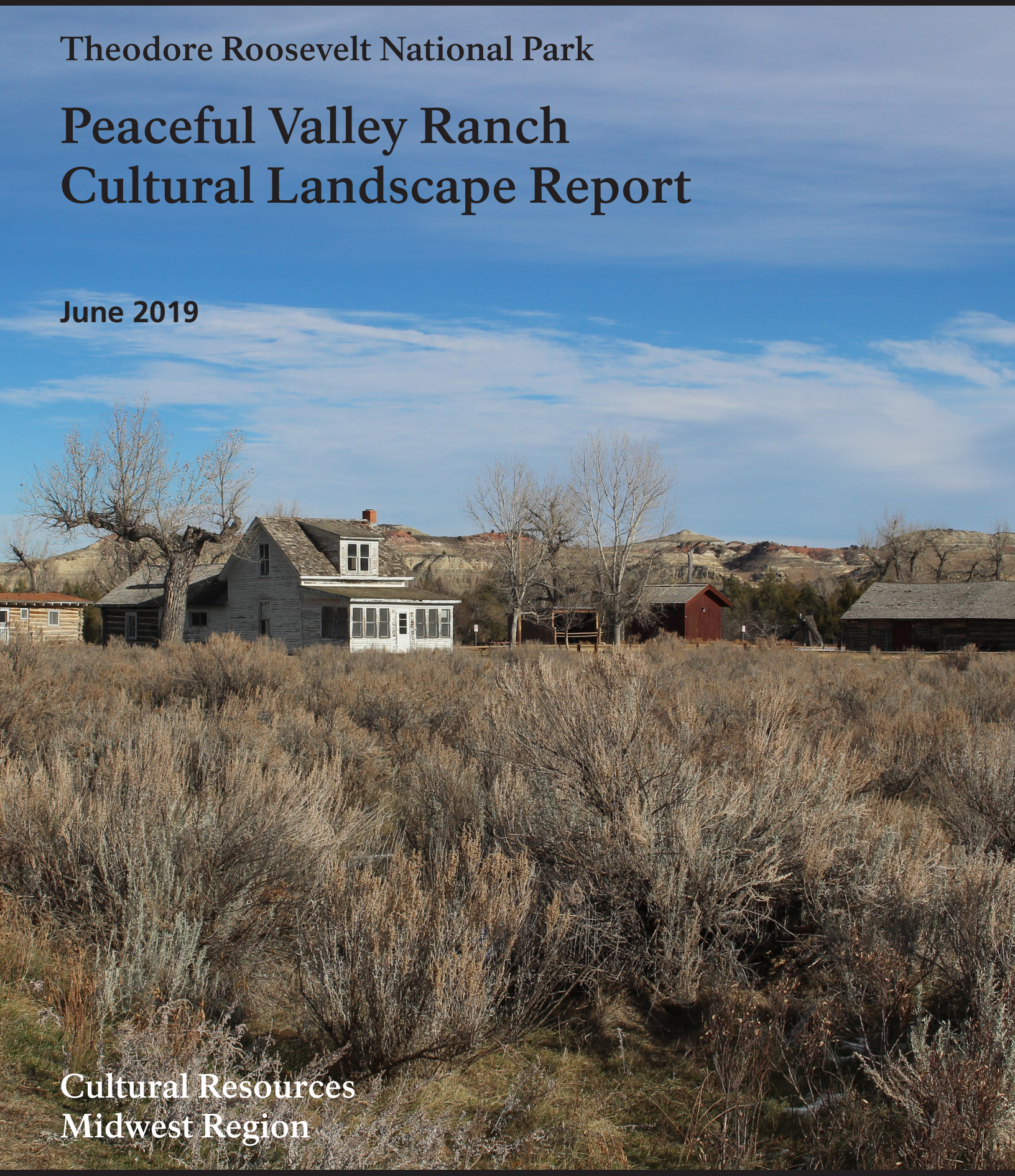
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Medora, North Dakota

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Report

June 2019



Cultural Resources
Midwest Region

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Peaceful Valley Ranch

Medora, North Dakota

Cultural Landscape Report

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About the front cover: Peaceful Valley Ranch in 2017, looking across the sagebrush to the ranch house and other buildings

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Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Peaceful Valley Ranch
Medora, North Dakota

Cultural Landscape Report

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Chapter 1: Introduction

Management Summary

Peaceful Valley Ranch is an approximately 60-acre developed area of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, located in western North Dakota. At 70,446 acres, the park's three units extend across the Little Missouri badlands, an area that profoundly shaped the early conservation views of President Theodore Roosevelt and led him to support the creation of the national park system. The park was established by Congress in 1947 to honor his memory.

Peaceful Valley Ranch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1994 as significant for its association with the establishment of the park, and local trends in open-range ranching, fee-simple ranching, and dude ranching. Contributing features include three buildings and cultural landscape resources that possess integrity to the expanded period of significance, from 1885 to 1959. These resources are valuable for the story they tell about these events and trends, and the people involved.

The goal of this cultural landscape report (CLR) is to support the long-term preservation and stewardship of the historic landscape of Peaceful Valley Ranch. To conduct this work, the National Park Service (NPS) engaged a team of preservation professionals led by Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (CHG), of Charlottesville, Virginia. Heritage Resources Group, Inc. (HRG), of Lincoln, Nebraska, conducted historical research and developed the site history narrative.

The team's objectives for the Peaceful Valley Ranch CLR were to:

- Prepare thorough baseline documentation on the history of the ranch landscape and its existing conditions to support an understanding of the qualities and features that contribute to its historic character and significance;
- Develop guidelines for the long-term protection of character-defining features with an overall focus on a rehabilitation approach that supports compatible future use; and
- Prepare recommendations for conceptual zoning to guide the park as it moves forward with developing the site for flexible use.

The CLR addresses the portion of the ranch within its 0.5-acre NRHP boundary, and its landscape setting, including former grazing lands, corrals and paddocks, historic roads and trails, and other contributing landscape features that comprise the rest of its 60 acres.

This document was developed within a framework of previously-prepared resource inventories and planning studies. Although previous work has provided a sound foundation for the overall history of the development of the ranch, documentation for the evolution of the landscape was lacking. To fill this gap, the team relied on maps, aerial and ground-level photographs, planning and construction drawings, and other primary source materials from the park and online repositories. Based on this, the CLR also recommends adding areas of significance and expanding the boundary of the nominated property beyond that recommended in the 1994 NRHP nomination.

The CLR fulfills a park planning priority for resource, facility asset, and visitor use management for Peaceful Valley Ranch at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It serves as a component of the park's planning portfolio, which consists of the individual plans, studies, and inventories that together guide park decision making. The planning portfolio enables the use of targeted planning documents, such as this one, to meet a broad range of park planning needs and fulfill legal and policy requirements. The park's General Management Plan remains a critical piece of the its planning portfolio and will continue to be updated and/or supplemented in a timely manner through the development of additional park planning documents.

Location and Description of Property

Peaceful Valley Ranch lies within the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, approximately seven miles northeast of the town of Medora, North Dakota (Figure 1-1 and Figure 1-2). The ranch is accessed via the scenic park drive that winds through the badlands landscape of the South Unit. An asphalt-paved access road leads from the main park road to the ranch building cluster.

The project area for the CLR, which includes the developed area of the ranch and its landscape setting, is generally bounded by East River Road to the south, Paddock Creek to the east, and the Little Missouri River to the north. To the west, it extends to encompass the ranch access drive (Figure 1-3).

The developed portion of Peaceful Valley Ranch is oriented east-to-west along the crest of the river terrace, with two parallel lines of buildings framing a central parking/work area. Fenced corrals extend south from the building cluster toward East River Road. Stands of cottonwood trees growing in the river floodplain north of the developed area provide a backdrop for these built features (Figure 1-4).

Historical Overview

Peaceful Valley Ranch is representative of the lifestyle of many enterprising and independent pioneers, including Theodore Roosevelt, who came to the North Dakota badlands and the Little Missouri River valley in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the earliest permanent Euro-American settlers in the area were the Marquis de Mores and his wife Medora who arrived in 1883. De Mores planned to build a prosperous cattle ranching economy in the area; several historic properties remain in and around Medora that are historically associated with the Marquis.

Theodore Roosevelt crossed paths with the Marquis during his first visit to the badlands for a bison hunting trip in 1883. This trip had a great impact on Roosevelt and influenced him to invest in his first cattle ranch in the area, called the Maltese Cross. In 1884, he purchased his second property, Elkhorn Ranch, following the sudden

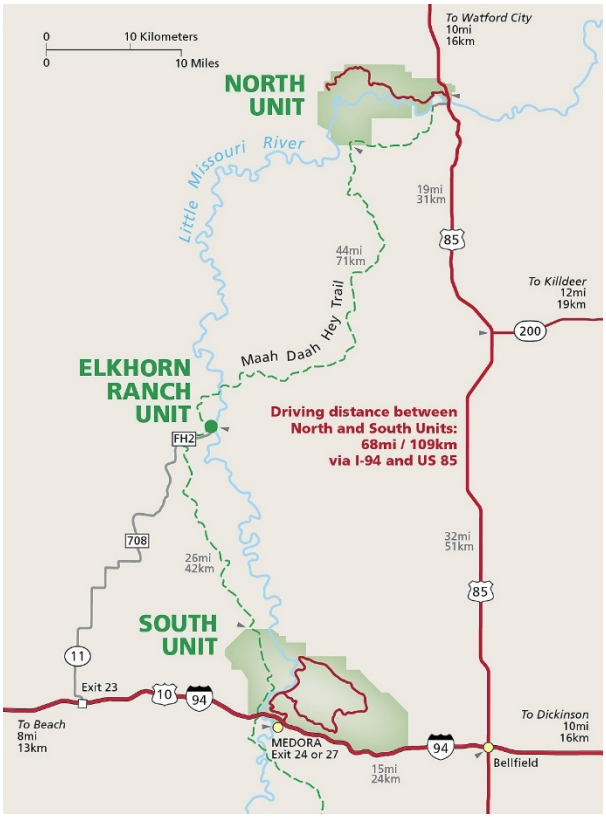


FIGURE 1-1. Theodore Roosevelt National Park. *National Park Service.*

death of his wife and mother within a week's time. His grief was soothed by the work and setting of his ranching operations. Roosevelt's eloquent descriptions of his experiences in the West, which were published in East Coast newspapers, lured many other adventure seekers to the American West, and North Dakota in particular. His direct association with the area dwindled as he began to cultivate his political career and by 1890, Roosevelt had completely abandoned his badlands ranches.

The earliest permanent Euro-American settler on the land near Peaceful Valley Ranch was Eldridge "Gerry" Paddock, who in 1883 built a cabin on his claim, located approximately one-quarter mile south of the ranch. In 1885, Benjamin Lamb, a 22-year-old from Boston, purchased Paddock's claim and cabin, and built the one-and-one-half story, wood-frame ranch house that is now part of Peaceful Valley Ranch. Lamb and subsequent owners continued to erect buildings and structures to support the ranching operation. These included a barn, blacksmith shop, cow shed, horse barn, and complex of split-rail fences.

George and Nettie Burgess purchased the property in 1896 and held it until 1915. During their tenure many of the changes and additions to the property that can be seen today took place. Most notable is the log barn constructed in 1905. The Burgesses filed the first homestead patent for Peaceful Valley Ranch in 1906 and continued operating the property until they sold it to Harry Olsen in 1915. Olsen and his brother Carl began the dude ranching enterprise at Peaceful Valley Ranch in 1918. The Olsens owned and operated the dude ranch until 1936 when the federal government acquired the property.

The Olsen's dude ranch program offered visitors outdoor cooking experiences, overnight campouts, branding exhibitions, cattle roundups, and guided trips to the nearby petrified forest. In 1920, the Olsens added the log main lodge (bunkhouse) present today, along with guest

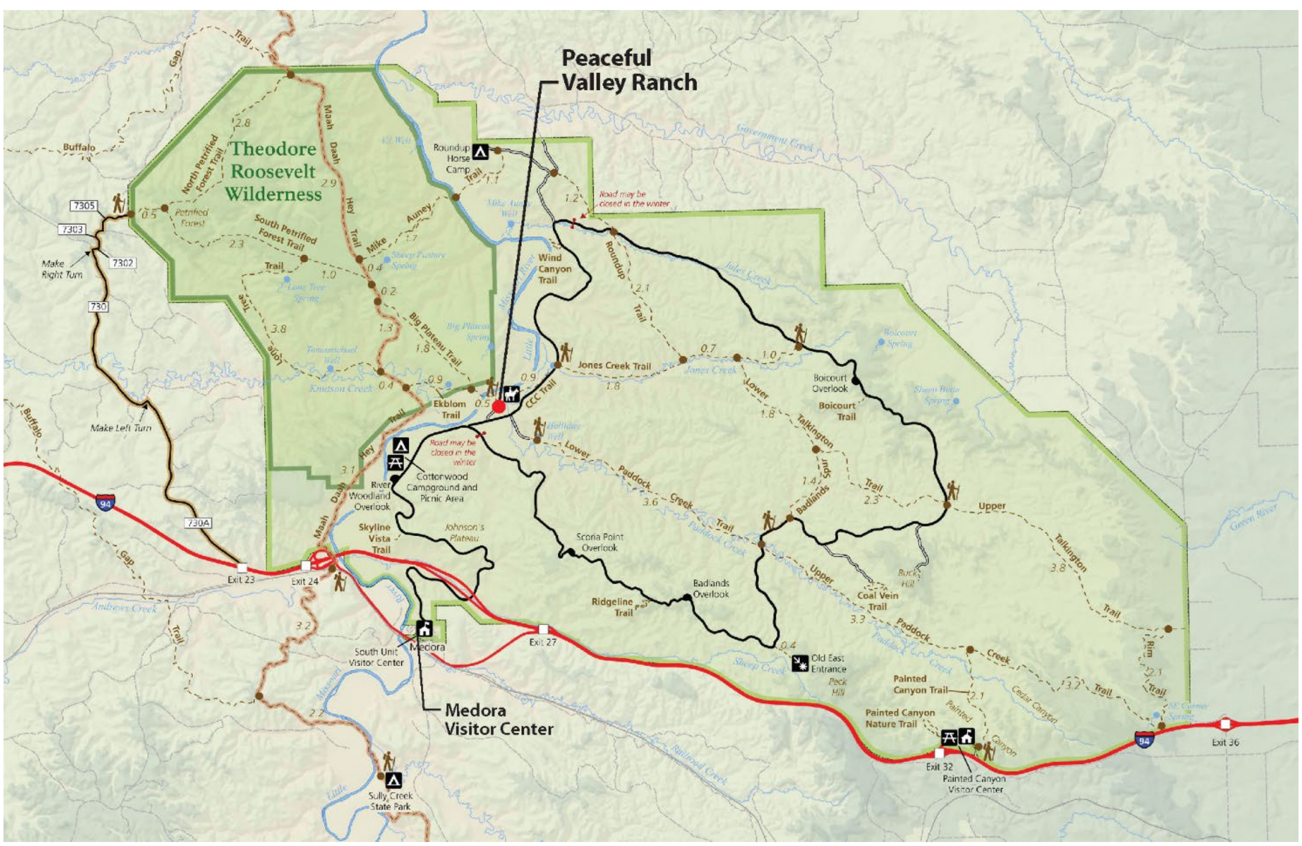


FIGURE 1-2. Theodore Roosevelt National Park, South Unit, annotated to show the location of Peaceful Valley Ranch. *National Park Service.*

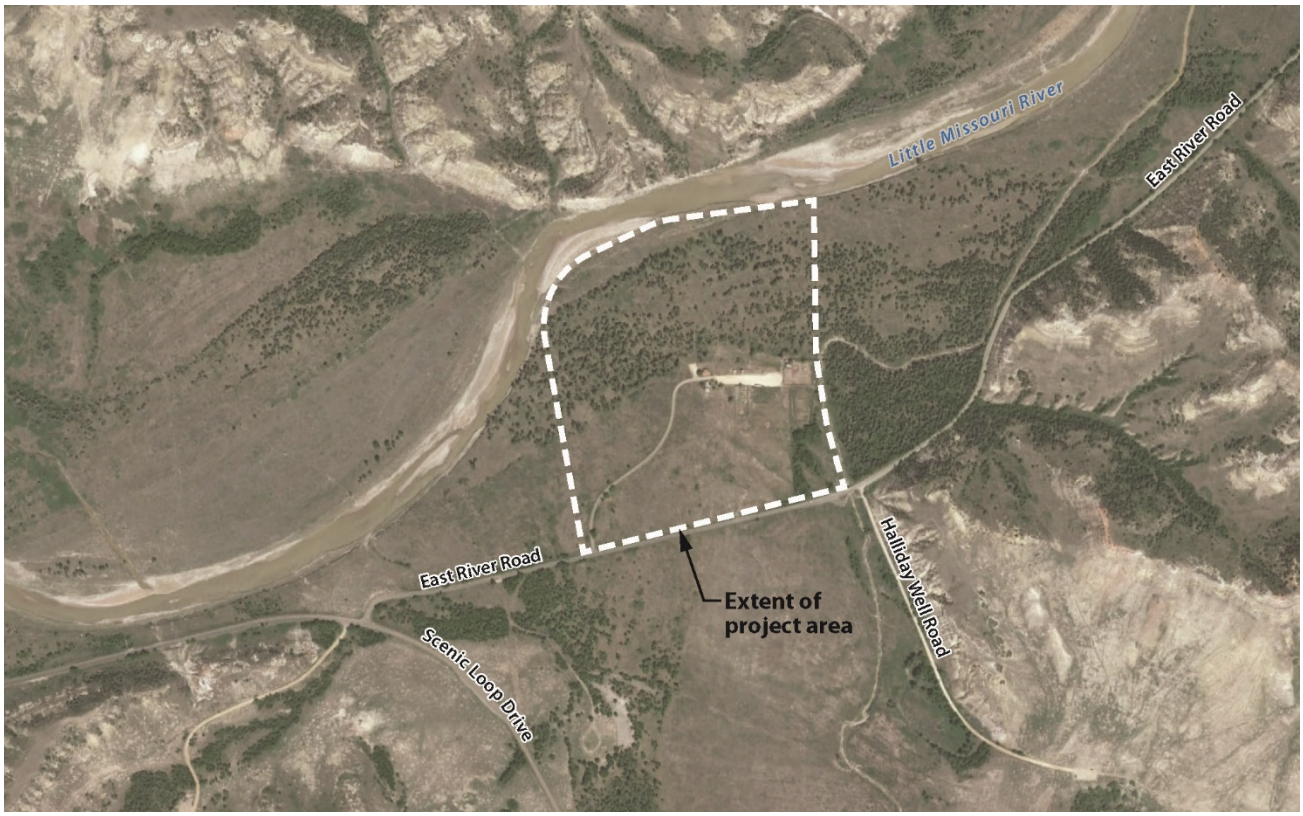


FIGURE 1-3. Extent of the project area. *GoogleEarth, annotated by CHG.*



FIGURE 1-4. Peaceful Valley Ranch in 2017. *CHG.*

cabins and other support structures that are no longer extant at the site. Carl Olsen filed a Farm Name Certificate with the Register of Deeds in Billings County, formalizing the name "Peaceful Valley Ranch."

It was shortly after the death of Theodore Roosevelt in 1919 that several proposals arose to establish a memorial in his honor. These early efforts slowed during the Great Depression, but were revisited as part of the New Deal. In the 1930s, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), established its headquarters at Peaceful Valley Ranch and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) set up a camp nearby. Finally, after years of hard work, lobbying, and shifting federal agency management, the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park was established in 1947 with Peaceful Valley Ranch as its headquarters. The National Park Service (NPS) acquired and built other support buildings for the ranch, including trailers for temporary residences, storage sheds, propane tanks, and garages.

In 1959, the groundbreaking Mission 66 program funded the construction of a new park headquarters building, visitor center, and several new residences at the park's entrance in Medora. After the completion of the new facilities, Peaceful Valley Ranch was no longer used for park activities and vacated. Beginning in 1967, the NPS leased the ranch to a concessioner for horseback rentals and trail rides. In 2014, the concessioner retired and ceased operating their guided horseback tours.

Scope of Work and Methodology

Scope of Work

The NPS commissioned the project team to complete a CLR for Peaceful Valley Ranch by preparing thorough baseline documentation, including site history and existing conditions, and by conducting a significance and integrity analysis. The team used this information to develop a conceptual treatment plan to provide guidance as the park moves forward with managing the ranch for flexible use. The plan also includes guidelines for long-term protection of character-defining features with an overall focus on a rehabilitation approach that supports compatible future use.

Project Methodology

The CLR for Peaceful Valley Ranch was prepared in accordance with the guidelines afforded in the most recent versions of various federal standards documents, including:

- *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques,* National Park Service, 2005*;*
- The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes;*
- NPS Director's Order 28: *Cultural Resources Management;*
- NPS Director's Order 77: *Natural Resource Protection and Reference Manual 77: Natural Resource Management;*
- NPS-SER-82: *Biotic Cultural Resources: Management Considerations for Historic Districts in the National Park system, Southeast Region;*
- *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards* (ABAAS);
- *The National Park Service's Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design;*
- National Register Bulletin: *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes;*
- National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation;*
- National Register Bulletin: *Telling the Stories: Planning Effective Interpretive Programs for Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places;*

- Landscape Lines 17: *Cultural Landscapes and NPS Facility Management*; and

- Drafting Standards: *Directors Order 10A and Denver Service Center CAD Standards Guide*.

The methodology used by project team members in preparing each component of this study is described in detail below.

Background Research and Data Collection. Prior to visiting the site in November 2017, CLR team members began to collect documents and other materials pertaining to the project and site. These included the National Park Service's List of Classified Structures for park resources, secondary sources addressing the history of the site and region, and information available from the Denver Service Center Technical Information Center. Recently-completed reports for Peaceful Valley Ranch were reviewed, including the 2012 Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) and 2014 Historic Structures Report (HSR). In preparation for field investigations, project personnel used Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files from the park to develop base maps for the field inventory.

Online resources available at Dickinson State University's Theodore Roosevelt Center digital library, along with online resources from the State Archives at the State Historical Society of North Dakota and the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office were consulted. Published materials, including two biographies of Theodore Roosevelt, "The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt," by Edmund Morris, and "Mornings on Horseback," by David McCullough, added to general context information.

Start-up Meeting. On November 14, 2017, the CLR team members met with park and regional NPS personnel at Theodore Roosevelt National Park headquarters to discuss the purpose, goals, methodology, and schedule.

After the meeting, NPS personnel toured the site with the CLR team to provide overview and orientation information. Park personnel indicated the locations of current and anticipated future rehabilitation and construction projects, and shared their ongoing maintenance issues and concerns.

The team historian conducted research at the park headquarters, including an exhaustive search of park history file folders. The park headquarters retains individual files, correspondence, reports, compliance documents, and photographs in file folders and individual file cabinets. The park also maintains a library in the visitor center, which contains books and publications related to the life of Theodore Roosevelt, ranching, as well as other documents, such as museum catalog records and professional journals. Research was conducted by park staff searching for and pulling documents. The library provided an area where researchers could independently search stacks and files for reference materials.

Research was also conducted by reviewing documents provided through the NPS e-TIC list. Many of these individual resources included annual reports, strategic planning documents, interpretive planning documents, documents associated with individual resource issues, such as water, power lines, or telephone lines, and the Mission 66 planning prospectus. Information found in loose files, such as interview note cards from the 1950s, the National Register nomination, and Penny and Larson's *Extended Narrative History* contributed to the physical historic and landscape documentation.

In addition, the CLR team visited the digital library of the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University, where Roosevelt's experiences in North Dakota and the west are documented. Resources consulted included letters, photographs, magazine articles, film clips, reports and other primary sources.

Base Mapping. An AutoCAD base map of the park was created by the CLR team by compiling information available from NPS GIS data, aerial photography, site plans, and field investigations. The GIS data was also used with the AutoCAD map to generate diagrams and other report graphics in AutoCAD and Adobe Illustrator.

Field Investigations. CLR team members conducted field investigations to document landscape resources associated with the site. Team members photographed primary and representative landscape features (both cultural and natural) and annotated copies of base mapping with observations about materials, resource condition, and information that was later used to update the mapping files. Where available mapping was lacking in detail, team members prepared sketch maps in the field that were later used to enhance the electronic files.

Site Physical History. The site physical history was drafted based on review of materials collected during the various research efforts. Important dates associated with physical events at Peaceful Valley Ranch were organized into a site history chronology. The chronology was then used to identify a series of five definable historic periods of the ranch's evolution.

Each period was described through historical narrative that provides a chronological description of the landscape and its evolution over time. The narrative is supported by graphics, including historic maps, plans, and photographs. It provides sufficient supporting material to illustrate the physical character, attributes, features, and materials that contribute to the significance of the landscape over the course of its history. This section also introduces the historical contexts and the period of significance associated with the landscape. Each significant period of development or change is illustrated with historic plans and photographs.

A period plan for each significant historic period is provided with the associated section of the narrative. The period plans were prepared by reviewing historic photographs, maps, and written descriptions of the landscape found in the research materials. Limited secondary sources were also used to corroborate information and to generate queries for primary sources. Secondary sources were evaluated for their credibility and utilized with caution.

Existing Conditions Documentation. The existing conditions documentation includes a narrative description of the extant landscape as composed of individual resources and systems illustrated with maps, plans, and photographs taken in 2017. The information was derived from existing conditions base mapping, 2017 field investigations, review of photographs taken in the field, and examination of park planning documents, park files, and other relevant cultural and natural resource documents received from the NPS or acquired through research.

Current site functions, visitor services, and natural resources are described to the extent that they contribute to or influence treatment decisions.

Existing conditions information was organized into a series of landscape characteristics, as follows:

- Natural Systems and Features;
- Responses to Natural Resources;
- Topography and Topographic Modifications;
- Patterns of Spatial Organization;
- Land Uses and Activities;
- Cultural Vegetation;
- Circulation;
- Views and Vistas;
- Buildings;
- Structures;
- Small-Scale Features;
- Utilities; and
- Archeological Resources

The team also prepared an inventory of existing landscape features based on documentation of the ranch and an understanding of historic conditions (see Appendix A). The inventory was used to ensure that each feature was discussed in the text and its condition assessed. It also formed the basis for the subsequent comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions.

Feature condition assessments were rated using the categories suggested by the *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*: Good, Fair, Poor, and Unknown. The condition ratings were annotated to include specific, condition-related observations made in the field that help to justify the ratings.

In addition, as part of the existing conditions documentation the team noted challenges in providing ABAAS-compliant access to building entrances and across the site.

Significance Evaluation. The 1994 NRHP nomination for Peaceful Valley Ranch served as the preliminary basis for evaluating site significance. This information, as well as the National Register criteria for evaluation as discussed in the National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, were taken into consideration in developing the evaluation of significance presented herein. Recommendations were made for an update to the current nomination to expand the site boundary and add the category of "Site" to the nomination to include cultural landscape resources.

Comparative Analysis of Historic and Existing Conditions. To better understand the relationship between the existing landscape and its character during the period of significance, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions. The analysis focused on extant features, their dates of origin, and their evolution over time. The primary goals of the comparative analysis were to:

- Understand which features survive from the period of significance, identifying contributing, non-contributing, and missing landscape resources.

- Provide an understanding of the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions to serve as the basis for the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

Further, as a part of the analysis tasks, the team prepared an FMSS Maintained Landscape Crosswalk table that correlates the findings of the landscape analysis with location and asset designations.

Integrity Assessment. An assessment of the historic integrity of the proposed expanded historic district was completed based on seven aspects—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—following the guidance afforded in the National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

Treatment Plan. The treatment plan was prepared based on the guidance provided in the scope of work for this project, the findings of the previous chapters, and additional specific guidance conveyed by park and regional NPS personnel during meetings and conference calls. Management goals, issues, and concerns to be addressed by the treatment plan were identified during three meetings. The first was the CLR start-up meeting, followed by a second meeting with the park superintendent on November 16, 2017.

The third significant discussion occurred during the project's design workshop, held on August 7, 2018, at the park headquarters. Park and NPS regional office staff examined potential treatment concepts presented by the consultant team to arrive at a shared treatment vision that supports preservation of character-defining features while allowing for flexible use of the property.

The CLR team prepared a conceptual zoning plan based on the analysis and evaluation, and information gathered in meetings with the park. The plan provides the park with direction on where development might occur and how the historic landscape is protected. It is supported by treatment guidelines for long-term protection of both tangible and intangible character-defining features with an overall focus on a rehabilitation

approach that supports compatible future uses.[1] The treatment plan incorporates narrative and graphic information to convey recommendations for repair, rehabilitation, and management of the overall landscape's spatial organization; road, trail and fencing systems; vegetation communities; cultural vegetation; and small-scale features. Recommendations for improving accessibility to buildings and across the site are also included.

Appendices and Bibliography. Appendices contain drawings, illustrations, maps, technical information, or other supplemental support documentation. They include an inventory of park landscape resources that indicates their contributing status and the FMSS Maintained Landscape Crosswalk table. The bibliography lists the sources used in the preparation of the document.

Summary of Findings

Significance and Integrity

In 1994, Peaceful Valley Ranch was listed in the NRHP as significant at the local level under Criterion A for its historical association with open-range ranching, dude ranching, and the early development of Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and under Criterion C for its three contributing buildings, which provide a physical link to regional history. The period of significance extends from 1885, the approximate construction date of the Ranch House, to 1936, when the ranch was acquired by the National Park Service.

Based on the analysis completed for this CLR, the category of the nominated property should be changed from "building" to "district," and "site" added to the list of contributing resources. Peaceful Valley Ranch should also be considered locally significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield information important in history. Finally, the boundaries of the proposed historic district should be expanded to include portions of historic road traces, the sites of the demolished CCC and NPS buildings, and the heads of hiking and horseback trails that extended from the ranch to the main road and to other sites within the area (see Chapter 4 for more information). These changes will improve the nomination by including Peaceful Valley Ranch's cultural landscape resources.

