵³ *Turret Gold Belt*, quoted in *Colorado Republican* (Buena Vista), 9 May 1907.

⁵⁴ *Colorado Republican*, 24 October 1907.

⁵⁵ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, 22 June 2016.

⁵⁶ Shaputis and Kelly, *A History of Chaffee County*, 245.

⁵⁷ Friskey owned other properties and the farming activities could have taken place elsewhere.

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a homestead stock raising patent for 641 acres adjoining the east and south edges of this property.⁵⁸ This acquisition filled in the land between Gus Friskey's 160 acres and the land of his mother to the south (see Figure 2).⁵⁹ Gus reportedly bought up other nearby ranches as they became available. Visiting this ranch in the 1950s, longtime Buena Vista area rancher Joe Cogan recalled Gus telling him: "This is my home place. There was seven goddamned families up here, and now I own the whole son of a bitch." Cogan deemed Friskey "the most profane man you were ever around."⁶⁰

According to local historians June Shaputis and Suzanne Kelly, Gus reported the two brothers "once had cattle all over the valley. Every fall they had a big roundup and then sold and shipped the cattle from the Buena Vista Railhead."⁶¹ Rancher Bryce Kelly recalled that Gus trailed cattle to the ranch from Mexico.⁶² The brothers' diet was supplemented with game in the vicinity of the ranch and included venison, mountain sheep, elk, rabbit, and grouse. Gus and Ernie were listed in the same household in 1920 through 1940 manuscript U.S. Census returns.⁶³ When Ernest contracted pneumonia during the winter of 1945, Gus treated him with sage tea before he was transported by sled and car to the hospital in Salida, where he died.

The following year, at age 71, Gus married Suzy Geisel. Local residents report she did not like living at the ranch and soon departed. She died a few years after marrying, and Gus continued to live at the ranch by himself. Rancher Bryce Kelly, reflecting on the isolated location of the ranch, especially in winter, commented: "Just think of the loneliness."⁶⁴ Gus continued ranching through at least the late-1950s. By that time in his seventies, he thereafter leased the ranch out to the Kelly family, who ran cattle and hayed the meadow. Gus Friskey died in 1964.

Later Uses of the Ranch

Gus Friskey's niece, Maud Friskey Milsom, inherited this property at his death. The Kellys leased the land until about 1969. Thereafter the property was leased to other area ranching families for cattle grazing and haying into the 1980s. Elizabeth Martin owned the property in the 1990s, followed by V. Paul Moltz and Karin Adams. Mrs. Conrad Nelson, the current owner, acquired the property in 2000. The headquarters area is no longer used for ranching activities. The owner bought the ranch to preserve its history and scenery from development and hopes to resell it with a conservation easement.⁶⁵

⁵⁸ Ernest Friskey, U.S. General Land Office, Stock Raising Homestead Patent, Document 030103, 26 February 1927, U.S. Bureau of Land Management website, <http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov> (accessed 2 January 2013). The brothers also once owned the Schwander place on Trout Creek on the east side of the Arkansas River.

⁵⁹ *Chaffee County Republican* (Buena Vista), 12 June 1924.

⁶⁰ Joe Cogan, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by Thomas H. Simmons, 22 August 2016.

⁶¹ Shaputis and Kelly, *A History of Chaffee County*, 427.

⁶² Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, 22 June 2016.

⁶³ The Census Bureau concept of "household" does not necessarily mean they resided in the same physical building.

⁶⁴ Bryce Kelly, Buena Vista, interview by Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, 22 June 2016.