In addition, as part of the analysis, the CLR team evaluated the integrity of Peaceful Valley Ranch to its period of significance. The ranch has integrity of **location** as the site of early free-range and fee simple ranching operations, and a tourist-oriented dude ranch. It also retains integrity of **setting** for its unchanged relationship with the larger Little Missouri badlands landscape and the easy proximity of its rugged hills and bluffs. In addition, the ranch retains integrity of **association** with the significant periods of its history because of its generally rustic aesthetic, and surviving buildings and cultural landscape features.

Peaceful Valley Ranch has only a moderate level of integrity of **design**, **materials**, and **workmanship** because of missing elements, including buildings and structures, such as corrals and fenced yards, that contributed to its historic character. Despite this, however, the ranch maintains integrity of **feeling,** primarily from the overall sense of isolation, views into the larger landscape setting of the Little Missouri badlands experienced from the property, and the character of the three contributing buildings.

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1. "Tangible" character-defining features are visible in the physical landscape and include topography, buildings and structures, vegetation, constructed water features, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archeological resources. "Intangible" character-defining features are processes or relationships that are not immediately visible in the landscape. These include responses to natural systems and features, spatial organization, patterns of circulation, land use, cluster arrangements, and cultural traditions. Department of the Interior, "Landscape Characteristics 101," https://www.nps.gov/subjects/culturallandscapes/upload/LandscapeCharacteristics101_Posteryellowbgupdated_accessible.pdf (accessed January 9, 2019).

Treatment Plan

The treatment plan developed for this CLR is based on a rehabilitation approach, as outlined by the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. The plan is presented in two parts. The first is a concept plan that focuses on balancing protection and enhancement of the site's historic integrity as a working ranch, while accommodating flexible use. It shows the limits for proposed building and landscape development, most of which is sited in historic locations and identifies historic viewsheds to be protected from development. The plan also recommends that when new corrals are needed, they should be constructed in historic locations. Finally, the concept plan proposes redevelopment of Elkblom Trail as an accessible route to the river and of historic road traces as trails.

The concept is the basis for the treatment recommendations, which provide more detailed information about the rehabilitation of historic resources that have diminished the integrity of the cultural landscape. They also provide information about the design of new facilities that may be introduced into the landscape and the adaptation of existing historic features for new uses. The treatment recommendations also provide information on the care of archeological resources, environmental sustainability, new design and construction, and interpretation.

Recommendations for Further Study

The history of Peaceful Valley Ranch continues to be revealed through research and investigation. Several potential avenues of investigation that were beyond the scope of work for this project, or were not possible given available time and resources, emerged through preparation of the CLR. Pursuit of these topics may yield information that will enhance our understanding of the landscape and inform the site's interpretive program:

- The park has a fairly large collection of historic photographs, maps, and other archival documents. Additional efforts to catalog, identify, and digitize these resources would enhance the ability of park staff and researchers to use them for interpretive and research purposes. These files should be organized according to NPS museum standards. These resources could then be available at the visitor center library to provide a more uniform and centralized research experience. A research intern could be employed to digitize the resources to allow for electronic access. An electronic copy, with a brief thumbnail sketch of contents would limit the necessity for paper copies and allow for a more complete virtual experience of the archive.

- A search of historic photograph collections in regional repositories may reveal additional images of Peaceful Valley Ranch during the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Access to these regional repositories should be made available to researchers.

- Additional information is needed regarding the occupation of Peaceful Valley Ranch by New Deal agencies from the 1930s into the 1940s. Investigation into the Records of the Works Progress Administration files at the National Archives may reveal new information about the many changes that occurred at Peaceful Valley Ranch in this period, particularly as the ranch underwent renovation to become park headquarters.

- Archeological investigations through ground penetrating radar and testing may reveal additional information about the period of use by the NPS between 1936 and 1959, particularly the exact location of buildings, fences, and circulation features. This information may lead to a future expansion of the period of significance for the ranch.

- Information gaps exist regarding the early construction and occupation of Peaceful Valley Ranch during the 1880s. Additional information about the people who built and

occupied the ranch prior to 1900 would benefit the discussion of its early appearance and uses.

- Additionally, information from the recent past, including management of the ranch by the concessioner and after the end of the concessioner period in 2014, should be incorporated into the historic record. Oral histories conducted with former operators of the horseback riding concession that operated at the ranch until 2014 could reveal additional information about the history of the ranch.

Chapter 2: Site History

Introduction

This chapter presents a history of Peaceful Valley Ranch, illustrated with historic photographs, maps, and a series of period plans depicting the character and features present on the site at key points throughout its history. It provides background for the comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions and the assessment of the site's historic significance and integrity provided in the next chapter. Together, these sections support an understanding of the important themes and contexts that connect the ranch to local and regional trends in history and design.

American Indian History

Theodore Roosevelt National Park has a long and complex history of human occupation. The documented archaeological record covers the geographic expanse of the western North Dakota Badlands, including the Little Missouri River Valley. It provides insight into the great length of time humans have used the landscape, leaving evidence of base camps, temporary habitations typed as field camps, task camps, hunting localities, and procurement areas that are associated with both contemporary and ancestral groups.[1] Although material evidence is sparse, information gleaned from surrounding areas has helped inform research from this period. Stone points have been found, which indicate that Paleoindian groups in the Little Missouri Badlands were present by approximately 10,000 BP.[2] Supporting this are two Paleo-era Agate Basin projectile points that were found within the park, but with no associated context. It is thought that Paleo groups hunted megafauna, slowly shifting to modern era species over hundreds of years. As the climate became more arid, Paleoindian campsites were more frequently located along rivers and streams, serving as base camps to strike out from for hunting and gathering other resources.[3]

The Plains Archaic Tradition (7,500-2,000 BP) saw an increased diversity of resource exploitation because of the extinction of Pleistocene megafauna and the necessity for more modern hunting and gathering techniques. This way of life was successful and remained relatively unchanged over thousands of years. Readily available food sources, such as the American bison, contributed to this stability. Adaptations by region and available natural resources resulted in the development of specific complexes within the tradition. Archeological sites dated to this period and its associated complexes have been documented throughout the park.[4]

The Plains Woodland Tradition (2,500-1,200 BP) reflects technological and ceremonial shifts in the archeological record after 2,050 BP. The Besant

1. Cannon S. Daughtery, William A. White, and Maria Nieves Zedeño, *Ethnographic Overview and Assessment Theodore Roosevelt National Park, ND: Integrated Report* (Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, 2016), 74.
2. "BP" means "before the present day."
3. David D. Kuehn, *Final Report on the 1987 Archeological Survey in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota*, (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center, 1988), 26-69.
4. Kuehn, *Archeological Survey*, 30.

Complex of the Plains Woodland Tradition includes the earliest known use of ceramics and burial mounds. Although multiple complexes of the Plains Woodland Tradition are represented in North Dakota, only the Besant complex has been found in the Little Missouri Badlands. These accomplished bison hunters used distinct side-notched dart and arrow points. Archeological records indicate that hunting groups would emanate from central base camps, which are evidenced by tipi rings. These sites are the most numerous of the cultural units in the Little Missouri Badlands.[5]

The shift to the Plains Village Tradition (950-100 BP) is marked by the development of formal tribal group settlements, including the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Tribes. Ceramic evidence documents the location of resource procurement areas and several extended occupation sites, including semi-permanent earth lodge villages along the Missouri River. The Arikara, Mandan, and Hidatsa merged in 1861 after a smallpox epidemic significantly reduced their population and decimated their way of life.

The historic period of the Equestrian Nomadic Tradition (250-100 BP) was marked by the introduction of the horse into the area by 1720-1750. Horses increased mobility and territory size, which changed hunting patterns, particularly of bison. Lodge sizes increased along with the size of encampments. Trade networks expanded and social organizations changed. This cultural evolution is well represented in historical documentation. Military campaigns against Little Missouri Badlands tribal peoples, including the Crow, Dakota, Cheyenne, and Assiniboine, ended the Equestrian Nomadic tradition, facilitating permanent Euro-American settlement beginning in the 1880s.[6]

Oral history and ethnohistorical records indicate that multiple ancestral and historic Native Plains groups used Little Missouri Badlands for hunting, travel, and ritual purposes. Groups retaining some ancestral and traditional knowledge associated with the North Dakota badlands include the Assiniboine and Yanktonai Sioux. Parts of the North Dakota badlands are known to have been traditional Mandan, Hidatsa, and Crow hunting territory.[7]

From 2004 to 2006, an ethnographic resource assessment highlighting the association of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Crow, Turtle Mountain Cree, Standing Rock Sioux, Assiniboine, Gros Ventre, and Blood tribes was conducted for Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and Fort Union Trading Post. This study found that "all tribes [interviewed during the assessment] have a familiarity and depth of knowledge of not only individual plant, animal, and mineral resources [in Theodore Roosevelt National Park] but also use of landscape features."[8]

The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation of the Fort Berthold Reservation are affiliated with Theodore Roosevelt National Park because the North Dakota badlands region is traditional Hidatsa-Mandan-Arikara territory. The park is within the use-area or territorial expanse of other tribes, including the Spirit Lake Tribe (North Dakota), Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (North Dakota and South Dakota), and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians (North Dakota). The 2006 Cultural Affiliation Statement and Ethnographic Resource Assessment Study

5. Kuehn, *Archeological Survey*, 31. It should be noted that no burial mounds have been found within the park.
6. Kuehn, *Archeological Survey*, 32.
7. Daughtery, et al., *Ethnographic Overview and Assessment*, 72.
8. Maria Nieves Zedeño, Kacy Hollenback, Christopher Basaldú, Vania Fletcher, and Samrat Miller, *Cultural Affiliation Statement and Ethnographic Resource Assessment Study for Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, and Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota* (Tucson, AZ: The University of Arizona, Bureau of Applied Research in Anthropology, 2006) 4-5, 65.

indicates that the latter groups are traditionally associated with the park's prehistoric and historic remains due to connection with ceremonial resources.[9]

Though no archeological evidence has been found to date indicating indigenous habitation of the Peaceful Valley Ranch site, its context in the Little Missouri River Valley should be acknowledged as part of a larger landscape of natural, cultural, and ethnographic importance. The tribes that share the park as their cultural heritage still maintain interest and connection with Theodore Roosevelt National Park as a part of their cultural identity. As the park continues consultation with tribal partners, additional ethnographic interests may come to light.

Early Settlement of Medora

The pull of the American West on wealthy adventure-seekers and independent-minded ranchers was one that drew many enterprising pioneers, including Theodore Roosevelt, to the North Dakota badlands and the Little Missouri River valley. The area was open to permanent Euro-American development and settlement when the Northern Pacific Railroad reached the Little Missouri River in 1880.[10]

Among the earliest permanent Euro-American settlers in the area were the Marquis de Mores and his wife Medora, who first came to the badlands in 1883. De Mores planned to build a prosperous local cattle economy based on slaughtering cattle close to their open range and shipping the carcasses in refrigerated cars to the eastern markets. By doing so, he would increase profits by circumventing the stockyards and processors in Chicago and along the east coast. De Mores' clever idea required regular ice stops along the rail route from Medora to the eastern markets to maintain refrigeration in the rail cars. Taking advantage of easy access to the railroad, he built the de Mores Packing Plant near the Northern Pacific Railroad's crossing of the Little Missouri River. Around the packing plant, de Mores established the town of Medora, which he named for his wife. The new settlement, bolstered by employment from the packing plant, thrived, and by 1884, there were 251 people living in Medora.[11] De Mores built his personal residence on the outskirts of town and called it the Chateau de Mores.

De Mores' plan for the cattle economy failed after the disastrous winter of 1886-1887 killed a huge number of the cattle population in the area. Afterwards, the marquis and his family returned east, and then sailed back to Europe. Today, the remaining resources associated with the Marquis de Mores in Medora include the Chateau de Mores, the de Mores Packing Plant, and St. Mary's Catholic Church, which de Mores funded, all listed in the National Register of Historic Resources (NRHP).[12]

While in Medora, the Marquis de Mores crossed paths with Theodore Roosevelt, who later became the 26th United States president. Though the relationship between de Mores and Roosevelt was not especially cordial, particularly in argumentative correspondence regarding livestock, the relatively small number of residents and the tight knit ranching community all interacted regularly.[13]

Theodore Roosevelt first visited the badlands in 1883 when he arrived on a trip to hunt bison. Stories of the rugged beauty and bounty of the terrain had drawn the young Roosevelt to the area. He loved the hunt and wanted to participate in the western lifestyle. During his visit he partnered with

9. Zedeño, et al. 4-5, 65.
10. National Park Service, *Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory*, (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2012), 14-15 and 17-19.
11. Walter L. Bailey, "de Mores Packing Plant," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, 2.
12. Bailey, "de Mores Packing Plant," 2.
13. Edmund Morris, *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, (New York: Random House, 2010), 276-277.

his hunting guide's brother, Sylvane Ferris, and ranch hand, Bill Merrifield, to invest in his first ranch, called the Maltese Cross.

After establishing the Maltese Cross ranch, Roosevelt returned to his work in Albany, New York, leaving his pregnant wife at home in Sagamore Hill. In February 1884, he received the happy news of his daughter's birth, but was devastated when both his mother and his wife died two days later. Roosevelt soon returned west to the Maltese Cross to escape his grief. He purchased a second property called the Elkhorn Ranch and operated it, along with the Maltese Cross until 1892 and 1898, respectively, taking advantage of the availability of open range for his cattle.[14]

Roosevelt contributed to the lure of the American West through his written descriptions of the area, which were published in east coast newspapers. He described his time in Dakota territory as "the pleasantest, healthiest, and most exciting phase of American existence."[15] Roosevelt's stories lured many adventure seekers to the area, as well as those that wished to visit and experience ranch life and the natural beauty of the badlands.

Eventually, as he began to travel more to build his political career, management of Roosevelt's properties in the badlands was put in the hands of others. Though the badlands had a profound impact on Roosevelt's personal development, he did not often return for long periods after 1887, and by 1890 had completely abandoned his badlands ranches.[16]

Development of Peaceful Valley Ranch

Peaceful Valley Ranch and the Open-Range, 1883-1895

(Figure 2-1 and Figure 2-2, 1895 Period Plans)

The earliest permanent Euro-American to settle the land near Peaceful Valley Ranch was Eldridge "Gerry" Paddock. In 1883, Paddock built a cabin on a claim approximately one-quarter mile south of what would become Peaceful Valley Ranch. Paddock was a hunting guide, and also hunted and sold buffalo, elk, deer and other such animals to Northern Pacific Railway crews both for food and hides.[17] He did not reside there permanently, and by the following year, a man named Norman Lebo was occupying Paddock's small claim cabin.[18] Lebo was also a hunter and a guide who provided his services during Theodore Roosevelt's 1884 hunting trip to the Bighorn Mountains. Lebo left Paddock's claim cabin in 1884 to work at the Custer Trail Dude Ranch. Established in 1882, Custer Trail was the first dude ranch in the west.[19]

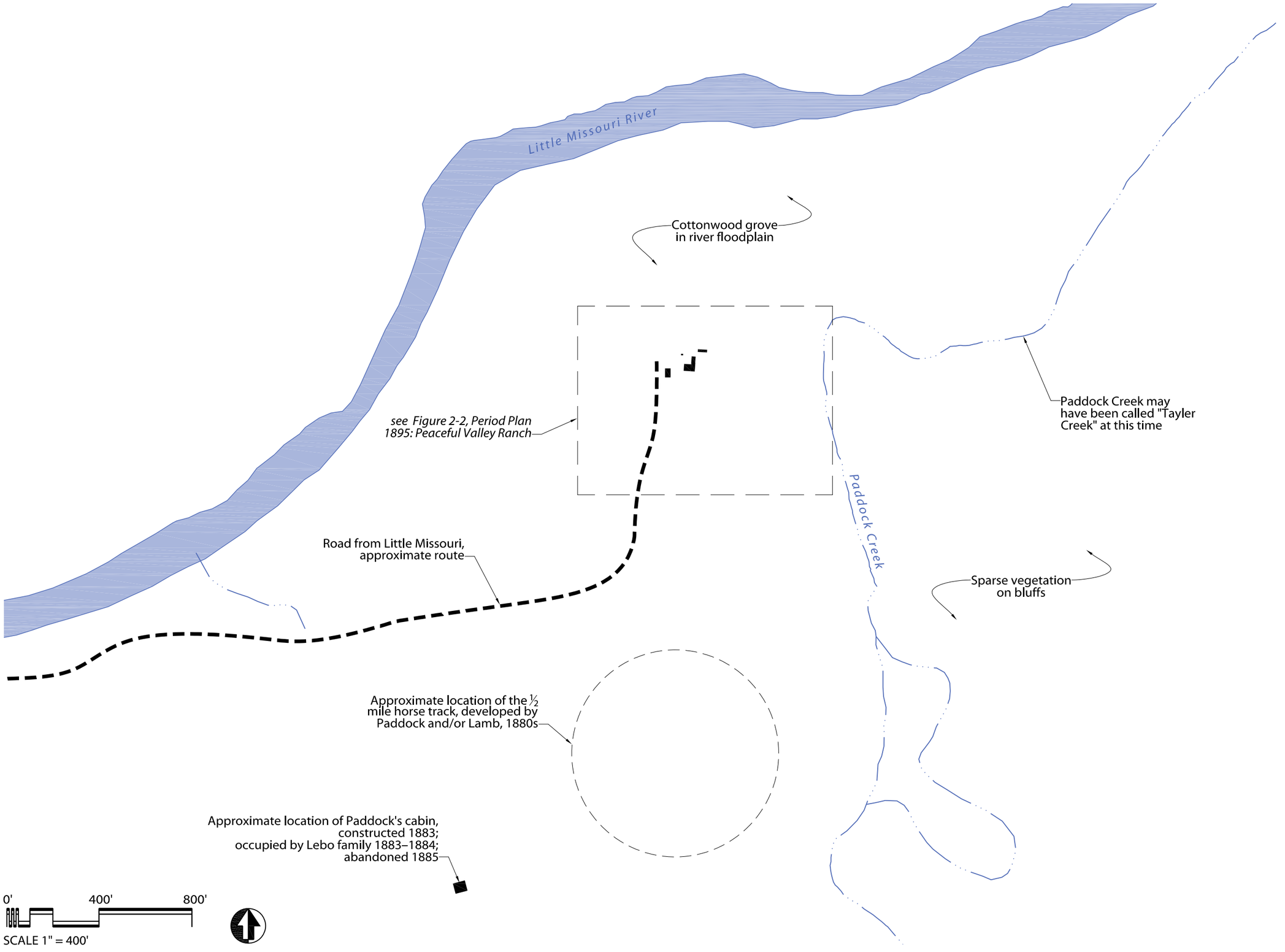
In 1885, Benjamin F. Lamb, a 22-year-old man from Boston, purchased Paddock's cabin. The surrounding acreage comprised miles of open grasslands. With Lamb's purchase of the cabin, the lands along the Little Missouri River were occupied by Euro-Americans for fifty miles both up and down the river.[20] Lamb, supported in his ranching adventures by his wealthy family back east, owned 200 head of cattle in 1885 and continued to occupy the ranch for approximately five years.

14. Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History,* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993), 10.
15. David Harmon, *The Open Margin: The NPS's Administration of Theodore Roosevelt National Park,* (Medora, ND: Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, 2004), Sct. 10.
16. National Park Service, "Theodore Roosevelt the Rancher."
17. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 18.
18. National Park Service, "Peaceful Valley Ranch."
19. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 13.
20. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 18.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, 1994.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

FIGURE 2-1.

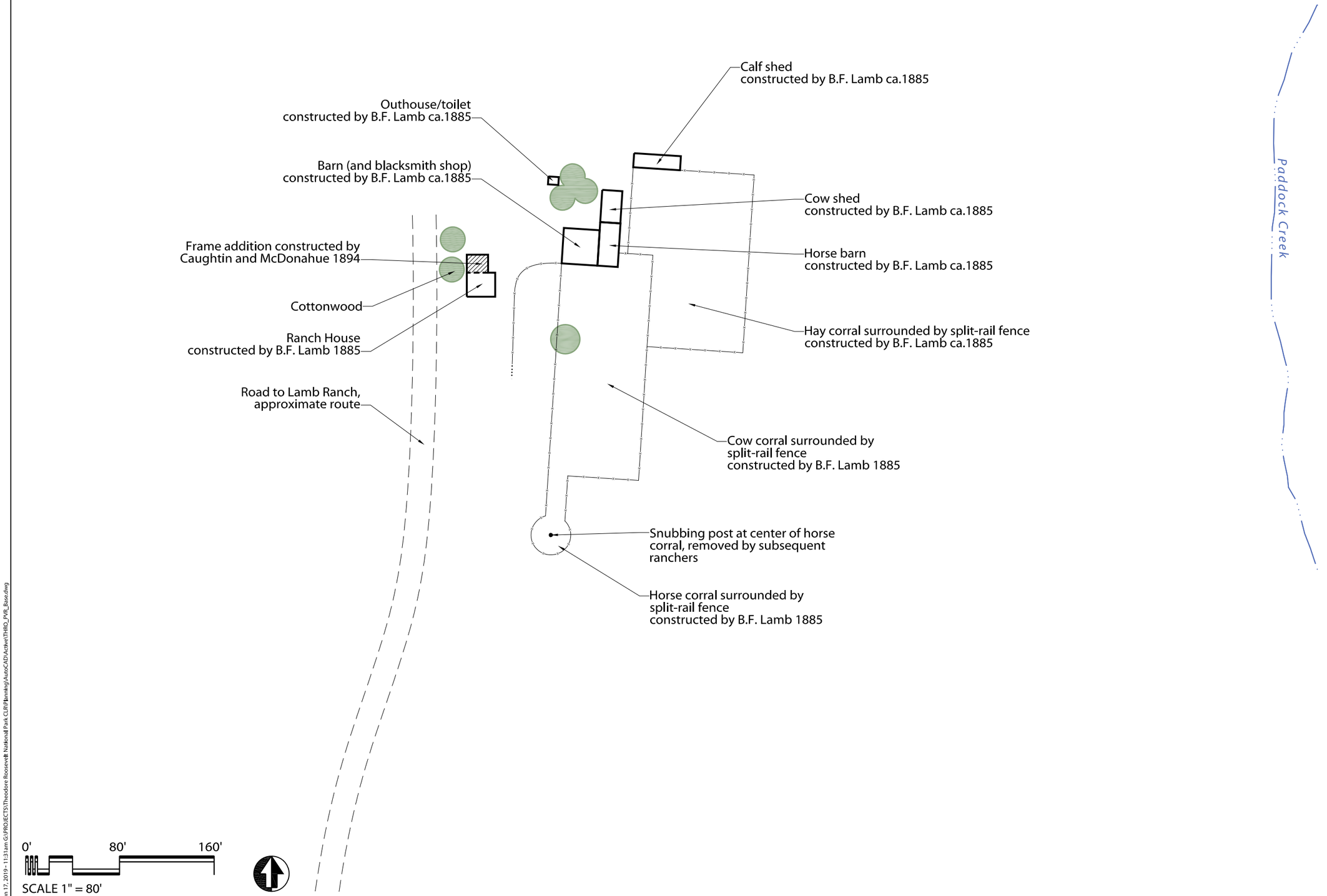
Period Plan 1895 Context

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, 1994.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

FIGURE 2-2.

Period Plan 1895
Peaceful Valley Ranch

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Lamb sited his one-and-one-half-story wood-frame ranch house with the main façade facing south. He also constructed a barn, blacksmith shop, cow shed, and horse barn east of the residence, along with other smaller buildings that included an outhouse and a calf shed. The barn, horse barn, and cow shed were constructed where the present-day parking lot/work yard is located. The outhouse stood northeast of the residence close to the east wall of the log bunkhouse that stands today. A split rail fence enclosed a corral that was subdivided for cows, horses, and hay. The wood-fenced cow corral extended south of the barn, terminating at the edge of the circular horse corral that stood at the southwest corner. The hay corral extended east of the main cow corral and continued north. The ranch was crossed by horse and carriage trails, and footpaths between the main house and barn.

Only a year after Lamb occupied the ranch, a severe drought in the summer of 1886 led to the almost-total devastation of the regional cattle industry the following winter. During those early years, the land was utilized for open range ranching on unfenced public land, which allowed many area ranchers to prosper. Ranchers raised hearty cattle breeds, such as the Texas longhorn, which were tolerant of the temperature extremes, so early ranches were not equipped with barns and cattle sheds to shelter and protect them. Stockpiling food and other supplies for the animals was not deemed a necessity by ranchers, leading to heartbreaking results.

During the winter of 1886-1887, thousands of open-range cattle died, with some estimates as high as 75% of area herds. As a result, many ranches failed or had to diversify to survive.[21] This event marked the beginning of the slow shift from open range ranching on vast areas of public lands to fee simple ranching, by which those lands were leased or sold to private owners.

Along with cattle, Lamb had also invested in horses. In partnership with Gerry Paddock, he developed a thoroughbred training track at the ranch that was in the flats adjacent to Paddock Creek.[22] During the terrible winter of 1886-1887, Lamb was still raising horses to supplement his cattle investment. This may explain why the significant loss of cattle during the winter of 1886-1887 did not close Lamb's operation and send him immediately back East.

The barn Lamb built measured around 30 feet by 30 feet and was constructed of cedar logs with a four-sided pyramidal roof. The horse barn and cow shed were attached to its east side. A calf shed around 40 feet long stood perpendicular to the horse barn and cow shed, and a feeding trough stood on its front (south) side. A hay corral stood conveniently next to the main corral and the barns. A round horse corral stood to the southwest of the main corral and a 12-foot-wide alley joined the two spaces. A "catch rope" is thought to have been used to measure the circle of the horse corral and a snubbing post stood at its center.[23]

> According to old timers the snubbing post lost its popularity as too many men and horses were injured by crashing into it.[24]

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21. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 12.
22. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 31-32 and "Interview with Chris Rasmussen" note cards in loose files, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, 27 July 1956. The same note cards state that the only man Paddock was afraid of was Lamb.
23. A "catch rope" was the cowboy's main working tool. Usually made of braided rawhide, the catch rope was around 40 feet long and was used to catch and restrain a cow or horse; Don Rickey, Jr., *Cowboy Dress, Arms, Tools, and Equipment as Used in the Little Missouri Range Country and the Medora Area, in the 1880s,* 44. The "snubbing post" was a thick post set into the middle of the horse corral and was used to train wild horses by restraining them in a tight circle; R. Dean Scoggins, "The Psychology of Handling Horses."
24. Chester L. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the

It is reported that the snubbing posts were later removed by subsequent ranchers at Peaceful Valley.

During this period, large deciduous trees, likely cottonwood, surrounded the house and grasses provided a sparse ground cover. Areas outside the corrals and the house yard would have been sparsely vegetated with deciduous trees, sagebrush, and grasses. Areas within the corral and around the buildings that accommodated foot and animal traffic were bare of vegetation.

In 1890, Lamb sold the ranch buildings to Joe Caughtin and Tim McDonahue, who presumably ranched the land for a short time. Caughtin and McDonahue built an addition on the north side of the main house in 1894. A photograph from around 1895 shows portions of the enclosed corral west of the barn in the yard between the main house and the barn, and a split rail fence with a gate at its northernmost point (Figure 2-3). It appears that the fence enclosed a circular corral at this point; a footpath within the corral from the house to the gate is clearly visible.

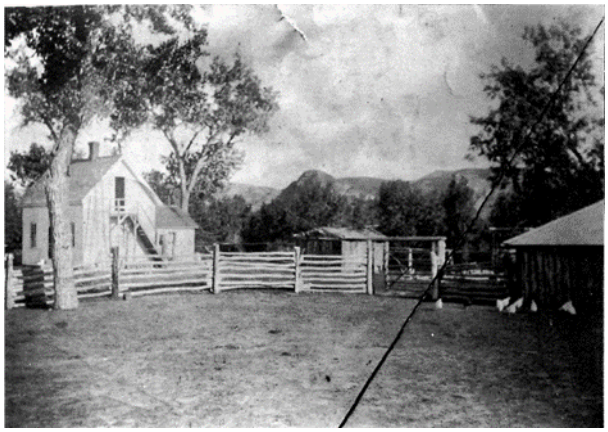


FIGURE 2-3. This ca.1895-1903 photograph shows the ranch house that Lamb constructed, along with out-buildings and split-rail fences. *National Park Service.*

Transition to Fee-Simple Ranching, 1896-1915

(Figure 2-4 and Figure 2-5, 1915 Period Plans)

George Burgess purchased the ranch buildings from Caughtin and McDonahue in 1896. Burgess and his wife, Nettie, owned the ranch from 1896 to 1915, and raised cattle with the help of hired hands. The Burgesses made numerous improvements to the property: between 1896 and 1905, they removed the barn and blacksmith shop built by Lamb; expanded the house with a kitchen addition, the log addition standing today, and a porch on its south elevation; and added a pump at the northeast end of the original house to cover an 80 foot well (Figure 2-6).

By 1904, the Burgesses had added a windmill at the northeast corner of the corrals, a pit toilet directly east of the house and between the house and barns, a wood shed just north and east of the residence, additional animal sheds, and a log bunkhouse for ranch hands (Figure 2-7). The animal sheds, including a calf shed, cow shed, and stable, occupied the space where the current parking lot/work yard is located. The corrals extended directly south of the sheds in a rectangular shape, with a hay corral abutting the east side of the stable.[25]

In 1905, the Burgesses had two of their ranch hands, Chris Rasmussen and Henry Nelson, construct the sod-roofed log barn, which eliminated the need for the multiple small-scale animal sheds at the ranch. They also reconfigured the corral to extend from the south elevation of the barn to the south and west.

The log barn was built in two distinct sections, evident in the pattern shifts at the east and west longitudinal elevations. It was constructed using three different types of logs. The north portion, which housed the stable, was built using cedar logs from Lamb's old barn. The south portion, which

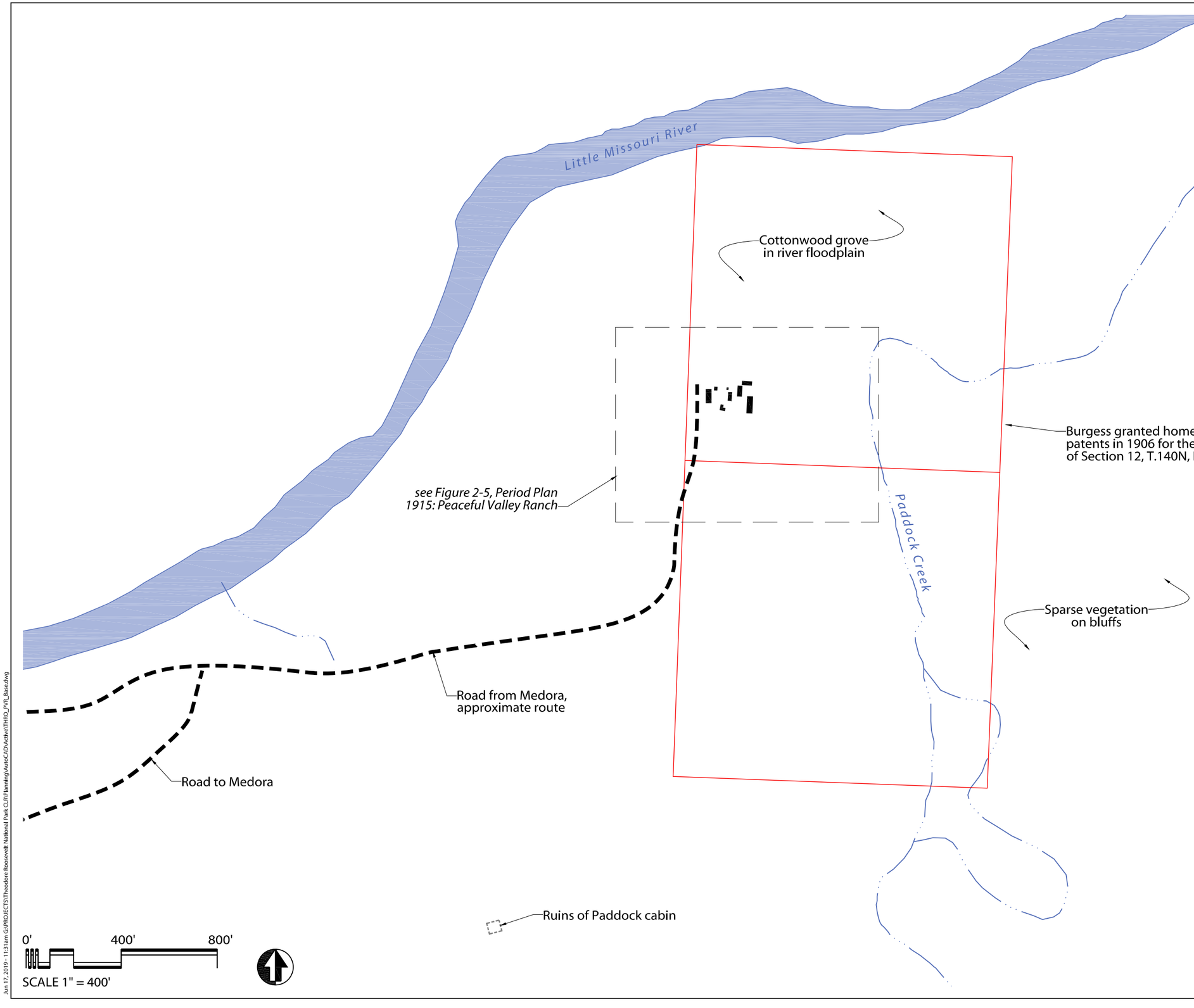
Interior, National Park Service, September 1956), 10.

25. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 12.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

"Peaceful Valley Ranch," Pamphlet in the Theodore Roosevelt Association collection, May 30, 1924.

FIGURE 2-4.

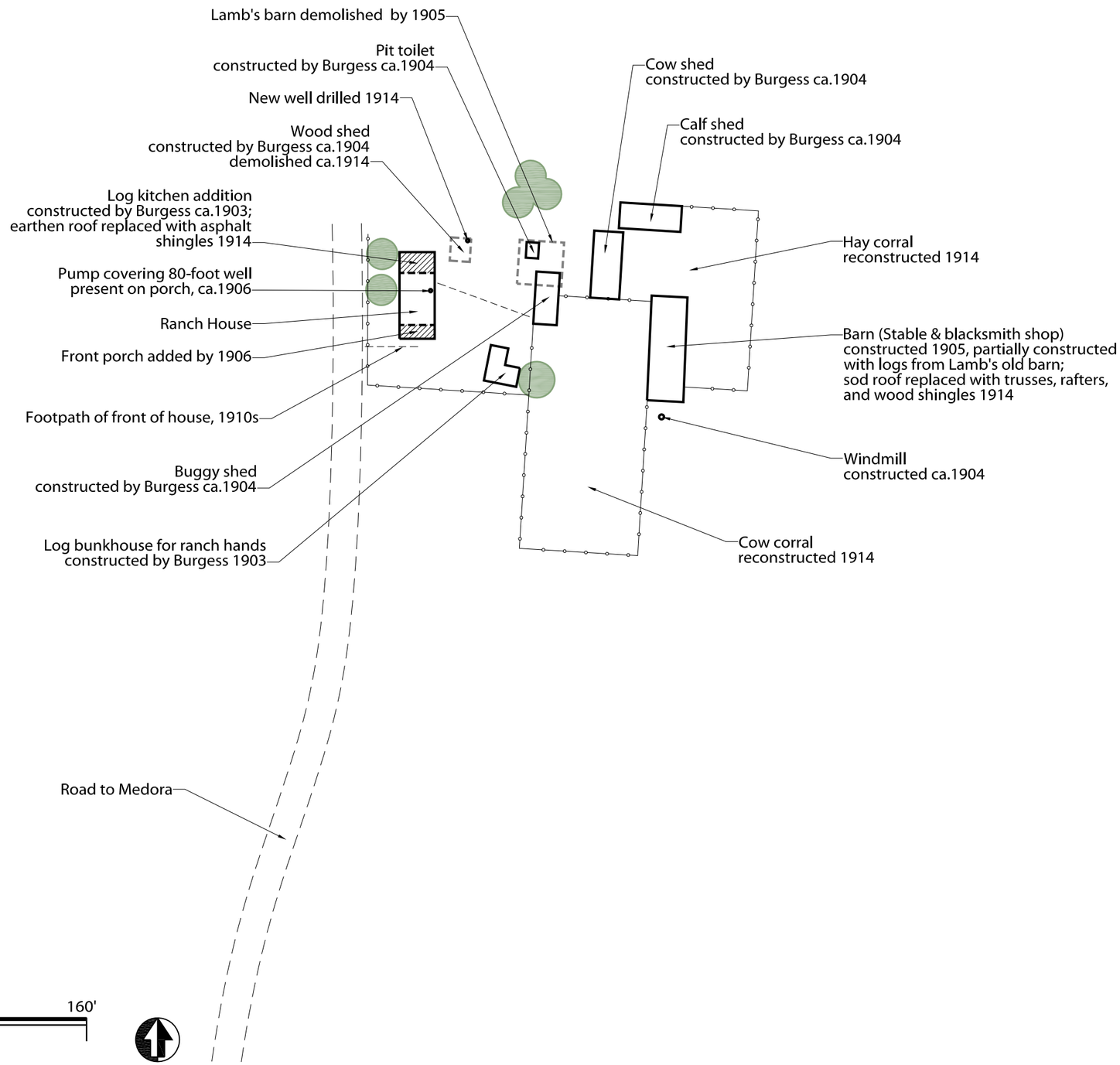
Period Plan 1915 Context

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

William J. Hunt, Jr., *Monitoring Foundation Construction at the Peaceful Valley Ranch Site (32BI67) and Site Condition Assessments at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO), Billings County, North Dakota*, 2008.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

FIGURE 2-5.

Period Plan 1915
Peaceful Valley Ranch



FIGURE 2-6. View of the ranch house ca.1903-1906, looking west, with carriage in the foreground. *National Park Service.*



FIGURE 2-7. Photograph of the Burgess farm ca.1904, looking northwest. The windmill stands at the far right. *National Park Service*.

housed the blacksmith shop, was built of round and square logs of Washington cedar that Burgess obtained from a railroad bridge project he was involved with in Medora. The round logs had been used as bridge pilings. Some square bridge timbers were used to build the south end of the barn.[26]

In 1905-1906, the US General Land Office completed surveys of Billings County, and the land was opened to public sale and homesteading patents. Prior to completion of the land survey, all lands were public domain, as there was no common legal way to transfer ownership from the federal government to private entities, with the exception of military grants. Much of the land in the American West was either in the public domain or owned by the railroads, which had been granted large tracts of land by the federal government, which they sold to finance their lines. Railroad grants in the area of Peaceful Valley and Billings County did not occur until May 14, 1906, even though they were authorized in 1864, because the official surveys had to be completed prior to the transfer in ownership. Purchasing land prior to the survey required a direct land grant from the federal government.[27]

Following the survey, the federal land was open to public sale, and applicants could receive homesteading patents or titles to these parcels. To gain a homestead patent and full title to the land, the owner was required to make improvements. These improvements could include building houses, digging wells, erecting fences, clearing trees, and planting crops.[28] Though it had been gradually occurring, the government's land survey and subsequent private ownership of the land marked the formal shift from open-range ranching and the beginning of fee simple ranching at the property.[29]

After the survey, in 1906, George and Nettie Burgess filed and were granted the homestead patent for Peaceful Valley Ranch. By that year they had added a new pump that covered an 80 foot well located on the south side of the open porch on the east side of the house. They also constructed a new porch on what would have been the south elevation of the house at that time (Figure 2-8 and Figure 2-9).[30] Burgess tore down Lamb's old corrals and constructed new ones by 1914 in approximately the same location.[31]

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26. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 14.
27. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 12.
28. National Park Service, "Genealogy."
29. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 12.
30. Anderson Hallas Architects, et al., *Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Historic Structures Report,* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 2014), 16.
31. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 14.



FIGURE 2-8. A ca.1910 photograph of the front of the ranch house taken from the southeast showing the new porch on its front (south) side and horses in the corral. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-9. Photograph taken ca.1910s of the ranch house taken from the southwest showing the new porch on its front (south) side. Note the chicken in the yard. *National Park Service*.

To access the corrals and barns from the house, the Burgesses established bare earth footpaths from the north, or rear, door of the house along its eastern side. Another path led from the front door to the entrance road (see Figure 2-8).

The main road accessing the ranch likely roughly followed East River Road, which today connects to Scenic Loop Drive. During the Burgess period, the road extended further south, then crossed the river to the west side to continue south towards the railroad. Because aerial images are not available, and the historic photographs of the period do not clearly illustrate the location of roads and paths, the assumption can be made that they were the same paths, perhaps less groomed and well-traveled, as documented in photographs from the 1920s.

The landscape setting of the ranch's historic core would have been very similar to that in the 1890s. Cottonwoods provided shade around the house and its yard was sparsely vegetated in grasses. Footpaths and the interiors of the corrals would have had little-to-no vegetation. Outside the corrals, deciduous trees covered the river terrace to the west of the Ranch House (see Figure 2-8). Sagebrush and grasses would have become established outside the corrals south of the historic core (see Figure 2-7).

In 1914, the Burgesses dug a new six-inch steel cased well to a depth of 420 feet and established the pump house and well north and east, respectively, of the main residence.[32] The same year, the Burgesses re-roofed the log addition at the north elevation of the main house. They also removed the sod roof from the barn and rebuilt it with trusses, rafters, and wood shingles.

In 1915, George Burgess sold the property to Harry Olsen who along with his brother Carl began the dude ranching enterprise at Peaceful Valley Ranch in 1918.

The Dude Ranching Era and Early Park Planning, 1915-1936

(Figure 2-10 and Figure 2-11, 1936 Period Plans)

This period extends from the year that the Burgesses sold the ranch to the Olsens until 1936, when it was acquired by the federal government. It also includes the period during which work began to establish the national park.

Dude Ranching at Peaceful Valley Ranch

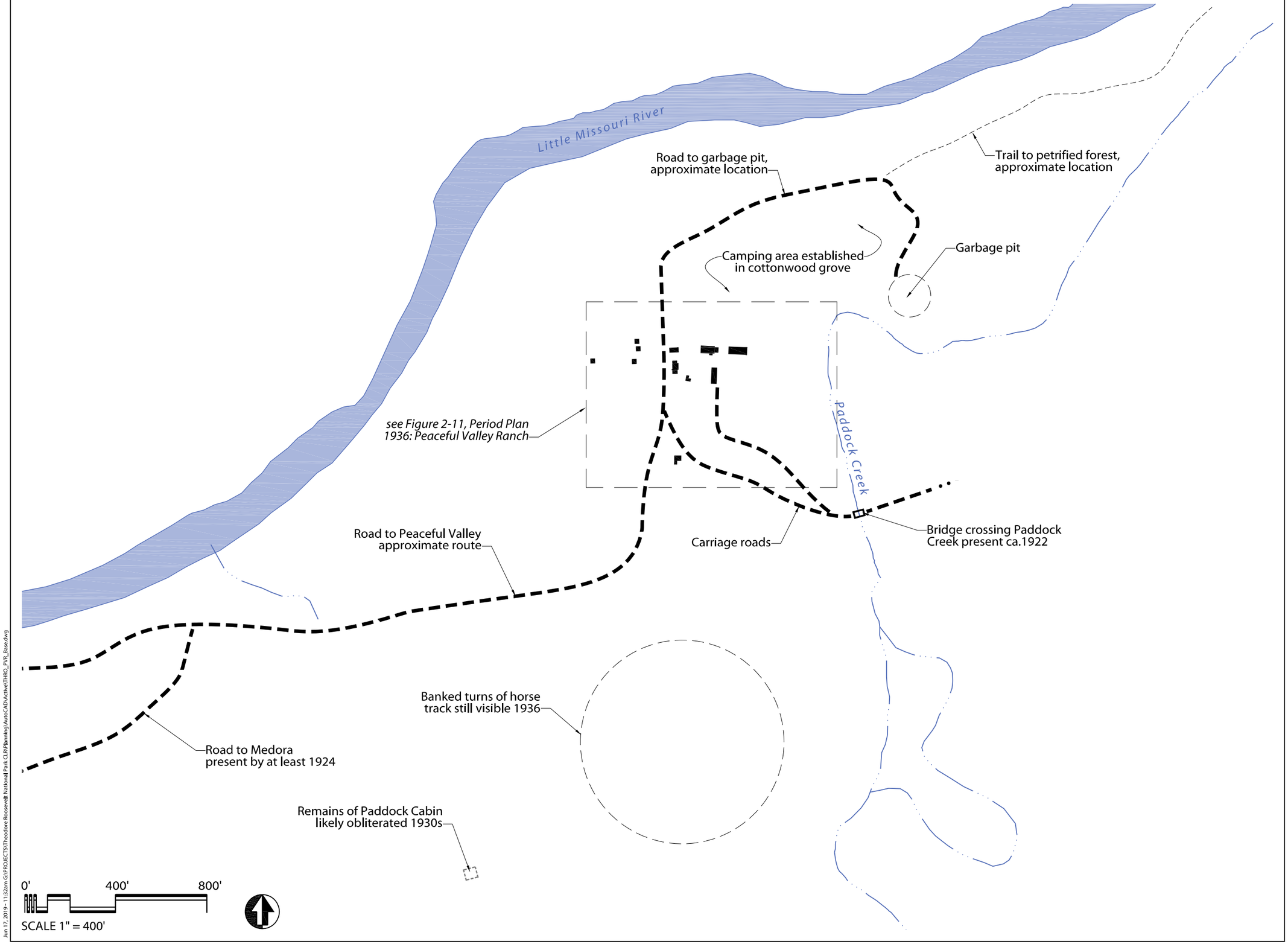
Dude ranching began around the turn of the twentieth century in the American West. "Dude ranches" were working ranches that accepted paying guests to supplement their stock raising

32. National Park Service, *Superintendent's Annual Report Fiscal Year 1998*, (North Dakota: National Park Service, Theodore Roosevelt National Park).

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

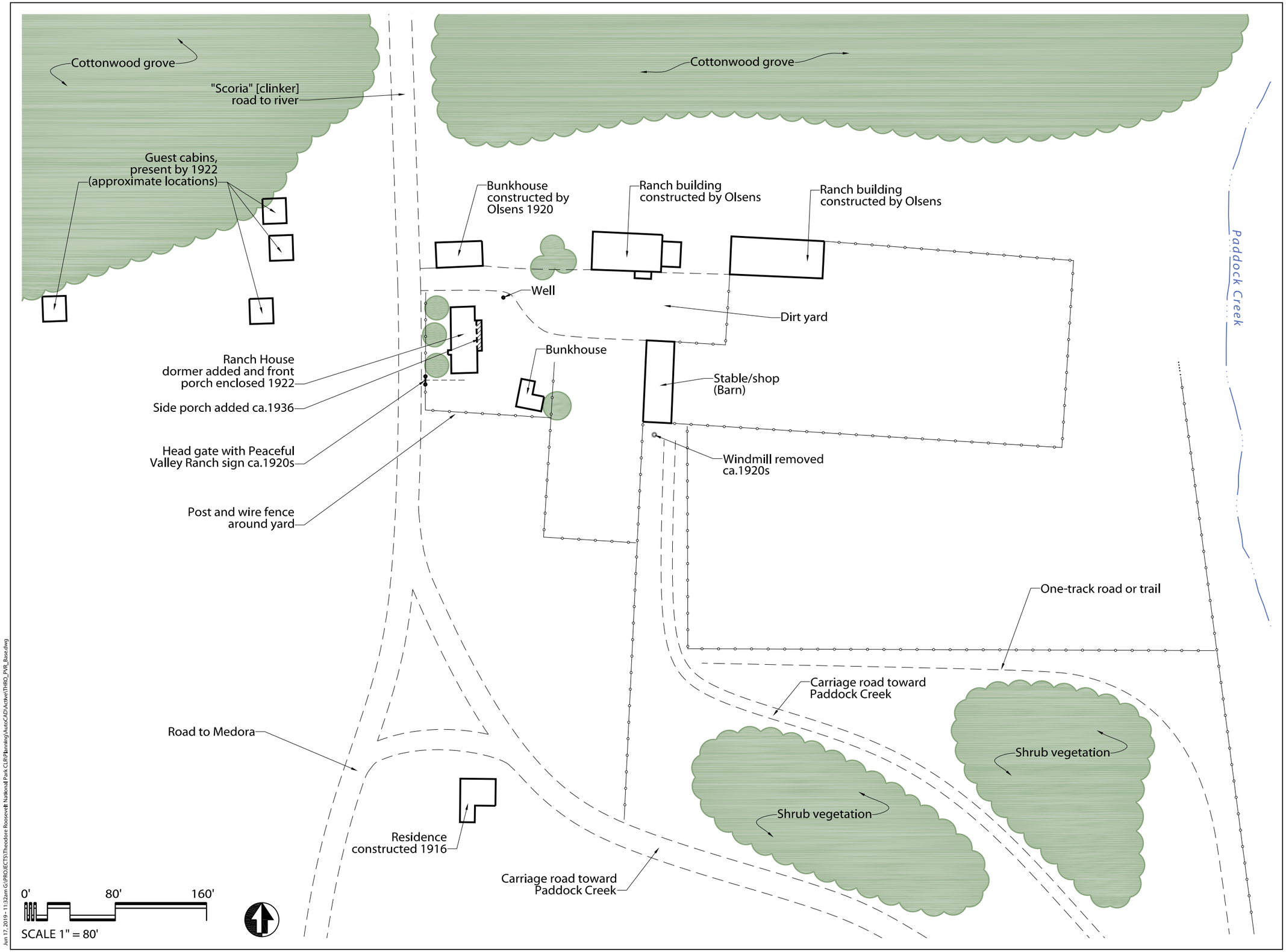
Mark Feige, Janet Ore, and Jared Orsi. *Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota, Historic Resource Study*, 2017.

"Peaceful Valley Ranch," Pamphlet in the Theodore Roosevelt Association collection, May 30, 1924.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

FIGURE 2-10.

Period Plan 1936 Context



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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

FIGURE 2-11.

Period Plan 1936
Peaceful Valley Ranch

revenues. A "dude" was the visitor who lived outside of the area and paid for riding, lodging, meals, and other services.[33] Many ranchers began taking in guests to experience ranch life and to participate in ranch-related activities.

Theodore Roosevelt's published adventures in the North Dakota badlands inspired many to visit the area and supported the growth of the dude ranch industry, while railroads made many remote and scenic areas across the west accessible to tourists. In addition, the introduction of good roads and the popularity of the automobile allowed people to travel with ease across the country and vacation in new areas. One such road was the Theodore Roosevelt International Highway, which ran east and west through North Dakota roughly following US Highway 2 from Grand Forks through Minot and on to the Montana border. Another was the "Red Trail," also called the National Parks Highway, which roughly followed Interstate 94 through Fargo, Bismarck, and Medora.[34]

Taking advantage of these trends, Harry Olsen purchased the ranch from the Burgesses in 1915 and operated it with his brother Carl. They established the organized dude ranching operation at Peaceful Valley Ranch in 1918, responding to the public demand for a western experience and supplementing their cattle ranching income. Custer Trail Ranch had by that time reverted to a stock ranch and was no longer accepting guests. This left Peaceful Valley Ranch as the sole dude ranch operation near Medora.[35]

The proximity of the ranch to the nearby petrified forest (approximately four miles northwest) contributed to its popularity, and the Olsens capitalized on visitors that began camping in the cottonwood galleries close to the ranch. Their dude ranch program provided outdoor cooking experiences, overnight campouts, branding exhibitions, cattle roundups, and guided trips to the petrified forest (Figure 2-12 through Figure 2-14).[36] In 1920, the Olsens added facilities, including the log main lodge (bunkhouse) present today, guest cabins that faced the barn, a bath house, smaller barns, and corrals. The one-room lodge was an open room that served as a dancehall and gathering area for ranch guests. Between 1920 and 1930, the Olsens also screened the front (south) porch of the house and added five guest cabins west and north of the barn. In March 1922, Carl Olsen filed a Farm Name Certificate with the Register of Deeds in Billings County, formalizing the name "Peaceful Valley Ranch" (Figure 2-15).[37]

During the period the ranch was owned by the Olsens, the fenced corral formed a rectangular shape south and west of the log barn, measuring approximately 178 feet by 87 feet.[38] A post and wire perimeter fence appears to have surrounded the entirety of the ranch, extending south from the corrals to the two-track lane along the west; it is visible in aerial photos on the east side, following a trail or path to the cottonwood tree line at the flood plain of the Little Missouri River.



FIGURE 2-12. Postcard ca.1922, showing the road crossing Paddock Creek from the east into the ranch. *Original photograph by B.L. Brown, Northern Pacific Railway. National Park Service*.[39]

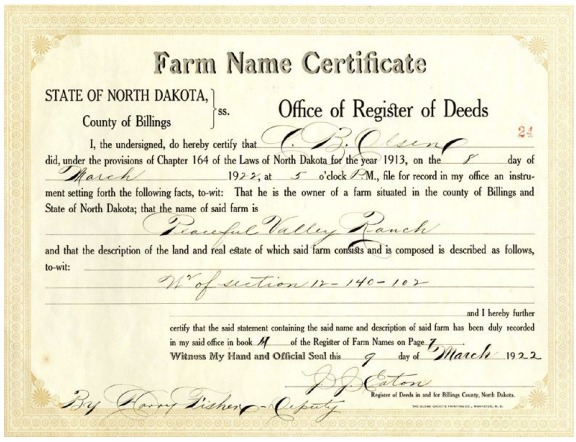
33. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 13.
34. North Dakota Studies, State Historical Society of North Dakota, "Making a Living, Age of Automobiles, Highways."
35. Penny and Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," 8-20.
36. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 20.
37. Anderson Hallas, *Historic Structures Report*, 13.
38. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 28.
39. A connection between Northern Pacific Railway and Peaceful Valley Ranch is worth additional research. Northern Pacific reached North Dakota in 1872.



FIGURE 2-13. Postcard ca.1922, entitled "Little Missouri River, Peaceful Valley Ranch," showing a view of the river from a butte located to the east of the ranch. *Original photograph by B.L. Brown, Northern Pacific Railway. National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-14. Postcard ca.1922, showing a tour group setting out from the ranch. The bunkhouse is in the background. *Original photograph by B.L. Brown, Northern Pacific Railway, owned by National Park Service*.



Farm Name Certificate

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, County of Billings } ss. Office of Register of Deeds

I, the undersigned, do hereby certify that C. P. Olsen did, under the provisions of Chapter 164 of the Laws of North Dakota for the year 1913, on the 8 day of March 1922, at 5 o'clock P. M., file for record in my office an instrument setting forth the following facts, to-wit: That he is the owner of a farm situated in the county of Billings and State of North Dakota; that the name of said farm is Peaceful Valley Ranch and that the description of the land and real estate of which said farm consists and is composed is described as follows, to-wit: W½ of section 12-140-102

and I hereby further certify that the said statement containing the said name and description of said farm has been duly recorded in my said office in book M of the Register of Farm Names on Page 7.

Witness My Hand and Official Seal this 9 day of March 1922.

J. J. Eaton
Register of Deeds in and for Billings County, North Dakota.

By Harry Fisher Deputy

FIGURE 2-15. Farm Name Certificate for Peaceful Valley Ranch, March 9, 1922. *National Park Service*.

An aerial image of the ranch from around 1922 shows a two-track lane extending south from the east side of the barn, between the corrals, then splitting, with the main leg turning abruptly south-east towards a presumed crossing over Paddock Creek and the other extending further south as a single path (Figure 2-16). By 1930, the second leg of this road has taken precedence, passing a newly-built residence and then heading the same direction across Paddock Creek (Figure 2-17). A two-track gravel road curved north into the ranch west of the ranch house (Figure 2-18). A horse trail curved south and east of the two-track lane, traversing through trees and shrubs and over Paddock Creek to connect with the main gravel road south of the ranch (see Figure 2-16 and Figure 2-17). The horse track built by Lamb became little-used and left to grow over; however, it was still visible in aerial photographs taken around the time when the NPS acquired the ranch from Olsen in 1947.[40]

Historic images from the Olsen period show a sign identifying Peaceful Valley Ranch located in the yard south of the front porch of the ranch house (Figure 2-18 and Figure 2-19). It comprised two tall posts connected with a horizontal, painted wood header reading "PEACEFUL VALLEY RANCH" in black, capital letters on a white background. The area between the drive and the house was used for makeshift parking, and a post-and-wire fence surrounded the yard. Later images of the corrals dating to the 1920s indicate that the fencing was later moved further away from the house and to the south.

A walkway from the drive to the front porch of the house continued to the bunkhouse facing the log barn. The pasture and land surrounding the ranch was left to grow with scrub grass and sagebrush outside of the corrals. Some groves of mixed deciduous and evergreen trees were left to grow southeast of the ranch core. Carriage paths wound through and around the groves (see Figure 2-17 and Figure 2-18).

40. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 31-32.



FIGURE 2-16. Aerial postcard ca.1922, looking northwest, showing Peaceful Valley Ranch as it appeared during the dude ranching operation of Carl Olsen. A two-track road extends southeast towards Paddock Creek. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-17. A ca.1930 aerial image of Peaceful Valley Ranch showing the ranch road in its new location as it passes a newly constructed residence standing south of the barn. *Peaceful Valley Ranch files*.



FIGURE 2-18. Photograph of the entrance to Peaceful Valley Ranch in the 1920s, showing the main ranch house, fence, and the head gate displaying the name. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-19. Photograph of attendees at a gathering of the Northwest Farm Managers in the 1920s. *National Park Service*.

Utilities serving the ranch during this period were improved to support dude ranch activities. Water and sewer systems were brought in for both the main residence and the log bunkhouse. Utility lines from Medora provided electrical power and telephone service. Overhead power lines and poles lined the access drive and extended north of the bunkhouse, connecting the buildings. A trash pit was established north and east of the residence.[41]

Early Development of Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Shortly after the death of Theodore Roosevelt in 1919, several proposals arose to establish a memorial in his honor. With the popularity of dude ranching, Theodore Roosevelt's connections to the area, and the scenic beauty of the North Dakota badlands, several initiatives to establish a new national park in the area began in earnest. One of Roosevelt's friends from his Dakota ranching days, Sylvane Ferris, organized a committee to choose a site and Medora was selected.

In 1921, the North Dakota legislature passed a resolution asking the US Congress to set aside land for the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.[42] In 1924, an exploratory party of 40 set out to explore the badlands to delineate the boundary for this park. This group formed the nucleus for the Roosevelt Memorial National Park Association, later the Great North Dakota Association. In 1925, the group organized a camping trip and tour for a larger group of federal, state, and regional officials, along with media representatives, to view the "Grand Canyon of the Little Missouri." This expedition garnered more support for the creation of a memorial park, although discussions continued for some time over whether it should be a national forest, park, or monument.[43]

A second expedition was organized in 1928 and this time, Stephen Mather, director of the NPS, attended. The tour stopped at Peaceful Valley Ranch, which was still owned by the Olsens at the time. The ranch served as a focal point of the trip and allowed the visitors to experience ranch life (Figure 2-20). Olsen was a staunch supporter of developing Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park and the experiential visit to Peaceful Valley Ranch is a direct link to Mather's decision to recommend the national park status.[44]

41. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 55.
42. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 15.
43. National Park Service, "Park History."
44. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 15-16.