⁶⁵ Chaffee County Assessor, real estate information, Salida, Colorado; Conrad Nelson, Buena Vista, Colorado, interview by R. Laurie Simmons and Thomas H. Simmons, 12 October 2011.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

5CF.2879

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Buena Vista Heritage

Smith/Friskey Ranch
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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 160.0

Provide latitude/longitude coordinates OR UTM coordinates.
(Place additional coordinates on a continuation page.)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: N/A
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1	38.795832	-106.202698	3	38.788812	-106.193545
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
2	38.795870	-106.193428	4	38.788682	-106.202701
	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:

OR

UTM References

 NAD 1927 or X NAD 1983

1	13	395556	4294807	3	13	396342	4294017
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	13	396361	4294800	4	13	395545	4294014
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated area consists of the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 14 South, Range 79 West, 6th Principal Meridian, Chaffee County, Colorado.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The boundary includes the entire area of Andrew J. Smith's 1891 patent, which was historically used for ranching activities by Smith and later by Gustave and Ernest Friskey.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas H. Simmons and R. Laurie Simmons, Historians (for the property owner)

organization Front Range Research Associates, Inc. date 10 November 2016

street & number 3635 W. 46th Avenue telephone 303-477-7597

city or town Denver state CO zip code 80211

e-mail frraden@msn.com website www.frhistory.com and

name/title Marilyn A. Martorano, Archaeologist (for the property owner)

organization Martorano Consultants LLC date 10 November 2016

street & number 2817 Humboldt Place telephone 303-845-0085

city or town Longmont state CO zip code 80503

e-mail martoranoconsultantsllc@gmail.com

Smith/Friskey Ranch

Chaffee, Colorado

Name of Property

County and State

Property Owner: (complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name _____

street & number _____

telephone _____

city or town _____

state _____

zip code _____

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.

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each digital image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to a sketch map or aerial 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.

Photograph Log

Name of Property: Smith/Friskey Ranch

City or Vicinity: Buena Vista vicinity

County: Chaffee State: Colorado

Photographer: Thomas H. Simmons (unless otherwise noted)

Date

Photographed: 22 June 2016 (unless otherwise noted)

Number, camera direction, and description of photograph:

- 1 of 32, view southwest, meadow with Mt. Princeton in the distance
- 2 of 32, view northeast, grazing area at the northeast corner of the ranch
- 3 of 32, view northwest, Gus Friskey house and Silver Prince Creek drainage with corral ruins in foreground
- 4 of 32, view southeast, stone mound near building ruins
- 5 of 32, view south-southwest, two-track road on east side of meadow
- 6 of 32, view south, V notching on Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin (north corner)
- 7 of 32, view northwest, buck rake west of Gus Friskey house
- 8 of 32, view south, front (northeast) and northwest wall of Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin
- 9 of 32, view north, rear (southwest) and southeast wall of Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin
- 10 of 32, view east-southeast, northwest and rear (southwest) walls of Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin
- 11 of 32, view west-northwest, interior of Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin

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- 12 of 32, view southwest, artifact concentration in front of Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin
- 13 of 32, view N/A, Smith cabin artifacts: canning lids and rings. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 14 of 32, view N/A, Smith cabin artifacts: glass fragments. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 15 of 32, view northwest, east root cellar with Smith/Ernest Friskey cabin in the upper right
- 16 of 32, view west-northwest, west root cellar
- 17 of 32, view southwest, east building ruin-east part
- 18 of 32, view west-northwest, east building ruin-west part
- 19 of 32, view northwest, west building ruin
- 20 of 32, view west, segment of barbed wire fence in building ruins area
- 21 of 32, view northeast, Gus Friskey house, south (front) at right and west wall (left), with log retaining wall and gate in foreground
- 22 of 32, view southwest, Gus Friskey house – north (rear) at right and east wall (left)
- 23 of 32, view north, chicken coop northeast of Gus Friskey house
- 24 of 32, view east-southeast, overview of artifact concentration with Gus Friskey house in distance. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 25 of 32, view N/A, Gus Friskey house artifact-Rawleigh's bottle. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 26 of 32, view N/A, Gus Friskey house artifact-Dr. W.B. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 27 of 32, view N/A, Gus Friskey house artifacts-tin cans, tool parts, shoe parts. Photographer: Marilyn A. Martorano
- 28 of 32, view north, outhouse ruin northeast of Gus Friskey house
- 29 of 32, view west-southwest, overview of corral, barn, and shed ruins from hill to east
- 30 of 32, view east, corral squeeze chute and loading chute
- 31 of 32, view north-northwest, barn ruins-rear and east wall
- 32 of 32, view south-southeast, barn ruins-front and west wall

Historic Figure Log

1 of 2, Gus Friskey and his mother, Johanna C.S. Friskey, ca. late 1880s. Courtesy of Shaputis and Kelly, *A History of Chaffee County*, 200.