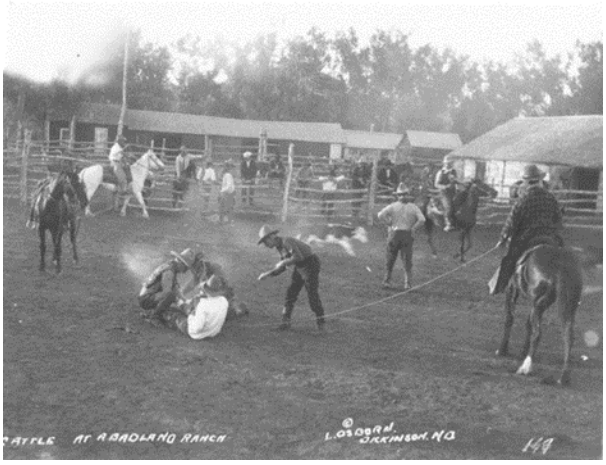


FIGURE 2-20. Postcard, "Branding Cattle at a Badland Ranch," made from a 1928 photo taken inside the south section of the corral looking north. *National Park Service, courtesy of Osborn Studios of Dickenson, ND*.

In October 1929, the market at the New York Stock Exchange crashed and the United States fell into an economic depression. Along with other rural states, the North Dakota economy suffered greatly because of a decline in produce and commodity prices coupled with farm foreclosures and bank failures. Severe drought that resulted in crop failures, dust storms and weather extremes further exasperated North Dakota farmers and ranchers. These failures caused many to lose their land or sell it to the federal government, which purchased lands under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. In western North Dakota, many of these lands later became Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Dakota Prairie National Grasslands..[45] Because of what became known as the Great Depression, dude ranching was no longer profitable and Peaceful Valley Ranch reverted to regular ranch operations between 1931 and 1936, when Olsen sold the land to the federal government.[46] It became part of a recreation demonstration area developed under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs.

The New Deal programs of the 1930s provided funding, labor, recovery, and reform across the country. Operating between 1933 and 1942, these programs included the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Public Works Administration (PWA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). In North Dakota, these programs constructed over 20,373 miles of highways and streets, over 721 bridges, 166 miles of sidewalks, 15,012 culverts, 503 new public buildings, 680 outdoor recreational facilities, and worked with the NPS and the North Dakota State Historical Society to acquire and develop state parks and historic sites.[47]

Relief work in North Dakota sponsored by the New Deal was performed in two phases. The first era occurred in 1933-1935 under the guidance of FERA. FERA workers constructed dams, highways, streets, and public recreational facilities, and also repaired and renovated schools and parks. The second era of relief work in the state was led by the CCC and the WPA.[48] The CCC focused on conservation, erosion control, irrigation, and forestry projects, along with road-building and park creation, including trails, shelters, and small park buildings, while the WPA focused on constructing new buildings, such as schools and post offices.

New Deal programs also established several "recreation demonstration areas" throughout the United States. Operated by the NPS, these areas provided a way to acquire and manage lands that had low agricultural value, but could be used as parks. In 1934, the North Dakota State Historical Society participated in a cooperative agreement with the Resettlement Administration, the CCC,

45. Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association, "Theodore Roosevelt National Park," *Frontier Fragments: News of Your National Park Areas in North Dakota*. Volume 10 (1990-1991), 6.
46. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 14.
47. Carroll Van West, "The Best Kind of Building: The New Deal Landscape of the Northern Plains, 1933-1942," *Great Plains Quarterly* (Spring 1994), 129.
48. Van West, "The Best Kind of Building," 132-139.

and the NPS to purchase land in what is now Theodore Roosevelt National Park, start the "Roosevelt Regional Park Project," and support CCC projects in the area.[49] The state then used the "Sub-Marginal Land Purchase Program," which allowed the government to purchase land in areas where crops had failed or overgrazing took place, to acquire additional acreage.[50] This agreement marked the beginning of activities that led to the eventual creation of the national park. The newly acquired land became part of the Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area, with Peaceful Valley Ranch as its headquarters. Totaling 63,483 acres between its north and south units, the Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area was the largest in the United States and remained a recreational area through World War II.[51]

Peaceful Valley Ranch and Government Management, 1934-1959

(Figure 2-21 and Figure 2-22, 1959 Period Plans)

The earliest relief work at Peaceful Valley Ranch was completed by FERA from 1934 to 1935, and focused on repairing and renovating existing resources. FERA did not have a local camp but used the ranch as its headquarters. The agency employed day laborers and, as explained by Weldon Gratton, NPS senior foreman and landscape architect, "many of the people engaged on that project came from the surrounding communities of Belfield, Sentinel Butte principally, in fact trucks picked up the men from both locations every day and took the men home every night on a single truck."[52]

The second phase of relief work at Peaceful Valley Ranch was completed between 1936 and 1941. By 1936, the CCC had established 22 companies in North Dakota, three in what would eventually become the national park.[53] The CCC camp at Peaceful Valley Ranch was established after Carl Olsen sold the property to the federal government in 1936 and was the only one in what would later become the South Unit of the park. Olsen was a longtime supporter of a national park at the site and participated in planning and advocacy activities. As mentioned earlier, Olsen hosted two tours that influenced NPS director Stephen Mather to support the concept of a national park in the area.

Peaceful Valley Ranch served as headquarters for the Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area from 1936 until 1947, when it was formalized as the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park.[54] Between 1936 and 1941, the CCC constructed buildings to support use of Peaceful Valley Ranch as park headquarters and the infrastructure to serve the larger park, including improved, all-weather roads, hiking and horseback-riding trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, shelters, and other buildings throughout the park.[55]

The first CCC company to work in the South Unit was number 2767, a "drought relief" company.

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49. Between April 1935 and December 1936, the New Deal's Resettlement Administration relief agency relocated struggling urban and rural families to communities planned by the federal government.
50. "Narrative Part of the Master Plan," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*, Drawing No. NMP-TR-3147, (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Division of Landscape Architecture, Western Office, Design and Construction, September 1963), GP-3.
51. Harlan D. Unrau and G. Frank Williss, *Administrative History: Expansion of the National Park Service in the 1930s,* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, September 1983), 141; "Narrative Part of the Master Plan," GP-3.
52. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 22-23, citing interview with Dick Maeder, NPS historian, June 1963.
53. Van West, "The Best Kind of Building," 134.
54. Penny and Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," 23.
55. "Theodore Roosevelt National Park," *Frontier Fragments*, 6.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Trail
Little Missouri River
Ford
to North Entrance
Trail
Trail to edge of river terrace
Cottonwood grove
Garbage pit
Route 2 (paved)
Trail
Cottonwood grove
see Figure 2-22, Period Plan 1959: Peaceful Valley Ranch
Paddock Creek
Route 2 constructed 1941
Bridge across Paddock Creek constructed by CCC ca.1938
Route 1 (gravel)
Route 2 constructed by CCC 1938; paved 1957
Halliday Well Road
to Medora
Route 52 (gravel)
Prairie dog town
Route 3 (gravel)
Prairie dog town
Prairie dog town
Picnic Area
Route 1 to East Entrance Station constructed by CCC 1938 with clinker surfacing; paved 1957

0' 400' 800'

SCALE 1" = 400'

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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

Mark Feige, Janet Ore, and Jared Orsi. *Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota, Historic Resource Study*, 2017.

"Parking Areas, Peaceful Valley." Dwg. No. NMP-TR-2019. December 1953.

"Physical Improvements-Mission 66." Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3029. January 1957.

"Roosevelt Regional Park, Site 2, Park Road." Dwg. No. NMEMP-TR-5068. April 1938.

"Roosevelt Regional Park, Site 2, South Area, Road, Peaceful Valley." Dwg. No. NMP-TR-5056. February 1941.

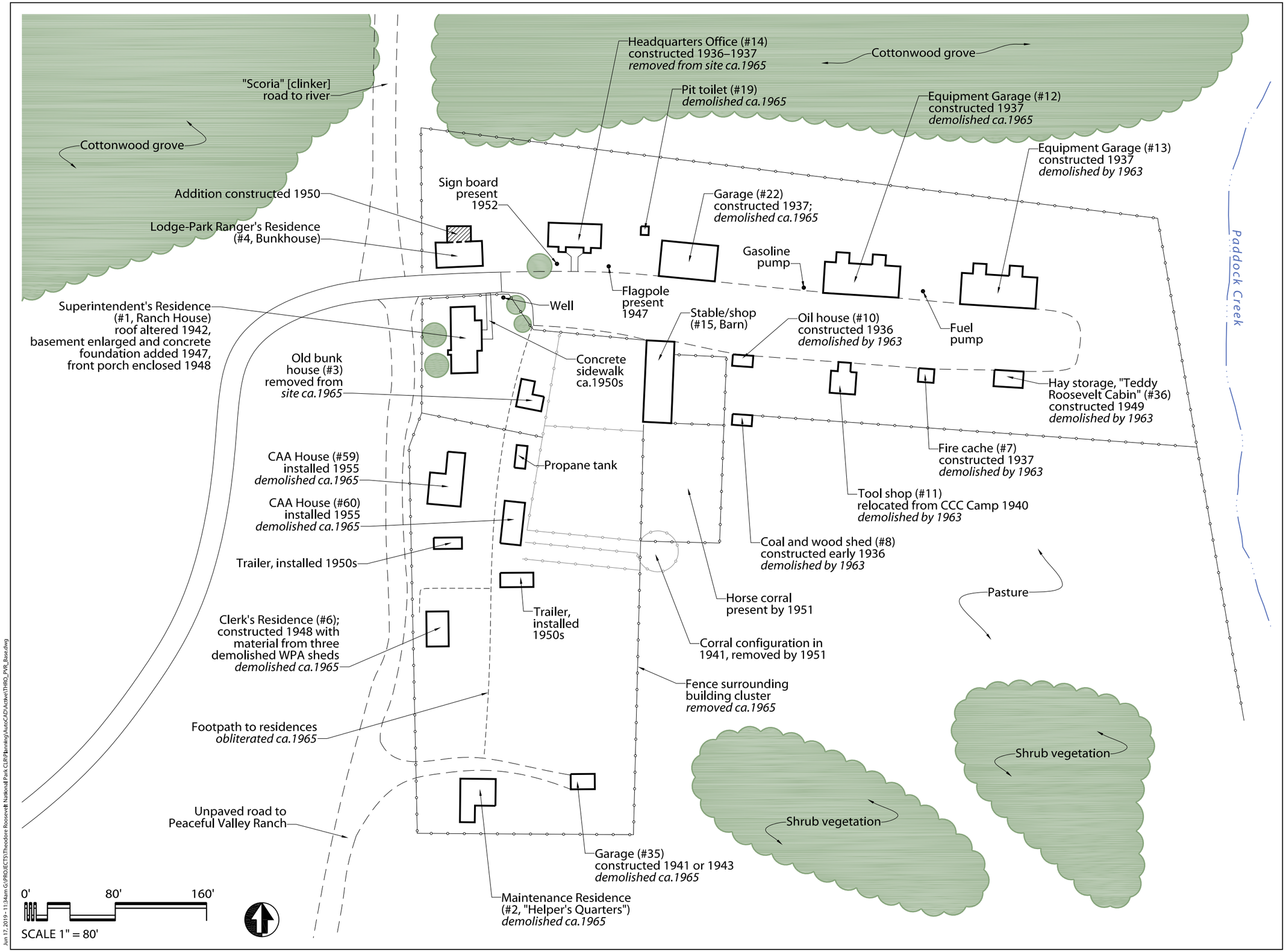
FIGURE 2-21.

Period Plan 1959 Context

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

"Architectural Study Lamb Ranch," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3238. September 1963.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

"Peaceful Valley," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-2023-B. May 1956.

"Roosevelt Regional Park, Site 2, South Area, Road, Peaceful Valley." Dwg. No. NMP-TR-5056. February 1941.

"Sewer System Reconstruction, Peaceful Valley." Dwg. No. NMEMP-TR-2013-A. October 1951.

"Sewer System Reconstruction, Peaceful Valley, Utility Update." Dwg. No. NMEMP-TR-2013-B. December 1974.

"Utility Layout Peaceful Valley Area," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*.. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-2017-A. October 1963.

FIGURE 2-22.

Period Plan 1959
Peaceful Valley Ranch

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Company 2767 was organized on July 15, 1934, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota, and consisted of enrollees from the area around Jamestown, North Dakota. The company was stationed in Medora from August 1, 1934, to July 16, 1937, when a convoy of 24 trucks shipped the men and property to Camp F-19 near Camp Crook, South Dakota. [56] At that time, Company 2772, one of the two organized in the North Unit, moved to the South Unit, where it remained until it closed in 1941 (Figure 2-23). Included in the CCC construction projects at Peaceful Valley Ranch were a fire cache (1937) a coal and wood shed (1936), an oil house (1936), and a tool shop (1940).[57] Although work slowed after the entrance of the United States into World War II, the CCC remained active in the United States until 1942, when it was defunded by Congress.[58]

After the end of the war, the land was meant to return to state ownership and management, but the state quickly recognized that the park contained more acreage that it could efficiently manage.[59] The US Fish and Wildlife Service assumed administrative responsibilities from the NPS and operated the ranch as a national wildlife refuge in 1946 and 1947. Public sentiment, however, still strongly supported national park status for the lands; the following year, North Dakota congressman, William Lemke, introduced Public Law 38, establishing Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park on April 25, 1947, and transferring its administration to the NPS (Figure 2-24 and Figure 2-25).[60] At that time, only Elkhorn Ranch and the South Unit were included within the park boundary, but in the following year, the North Unit was added and the South Unit was expanded to encompass the neighboring petrified forest.[61]



FIGURE 2-23. Photograph of CCC enrollee, Andy Mathson, in front of the log barn at Peaceful Valley Ranch. *Theodore Roosevelt Center*.

When the national park was established in 1947, Superintendent Allyn F. Hanks moved into the Peaceful Valley ranch house; its front porch was enclosed with glass the following year, and one room was adapted as the superintendent's office (Figure 2-26).[62] The interior of the log bunkhouse was subdivided and converted to housing for the head ranger and his family. In 1950, a wood frame addition was constructed on the north elevation of the bunkhouse, increasing the footprint and adding three bedrooms. Concrete pads for two additional residential trailers were added in 1950, and six additional residences were constructed between 1940 and 1956 (Figure 2-27 through Figure 2-29).

56. The Civilian Conservation Corps Museum of South Dakota, "F-19, Camp Crook."
57. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 32.
58. Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, "CCC Brief History."
59. "CCC Brief History."
60. "CCC Brief History."
61. Anderson Hallas, *Historic Structures Report*, 14-15.
62. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 17.



FIGURE 2-24. A September 1947 photo of the back driveway of Park Headquarters Peaceful Valley Ranch from the West showing the log recreation hall, headquarters office and Superintendent's Residence. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-25. Photograph from 1947 of the barn, corrals, and other outbuildings at Peaceful Valley Ranch. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-26. Photograph from 1947 of the ranch house, showing decorative wagon wheels at the door, logs used to edge planting beds around the house, and a tire swing on the west side. *National Park Service*.

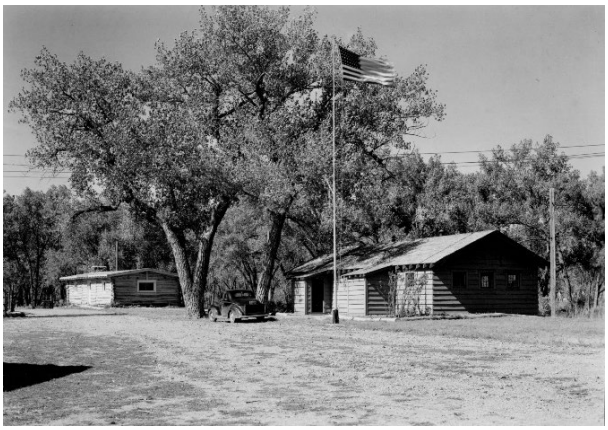


FIGURE 2-27. Photograph ca.1947 showing the park headquarters in the foreground and the bunkhouse in the background. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-28. Photograph from 1952, showing the bunkhouse with its addition, and a sign board installed in front of the park headquarters. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-29. Aerial view of Peaceful Valley Ranch as Park Headquarters in 1956. *Interpretive Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*.

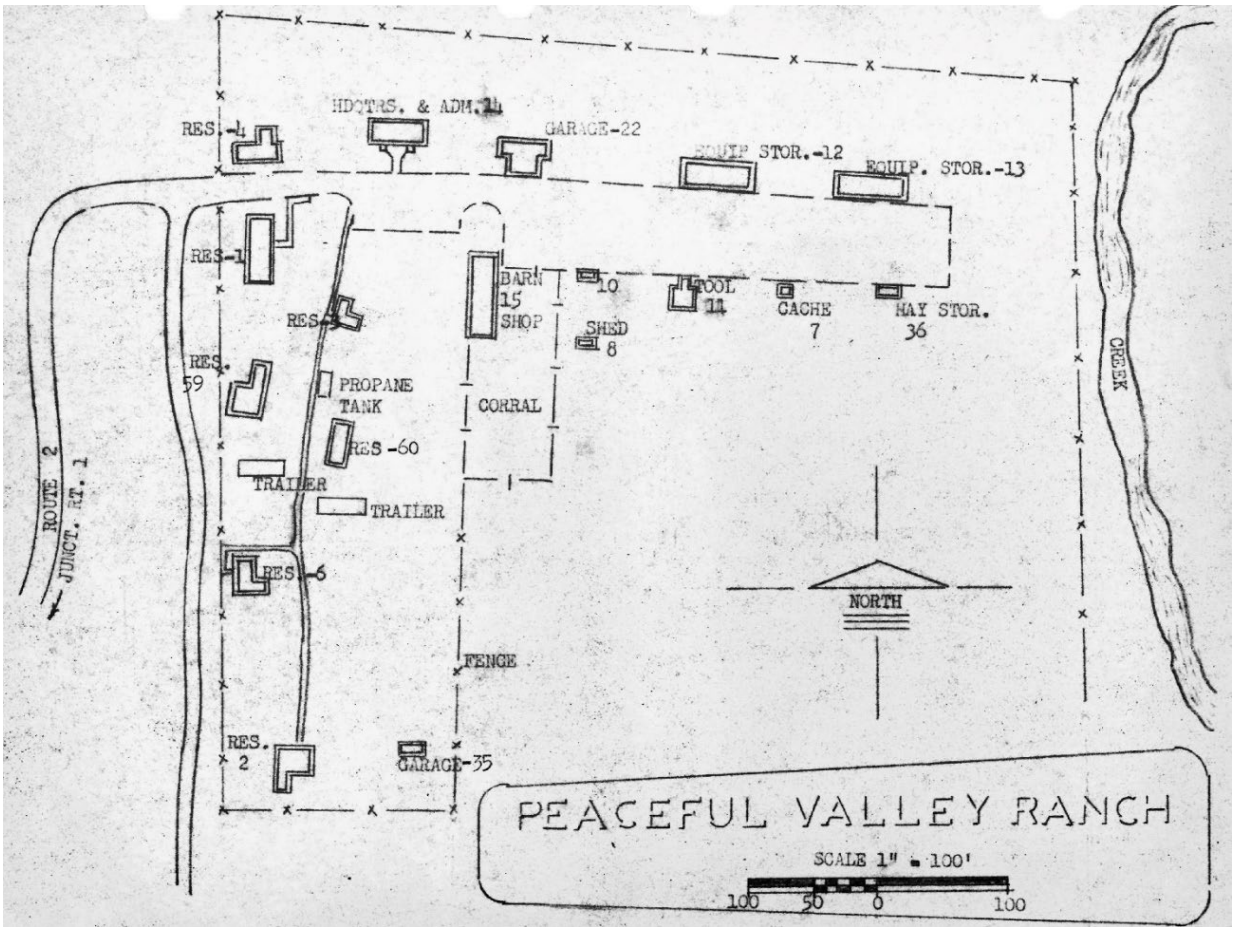


FIGURE 2-30. Plan of Peaceful Valley Ranch in 1956. *Interpretive Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*.

After the NPS acquired the park, numbers were assigned to each building at Peaceful Valley Ranch. The earliest evidence of this is in the interpretive planning report for the ranch developed in 1956, which provides period plans and an existing conditions plan with all the buildings numbered (Figure 2-30).[63]

The 1956 existing conditions plan from the interpretive planning report shows that on the south side of the parking lot/work yard from west to east stood the ranch house (#1), the log barn and shop (#15), an oil storage shed (#10, built in 1936), another shed (#8, built 1936), a tool house (#11, moved there when the CCC camp closed around 1940), a building that had been originally used as a warming shed during the construction of the east road and was now used to store the fire cache (#7, built in 1937), the hay barn (#36), five additional residences (#2, built ca.1920s; #3; #6, built 1948; and #59 and #60, obtained from the Civil Aeronautics Administration at Golva, North Dakota in 1955), a propane tank to service the residences, the two concrete trailer pads, and a garage (#35, built in 1941 and used for quarters).[64] On the north side of the parking lot/work yard from west to east stood the log bunkhouse (#4), a headquarters and administration building (#14, built in 1936), a flagpole, a garage (#22, built in 1937), and two equipment storage buildings (#12 and #13, built in 1937). The trailer pads supported one trailer obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation in Bismarck in 1953, and another obtained from the Bureau of Reclamation in Ephrata, Washington, in 1954.[65]

63. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*.
64. A "fire cache" is an assemblage of equipment used in fire suppression and management.
65. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 17-18. It is not known how the NPS obtained these buildings from other agencies.

Before the 1947 acquisition of the site by the NPS, the corral encompassed a generally rectangular footprint that extended south from the barn and west between the barn and the ranch house. An April 1951 photograph taken from the south looking north and west shows a split rail fence enclosing the corral between the west side of the barn and the main residence (Figure 2-31). At this time the corral extended off the barn from the southwest corner. The flagpole, electric and telephone poles, and overhead wires are visible in the background, along with the park headquarters and office buildings. The photo also shows a worn, two-track path from the garage north of the barn through the pasture. The corral to the east of the barn, contained by a split rail fence, retained a more even and measured footprint than seen in previous images. The lane that connected the south façade of the barn to the main road and the horse path that broke off the lane were no longer present. A post and wire fence surrounded the property on the west, north, and south boundaries with an ell that encompassed the residential yard and connected with the corral fence.[66]

While the new buildings were constructed or brought in and occupied, utilities to support the new park function at Peaceful Valley Ranch were installed. A propane tank strapped to a concrete footing was placed along the corral fence near the barn to support the gas service to the new headquarters in 1948.[67] The sewer system, with a septic tank located north of the bunkhouse, was reconstructed in 1951, and yard lights mounted on free-standing poles were installed at the northwest



FIGURE 2-31. Corrals at Peaceful Valley Ranch, April 1951. *National Park Service*.

edge of the corral by the barn and at the southwest corner of the bunkhouse.[68] Park staff installed an electric-powered gasoline pump with an underground tank at equipment storage building #12 on the north side of the parking lot/work yard. The tank was three feet below the surface and measured five by twelve feet.[69] Overhead power and telephone lines connected the buildings. A fuel oil pump was located near equipment storage building #13. The well installed in 1914 was used throughout the 1960s for domestic purposes and fire protection.[70]

Open grassy fields surrounded the park headquarters. The headquarters building and the ranch house were shaded by large cottonwoods and the cottonwood galleries continued to thrive between the ranch core and the river. Areas outside the corrals were sparsely vegetated in grasses and sagebrush, except for the groves of

66. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 16.
67. "Propane Gas Installation for Headquarters, Peaceful Valley Headquarters," Drawing No. TR-2003, (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Plans and Design Division, Region Two, February 1948).
68. "Sewer System Reconstruction, Peaceful Valley," Drawing No. NMEMP-TR-2013-A, (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service Engineering Division, Region Two, October 1951), 1.
69. "Electric Gas Pump with Tank, Peaceful Valley," Drawing No. TR-2015-A, (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service Engineering Division, Region Two, March 1953).
70. State Engineer, *Application for a Permit to Divert and Appropriate the Water of the State of North Dakota,* 19 June 1964, Permit No. 1191, North Dakota, Billings County. Application to utilize water from the well at Peaceful Valley Ranch at the rate of 2.5 gallons per minute for domestic and fire protection purposes.

evergreen and deciduous trees that still stood to the southeast of the ranch core (see Figure 2-29).

In 1947, a near 100-year flood caused some damage to the buildings at the ranch. Then, in 1952, high water from springtime run-off encroached on the north side of the log bunkhouse and park buildings that are no longer extant (Figure 2-32). Not related to any weather events, in 1954, the barn received a new concrete foundation and was converted to a carpenter shop and storage area with a small area for horses. In addition, likely during this period, the corral was shifted from its original location south and west of the barn to south and east of the barn (see Figure 2-28 and Figure 2-29).

Peaceful Valley Ranch served as park headquarters until the Mission 66 program provided funds for the construction of the new visitor's center in 1959.



FIGURE 2-32. Photograph showing the results of spring run-off. Power and utility poles appear next to the bunkhouse at right hand side of image, May 1952. *National Park Service*.

Mission 66 Development at Theodore Roosevelt National Park

(Figure 2-33 and Figure 2-34, 1967 Period Plans)

The Mission 66 Program

By the 1950s, conditions at national parks were generally in a state of deterioration. Improvements had not been made to park facilities since the New Deal-era programs of the 1930s. The desperate need for building maintenance and funding was further amplified by the rapid increase in visitors to national parks following World War II. Limited NPS budgets led to cuts in staff, which, combined with the increasing number of visitors, jeopardized the integrity and condition of the existing natural and built resources at many parks. Increased automobile usage further endangered the parks, which were generally ill-prepared to accommodate an influx of vehicles.[71]

In February 1955, NPS Director Conrad Wirth conceived a ten-year comprehensive conservation program to revitalize, modernize, and expand the National Park System. Wirth named the program "Mission 66," with the term "mission" reflecting the urgency of the park's situation to Congress, and "66" identifying the end date of the program—1966—which was also the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS. The program sought to improve conditions at the parks by constructing new roads, trails and visitor centers, but also established increased operating budgets to maintain the parks into the future. [72]

Theodore Roosevelt National Park

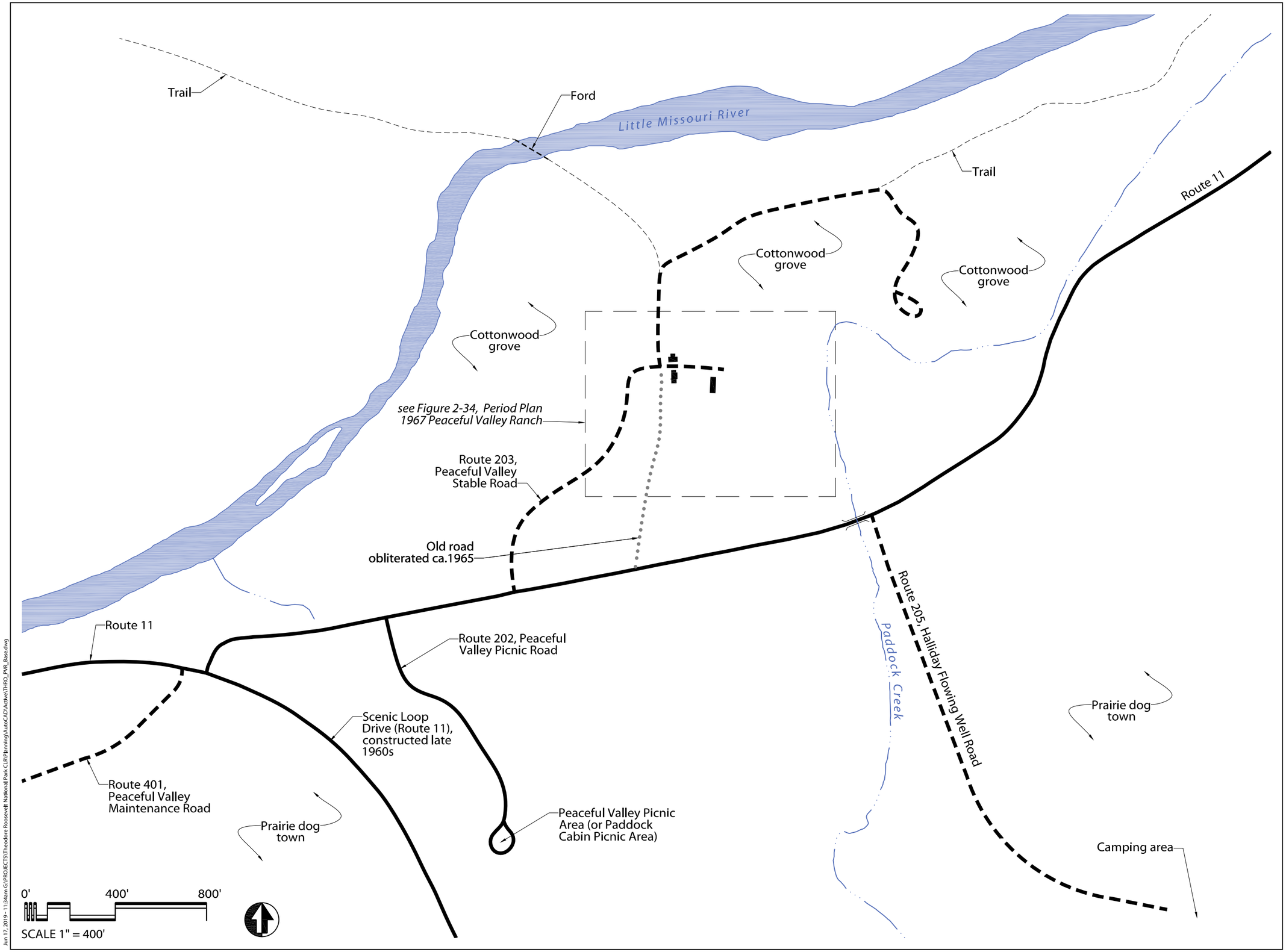
Numerous changes occurred at the park because of Mission 66 programming and funding. When the NPS began operating Peaceful Valley Ranch as the park headquarters, minimal interpretive information about the history of the ranch and larger park was provided. The park recognized,

71. Ethan Carr, *Mission 66: Modernism and the National Park Dilemma*, (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 2007), 10.
72. Carr, *Mission 66,*10; Linda Flint McClelland, *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction,* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1998), 462-473.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph

"Architectural Study Lamb Ranch," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3238. September 1963.

"General Development," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3148-B. July 1967.

"Park/Monument Roads, Scenic Loop Road." Dwg. No. 387-41031. May 1965.

USGS. *Fryburg NW quadrangle, North Dakota*. 1:24000. 7.5 Minute Series. 1962.

USGS. *Medora quadrangle, North Dakota*. 1:24000. 7.5 Minute Series. 1970.

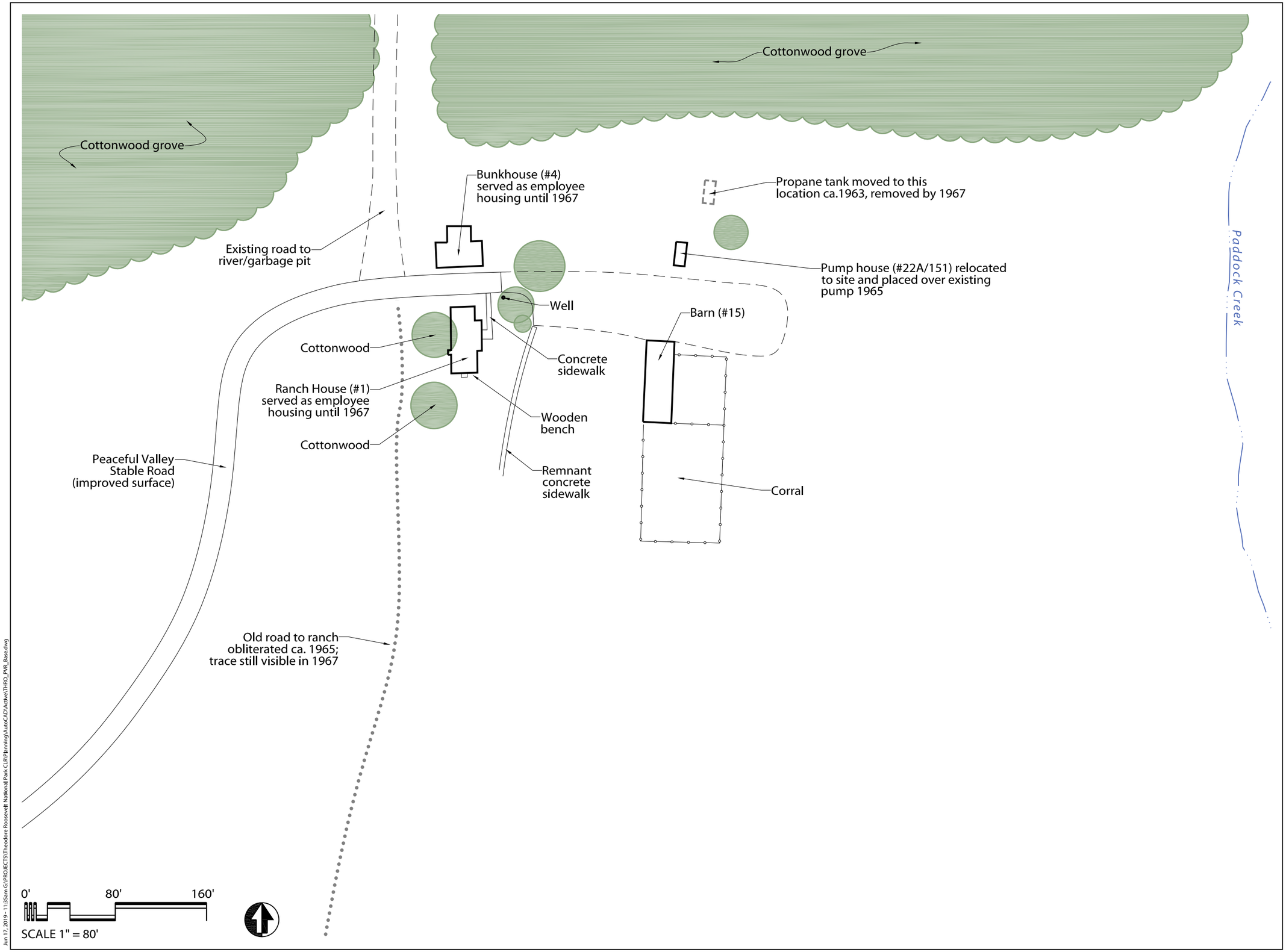
FIGURE 2-33.

Period Plan 1967 Context

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

1957 Aerial photograph

Theodore Roosevelt National Park historic photograph collection.

"Architectural Study Lamb Ranch," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3238. September 1963.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch,* September 1956.

"Sewer System Reconstruction, Peaceful Valley, Utility Update." Dwg. No. NMEMP-TR-2013-B. December 1974.

"Utility Layout Peaceful Valley Area," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*.. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-2017-A. October 1963.

FIGURE 2-34.

Period Plan 1967
Peaceful Valley Ranch

however, the need for a new museum building and visitor facilities. In response to the 1956 *Mission 66 Prospectus for Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park*, park historian Chester L. Brooks prepared the *Interpretive Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch* the same year.[73] The prospectus called for the relocation of park headquarters from Peaceful Valley Ranch to the incorporated village of Medora. The impending centennial celebration of Roosevelt's birth in 1958 accelerated planning and development for a new headquarters building and visitor center, which were constructed in 1959, along with eight new park staff residences in the following year. Brooks prepared the interpretive plan because of the historical significance of Peaceful Valley Ranch and the probability of utilizing the ranch as part of the park's interpretive program to represent the setting for a typical Roosevelt period ranch. It proposed introducing a herd of longhorn and mixed-breed cattle to help recreate the early ranch scene.[74] The project was never implemented.

These changes are documented in park plans from 1957 onward. The new visitor center, headquarters, and park housing in Medora were among the most significant of those changes, but new utility systems were also part of the all-inclusive construction project. New streets were constructed around the headquarters and sidewalks around the visitor center added. Stormwater drainage along Route 50 was improved; the Ridgeline Nature Trail was extended, improved, and a comfort station and parking area added; storage, shop, gas and oil buildings at the new Medora headquarters were also built; and the Maltese Creek cabin was restored and relocated to Medora.[75]

Peaceful Valley Ranch was slowly vacated as the improvements throughout the park were completed. After the headquarters relocated to Medora, the ranch provided residential units for the park and these remained only a few years. Many of the buildings constructed by the NPS at Peaceful Valley Ranch in the 1950s were removed around 1959; the rest of them, along with the Olsen's dude ranch cabins, were removed over the course of the next five years. By 1965, the only historic buildings remaining at the ranch were the historic ranch house, the bunkhouse, and the log barn.

Mission 66 funds also supported the removal and reseeding of the original Peaceful Valley Ranch's straight south entrance road and its replacement with the existing curvilinear entrance road. Additional plans were developed to rehabilitate the ranch buildings to create a historical ranch setting for interpretation, but were not implemented.[76]

In 1961, park historian, Ray Mattison, generated a proposal called the "Longhorn Ranch Project," to create a new interpretive center. He proposed removing the existing historic buildings at Peaceful Valley Ranch and replacing them with new replica ranch buildings to interpret cattle ranching in North Dakota badlands. This proposal was never adopted, and the historic ranch house, the log bunkhouse, the log barn, and the corrals remained as they were.

Only minor changes were made at the ranch in the late 1960s. In 1965, a building that had once housed a wildlife exhibit was obtained from the Roy Noyes property at Painted Canyon and moved to Peaceful Valley Ranch. The building was set down over the well and pressure system at Peaceful Valley Ranch, and a new electric transmission line was extended to the building to power an electric heater.[77] The rustic, handmade

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73. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*.
74. Brooks, *Interpretive Planning Report*, 1.
75 "Drainage" is assumed to mean drainage ditches to keep water off the road.
76. "Physical Improvements-Mission 66," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan,* Drawing No. NMP-TR-3029, (US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Landscape Architectural Branch, Western Office, Design and Construction, January 1957).
77. National Park Service, "Individual Building Data Sheet, Pump House at Peaceful Valley

fencing that defined the character of the corrals was replaced during this time with fencing made of milled lumber (Figure 2-35).

The NPS ceased using Peaceful Valley Ranch for staff housing in 1965. By 1967, the ranch was used solely by concessioners who leased the land for horseback rentals and trail rides (Figure 2-36 through Figure 2-38).[78]

Most buildings, with the exception of the ranch house, the bunkhouse, the barn, and two others were sold and removed from Peaceful Valley Ranch. The two unnamed buildings that were not sold were razed by the park's maintenance crew.[79]



FIGURE 2-35. Photo looking northwest at barn and corrals, 1967. The irregular fencing of corrals in 1929 had changed to an even pattern by 1967. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-36. Looking north at main ranch house in March 1967 after National Park Service vacated occupancy of Peaceful Valley Ranch. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 2-37. Visitors on a surrey ride out of Peaceful Valley Ranch, ca.1971. *Theodore Roosevelt Center*.

Ranch," (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, 3 February 1966).

78. Penny and Larson, *Narrative History*, 23.

79. *Annual Narrative Report, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park*, Medora, North Dakota, 1965, 1



FIGURE 2-38. Aerial view of Peaceful Valley Ranch looking northwest, March 1967. *National Park Service.*

Peaceful Valley Ranch Concessioner Period, 1967 to 2014

(Figure 2-39 and Figure 2-40, 2014 Period Plans)

Little substantive change occurred at Peaceful Valley Ranch during the 1970s, with general maintenance and improvements activities comprising the bulk of construction projects. Electric and telephone lines were buried in 1973 and the sewer system was reconstructed in 1974. Small-scale features, such as the yard lights, were moved to the southeast corner of the barn and inside the corral fence. The septic tank was located west of the bunkhouse and the well was northwest of the house next to a freestanding yard light mounted on a pole. New corrals and horse pens were constructed in 1975 at the east end of the parking area to accommodate the concessioners. In 1977, the park documented 17 trees, four shrubs and "no ground cover" at Peaceful Valley Ranch.[80]

In 1978, Theodore National Memorial Park was renamed "Theodore Roosevelt National Park." The same legislation placed 19,035 acres of the North Unit and 9,300 acres of the South Unit, around one-third of the entire park, under the

80. National Park Service, *Item 1452-Tree, Shrub, and Ground Cover. South Unit Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park*, 1977.

National Wilderness Preservation System, which protected the land from development.[81] The designated wilderness area comprises the western quarter of the South Unit and is just across the Little Missouri from Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Subtle physical changes occurred at the ranch during the 1980s and early 1990s to accommodate the concessionaire trade. A new corral and paddock were built in 1983 at the log barn, and by 1990 two vault toilets, a tack shed, and a horse/hay shelter were constructed.

During the 1990s, a flurry of activity and attention were directed at the ranch. Historians Penny and Larson conducted extensive studies of the site and completed their *Extended Narrative History* in 1993. The purpose of the research was to support the preparation of a NRHP nomination for the site, and in 1994, Peaceful Valley Ranch was successfully listed. The nomination established a period of significance ranging from 1885 to 1936. It lists the ranch as significant under Criterion A for its contribution to open-range, fee-simple, and dude ranching in the North Dakota badlands, as well as for its significant association with the development of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The Ranch House, Bunkhouse, and Barn are identified as significant under Criterion C, representing early ranching construction methods.[82] Also, after the listing, the entrance drive to the ranch was paved in asphalt.

This extensive research and resulting recognition brought focus to the decades-long period of monitoring the deterioration of the buildings at the ranch. This was further supported by superintendents' annual reports, which all indicated that the Peaceful Valley buildings continue to deteriorate. For example, the 1993 Superintendent's Annual Report noted that the old bunkhouse had deteriorated to the point that it is no longer habitable.[83] In 1998, the superintendent noted that the well drilled in 1914 had failed but reported that a new well had been installed adjacent to the pump house. The old well was closed and left in place with the well housing to maintain the historic landscape.[84] Further, it was noted that most of the historic structures in the park (including Peaceful Valley Ranch) are in the 100-year flood plain, which would present challenges from flooding events.[85]

The park's 1998-2002 Strategic Plan reported further that historic structures in the park had received only limited routine maintenance and that their structural integrity was deteriorating. Though it does not call out Peaceful Valley Ranch properties specifically, the plan does note that several historic structures within the park needed major repair and routine maintenance, but that fiscal resources were not available for any further activity.

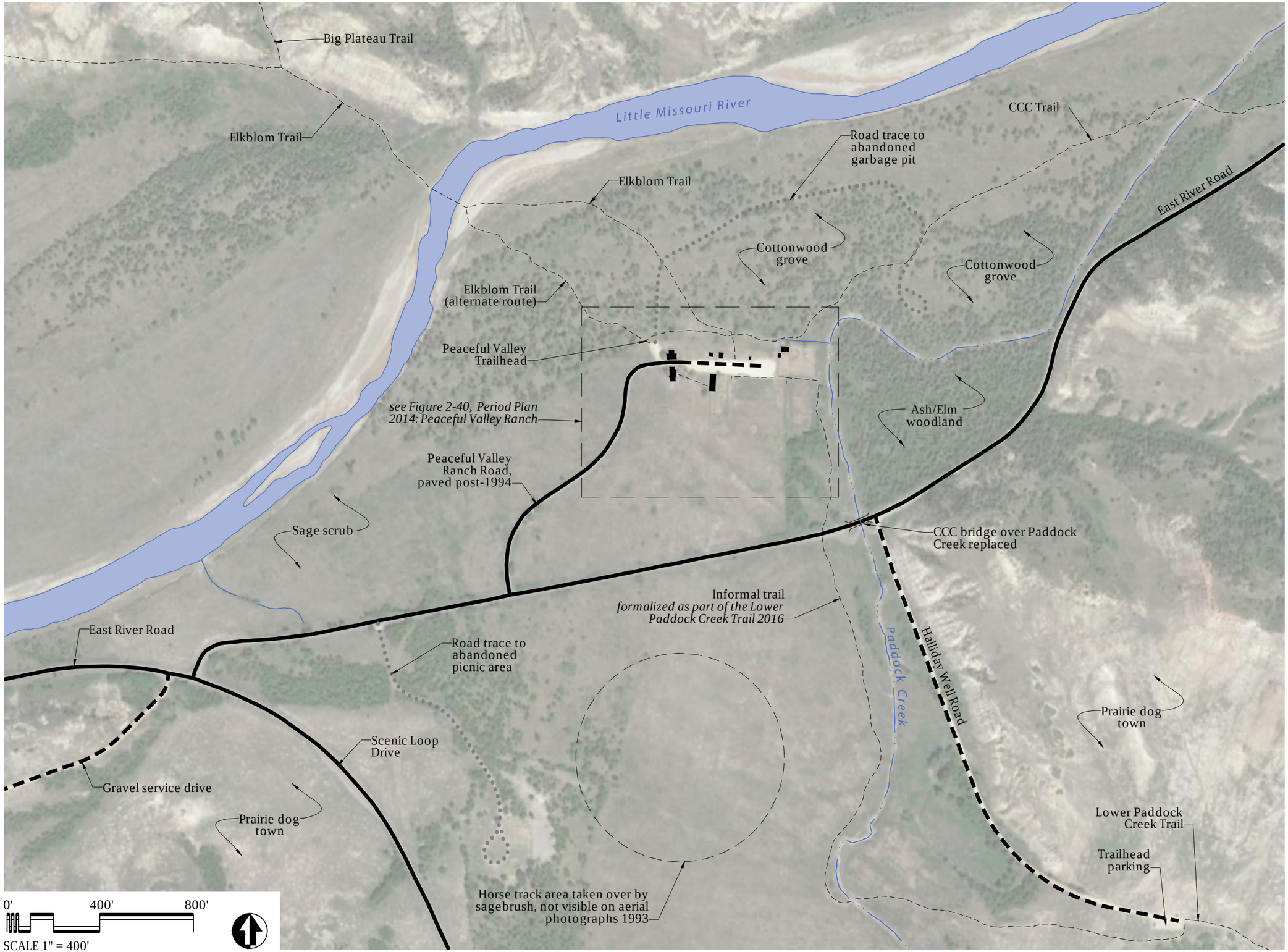
It appears that the only improvements made at the ranch during this period were a daytime holding corral with areas for saddled horses and a raised platform from which a rider can easily and safely mount and dismount, all noted in the 1993 Superintendent's Annual Report.[86] It is likely that the board sidewalks and picnic tables were added to the site during this period.

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81. US Congress, Wilderness Act to Establish a National Wilderness Preservation System, Public Law 88-577 (16 USC. 1131-1136) 88th Congress, 3 September 1964; "Theodore Roosevelt National Park," *Frontier Fragments*, 6. Based on the Wilderness Act of 1964, "wilderness areas" are to be maintained in their natural state by the designated agency. Human activities are limited to non-motorized recreation, scientific research, and other activities that are not invasive.
82. Penny and Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," 3.
83. National Park Service, *Superintendent's Annual Report Fiscal Year 1993*, (North Dakota: National Park Service, Theodore Roosevelt National Park).
84. *Superintendent's Annual Report Fiscal Year 1998.*
85. National Park Service, *Theodore Roosevelt National Park Strategic Plan, 1998-2002,* (Medora, ND: Theodore Roosevelt National Park, 1997), 14.
86. *Superintendent's Annual Report Fiscal Year 1993.*

For the last five decades, activity at the ranch was primarily driven by the needs of the concessioners. General maintenance and repairs occurred when required, but the general condition of the ranch buildings began a slow decline because they were primarily unoccupied. The ranch continued to be used by various concessioners who offered horseback trail rides before ceasing operations in 2014. During the concessionaire lease period, the NPS maintained roads, paths and parking areas within the concession area while the concessioners were required to provide minor maintenance and repairs to the buildings under their use. NPS also required that any repairs made by the concessioners be approved by the park Superintendent prior to any work being implemented to preserve the historical integrity of the site.[87] As part of the 1967 concession prospectus document, NPS identified that minor repairs should not exceed $1000 in any given year.

87. *Saddle Horse Concession Prospectus*, Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park, Medora, North Dakota. 11.



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for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- River
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

2014 Aerial photograph.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, 1994.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

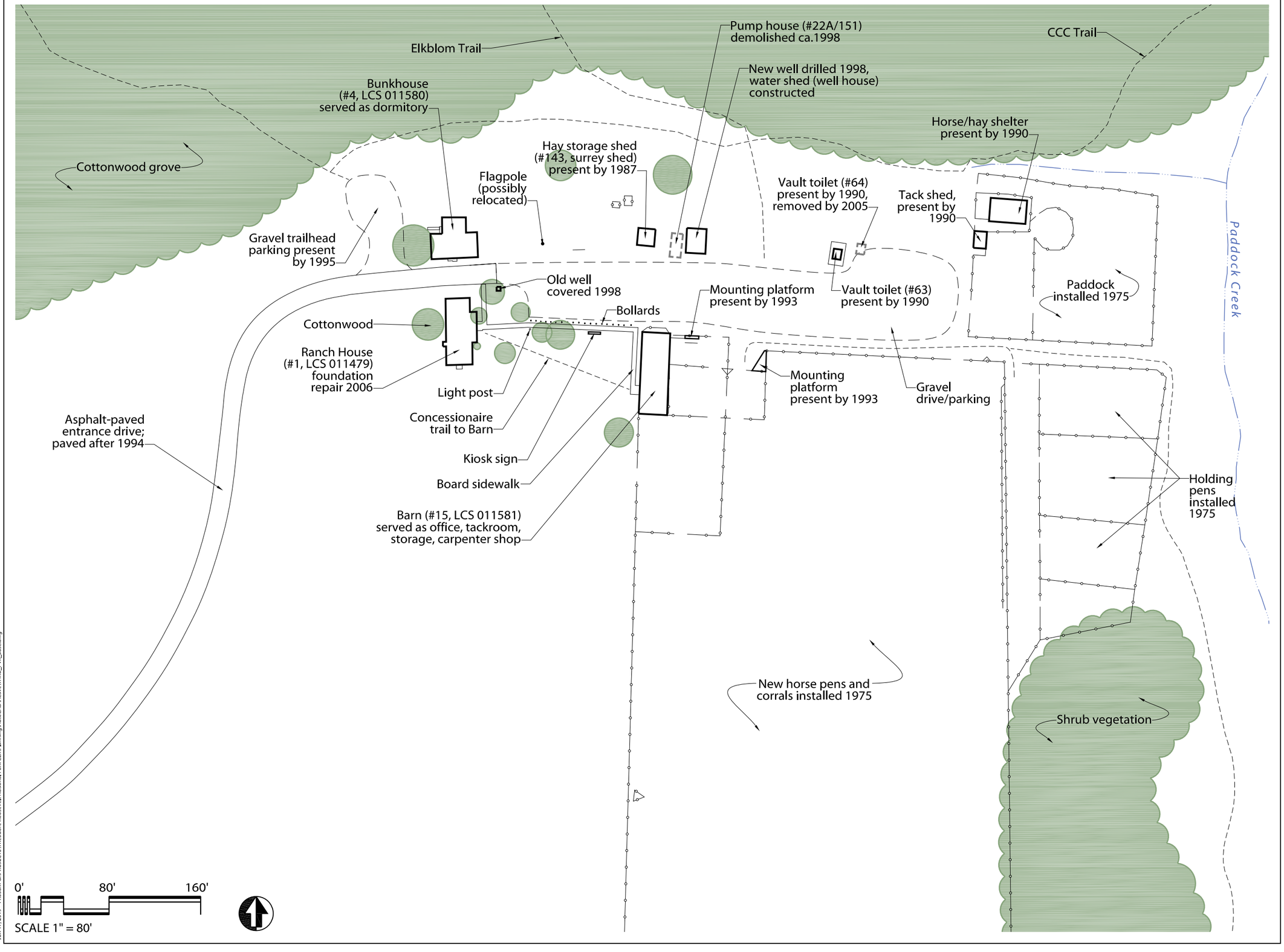
FIGURE 2-39.

Period Plan 2014 Context

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Sources:

2014 Aerial photograph

"Architectural Study Lamb Ranch," *Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park Master Plan*. Dwg. No. NMP-TR-3238. September 1963.

Chester L. Brooks, *Planning Report on Peaceful Valley Ranch*, September 1956.

Mark Feige, Janet Ore, and Jared Orsi. *Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota, Historic Resource Study*, 2017.

National Park Service, *General Management Plan, Development Concept Plans. Theodore Roosevelt National Park*, 1987.

Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History*, 1993.

FIGURE 2-40.

Period Plan 2014
Peaceful Valley Ranch

Peaceful Valley Ranch Chronology

1880	The Northern Pacific Railroad reached Little Missouri River providing easier access to the area for both permanent settlers and travelers.
1882	Custer Trail Ranch, the first dude ranch in the country, opened near Medora, North Dakota.
1883	The Northern Pacific Railroad completed a link to the western portion of the line which served the Peaceful Valley Ranch area.
1883	Theodore Roosevelt made his first trip to North Dakota and invested in the Maltese Cross ranch with 400 head of cattle and range rights.
1883	Marquis de Mores established town of Medora and built St. Mary's Catholic Church, Chateau de Mores, and the de Mores Packing Plant.
1883	Eldridge "Gerry" Paddock built a claim cabin one-quarter mile south of what would become Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1884	Theodore Roosevelt added the Elkhorn Ranch to his property holdings.
1884	Norman Lebo and his family occupied Paddock's claim cabin.
1885	Benjamin S. Lamb purchased the range rights to Paddock's claim from Paddock's son Billy and acquired 200 head of cattle to run on the open range.
1885	Lamb constructed a one-and-one-half story frame ranch house, as well as a barn and blacksmith shop, cow shed, horse barn, outhouse, calf shed, and fenced corrals subdivided for cows, horses, and hay.
1885-1890	Lamb acquired horses and built a thoroughbred track in the flats adjacent to Paddock Creek.
1886-1887	Severe drought in the summer and an extreme winter resulted in the death of large number of cattle on the open range.
1890	Lamb sold the ranch and its buildings to Joe Caughtin and Tom McDonahue. Lamb returned to his family in Boston.
1894	Caughtin and McDonahue constructed a frame addition on the north side of the main ranch house.
1896	George Burgess purchased ranch buildings from Caughtin and McDonahue
circa 1903	Burgess added a kitchen addition on the north side of the 1894 addition to the main house constructed.
1903	Burgess constructed a log bunkhouse for ranch hands just southeast of the main ranch house.
circa 1904	Burgess constructed a windmill, pit toilet, wood shed, new cow shed, new calf shed, and buggy shed.
by 1905	Burgess removed the barn and blacksmith shop built by Lamb.
1905	The log barn was built in two sections with a sod roof.
1905	Billings County was surveyed by federal government and land opened to public sale and homesteading patents.

May 1906	George and Nettie Burgess applied for and received homestead patents for the land surrounding existing ranch buildings.
by 1906	A pump that covered an 80 foot well was added on the south side of the open porch on the east side of the house. A new porch was constructed on the south facade of house.
by 1914	Burgess tore down and reconstructed Lamb's corrals.
1914	Burgess dug a new well northeast of the ranch house. The log addition to the ranch house was reroofed. The sod roof of the log barn was removed and rebuilt using trusses, rafters, and wood shingles.
1915	Harry W. Olsen purchased the ranch from George Burgess and operated it with his brother Carl B. Olsen.
1916	The National Park Service (NPS) was created.
1918	Harry and Carl Olsen began operating a dude ranching business at Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1920	The Olsens constructed a log lodge (bunkhouse), guest cabins, bath house, barns and corrals.
1921	North Dakota legislature passed a resolution that urged Congress to establish Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in the North Dakota badlands.
circa 1920-1930	The Olsens screened the front porch of ranch house and constructed five guest cabins as well as a secondary residence south of the ranch house. The 1904 windmill built by Burgess was removed.
1922	A dormer window added to the front of the house.
March 1922	Carl Olsen filed a Farm Name Certificate with Register of Deeds in Billings County and the property became formally registered as Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1924	Carl Olsen became the sole owner of the ranch.
1925 and 1928	The Roosevelt Memorial Park Association sponsored two tours to support establishing the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Tours stopped and stayed at Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1931	Peaceful Valley Ranch reverted to regular ranch operations.
1934	A cooperative agreement was signed between the Resettlement Administration, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the state of North Dakota, establishing Roosevelt Regional Park.
1934-1935	The CCC, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), and Work Progress Administration (WPA) began developing roads and other facilities in the park.
1936	Carl Olsen sold the ranch to the federal government. The park became the Roosevelt Recreational Demonstration Area, with Peaceful Valley Ranch as its headquarters.
1936	The CCC constructed a headquarters office, an oil house, and a coal and wood shed at Peaceful Valley Ranch. An enclosed entry and small shed addition were added to the east elevation of ranch house.

1937	The CCC constructed a garage and two equipment storage buildings on the north side of the parking lot/work yard, and relocated a warming shed to the south side of the parking lot/work yard to use as a fire cache.
1938	The CCC completed construction on the road from the ranch to Highway 10.
1940	A tool shop was brought in to Peaceful Valley Ranch after the CCC camp in the north unit closed.
1941	The last CCC workers left the park.
1941	The present ranch entrance road was constructed, and a small garage erected adjacent to Residence #2.
1942	The ranch house roof was altered to form one continuous plane from peak to edge. Evergreens were planted around the house.
1946-1947	US Fish and Wildlife Service administered the park lands as a national wildlife refuge.
April 1947	Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park was established as a unit of the NPS; it included only the Elkhorn Ranch and the South Unit.
1947	Significant flood damage occurred at Peaceful Valley Ranch, and the basement of ranch house was stabilized and finished. The bunkhouse was subdivided and converted to a residence.
1948	The North Unit was added to Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park and the South Unit expanded to encompass the petrified forest.
1948	The front porch of the ranch house was enclosed with glass windows. Residence #6 was constructed south of the ranch house.
1949	A hay storage building (formerly the "Teddy Roosevelt Cabin" used in the historical pageant for the park's dedication) was relocated to Peaceful Valley Ranch. The barn was remodeled to create a shop on the south end, storage, feed, and saddle rooms in the middle, and an area for horses on the north end.
1950	A frame addition was constructed on the north side of the bunkhouse.
circa 1950	Concrete pads for trailers located south of the main ranch house were added. NPS added water, sewer, electric, and telephone systems at Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1951	The South Unit Scenic Drive was improved and paved.
1954	The barn received a new concrete foundation, and it was converted to a carpenter shop and storage area with a small area for horses.
1955	Two residences were acquired from the Civil Aeronautics Administration (CAA) and relocated to Peaceful Valley Ranch.
1959	A new visitor center and park headquarters were constructed in Medora. Headquarters operations were moved from the ranch to the new buildings.
1961	Longhorn Ranch Project proposed removal of all buildings at Peaceful Valley Ranch to create an interpretive center. The plan was never implemented.
circa 1961	Buildings #7 (fire cache), #8 (coal and wood shed), #10 (oil house), #11 (tool shop), #13 (equipment garage), #36 (hay storage) were removed.

circa 1965	Buildings #2 (maintenance residence), #3 (the 1903 bunkhouse), #6 (clerk's residence), #12 (equipment garage), #14 (headquarters office), #19 (a privy), #22 (garage), #35 (maintenance residence garage), and #59 and #60 (CAA residences) were removed. The old road to the ranch was obliterated.
1965	Construction began on the 33-mile Scenic Loop Drive.
1965	Pump house moved to site and placed over existing pump.
1965	Peaceful Valley Ranch no longer utilized for housing park personnel.
1967	Peaceful Valley Ranch leased by concessioners for horseback rentals and trail rides.
1973	Electric and telephone lines buried.
1974	Sewer system reconstructed.
1975	New horse pens and corrals were constructed to accommodate concessioners.
1978	The park's name formally changed to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.
1980	The barn was used for office, tack room, storage and carpenter shop. The Bunkhouse was used as dormitory for the concessioner's children. The ranch house was vacant.
1980	Electrical services were improved and updated.
1982-1983	The barn doors were replaced, and the rafters repaired.
1983	A new corral and paddock were constructed at the log barn.
by 1987	A hay storage shed (surrey shed) was constructed along the north side of the parking area.
1987	Archeological investigations conducted at and near the site documented brick foundations near north edge of corral.
by 1990	Two vault toilets, a tack shed, and a horse/hay shelter were constructed.
1993	The parking lot/work yard was surfaced with asphalt and gravel. Daytime holding pens and mounting platforms were added east of the barn.
1994	Peaceful Valley Ranch Main House, Bunkhouse, and Barn were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
after 1994	The entrance drive was paved in asphalt.
1998	New well drilled and new well house constructed. The failed 1914 well was covered with a concrete block structure.
1998 and 1999	Archeological investigations around the foundations of the ranch house, barn, and bunkhouse.
2005	One vault toilet removed.
2006	Ranch house foundation was repaired and replaced where needed.
2007	Archeological investigations in conjunction with the ranch house foundation repair revealed evidence of the 80-foot well present ca.1906.
2014	Guided horseback tours cease operation.