2 of 2, The Friskys acquired land along the west edge of the Arkansas Valley through outright purchase and acquisition of government patents. The arrow points to the nominated area. The crosshatched area is the maximum extent of the family's holdings, including the lands of Johanna C.S., Otto, Charles, Gustave, and Ernest Friskey. Buena Vista is in the upper right of the map, while the Leadville National Forest extends along the left edge. Courtesy of Shaputis, *Where the Bodies Are in Central Chaffee County*, Some Land Owners and Old Roads in Northern Chaffee County, ca. 1900-10, map.

Smith/Friskey Ranch

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Figures

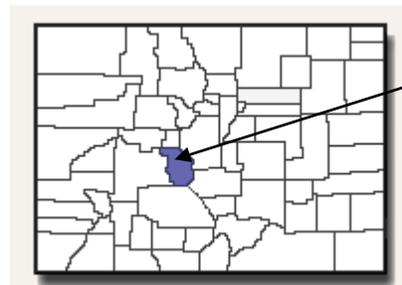
Location Map from Google Earth



The labeled points are the coordinates of the bounding polygon of the nominated resource.

Point	Latitude	Longitude
1	38.795832	-106.202698
2	38.795870	-106.193428
3	38.788812	-106.193545
4	38.788682	-106.202701

Image Date: 27 September 2013 (upper part)
13 October 2015 (lower part)



State Perspective:
Smith/Friskey
Ranch

Smith/Friskey Ranch

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SMITH/FRISKEY RANCH SKETCH MAP-OVERVIEW

Legend

- - - - - Nominated Area

[A] Areas

..... Roads

————— Silver Prince Creek

Areas

- A-Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin
- B-Root cellar and building ruins
- C-Gus Friskey House
- D-Corral, barn, and shed ruins