Chapter 3: Existing Conditions

Introduction

This chapter describes through narrative text, contemporary photographs, maps, diagrams, and site plans, the current conditions of the landscape associated with Peaceful Valley Ranch and its setting. The chapter is composed of three sections. The first section—Cultural and Environmental Context and Setting—describes the site within a regional and local context, including cultural, hydrological, geographical, and geological features. The second section—Site Description—describes the primary organizing elements and features that characterize the Peaceful Valley Ranch landscape. The third section—Landscape Description by Characteristic—depicts the individual extant landscape features located within the study boundary of Peaceful Valley Ranch. Feature descriptions are organized into a series of landscape characteristic categories. Landscape characteristics include tangible and intangible aspects of a site that collectively convey its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. They range from large-scale patterns and relationships to small-scale features, site details, and materials.

The purpose of documenting the existing landscape is threefold. The primary goal is to understand the range and breadth of landscape features, and to identify, describe, and locate them on a map to serve as a baseline of information. The second goal is to generate an inventory of features that can be utilized to develop cultural landscape analyses. The final goal is to provide a record of the landscape that may prove useful to future research efforts and management decisions made for this site and for all of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The following categories of landscape characteristics are organized in accordance with the guidance offered in the National Park Service *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports* and are used in the documentation of Peaceful Valley Ranch and its associated landscape:

- **Natural systems and features** are the environmental resources and qualities that have influenced the development and physical form of a landscape. These include the underlying landform and topography, soils, water resources, as well as attendant native plant communities.
- **Responses to natural resources** describe cultural responses to natural features, such as the siting and clustering of buildings and structures, the use of native materials, and other connections between the built and natural environment.
- **Topography and topographic modifications** include description of the form of the land and any alterations to the elevations of the land surface for accessing potable water, grading roads, siting buildings, draining storm water, or other purposes.
- **Patterns of spatial organization** reflect the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.
- **Land uses and activities** illustrate the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize it as a result of human interaction.

- **Circulation patterns and features** are the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape.
- **Cultural vegetation** includes the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous plants that have been introduced in a landscape by cultural activities.
- **Views** are generally defined as being an expansive and panoramic prospect, whether naturally occurring or designed; while **vistas** are deliberate and are often meant to orient the gaze to a linear feature or particular focal point.
- **Buildings** are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape; while **structures** are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activities.
- **Small-scale features** provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in a landscape.
- **Archeological resources** are the traces or deposited artifacts in a landscape, evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features.[1]

Appendix A includes a full inventory of the landscape resources documented in this chapter. Graphic documentation, in the form of maps and photographs, accompanies the narrative description of the landscape. Representative photographs illustrate many of the features described in the text. Primary features are identified on the existing conditions maps (Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2).

Cultural and Environmental Context and Setting

Cultural Context and Setting

Peaceful Valley Ranch is located within the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (see Figure 1-2). The 70,000-acre park was established in 1947 as Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park and at the time included most of what is now contained within the South and Elkhorn Ranch Units; the North Unit was added in 1948. Thirty years later, Congress renamed the park "Theodore Roosevelt National Park;" the same year, Congress also established the 29,920-acre Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness, which includes lands within the park's North and South units.[2]

Billings County, where the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park is located, is the second-least populated county in North Dakota. As of the 2010 census, the population was only 783 people, with a population density of 0.7 inhabitants per square mile. The population is 98.6% white, 0.5% Asian, 0.4% American Indian, 0.3% black, 0.1% from other races, and 0.1% from two or more races.[3] Medora, where the South Unit Visitor Center is located, is the county seat and the only incorporated place in the county. Peaceful Valley Ranch is located seven miles by road from Medora.

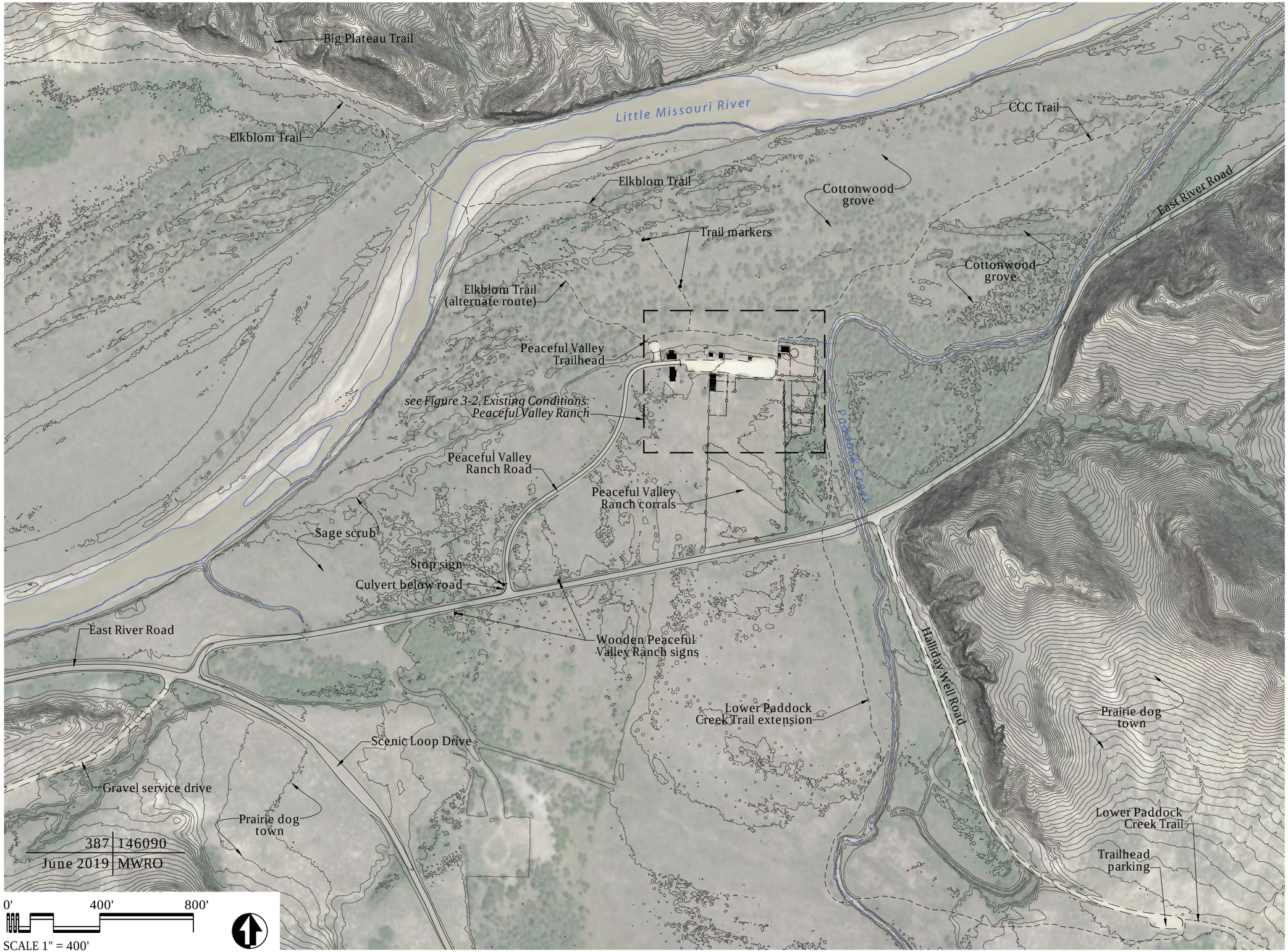
Although Peaceful Valley Ranch is not within the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness portion of the

1. Derived from Page, Gilbert, and Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes, and Techniques*; and McClelland, Keller, Keller, and Melnick, *National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes.*
2. National Park Service*, Foundation Document, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota*, (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, April 2014), 3.
3. US Census Bureau, "DP-1 Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2010 Demographic Profile Data, Billings County, North Dakota."

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Building
- Wood fence
- 1-meter contour
- River
- Stream
- Signs and trail markers

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

FIGURE 3-1.

Existing Conditions Context

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Elkblom Trail
Trailhead sign
Trail junction marker
Gate across road trace
CCC Trail
Cottonwoods
CCC Trail
Trail marker
Drainage ditch
Lower Paddock Creek Trail
Gravel trailhead parking
Fenced utility meters
Sidewalk remnant
Bunkhouse
Hay storage shed
Well pipes
Water shed (well house)
Underground septic tank
Horse/hay shelter
Tack shed
Asphalt road
Flagpole
Hitching rail
Covered well
Fire pit
Mounting platform
Trash and recycling bins
Vault toilet
Overflow parking
Park work horse paddock
Paddock Creek
Hitching rail
Mature cottonwood
Ranch House
Light pole
Board sidewalk
Deteriorated fire pit
Barn
Mounting platform
Gravel drive/parking
Holding pens
Picnic tables
Corral
Hay racks
Shrub vegetation

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Vegetation key		
Js	*Juniperus scopulorum*	Rocky Mountain Juniper
Pd	*Populus deltoides*	Cottonwood

0' 60' 120'

SCALE 1" = 60'

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Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Gate
- 1-meter contour
- Stream

Small-scale features

- Sign
- Wood bollards
- Bench
- Picnic table
- Water trough
- Hose bib
- Misc. feature

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

FIGURE 3-2.

Existing Conditions
Peaceful Valley Ranch

South Unit, trails extending west across the river from the ranch lead into and through the wilderness area. Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness is part of the 110-million-acre National Wilderness Preservation System, comprised of over 760 areas that are managed as wilderness by the federal government.[4] These wilderness areas began to be established after Congress passed the Wilderness Act of 1964. Activities allowed in wilderness areas include hiking, backpacking, camping, canoeing, rafting, climbing, horseback riding, swimming, fishing, hunting, wildlife study, and other activities that do not need mechanical or motorized equipment. Motorboats, cars, trucks, off-road vehicles, bicycles, and snowmobiles are not allowed. Within the national park, the NPS is obligated to manage the wilderness lands "in a manner that is consistent with wilderness character as defined by the Wilderness Act of 1964."[5]

Through the wilderness portion of the South Unit and just across the Little Missouri River from Peaceful Valley Ranch runs the Maah Daah Hey Trail. This trail, which is used by horseback riders, mountain bikers, and hikers, is 96 miles long and runs from just south of the Billings/Slope county line, through Billings County, and to the North Unit of the park. The trail from Peaceful Valley Ranch to the petrified forest meets and follows this trail for a short way before heading west. Mountain bikes are not permitted off-road within the park, including on the portions of the Maah Daah Hey Trail within park boundaries.[6]

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is surrounded by the Little Missouri National Grassland, which is part of the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, a unit of the US Forest Service system. The main feature of the Little Missouri National Grassland is the rugged terrain of the badlands and its mixed-grass prairie, comprised of both long and short grass species. While large portions of the grassland are owned by both the state and private landowners, much of it is leased for grazing. Certain activities, including housing developments are not allowed in the grasslands, but energy development is currently permitted.[7]

Special mandates associated with the park include Public Law 80-38, which protects homestead, mineral, right-of-way, or other claims that existed on the land prior to its establishment as a park. In addition, Public Law 80-631 allows stockmen a perpetual right-of-way through the park for "trailing of livestock to and from the railroad, along and adjacent to the Little Missouri River, being the same trail or route that has been used by the stockmen for that purpose since the beginning of the livestock industry in the area." The Little Missouri River was once considered navigable by the state of North Dakota, which claimed its beds and waters up to the high-water mark, but this was struck down in 1991 by the US District Court. Today the NPS manages the sections of the river that run through the park. A special regulation allows snowmobiling on portions of the river within both the North and South units of the park.[8]

Peaceful Valley Ranch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1994 as a collection of three buildings. Because it is so listed, any federal undertaking within or affecting the property must undergo review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Environmental Context and Setting

The landscape of the North Dakota badlands is both stark and dramatic as it unfolds along the western edge of the western North Dakota prairie (Figure 3-3). As described in the park's foundation document, the landscape of the North Dakota badlands

> is one of striking contrasts. The gently rolling mixed grass prairies of the Northern Great Plains suddenly give way to fantastically broken terrain. . . .This rugged landscape of sheer cliffs, grassy plateaus, and colored bluffs

4 . Wilderness Connect. "Fast Facts." https://www.wilderness.net/NWPS/fastfacts
5. *Foundation Document*, 13.
6. *Foundation Document*, 26.
7. *Foundation Document*, 26.
8. *Foundation Document*, 12-13.

> of red, gray, tan, and golden hues seems inhospitable at first glance. Yet it is home to a variety of plants and an abundance of Northern Great Plains wildlife, including iconic animals of the West such as bison, elk, and bighorn sheep.[9]



FIGURE 3-3. Badlands landscape in the South Unit of the park. *CHG*.

In addition, as described in the park's historic resource study (HRS), this landscape

> changes from season to season. In summer and fall, brown and spindly grasses dominate the river valleys and hillsides until the spring, when they briefly emerge bright green, accented by countless wild flowers. Winter is harsh and unforgiving, cloaking the ragged Badlands terrain in a deep blanket of snow. In Theodore Roosevelt's words, the winter "turns the green, grassy prairies of midsummer into iron-bound wastes." … The park's jagged buttes, grand plateaus, sprawling river valleys, and shimmering mixed-grass prairies [enable] visitors to imagine a relatively unspoiled [North Dakota badlands] environment.[10]

Despite the hardships presented by this challenging landscape, it has nevertheless hosted human life for at least the past 5,000 years, if not more.[11]

Geology

Formed within Missouri Plateau of the Great Plains physiographic region, the North Dakota badlands around Peaceful Valley Ranch were formed by the erosive actions of water on the Paleocene-era Sentinel Butte and Bullion Creek geologic formations.[12] Both formations were created from the sediment that eroded from the newly-forming Rocky Mountains to the Great Plains between 56 and 66 million years ago. They appear in flat, undisturbed layers that, with time and the weight of subsequent layers, have turned into rock. Most of the exposed rock of the buttes, canyons, and arroyos of the badlands is made of the Bullion Creek formation, typified by its yellow and tan-colored, flakey layers of claystone, mudstone, and siltstone, with occasional layers of loosely-consolidated sandstone and lignite.[13] This formation appears only in the South Unit of the national park. The Sentinel Butte formation, which forms a relatively thin cap atop the Bullion Creek formation in both the North and South units, was created in much the same way, but is made up of a grey to brown-colored sandstone. In its upper layers are found extensive areas of petrified wood. The boundary between the Sentinel Butte and Bullion Creek formations is easily identifiable by a layer of pinkish-red rock called the "HT Butte clinker." Clinker is a natural brick as much as 40 feet thick in some locations, formed through the slow burning of the lignite atop the Bullion Creek formation. The burning essentially fires the overlying sediment much as a brick is slow-fired in

9. *Foundation Document*, 4.
10. Mark Fiege, Janet Ore, and Jared Orsi, *Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota, Historic Resource Study*, (Washington DC.: US Department of the Interior, Public Lands History Center for the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, 2017), 7.
11. David D. Kuehn, *Final Report on the 1987 Archeological Survey in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota*, (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center, 1988), 156.
12. The Paleocene geologic era was 56 to 66 million years ago.
13. Lignite is a soft, brownish, crumbly coal that is only one step above peat moss and comprises the remains of ancient plant life.

a kiln.[14] Large chunks of the distinctive pinkish red clinker were used at Peaceful Valley Ranch to construct the bunkhouse chimney and can also be seen in the town of Medora as building and landscape ornament.

The project area is in the floodplain of the Little Missouri within the alluvium fan of Paddock Creek. Although its built resources stand atop a low river terrace, the terrace itself was likely recently formed, that is, within the last 11,800 years.[15]

Climate

Located in western North Dakota, the park has what is called a typical "continental climate." Its long, cold winters have average lows in the single digits, but snow cover rarely exceeds 12 inches. Its short, hot summers last from May through September. They have sunny days and cool nights, with average high temperatures in the 70s and 80s (Fahrenheit), although occasionally reaching over 100 degrees in July and August. Year-round winds average around 10 to 15 mph. The park receives an average of 15 to 16 inches of precipitation a year, most of which falls during the summer. Rain in the summer can bring violent thunderstorms and blizzards sometimes occur in the winter.[16]

Hydrology

The rugged landscape of the badlands was created when the soft sedimentary rocks of these two formations were eroded by the Little Missouri River and its tributaries starting around 60,000 years ago during the Pleistocene or "ice age." Before this period, the waters of the Little Missouri flowed to the northeast, ultimately ending in Canada's Hudson Bay. However, when massive continental glaciers formed, they blocked this flow and diverted it eastward towards the Missouri River. The blockage shortened the river's course and increased its gradient, increasing erosion and causing the rapid down-cutting.[17] This erosion by fast-running large and small tributaries removed large quantities of sediment and carved its way into many upland areas, forming dramatic ridges, knobs, and buttes.

Today, the Little Missouri flows northward through all units of the park through a gently-undulating floodplain flanked by steep bluffs and high plateaus (Figure 3-4). It is fed by small tributaries that arise from local seeps and springs, locally- heavy runoff from seasonal cloudbursts, and snow melt. Erosion continues to affect this ever-changing landscape, but in smaller, less dramatic events than those that original formed this landscape.[18]

The northern and western edges of Peaceful Valley Ranch are defined by the course of the Little Missouri. Because seasonal cloudbursts mentioned above push heavy loads of sediment into the river, its course has become more winding and braided as it has aged, and aerial photographs show evidence of its previous channels in the patterns of cottonwood woodlands along its length.

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14. John W. Hoganson and Johnathan Campbell, "North Dakota Notes No. 9: Paleontology of Theodore Roosevelt National Park" https://www.dmr.nd.gov/ndgs/ndnotes/ndn9_h.htm.
15. Katie KellerLynn, *Theodore Roosevelt National Park Geologic Resource Evaluation Report*, (Washington DC.: US Department of the Interior, Geologic Resources Division of the National Park Service, Lakewood, CO, June 2007), 27.
16. Carolyn Godfread, "The Vegetation of the Little Missouri Badlands of North Dakota," *Leafy Spurge Strategic Planning Workshop,* (Dickinson, ND: US Department of the Interior, 1994), 2.
17. Godfread, 2.
18. National Park Service, *Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory*, (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2012), 10.

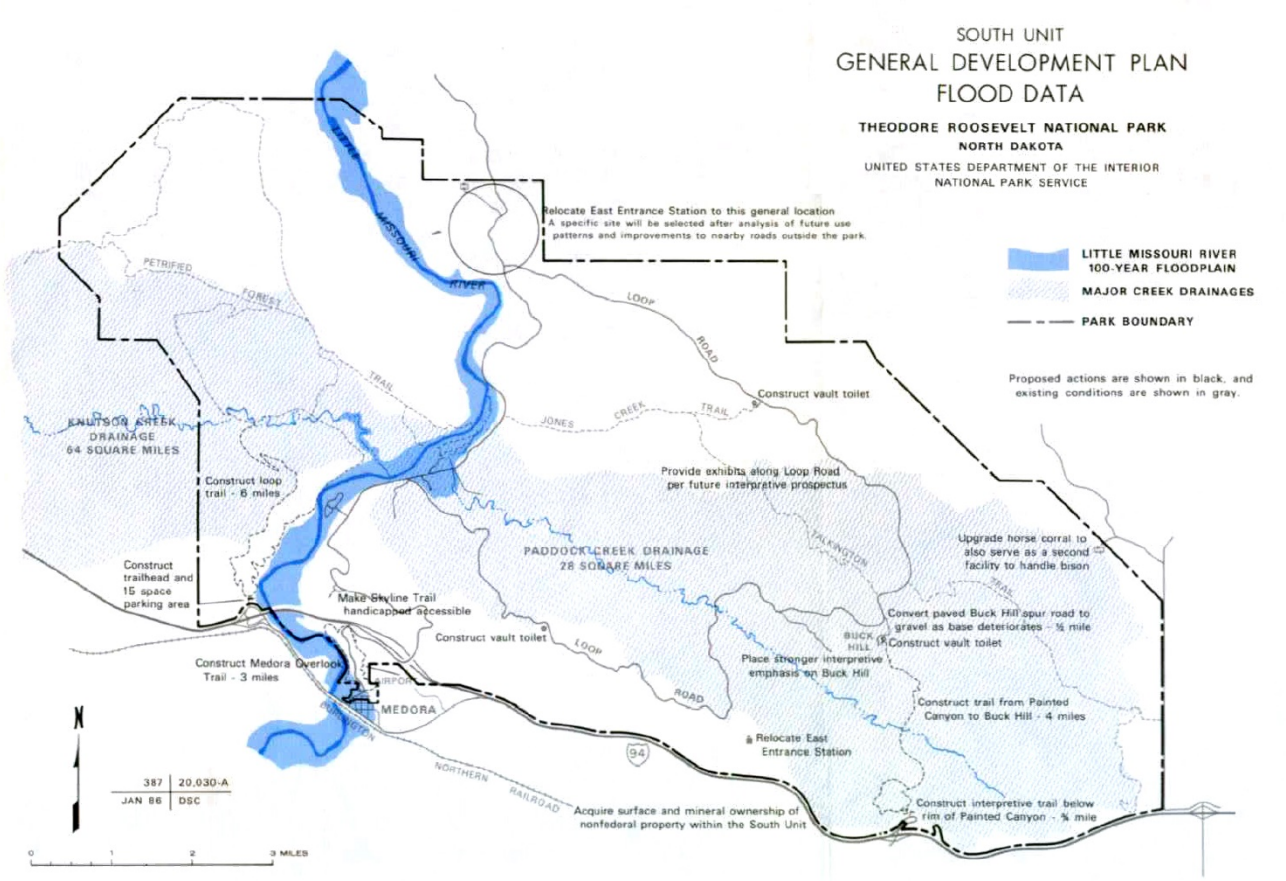


FIGURE 3-4. 100-year floodplain of the Little Missouri River within the South Unit of the park. *National Park Service*.

The eastern edge of the Peaceful Valley Ranch project area is defined by the course of Paddock Creek. The creek flows from the south, is channeled under the park road bridge, and then extends to around half-way between the road and the river before turning abruptly east to follow the lower edge of the river bluffs. About one-and-one-half miles to the northeast—out of the project area—Paddock Creek eventually merges with Jones Creek before its confluence with the Little Missouri. Paddock Creek is deeply incised, and its banks are eroded; during the 2017 site visit, the creek was heavily laden with upland sediment and was colored yellow from the silts of the Bullion Creek formation.

Soils

The soils of Billings County in which the park is located, vary widely depending on their proximity to the Little Missouri River valley or the surrounding prairies. Soils in the prairies are deep and fertile, being well-suited to crops, as are some of the soils in the floodplain itself; however, the soils of the highly dissected buttes, slopes, and outcrops of the badlands themselves are generally shallow and best suited to rangeland for cattle or wildlife.

Peaceful Valley Ranch stands atop the deep soils of the Little Missouri River floodplain, most of which are sandy loams over six feet deep. Most of the project area is located on a flat, thick layer of Glendive fine sandy loam that slopes only 0-2%. This soil experiences occasional flooding, but is well-drained because of the sand component. Glendive has a low amount of organic matter and its pH levels range from neutral to very alkaline, depending on its geological source. Because of these two characteristics, agricultural uses of the Glendive soil are limited to pasture, range, and wildlife habitat, although given the right pH and with the addition of organic matter to raise fertility, it may be possible to raise limited crops. Glendive fine sandy loam is not recommended for holding water, such as in a pond or reservoir, and for this reason, it is also not suitable for a septic

system or sewage lagoon. Suitability for roads, buildings, and campgrounds is good above the river terrace, and hiking trails and picnic areas are also suitable below the terrace.

A small percentage of the project area contains two other types of floodplain soils: Hanly fine sandy loam and the Glendive-Havre-Fluvaquents complex. A narrow strip of Hanly fine sandy loam borders the Little Missouri River within the project area and can be identified by the lower density of cottonwood and other vegetation along the river's edge. The qualities of Hanly fine sandy loam are very similar to those of the Glendive fine sandy loam, except that it has a lower fertility and is recommended only for range and wildlife habitat. Soils of the Glendive-Havre-Fluvaquents complex are found along Paddock Creek. Havre differs from Glendive in that it is primarily a silty soil and will typically have a higher fertility as a result; the suffix, Fluvaquents, indicates that these soils are also frequently flooded and typically wet much of the time. It is no surprise that the densest stand of trees in the project area, which is located inside the bend of Paddock Creek at the eastern end of the project area, marks the location of these soils within the site.

Vegetation

Theodore Roosevelt National Park is in the Little Missouri Badlands ecoregion. Vegetation in the Little Missouri Badlands varies widely depending on its location, whether on slopes, either north or south, or on floodplains. North-facing slopes are typically dominated by Rocky Mountain juniper (*Juniperus scopulorum*), with occasional stands of green ash (*Fraxinus pennsylvanica*) in wetter depressions. Other plants found with these include small seeded ricegrass (*Oryzopsis micrantha*), skunkbush sumac (*Rhus trilobata*), dwarf juniper (*Juniperus communis*), creeping juniper (*Juniperus horizontalis*), woods rose (*Rosa woodsii*), and chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*). Forbs include bluebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*), northern bedstraw (*Galium boreale*), and starry false Solomon's seal (*Smilacina stellata*).[19]

South-facing slopes are much barer: the main species found in this hot, dry environment are rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), longleaf sage (*Artemisia longifolia*), and greasewood (*Sarcobatus verminculatus*). In addition, semi-woody species such as broomweed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), woody sea blite (*Suaeda moquina*), and winterfat (*Ceratoides lanata*), and also found. The few forbs that can be found include buckwheat (*Eriogonum multiceps*), phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), gumbo lily (*Oenothera caespitosa*), butte candle (*Cryptantha celosoides*), stemless hymenoxys (*Hymenoxys acaulis*), red mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) and prickly pear (*Opuntia polycantha*).[20]

The Little Missouri floodplain is dominated by silver sage (*Artemisea cana*) and western wheatgrass (*Agropyron smithii*), and narrow river terraces or benches above the floodplain are dominated by black sage (*Artemisia tridentata*). The floodplain also hosts extensive stands of cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*); cottonwood seedlings establish themselves easily in fresh alluvial soils. As mentioned above, one can trace the lines of former river channels in the narrow bands of mature cottonwoods found throughout the floodplain. The typical understory of these floodplain woodlands includes green ash, buckbrush (*Symphoricarpos occidentalis*), woods rose, and skunkbush sumac, and the vines, Western white clematis (*Clematis ligusticifolia*) and woodbine (*Parthenocissus vitacea*).[21]

Green ash is also dominant in upland draws where moisture is higher than on slopes, and is found growing with chokecherry, Juneberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*), buckbrush, woods rose, and poison ivy (*Toxidodendron rydbergii*). Forbs in these areas include northern bedstraw, catchweed bedstraw (*Galium aparine*), bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), early meadow rue (*Thalictrum venulosum*), spreading dogbane (*Aposynum androsaemifolia*), and starry false Solomon's seal.

19. Godfread, 3.
20. Godfread, 3.
21. Godfread, 3-4.

Aspen (*Populus officinale*) is occasionally found growing on north-facing slopes with this community.[22]

Associated with the Bullion Creek formation are a number of grasses, including sandreed (*Calamovilfa longifolia*), needle-and-thread (*Stipa comata*), needleleaf sedge (*Carex eleocharis*), and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*). On steep slopes and hill crests with thin soils, communities of little bluestem (*Andropogon scoparius*) can be found. Grassland forbs, or wildflowers, can be found throughout the region from mid-spring to early autumn. April brings Pasque flower (*Anemone patens*), buttercup (*Ranunculus glaberrimus*), and pussytoes (*Antennaria parvifolia*), followed by prairie phlox (*Phlox hoodii*), wild parsley (*Musineon divaricatum*), yellow wild parsley (*Lomatium foeniculaceum*), prairie smoke (*Geum triflorum*), locoweed (*Oxytropis lambertii*), and golden pea (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*) in May. June brings arnica (*Arnica fulgens*), butte candle (*Cryptantha bradburniana*), Missouri milk-vetch (*Astragalus missouriensis*), two-grooved vetch (*Astragalus bisulcatus*), prairie turnip (*Psoralea esculenta*), prairie chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*), flax (*Linum lewisii*), fleabane (*Erigeron glabellus*), spiderwort (*Tradescantia occidentalis*), wallflower (*Erysimum asperum*), goatsbeard (*Tragopogon dubius*), Missouri ball cactus (*Coryphantha vivipara*), white beardtongue (*Penstemon albus*), slender beardtongue (*Penstemon gracilis*), prairie ragwort (*Senecio plattensis*), grey ragwort (*Senecio canus*), scarlet mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*) and yarrow (*Achillea millefolium).* Mid-summer flowers appear in early July and include pink coneflower (*Echinacea angustifolia*), gaillardia (*Gaillardia aristata*), prairie rose (*Rosa arkansana*), purple prairie clover (*Dalea purpurea*), yellow cone flower (*Ratibida columnifera*), silver-leaf scurf pea (*Psoralea argophylla*), skeleton weed (*Lygodesmia juncea*) and whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*). In late summer/early fall, the final show of bloom is provided by gumweed *(Grindelia squarrosa*), white sage (*Artemisia ludoviciana*), broom weed (*Gutierrezia sarothrae*), blazing star (*Liatris punctata*) and various aster species, including, many-flowered aster (*Aster ericoides*) and aromatic aster (*A. oblongifolius*).[23]

The vegetation of Theodore Roosevelt National Park was classified and mapped around 2000 by a team made up of staff from the Bureau of Reclamation's Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Group and The Nature Conservancy (Figure 3-5).[24] A detail from the vegetation map produced from their data shows that the Peaceful Valley Ranch project area is dominated by a vegetation association called the Cottonwood-Rocky Mountain Juniper Floodplain Woodland. That community of vegetation at the ranch is found growing in the Glendive fine sandy loam of the Little Missouri River floodplain below the river terrace on which the ranch building cluster stands. This ecological association is dominated by cottonwood woodland, generally in decline, but may include stands of younger cottonwoods. This association may also include Rocky Mountain juniper and green ash saplings, as well as woods rose, buckbrush, Canada wildrye (*Elymus canadensis*), yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus officinalis*), and meadow rue (*Thalictrum dasycarpum*).[25,26]

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22. Godfread, 4.
23. Godfread, 5-6.
24. Jim Von Loh, et al., *USGS-NPS Vegetation Mapping Program, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota,* (Denver: US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation's Remote Sensing and GIS Group, March 2000).
25. Von Loh, et al., 4-22 through 4-24.
26. Research conducted around 2017 underscores the importance of the cottonwoods within the larger park, identified further as "plains cottonwood" (*P. deltoids* subsp. *monilifera*). The resulting report warns that cottonwood stands along the Little Missouri are threatened by warming trends resulting in low river flows, but also by herbicide applications by helicopter meant to control leafy spurge. This spraying has damaged or outright killed around 25% of the cottonwoods along the river in the South Unit but has since been reduced to limit this

The area of the river terrace to the north of the Peaceful Valley Ranch entrance road, as well as a thin band along the river, which follows the Hanly fine sandy loam, is dominated by the Silver Sagebrush/Western Wheatgrass Shrubland association. This group of plants can be found along the Little Missouri in broad drainage areas, creek beds, gentle slopes, and bordering the river; it prefers deep loams and may flood occasionally. This association is made up of mostly shrubs and grasses, including silver sagebrush with yarrow, slimflower scurfpea (*Psoralea tenuiflora*), scarlet gaura (*Gaura coccinea*), red globe-mallow (*Sphaeralcea coccinea*), and blue lettuce (*Lactuca pulchella*).[27] Buckbrush can also be found there, along with pure stands of western wheatgrass. This association is sometimes invaded by the exotic forb from Europe, leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*).[28]

The third and fourth largest vegetation groups within the project area are Croplands and Pasture and Other Agricultural Land. The first covers most of the area between the Peaceful Valley Ranch building cluster and the main park road, and the second is located amongst the buildings and features at the core of the ranch. Both can include areas of mown grass, windbreaks, and other related plants. The ranch area also has small areas of Wolfberry [Buckbrush] Temporarily Flooded Shrubland Alliance, which, as it sounds, has a concentration of this shrub; Rabbitbrush Shrubland Alliance, in which this plant dominates; and Green Ash-American Elm Woodland Alliance Draws, which occupies moderately moist drainages. Finally, east of Paddock Creek, and enclosed by it, is the related Green Ash-American Elm Temporarily Flooded Woodland Alliance, which is has a denser crown than cottonwood, but can sometimes mix with this species.[29]

Exotic Plant Management

The Northern Great Plains Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT) works with fourteen partner parks, including Theodore Roosevelt National Park, to preserve native plant communities by managing the spread of exotic invasive vegetation species. In Theodore Roosevelt National Park, these efforts focus on leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea maculosa*), Russian knapweed (*Rhaponticum repens*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), black henbane (*Hyoscyamus niger*), absinth wormwood (*Artemisia absinthium*), tamarisk or salt cedar (*Tamarix ramosissima*).[30] Recent vegetation monitoring has also indicated that Kentucky bluegrass (*Poa pratensis*) and smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*) are abundant in the park, particularly in riparian areas.[31] The EMPT works with park staff to monitor invasive species and implement an integrated pest management program which combines chemical, mechanical, and biological control methods. Control methods are selected based on the target plant and which treatment is best suited for the location and surrounding habitat.[32] In addition to these control methods, horseback riders are asked to only use certified weed-free feed to help prevent the spread of non-native species.

A 2015 effort to characterize and evaluate the range of vegetation types within the riparian corridor of the Little Missouri River included two monitoring locations in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch. The study identified invasive species

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damage. Refer to Jonathan M. Friedman and Eleanor R. Griffin, *Management of Plains Cottonwood at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota*, Natural Resource Report (Fort Collins, CO: US Geological Survey, 2017).

27. Drake, J.F., S.V. Cooper, and C. Jean, "Silver sagebrush," Montana Natural Heritage Program website, http://mtnhp.org/ecology/Guide_Report.asp?elcode=CEGL001072.
28. Von Loh, et al., 4-19.
29. Von Loh, et al., 4-19 through 4-24.
30. National Park Service, "Nonnative Species." https://www.nps.gov/thro/learn/nature/nonnativespecies.htm
31. Isabel W. Ashton and Christopher J. Davis, *Plant Community Composition and Structure at Theodore Roosevelt National Park: 2011-2016 Summary Report,* Natural Resource Report (Fort Collins, CO: National Park Service, August 2017), 13-21.
32. "Nonnative Species."

within the monitoring locations. One plot was located in the Silver Sagebrush Shrubland along the river north of the ranch, and the other in the Cottonwood/Juniper Woodland east of the ranch along Paddock Creek. In addition to high concentrations of leafy spurge, the study identified Japanese brome (*Bromus japonicus*), smooth brome, and Canada thistle within the two monitoring locations.[33]

Leafy spurge, as mentioned above, is often associated with the Silver Sagebrush/Western Wheatgrass Shrubland vegetation grouping. The plant was introduced to North Dakota in the early 1900s by homesteaders, who inadvertently brought it over from Europe in seed grain and as ship ballast. The infestation of leafy spurge in the South Unit of the park is estimated at nearly 4,000 acres. The plant exudes a milky latex and is generally avoided by most park wildlife. When it takes hold, leafy spurge can dominate an area and displace native vegetation, endangering wildlife habitat. Control methods to fight leafy spurge include ground and aerial herbicide applications and biocontrol using flea beetles. Flea beetle larvae feed on the roots of the plants, eventually killing them. [34] Three groups of leafy spurge are located within the Peaceful Valley Ranch area: one stand occurs west of the ranch's curving entrance road and two occur east and north of Paddock Creek (see Figure 3-5).

Aerial application of herbicide to control the spread of leafy spurge has been used several times in limited areas within the Peaceful Valley Ranch vicinity. This application method has been shown to be associated with injury and death to both cottonwood and green ash in the Little Missouri River floodplain. To reduce the impacts on cottonwood, application areas within the floodplain have been reduced and delayed to later in the season. The cottonwood stand between Peaceful Valley Ranch and the river was determined to be healthy in 2017.[35]

Smooth brome is a leafy perennial grass that spreads quickly and tolerates a wide variety of conditions, threatening pasturelands, prairies, and rangelands. It was introduced in the late 1800s from Europe and eastern Asia and was widely used as a livestock forage grass and for erosion control. Control methods include herbicide applications and mechanical removal. A low concentration of smooth brome is located in the monitoring location east of the ranch along Paddock Creek.

Japanese brome is a highly competitive annual grass that can form dense thickets that displace native grass species, threatening pastureland, prairies, and rangelands. A small area of Japanese brome was found in the monitoring location along the river north of the ranch. This was the only instance of Japanese brome recorded in any of the monitoring locations in the park.[36]

Canada thistle is an aggressive, creeping plant that can quickly colonize large areas, reducing forage for wildlife. It is estimated to infest hundreds of acres of park land. Control methods to combat infestation of Canada thistle include chemical, mechanical, and biological methods. Gallflies are used in some areas of the park; the insects lay eggs that produce galls on the plants stems, harming the plants growth.[37] A very small concentration of Canada thistle is located in the monitoring location east of the ranch along Paddock Creek.

33. Ashton and Davis, *Plant Community Composition*, 57-59.
34. "Nonnative Species."
35. Friedman and Griffin, *Plains Cottonwood,* 24-26.
36. Ashton and Davis, *Plant Community Composition*, 8, 30-31.
37. "Nonnative Species."

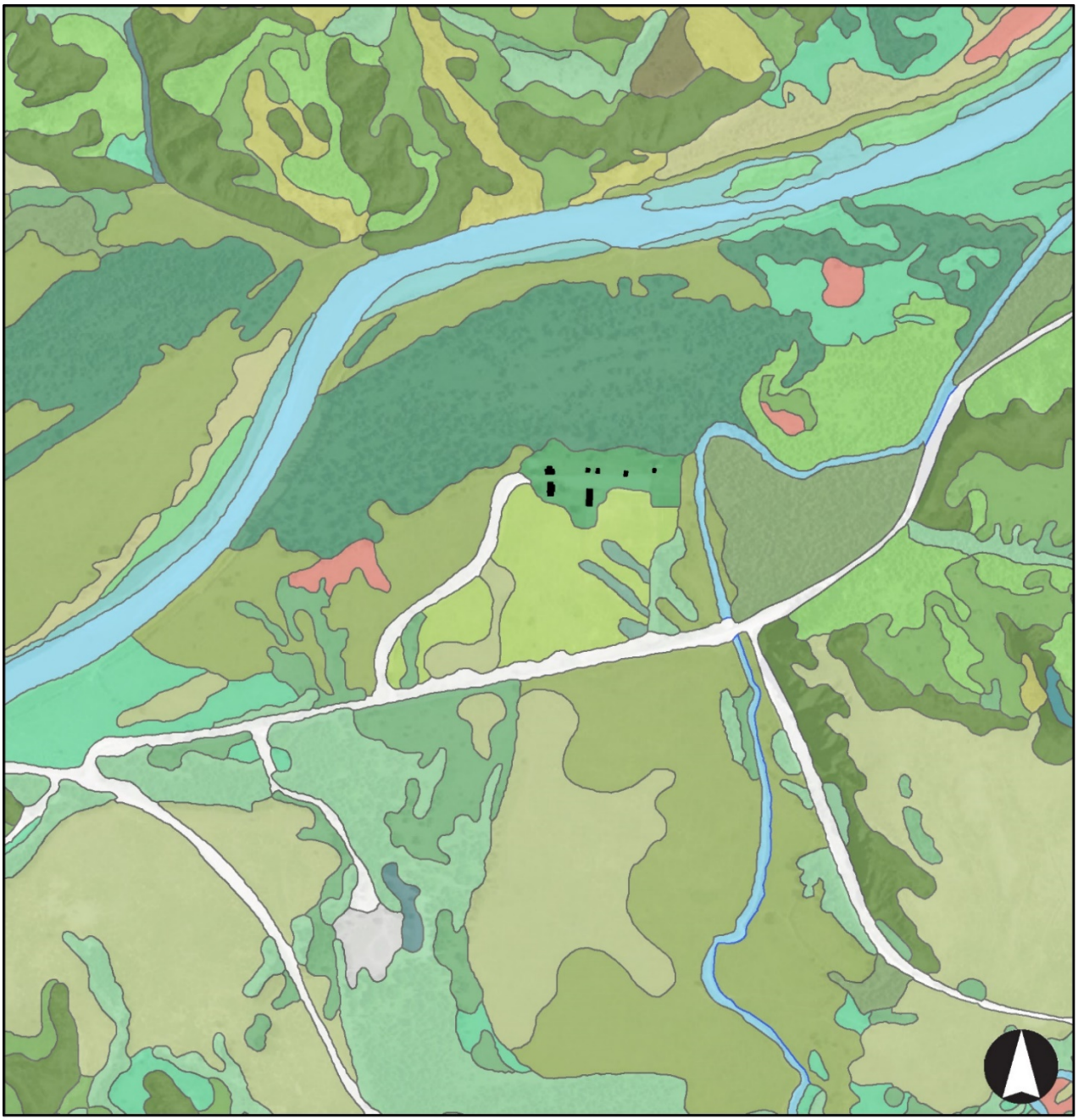


FIGURE 3-5. Vegetation communities in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch. *CHG, created using NPS-provided GIS data*.

Wildlife

Theodore Roosevelt National Park protects a diversity of wildlife communities, including grazing animals, such as bison, bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, white-tailed deer, and pronghorn (Figure 3-6 and Figure 3-7). Feral horses, descendants from horses brought to America by the Spanish, also live within the park (Figure 3-8). Predator species include coyote, bobcat, mountain lion, red fox, badger, and weasels. Small mammals include skunks, beavers, porcupine, pocket gophers, rabbits, chipmunks, pack rats, and prairie dogs (Figure 3-9). Birds of prey include bald eagles, golden eagles, prairie falcons, kestrels, turkey vultures, great-horned owls, screech owls, red-tailed hawks, rough-legged hawks, marsh hawks, and burrowing owls. A variety of perching-type songbirds, such as black-billed magpies and meadowlarks, and four species of game birds, including the sharp-tailed grouse, chukar, and wild turkey, also nest within the park. Ducks, geese, and cranes pass through the area in their annual migrations. Reptiles found within the park include prairie rattlesnake, bull snake, yellow-bellied racer, garter snake, hog-nosed snake, short-horned lizard, and sagebrush lizard. Amphibians include painted turtle, spadefoot toad, leopard frog, and tiger salamander.

By the time the park was established, many native animal species had disappeared from the region, having been extirpated by market hunters, the open-range cattle industry, and ranch settlements. Today, however, many of those species have returned to the park. These include over 1,000 acres of black-tailed prairie dog colonies, once common throughout mixed-grass plains. In addition, reintroduction programs have brought elk and bison back into the park. Early programs to eradicate the feral horse from the park have been abandoned in favor of managing their population as an interpretive exhibit. Grizzly bear, wolf, and black-footed ferret, however, are no longer found in the area.



FIGURE 3-6. Reintroduced bison roam freely through the park. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-7. The park is home to a variety of grazing species, including mule deer. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-8. Feral horse in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-9. Prairie dogs form large colonies through the park. *CHG*.

Bison and feral horses roam freely through Peaceful Valley Ranch. The ranch has also hosts prairie dog colonies that come and go; the most recent colony, which was located within the large bend of the entrance road, moved on to another location around 2010. Paddock Creek likely attracts a diverse number of species. Many other species pass through or inhabit the ranch but were not documented during the 2017 field visit.

Site Description

The project area defined for Peaceful Valley Ranch and its associated landscape in this report is generally bounded by East River Road to the south, Paddock Creek to the east, and the Little Missouri River to the north. To the west, the project area extends to encompass the ranch access drive.

The site is accessed from East River Road, which follows the floodplains and connects with the scenic park drive winding through the badlands landscape of the South Unit. An asphalt-paved access road leads from the main park road to the ranch building cluster. The developed area of Peaceful Valley Ranch is oriented east-to-west along the crest of the river terrace, with two lines of buildings framing a central parking/work area. Horse corrals extend south from the building cluster toward East River Road and stands of cottonwood trees are located in the river floodplain north of the developed area.

Existing Conditions Documentation by Landscape Characteristic

Refer to Figure 3-1 and Figure 3-2, Existing Conditions Maps.

Descriptions of the landscape resources present within the site are conveyed below. These descriptions include condition assessments that were made using the categories suggested by the *Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports:* Good, Fair, Poor, and Unknown. These categories are defined as follows:

- *Good:* indicates the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural landscape's historical and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

- *Fair:* indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its historical and/or natural values. The cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the significant characteristics and features of the cultural landscape, if left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.

- *Poor:* indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural areas.



FIGURE 3-10. The Little Missouri River in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch. *CHG*.

- *Unknown:* indicates that not enough information is available to make an evaluation.[38]

The condition ratings were annotated as possible to include specific condition-related observations made in the field that help to justify the ratings and are also conveyed in the resource inventory included as an appendix to this report. Resources described below have been assessed as in good condition unless otherwise noted.

Natural Systems and Features

The primary natural systems and features of Peaceful Valley Ranch are the Little Missouri River, including its floodplain, and Paddock Creek, which forms the eastern edge of the project area.

Little Missouri River. The northern and western edges of Peaceful Valley Ranch are defined by the course of the Little Missouri River (Figure 3-10). In the vicinity of the ranch the river is usually fairly shallow and slow-flowing. Although water periods of high water in the spring and early summer are typical, there are no trail bridges across the river; the Elkblom Trail fords the river northwest of the building cluster. Along the south edge of the river, a nearly flat river terrace extends to the edge of the building cluster and is characterized by grassy meadows and stands of cottonwood trees. The ranch site lies within the 100-year floodplain of the river.

Paddock Creek. Paddock Creek forms the eastern edge of the project area as it flows north to join the river. The creek is channeled under a bridge along East River Road south of the ranch. A shallow drainage ditch along the north edge of the park work horse paddock carries the water trough overflow to Paddock Creek. The creek is deeply incised and its banks exhibit areas of erosion exacerbated by the passage of animals.



FIGURE 3-11. Paddock Creek south of the ranch site. *CHG*.

38. Page, Gilbert, and Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes, and Techniques*, 67.



FIGURE 3-12. Local clinker was used to construct the bunkhouse chimney. *CHG*.

Responses to Natural Resources

The primary cultural response to natural resources in evidence within the site is the siting of the ranch buildings, access road, parking area, and corrals above the river terrace.

Additionally, the bunkhouse chimney is constructed with local clinker (Figure 3-12). Its shallow gable roof is covered with synthetic rubber roofing ballasted by a thick layer of clinker that is retained by a deep metal flashing at the roof edges.

Topography and Topographic Modifications

The topography of the project area is generally flat, differentiated by the river floodplain above which the buildings are sited. The river floodplain stands about a meter below the terrace, which generally runs east-west behind the bunkhouse.

Topographic modifications in the project area include grading for the entrance road and gravel parking area.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Since its establishment in 1885, development at the ranch has always occurred on the natural river terrace, out of the reach of floodwater. Today, the developed area is oriented east-to-west along the crest of the river terrace. Two parallel lines of one to one-and-one-half story buildings frame the central parking/work area of the ranch. The ranch house constructed by Lamb stands at the western end of the developed area, with the bunkhouse located directly north on the opposite side of the entrance drive. The barn and adjoining corral are located at the center of the developed area, approximately 200 feet to the east of the ranch house. North and northeast of the barn are five modern buildings constructed in the 1990s along the north side of the parking/work area to serve the horse-riding concession. The buildings have a consistent setback of about ten feet from the edge of the gravel parking/work area.

Fenced horse pens and corrals are located south and east of the barn and a paddock at the far eastern end close to Paddock Creek. Several smaller pens adjoining the east side of the barn have gated entrances to the larger corral, which extends south to East River Road. A series of holding pens related to the horse-riding concession are located to the east of the large corral. At the eastern end of the developed area, north of the holding pens, is an approximately square paddock used to keep park work horses. The paddock is subdivided into smaller areas.

Land Uses and Activities

Recreation. Several multi-use trails, supporting both foot traffic and horseback riders, arise from the Peaceful Valley Trailhead located within the project area. The trails connect to the larger trail network of the South Unit, including the wilderness area and petrified forest across the Little Missouri River.

Conservation. The work horse paddock within the project area supports park activities related to both conservation and park administration. The work horses are used for a variety of park maintenance activities in the adjacent wilderness area, where motorized vehicles are prohibited.

Education. For the past several years, the ranch has served as the stargazing site for the annual Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival, which includes educational activities related to the night sky, history, and the culture of the local American Indian tribes.

Cultural Vegetation

Very little planted vegetation is present within the project area. Most of the area within the corrals and adjacent to the building cluster is characterized by low native sage scrub.

There is one large cottonwood tree, standing about 12 feet west of the ranch house (Figure 3-13). The tree is in decline, and the crown has been significantly trimmed to protect the adjacent structure from falling branches. Younger cottonwood trees are located adjacent to the boardwalk trail and barn. There are also several smaller trees, including a Rocky Mountain juniper standing beside the well box and various saplings close to the ranch house, although these trees are likely volunteers.

North of the building cluster, the floodplain of the river is vegetated by stands of cottonwoods, mixed with Rocky Mountain juniper and green ash (Figure 3-14). The trees have been thinned periodically by both human and natural actions. As a result of fire suppression, during the last century, Rocky Mountain juniper has encroached upon cottonwood stands.

Circulation

Circulation within the project area includes both paved and unpaved roads, parking areas, and several multi-use trails.

Roads and Parking.

Peaceful Valley Ranch Road. The ranch is accessed by an asphalt-paved road off of the Scenic Loop Drive (Figure 3-15). The road winds a quarter of a mile through the landscape generally northeast toward the building cluster, ending between the ranch house and bunkhouse.



FIGURE 3-13. A mature cottonwood tree west of the ranch house is in poor condition. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-14. Cottonwoods in the Little Missouri River floodplain terrace. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-15. The Peaceful Valley Ranch access road. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-16. Gravel parking area, looking west. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-17. The gravel trailhead parking lot north of the access road. *CHG*.

Gravel parking area. The asphalt access drive ends just east of the ranch house into a large gravel parking area that extends about 400 feet to the edge of the park work horse paddock (Figure 3-16). The edge of the area is undefined, though occasionally marked by low wood bollards to prevent vehicles from driving into the adjacent landscape.

Gravel trail head parking. A small gravel parking lot extends from the north side of the access drive just west of the bunkhouse (Figure 3-17). The parking lot serves the Peaceful Valley Trailhead that arises at its northwest corner.

Adjacent Roads.

Scenic Loop Drive/East River Road. The main road through the South Unit of the park passes the ranch site about 800 feet south of the ranch house. The 36-mile Scenic Loop Drive begins at the Medora Visitor Center and winds through the Badlands landscape of the South Unit (Figure 3-18). Scenic pull-offs, trailheads, and interpretive signs are found at intervals along the length of the paved drive. The portion of the road from the visitor center and that passes south of the ranch is technically part of East River Road, which continues to follow the Little Missouri River north through the Badlands outside of the South Unit and provides access to the Roundup Horse Camp (Figure 3-19). The loop splits from East River Road about half a mile southwest of the ranch site.



FIGURE 3-18. East River Road, part of the Scenic Loop Drive, south of the ranch. Halliday Well Road and the bridge crossing Paddock Creek are visible in the foreground. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-19. East River Road, looking east. *CHG*.

Halliday Well Road. This gravel road arises from the south side of East River Road just after it crosses Paddock Creek (see Figure 3-18). The road leads approximately southeast to the Lower Paddock Creek Trailhead.

Pedestrian Circulation. There is very little in the way of formal pedestrian circulation within the immediate ranch environs. Of the two sidewalks within the site, only one sees regular use.

Wood boardwalk. A wooden board sidewalk connects the ranch house and the barn (Figure 3-20 and Figure 3-21). The four-foot-wide path starts near the south side of the paved asphalt entrance drive just east of the ranch house; it leads south to the east door of the house, then east along the edge of the gravel parking area, then south along the west façade of the barn and ending at the main barn door. The path is in fair condition; the wood is somewhat weathered and there is some vegetation growing between the boards.

A similarly-constructed wood stoop is present at the front entrance to the bunkhouse but does not extend to the adjacent asphalt drive.

Concrete sidewalk at bunkhouse. A small section of aggregate concrete sidewalk leads to a door on the west façade of the rear bunkhouse addition. It does not connect to any other circulation features. The narrow sidewalk is attached to one side of a concrete stoop and is in fair to poor condition (Figure 3-22).

Trails. The South Unit features over 50 miles of trails of varying lengths and difficulty levels. The Peaceful Valley Trailhead, located just northwest of the bunkhouse, provides direct access to three trails—the Elkblom Trail, the CCC Trail, and the Lower Paddock Creek Trail—which in turn connect to most of the other trails in the South Unit. All three of these trails (and all other park trail except nature trails) are open to both hikers and horseback riders.

The Elkblom Trail and the CCC Trail both begin at the Peaceful Valley Trailhead. The Elkblom Trail winds northwest through the cottonwood groves, crossing the Little Missouri River about 1000 feet northwest of the trailhead (Figure 3-23). The CCC Trail runs east past the ranch site, then turns northeast through the cottonwoods, eventually crossing Paddock Creek and joining with the Jones Creek Trail (Figure 3-24). Neither the river nor the creek has bridge crossings.



FIGURE 3-20. Wood board walkway between the ranch house and the barn. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-21. The board walkway along the west side of the barn. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-22. Segment of concrete sidewalk at the bunkhouse addition. *CHG*.

The Lower Paddock Creek Trail branches off the CCC Trail on the north side of the park work horse paddock. It parallels Paddock Creek just east of the holding pens and travels south, eventually crossing Paddock Creek on the south side of East River Road (Figure 3-25).



FIGURE 3-23. The Elkblom Trail as it passes through the cottonwoods in the Little Missouri River floodplain terrace. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-25. The Lower Paddock Creek Trail runs north-south between Paddock Creek and the ranch holding pens. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-24. The junction of the Elkblom and CCC Trails, looking east along the CCC Trail. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-26. Gated road trace extending north of the trailhead parking area. *CHG*.

Road Traces. A portion of the old service road to the now abandoned garbage pit extends into the floodplain terrace from the north end of the trailhead parking area (Figure 3-26). The trace is gated to restrict vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

Views and Vistas

Views into Peaceful Valley Ranch are available from along East River Road from its intersection with the Scenic Loop Drive to Halliday Well Road due to the flat topography and lack of vegetation (Figure 3-27). Harder to access, but worth the trek, are views to the ranch and Little Missouri River from the top of the bluffs southeast of the project area (Figure 3-28). Views to the larger badlands landscape are also available from with the ranch (Figure 3-29).



FIGURE 3-27. View to the ranch from East River Road. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-28. View looking northwest toward the ranch from the top of the adjacent bluffs. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-29. View from the ranch to the larger badlands landscape. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-30. View looking west between the bunkhouse and ranch house. *HRG.*

Within the building cluster, there is a linear exchange of views between the entrance road and parking lot looking east-west in-between the ranch house and bunkhouse (Figure 3-30).

Buildings

There are few buildings located on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. These are distributed throughout the site and include housing and agricultural buildings.

Ranch House. (HS-01, LCS #011579). The ranch house is situated on the south side of the access road at the entrance to the ranch. The original core of the building was constructed around 1885, with many additions and modifications constructed in the late 1880s and early part of the twentieth century. Today, the ranch house sits atop a mixture of concrete block and concrete block foundations (Figure 3-31). With the exception of the northernmost log addition, all of the house has clapboard siding. Two different roof lines are present on the building, which has over time evolved into a T-plan and forms the east-west line on the original house and the north-south line of the additions. Enclosed porches on the south and east sides of the building and a dormer window added to the second floor of the original house have shed roofs. The roof structure is fitted entirely with wood shingles.[39]

39. Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form, 3.



FIGURE 3-31. The 1885 ranch house has been heavily altered since its original construction. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-32. The 1920 bunkhouse. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-33. The rear of the bunkhouse, showing the addition. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-34. The 1905 barn. *CHG*.

Bunkhouse. (HS-04, LCS #011580). The bunkhouse is located directly north of the ranch house just across the access road (Figure 3-32). Constructed in 1920 atop a concrete foundation, the bunkhouse was built as a one-story single open room intended for recreation and socialization of guests of the newly-opened dude ranch. Rectangular in plan, it was erected using chinked logs which had been double saddle notched at the corners. A clinker chimney was constructed on the bunkhouse's west façade. Though less extensive, like the ranch house, the bunkhouse has undergone modifications and additions since its original construction. A one-story, "flat"-roofed frame addition was added to the building's north façade in 1950. The addition rests atop a concrete block foundation and has clapboard siding (Figure 3-33).[40]

Barn. (HS-15, LCS #011581). The barn lies east of the ranch house and is also situated along the access road (Figure 3-34). This building was constructed in 1905 under the ownership of George Burgess and is a good example of vernacular architecture dating from the early-twentieth century. Constructed of Washington State cedar brought in by railroad, and, like the logs used to construct the log addition to the ranch house, were originally intended to be used in bridge construction. The building is rectangular in

40. Anderson Hallas Architects, et al., *Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Historic Structures Report,* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 2014), 20-22.

plan and topped with a low-sloping gable roof which runs north to south.[41]

Hay storage shed. (Building 143). The hay storage shed is a modern building, constructed at some point between 1966 and 1987, and located directly across from the barn on the north side of the access road (Figure 3-35). Rectangular in plan, it has no foundation and is enclosed on three sides by unfinished, vertical wood siding. Its southern façade is open to the access road. The building has a gently sloping (north), wood shingle roof.



FIGURE 3-35. Hay storage shed east of the bunkhouse. *CHG*.

Water shed. (Building 151). The water shed, also called the well house or pumphouse, was constructed in 1998 and is situated roughly 25 feet east of the hay storage shed. This frame building rests atop a concrete-slab foundation, is rectangular in plan, and features vertical board-and-batten siding. The building has steeply-pitched gable roof running north to south and is fitted with wood shingles (Figure 3-36).