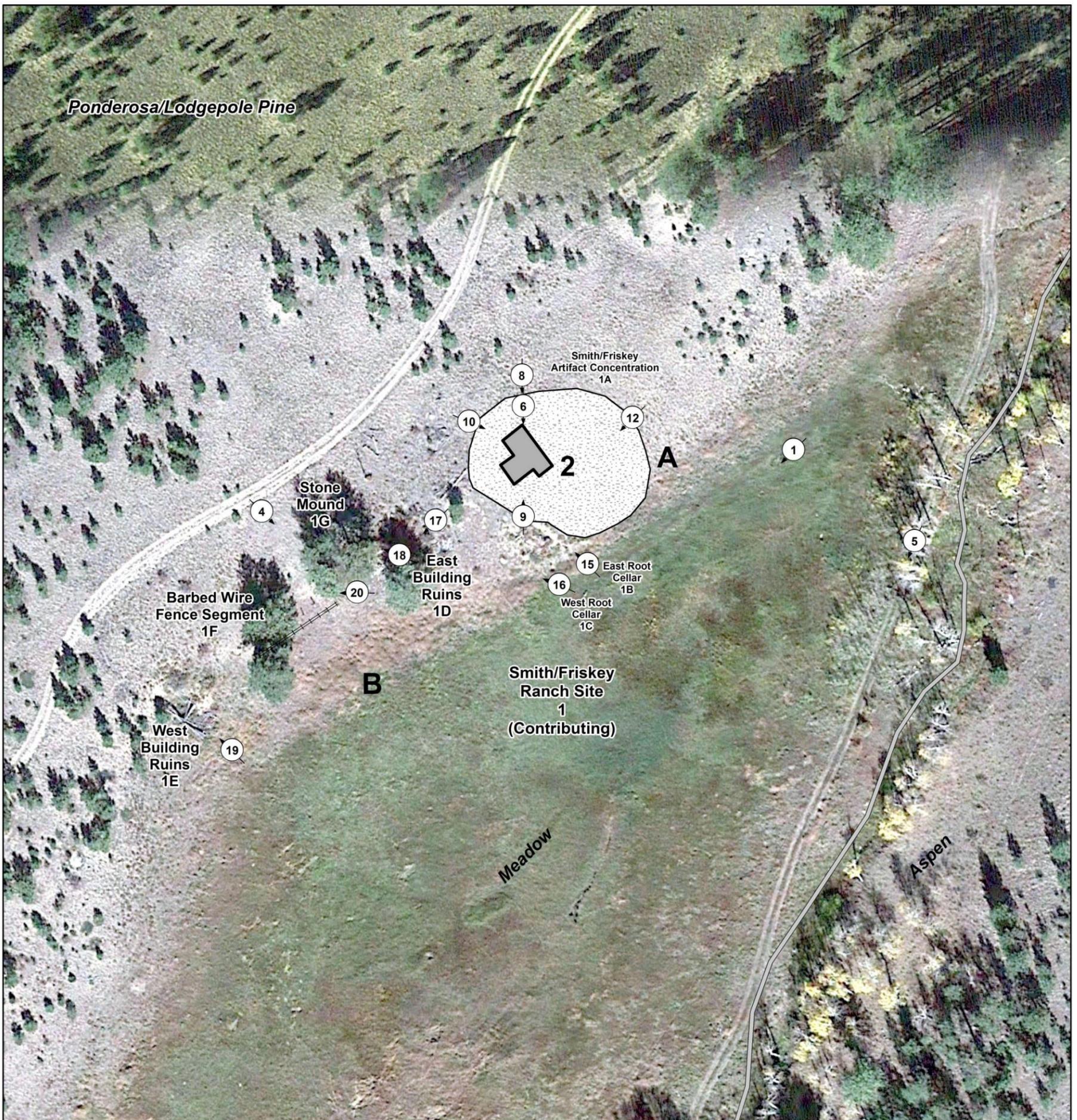
0 185 370 740 Feet



Base Map: Google Earth, 2013 and 2015

SMITH-FRISKEY RANCH
Name of Property

UNATREE, COLORADO
County and State



SMITH/FRISKEY RANCH SKETCH MAP-SOUTH DETAIL



0 45 90 180 Feet



Legend

- Photo Locations
- Silver Prince Creek
- Buildings
- Artifact Concentration

Areas

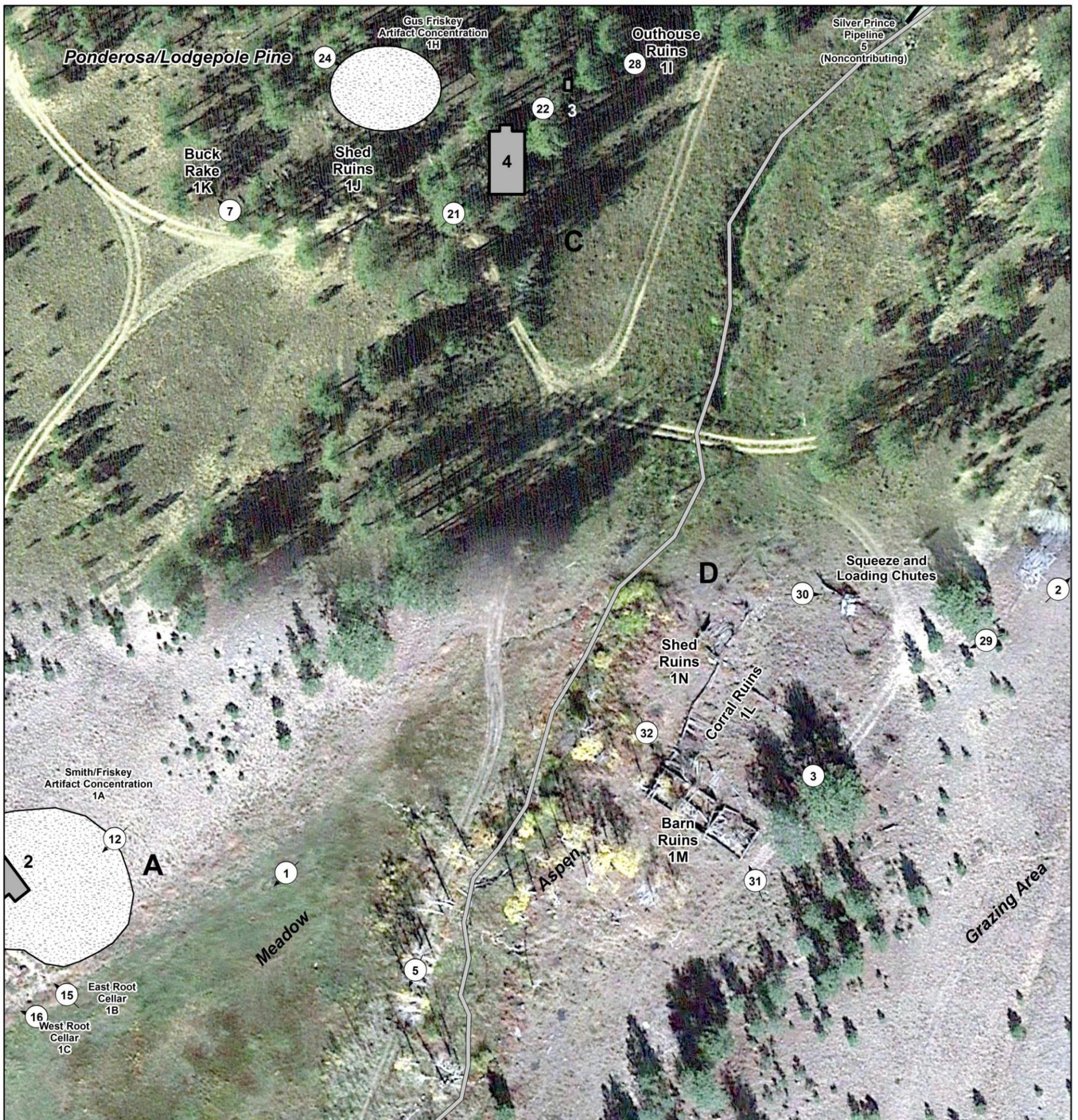
- A-Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin
- B-Root cellar and building ruins
- C-Gus Friskey House
- D-Corral, barn, and shed ruins

Photograph locations 11, 13, and 14 are in or at Resource 2, the Smith/Friskey cabin.

Base Map: Google Earth, 2013 and 2015

SMITH/FRISKEY RANCH
 Name of Property

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SMITH/FRISKEY RANCH SKETCH MAP-NORTH DETAIL

Legend

-  Photo Locations
-  Pipeline
-  Silver Prince Creek
-  Buildings
-  Artifact Concentration

Areas

- A-Smith/Ernie Friskey Cabin
- B-Root cellar and building ruins
- C-Gus Friskey House
- D-Corral, barn, and shed ruins

0 40 80 160 Feet

Photograph locations 25 through 27 are in the Gus Friskey house artifact concentration.
 Base Map: Google Earth, 2013 and 2015

Smith/Friskey Ranch

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Historic Figures



Figure 1. Gus Friskey and his mother, Johanna C.S. Friskey, ca. late 1880s. Courtesy of Shaputis and Kelly, *A History of Chaffee County*, 200.

Smith/Friskey Ranch

Chaffee, Colorado

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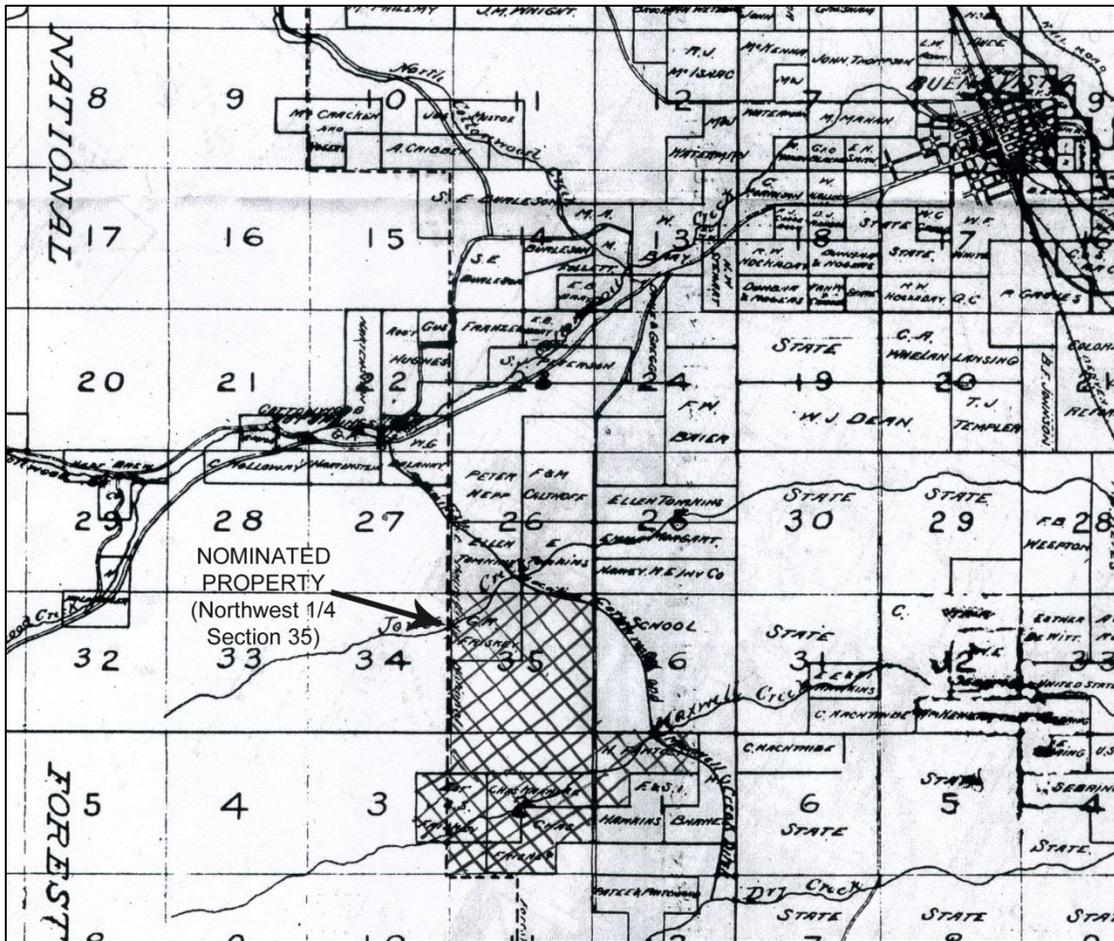


Figure 2. The Friskies acquired land along the west edge of the Arkansas Valley through outright purchase and acquisition of government patents. The arrow points to the nominated area. The crosshatched area is the maximum extent of the family's holdings, including the lands of Johanna C.S., Otto, Charles, Gustave, and Ernest Friskey. Buena Vista is in the upper right of the map, while the Leadville National Forest extends along the left edge. Courtesy of Shaputis, *Where the Bodies Are in Central Chaffee County, Some Land Owners and Old Roads in Northern Chaffee County, ca. 1900-10*, map.