Vault toilet. (Building 63). The vault toilet was constructed in 1993 and is located roughly 100 feet east of the water shed. This frame building sits atop a slab-on-grade foundation, is rectangular in plan, and is partially clad in wooden clapboard siding. The wood shingle roof, which runs north to south at a slight angle, is of pole frame construction and is supported by four wooden poles on each corner (Figure 3-37).

Tack shed. The tack shed sits at the eastern edge of the ranch at the termination of the parking area Although smaller, this building is similar in appearance to the watershed. This frame building was constructed atop a concrete slab foundation and is rectangular in plan. It is clad with vertical board-and-batten siding and has a gable wood shingle roof which runs north to south (Figure 3-38).



FIGURE 3-36. Water shed. The green pipes marking the location of the well are visible at left. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-37. Vault toilet. *CHG*.

41. Anderson Hallas, *Historic Structures Report*, 22-24.



FIGURE 3-38. Tack shed at the park work horse paddock. *CHG*.

Structures

There are several structures located on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. These are distributed throughout the site and include numerous agricultural and utilitarian structures.

Horse/Hay shelter. The horse/ hay shelter is modern and sits within the park work horse paddock. This building has no foundation and was erected using pole-framing construction open on all sides. Ten wooden poles enforced by knee bracing support the buildings gable, wood shingle roof which runs east to west (Figure 3-39).

Cinderblock well box. At the northeast corner of the ranch house is a cinderblock box with a wooden lid, installed in 1998 to cover the site of the failed 1914 well (Figure 3-40). The exterior of the well box is painted white and the wooden lid is covered in asphalt roll.



FIGURE 3-39. The hay shelter in the park work horse paddock. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-40. The cinderblock well box was installed 1998 after the 1914 well failed. *CHG*.

Fences and Gates. There are many fences and gates on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. All were constructed specifically for the containment of animals and most are of rough-hewn, post and rail construction, with posts set directly into the ground. Most individual fenced enclosures on the site are connected and work to form a large corral system. Fences and gates at the ranch are roughly-constructed and show signs of spot repairs and natural weathering especially where posts meet the ground. Overall, they are in fair condition.



FIGURE 3-41. The large corral extending south from the barn. A wooden gate and head gate stand at the southwest corner of the corral. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-42. The corral is subdivided into smaller holding pens close to the barn. Gated entranced lead to the larger corral. *CHG*.

The large fenced corral adjoining the east side of the barn is subdivided into smaller pens close to the structure. Gated entrances lead to the larger corral, which extends south to East River Road (Figure 3-41 and Figure 3-42). The fence has three horizontal railings set roughly eighteen inches apart. The rails are joined to the intervening fence posts using metal hardware. The individual logs that form each railing overlap one another where they meet the posts.

There are several wooden gates situated at various intervals along the barn fence. All are composed of unpainted, rough-hewn, post and rail, log construction. A single diagonal brace connecting to its end posts allows the gate to pivot. Several of these gates are bounded by an elongated post-and-beam surround known as a head gate (Figure 3-43).



FIGURE 3-43. Gate and head gate south of the barn. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-44. The fences of the holding pens are in poor condition. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-45. The park work horse paddock. *CHG*.

Adjacent to the east of the corral fence are the holding pens (Figure 3-44). The fences of the holding pens are the same type as that of the barn and corral fences. The holding pen fence, however, has been painted red. Much of the paint is considerably worn. With the exception of a single metal chain between two posts at its northern end, there are no gates along the holding pen fence. The fences in this area have not been maintained since the horse concession closed and are in poor condition.

Just north of the holding pens is the park work horse paddock (Figure 3-45). This fence is the same type as the other fences on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. Like the holding pens, the horse paddock fence has been painted red which is noticeably worn.

There are three gates, two wooden and one metal, along the horse paddock fence. These differ considerably from those used for the barn and corral fences. The two wooden post-and-rail gates have narrow openings and are constructed of dimensional lumber attached to posts by metal hinges (see Figure 3-38, left). Both gates are painted red and are well-maintained. The long

metal gate along the horse paddock fence is known as a field gate (Figure 3-46).

Just north of the gravel trailhead parking area is a post and chain gate which prevents vehicle access to the trace of the old road to the garbage pit (see Figure 3-26).



FIGURE 3-46. Metal field gate at the park work horse paddock. *CHG*.

Mounting platforms. There are two mounting platforms on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. Both are incorporated into the fencing associated with the east side of the barn.

The first, a long, ramp-style mount is located less than 10 feet from the barn's north façade (Figure 3-47). It is composed of unpainted dimensional lumber. Three shallow wooden steps lead up to the mounting area. Although the wood has weathered naturally over time, and the platform is roughly constructed, it is in fair condition.

The second mounting platform is located roughly 50 feet east of the first (Figure 3-48). It is triangular in plan and has been incorporated into the convergence point of two perpendicular fences. It is composed mostly of dimensional lumber with a short set of wooden steps leading to the mounting area. A rough-hewn log handrail runs along one side of the steps. The mounting platform is roughly constructed, shows traces of having once been painted red, and has weathered naturally over time. It is in fair condition.



FIGURE 3-47. A small mounting platform just east of the barn. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-48. Mounting platform near the gate entrance to the large corral. *CHG*.

Small-scale Features

There are numerous small-scale features located on the Peaceful Valley Ranch site. These features are generally grouped around the buildings and circulation features, and include site furnishings, signs, features associated with the corrals, and utilities.

Flagpole. A flagpole is located on the north side of the gravel parking area, about halfway between the bunkhouse and the hay storage shed (Figure 3-49). The metal flagpole has metal support brackets at the base. It is fair to poor condition; its coat of white paint is chipped and peeling, revealing an earlier coat of pale pink paint as well as the bare metal beneath. Portions of the metal support brackets exhibit rust.



FIGURE 3-49. The flagpole located east of the bunkhouse. *CHG*.

Bollards. Low wood bollards are found in several locations within the study area to limit vehicular access without impeding pedestrian or animal foot traffic, especially along the edges of the gravel parking area (Figure 3-50). Typically placed in rows, the bollards are about 18 inches tall and usually rounded at the top. Most are painted red and some have attached reflective panels for added visibility (Figure 3-51). Most of the bollards are in good to fair condition; however, a row of bollards along the south side of the access road opposite the trailhead parking are in poor condition. Several of these bollards are rotted or overgrown by vegetation.



FIGURE 3-50. Row of bollards the north edge of the gravel parking lot. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-51. Reflector attached to a wood bollard. *CHG*.

Site Furnishings. Site furnishings present in the study area are primarily found in association to the buildings, and many appear to be associated with the former horse-riding concessioner.

Benches. A pair of wood and pipe metal benches are located on the north side of the barn, behind a low rail (Figure 3-52). The wood slats are painted red, and the pipe metal supports are painted green. An ash receptacle is set between the two benches. The benches are in good condition.

A second pair of benches is located on the west side of the barn, between the barn wall and the board sidewalk leading to the west entrance (Figure 3-53). These two benches are entirely constructed of wood and painted red. The benches are in good condition.



FIGURE 3-52. Wood and metal benches along the north facade of the barn. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-53. Wood benches on the west side of the barn. *CHG*.

Picnic tables. Several wood and pipe metal picnic tables are present within the study area. The table tops and benches are painted red (Figure 3-54). Several benches are located adjacent to the board sidewalk near the ranch house, but most are stored in the corrals southeast of the barn. The tables are in good to fair condition; the materials are generally in good repair, although a few have detached support bars and many have worn paint.



FIGURE 3-54. Picnic table and firepit east of the ranch house. *CHG*.

Fire pit. A fire pit/grill is located adjacent to one of the picnic tables near the ranch house (see Figure 3-54). The fire pit is a ground-level metal ring with an attached hinged grate. The feature is in fair condition, exhibiting a good amount of rust.

A second fire pit is in the grassy area between the ranch house and the barn. This feature is a metal ring with pipe metal legs, standing about two feet tall. The fire pit is in poor condition; it is in several pieces and is extremely corroded (Figure 3-55).



FIGURE 3-55. Deteriorated fire pit west of the barn. *CHG*.

Trash and recycling receptacles. Several wheeled refuse and recycling bins are located adjacent to buildings in the study area. Four are located near the entrance to the barn corrals, one near the covered well adjacent to the ranch house, and one on the concrete pad of the Vault toilet.

Ash receptacle. An ash receptacle is located between the pair of benches on the north side of the barn (see Figure 3-52). The feature is an upturned concrete pipe, painted a pale pink on the exterior and filled with coarse sand. It is in fair to poor condition. The concrete is cracked and deteriorated around the top rim, and much of the paint is peeling. The feature has also been splashed with red paint and has moss growing on the sand.

Corral Features. There are several small-scale features associated with both the park work horse paddock and the old concessioner corrals. These include features related to the feeding, watering, and riding of horses.

Water troughs. Two water troughs are located within the park work horse paddock on the east end of the gravel parking lot. Both troughs are fiberglass large tubs. One in the northwest corner of the paddock is served by a water faucet and has an overflow pipe which lets out into the drainage ditch running along the north edge of the paddock into Paddock Creek (Figure 3-56). A similar water trough is located upside down in one of the unused holding pens.



FIGURE 3-56. A water trough in the park work horse paddock. *CHG*.

Hay racks. Two wooden hay racks are in the large corral south of the barn (Figure 3-57). The racks are composed of a wooden platform with wooden supports. Both are in poor condition; one has partially collapsed, and both appear to be missing side rails.

Several hay racks/feed troughs, composed of both wood and metal, are also attached to fencing in the park work horse paddock in the vicinity of the hay shelter.



FIGURE 3-57. One of the deteriorated hay racks in the corral. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-58. Hitching rail on the south side of the parking area. *CHG*.

Hitching rails. There are two hitching rails along the edge of the gravel parking lot for the use of park visitors unloading horse trailers. One, located on the south side of the parking area just east of the larger mounting block, is composed of two fence posts connected by a wide wooden board (Figure 3-58). The board is set with eye hooks. A second hitching rail is located on the north edge of the parking area between the bunkhouse and the hay storage shed. This rail resembles a single fence section; it is composed of two fence posts connected by two rounded fence rails. This hitching rail is painted red. Both hitching rails are in fair condition.

Signs. There are very few signs in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch and its landscape setting. Most are either regulatory or directional or are associated with the adjacent trail system.

National Register marker. A small metal sign mounted on a wood post at the northwest corner of the barn denotes that Peaceful Valley Ranch has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places (Figure 3-59). The sign is in good/fair condition; there is a small amount of patina on some of the letters and burnishing along the edges.



FIGURE 3-59. NRHP sign at the corner of the barn. *CHG*.

Concessioner signs. A group of three signs are located near the gap in the fence on the northeast corner of the barn, which indicate the entrance to the mounting platform (Figure 3-60). Two of the signs are simple wood planks attached to the barn façade with routed letters painted white. These signs are in good condition. The third sign is affixed to the fence rail, alerting visitors to the risk of horseback riding. The sign is painted white with black, hand-painted letters. This sign is in fair/poor condition; the edges of the sign are chipped, and the black lettering is quite faded.



FIGURE 3-60. Concessioner signs. *CHG*.

Wood NPS directional signs. Two wood signs indicating the way to Peaceful Valley Ranch are located along East River Road near its intersection with the ranch access road (Figure 3-61). The signs are mounted on wood posts, with routed letters and an arrow painted a pale yellow. Both the wooden signs and the posts are painted red.

A similar sign is located along the south side of the access road, indicating the location of the gravel trailhead parking. This sign also has an additional metal sign affixed to the post that alerts horseback riders that the area is a certified weed-free forage area.

A smaller sign of similar style is affixed to the west façade of the barn, above the National Register marker (see Figure 3-21).

All the wood signs are in good condition, although the metal sign on the "Hiker Parking" post is in poor condition.

Trail signs and markers. An upright panel sign stands at the Peaceful Valley Trailhead in the northwest corner of the gravel trailhead parking area. The sign is a standard NPS "upright" series sign with a weathering steel base and panel frame and two "miscellaneous posting" accessories mounted to a panel below the sign. The sign features trail and regulatory information and a map of the trails in the vicinity (Figure 3-62).

Several wood post trail markers are present along the Elkblom Trail and the CCC Trail. These are typically simple wood posts with an angled top. A trail junction marker with a pointed top is located at the junction of the CCC Trail and Elkblom Trail southeast of the bunkhouse (Figure 3-63). The marker has vinyl signs affixed to each face indicating directions of various trails and a small metal sign detailing trail regulations.

Traffic Regulation and Accessible Parking Signs. Three "No Parking" signs are located along the north edge of the gravel parking area, preventing visitors from blocking access to the water shed, vault toilet, and hitching rail. A stop sign is also located on the west side of the Peaceful

Valley Ranch access road, allowing right-of-way to vehicular traffic on East River Road.

Two metal "Private Property" signs on metal posts are located near the entrances of the ranch house and the bunkhouse. The signs are in fair condition; one is bent almost in half and both are leaning over.



FIGURE 3-61. Wooden sign along East River Road. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-62. Trailhead sign and wooden bollard at the Peaceful Valley Trailhead. *CHG*.



FIGURE 3-63. Trail marker. *CHG*.

Light post. A single pole area light fixture is located along the wooden sidewalk just east of the ranch house. The area light is mounted to a 25-foot wooden telephone pole, which has metal footholds at irregular intervals.

Utilities

The existing condition of site utilities was described and evaluated in the 2014 Historic Structures Report (HSR) for Peaceful Valley Ranch.[42] The condition of these features has not significantly changed in the interim; a brief summary of these features follows.

Stormwater. The only stormwater management feature in the study area is a metal culvert that carries water beneath the Peaceful Valley Ranch road near the intersection with East River Road.

42. Anderson Hallas, *Historic Structures Report*, 137-141.

Water. Water service on the site is provided from via a well that was drilled in 1998. The water shed, described above, houses a storage tank and pumping and water treatment equipment. The well itself is located northwest of the structure, where by several green-painted metal pipes can be seen extending from the ground (see Figure 3-36). A manhole located at the southwest corner of the well building houses control valves for the water system. From the water shed, underground pipes carry water to the ranch house, bunkhouse, and hose bibs within the corrals. The 2014 HSR noted the water system as being in good condition (Figure 3-64).

Septic. The septic system on site serves the ranch house and bunkhouse and was installed in 1983. The waste lines from both structures run underground to a settling tank east of the bunkhouse, then out to the leach field located behind the bunkhouse. The two circular concrete features mark the general location of the settling tank. The 2014 HSR noted the sanitary lines as being in good condition but noted that the sections of tile pipe should be monitored for collapses and obstructions.

Electrical. The electrical system currently onsite dates to 1980. Underground electrical service is route alongside the ranch access road to a transformer located northwest of the hay storage shed. The transformer pad and the adjacent panel meter are surrounded by simple post and rail fencing to protect them from wildlife. Underground feeders run to the ranch house, the bunkhouse, and the barn. The 2014 HSR noted the electrical infrastructure as being in fair condition.

Telephone. The telephone system utility pedestal is located adjacent to the electrical transformer pad. The buried cable feeds phone connections to the ranch house, bunkhouse, and the barn. A green telephone utility box is located along the west side of the corral directly south of the barn.

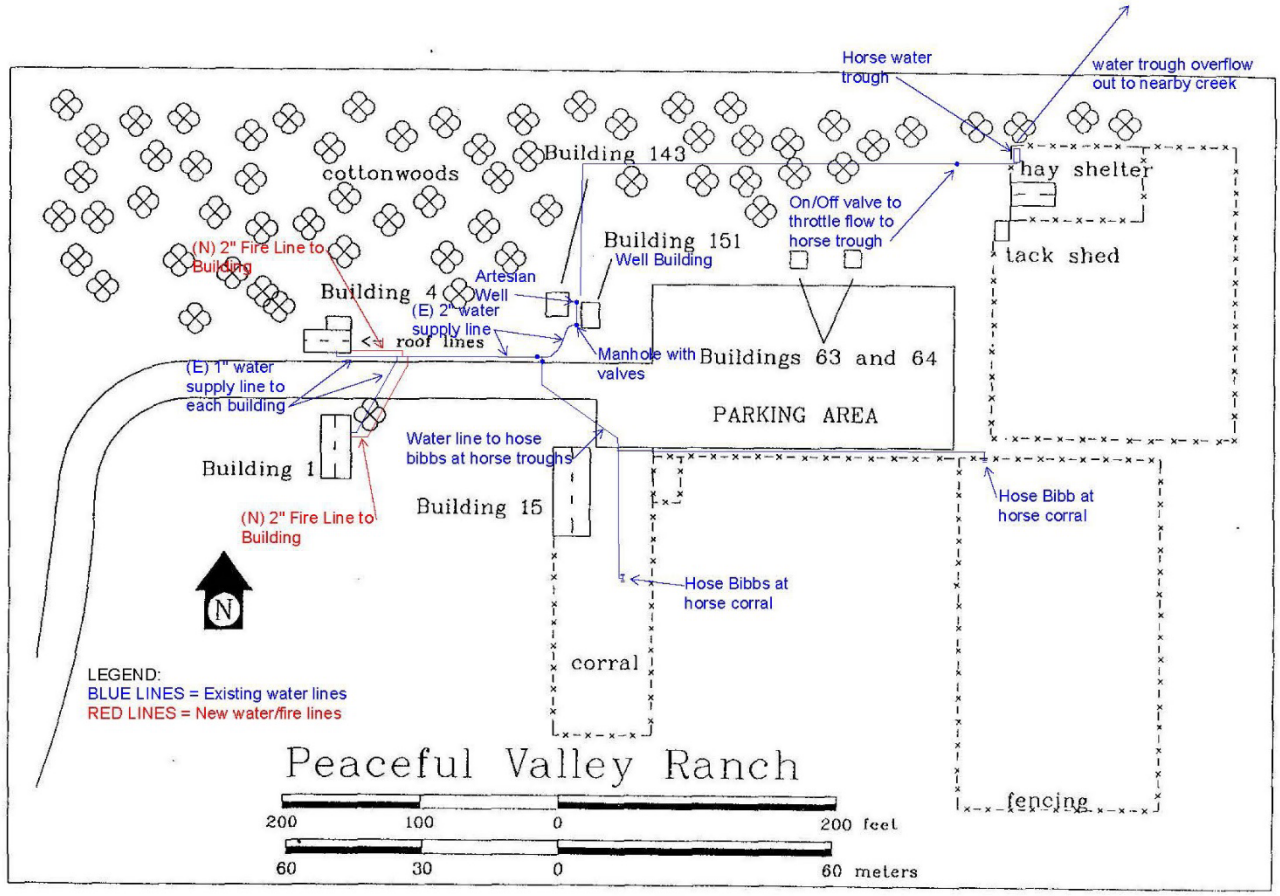


FIGURE 3-64. Water site plan in 2014. *Anderson Hallas,* Historic Structures Report*, Appendix H.*

Archeological Resources

Several archeological investigations have been performed in the vicinity of Peaceful Valley Ranch, starting in the late 1980s. Over the course of three years, an archeological survey within Theodore Roosevelt National Park was conducted by the University of North Dakota in cooperation with the National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC). The intensive inventory consisted of work in 29 individual project areas, including a 136-acre site surrounding Peaceful Valley Ranch. The Peaceful Valley Ranch survey area was visited in 1987 and included the area between the Little Missouri River and East River Road, extending from the intersection of East River Road and the Scenic Loop Road approximately to where the CCC Trail crosses Paddock Creek. The investigations noted a brick foundation outline measuring eight meters east-west by three meters north-south "along the north edge of the fenced horse corral" (site 32BI602). No historic debris was observed in the site area. Additionally, a pre-1920s tin can isolated find was discovered in the Little Missouri riverbank, about a meter below the ground surface.[43]

In 1998 and 1999, MWAC archeologists returned to Peaceful Valley Ranch to evaluate subsurface potential for archeological resources around the three historic structures included in the NHRP nomination: the ranch house, the bunkhouse, and the barn. This work was initiated by plans to stabilize the foundations of the three buildings. A test unit on the north side of the ranch house revealed several glass window fragments dating to 1860-1880, consistent with the construction of the main portion of the house. A test unit excavated on the north side of the bunkhouse revealed a variety of artifacts, including ceramics, cut and wire nails, firearms cartridges, glass fragments, and animal bone. The window glass fragments dated to the mid-1880s. A test unit on the west side of the barn recovered only modern artifacts, but did reveal a brick walk that had been partially removed to install the barn's concrete foundation.[44]

In 2007, MWAC performed archeological monitoring for the foundation replacement of the ranch house and recorded several features and artifacts associated with the house. The fieldwork revealed a hand-dug, stone-lined well[45] in the basement, evidence of a small fire in the rear log addition dating to the late 1800s or early 1900s, evidence of a former clinker roof, and evidence of a possible log walkway on the north side of the structure. Numerous small artifacts were recovered from test units placed between floor joists in the log addition, including wire and cut nails, clear curved glass, a rivet head, bone, ceramic fragments, and several metal items. Items recovered from the margins of the house during the foundation monitoring include glass bottles with paper labels, a hard rubber infant's comb, a teaspoon, a tin lid for a cooking pot, and a cast iron stove leg cover. The recovered artifacts represented the occupation of the house from the late 1800s through the mid-to-late 1900s.[46]

In the summer of 2018, MWAC conducted a magnetic survey of the ranch to provide a baseline geophysical record of the ranch in advance of any future development. The survey covered 12.58 acres of the ranch, extending generally from the north side of the river terrace to East River Road. The data identified numerous magnetic anomalies

43. Kuehn, *Archeological Survey,* 61-62.
44. William J. Hunt, Jr., *Monitoring Foundation Construction at the Peaceful Valley Ranch Site (32BI67) and Site Condition Assessments at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO), Billings County, North Dakota,* Technical Report No. 103, (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center, 2008), 5.
45. The presence of the well near the east end of the original ranch house is consistent with the oral history for the structure, which describes a pump covering an 80-foot well on the south end of the east porch. Refer to Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, *Peaceful Valley Ranch: An Extended Narrative History,* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993), 34-36.
46. Hunt, *Monitoring Foundation Construction*, 9-12.

associated with historic Euro-American ranching activities at the ranch, as well as its role as park headquarters prior to 1959. The report concluded that the integrity of the buried archeological resources indicated is very good, and advised that future development plans for the ranch include additional archeological ground-truthing of the anomalies to determine their extent and significance.[47]

Accessibility Evaluation

Buildings

Ranch House

The ranch house does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- At both the east and south entrances the steps and sloped flooring prevent accessible path of entry into the ranch house (refer 303, Changes in Level; 403.3, Slope);
- Entrance doors, at 2'-6" wide are too narrow (under 32") (refer 404.2.3, Clear Width);
- Knob-type door hardware poses challenges to accessibility (refer Advisory 404.2.7, Door and Gate Hardware).

Bunkhouse

The bunkhouse does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- The south and west entrance doors are 2'-6" wide (where 32" clear is required). The exterior door leaving to the living room is 3'-8" wide and meets accessibility requirements for width. (refer 404.2.3, Clear Width);
- Knob-type door hardware poses challenges to accessibility (refer Advisory 404.2.7, Door and Gate Hardware);
- Thresholds are all compliant (as they are all lower than 1/2"). (refer 404.25, Thresholds).

Barn

The barn does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- The main west entrance has a 1" step up which prevents accessible path of entry into the ranch house (refer 303, Changes in Level; 403.3, Slope);
- When both leaves are open, the west entrance door is 6'-6" wide which meets accessibility standards. (refer 404.2.3, Clear Width).
- Knob-type door hardware poses challenges to accessibility (refer Advisory 404.2.7, Door and Gate Hardware);
- Entrance thresholds are greater than 1/2" (less than 1/2" is required) which prevents them from meeting accessibility requirements. (refer 404.25, Thresholds).

Vault Toilet

The Vault Toilet meets Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- The Peaceful Valley Ranch has a vault toilet for visitors, which meets accessibility standards. (refer, 604.8.1 Wheelchair Accessible Compartments);
- There is no accessible route to the vault toilet from an accessible parking space nor from any

[47] De Vore, Steven, *Magnetic Survey of the Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota,* draft report (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service, Midwest Archeological Center, 2019).

other area on the site. (refer, 402 Accessible Routes);

- Accessible facilities are required to be identified by use the international symbol of accessibility (refer, 703.7.2.1).

Circulation

The current configuration of circulation routes on the Peaceful Valley Ranch does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- Several deficiencies pose challenges to accessible circulation of the site (refer, 302 Floor or Ground Surfaces, 402 Accessible Routes, and 403 Walking Surfaces).

Parking

The current parking facility on the Peaceful Valley Ranch does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- There are no accessible parking spaces on the site, which are required for public parking facilities (refer, 208 Parking Spaces, and 508 Parking Spaces);

- Lack of firm and stable surfaces poses challenges to accessibility (refer, 302 Floor or Ground Surfaces).

Signage

The current signage on the Peaceful Valley Ranch does not meet Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards for federal facilities (ABAAS).

- Current signage on the site poses challenges to accessibility (refer, 703 Signs);

- Accessible facilities are required to be identified by use the international symbol of accessibility (refer, 703.7.2.1).

Chapter 4: Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

This chapter is composed of three sections: an evaluation of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) status of Peaceful Valley Ranch, a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions, and an integrity assessment.

The evaluation of the 1994 NRHP nomination describes the current NRHP status of Peaceful Valley Ranch, summarizes additional information provided in the 2012 Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) addressing landscape features, and makes recommendations for updating the 1994 nomination.

The comparative analysis examines the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions to provide an understanding of how much the park and its resources today reflect their character and appearance during the period of significance. This information is then summarized in table form in the inventory of resources provided in Appendix A.

The final section of this chapter is an integrity assessment that summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey conditions present during the identified period of significance.

National Register of Historic Places

The following section describing the current NRHP status of Peaceful Valley Ranch begins with a brief description of the nominated site, the historical significance of the ranch, and its integrity to the identified period of significance. It goes on to describe additional information provided in the 2012 Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) regarding landscape features that reinforce the overall historic character of the ranch. The section closes with recommendations for updating the existing nomination.

Current National Register Status of Peaceful Valley Ranch

Peaceful Valley Ranch was listed in the NRHP on July 31, 1994.[1] At that time, it was placed in the category of "Building," with three contributing resources listed: the ranch house (ca.1885), the bunkhouse (1920), and the log barn (1905). The NRHP site comprises 0.5 acres delineated by a polygon drawn around the three buildings.[2]

The NRHP nomination identified the period of significance as extending from 1885, the approximate year the ranch house was constructed, to 1936, the year the federal government purchased Peaceful Valley Ranch and the land surrounding it from Carl Olsen, and park

1. Dori Penny and Thomas Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch" National Register of Historic Places Inventory/Nomination Form.

2. Penny and Larson, "Peaceful Valley Ranch," boundary map.

establishment began.[3] This period encompasses the years in which it operated as a cattle and horse ranch, as well as the early years in which the ranch was developed as part of what would become Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The nomination identified the ranch as significant at the local level under Criterion A, associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and Criterion C, associated with late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century design and construction techniques. The nomination cited several areas of significance which include agriculture, for its association with open-range ranching, fee-simple ranching, and dude ranching; entertainment/ recreation, for its association with dude ranching; conservation, for its place in the early years of the establishment of Theodore Roosevelt National Park; and architecture, for the three buildings.

The ranch house, bunk house, and log barn were determined to possess integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association from the period of significance. No other sites, features, or buildings were listed as contributing in the NRHP nomination.

Cultural Landscape Inventory

The CLI completed for Peaceful Valley Ranch in 2012 assessed the significance of the cultural landscape associated with the ranch. It noted the significance of the setting representing the open-range ranch history in which Theodore Roosevelt fully participated, fee-simple ranching, and dude ranching, as well as the importance of the establishment of Theodore Roosevelt National Park between 1885 and 1936.[4]

The CLI identified landscape characteristics that reinforce the overall character of the Peaceful Valley Ranch and retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While the CLI lists these landscape characteristics as spatial organization, natural systems and features, circulation, vegetation, topography, buildings and structures, and small-scale features, not all are discussed as contributing features.[5]

Those identified as contributing include the ranch house, the bunkhouse, and the barn. Contributing structures include the corrals and paddocks, which represent historic use of the site. While not described as contributing, the analysis mentions the spatial relationships between the three contributing buildings, as well as the overall pattern of buildings flanking a central work yard/parking area. Patterns of vegetation, including the grove of cottonwood trees between the ranch complex and the river, were also mentioned. Contributing patterns of circulation and topographical features were not identified.[6] Additional analysis is needed to tie these cultural landscape features to the assessment of integrity.

Historic Resource Survey

The Theodore Roosevelt National Park Historic Resource Study was completed in 2017. It makes recommendations for identifying, documenting, and managing the park's historic resources, including an update to the Peaceful Valley Ranch NRHP nomination that takes a landscape approach to ensure that the broader setting of the three buildings currently listed is considered to ensure a more integrated approach to resource management.

Recommended NRHP Update

The current NRHP nomination is almost 25 years old and should be updated. The nomination does

3. "Significance" indicates the important historical associations of the property, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to a discrete period in which its important contributions were made, and to relevant national, state, and local historic contexts.
4. National Park Service, *Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory*, (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 2012), 23.
5. National Park Service, *Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 23.
6. National Park Service, *Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Inventory*, 23-37.

not address the landscape setting of the ranch buildings, which was the primary location for ranching activities, or list the landscape as a contributing site. Ranching activities include the use of the land south of the building complex as fenced paddocks and horse corrals, the use of the land north of the complex for trails and utility roads, and the spatial organization of the ranch complex around a central work space. Other features that should be addressed include historic patterns of vegetation, circulation, and utilities that serve the complex.

In consideration of the above, this CLR makes the following recommendations:

- change the category of the nominated property from a "building" to a "district" and add "site" to the list of contributing resources;
- add to the nomination the site's significance under Criterion D for its potential to yield archeological information; and
- extend the boundaries of the nominated site south to East River Road to include portions of historic road traces, east to Paddock Creek, west to just past the entrance road, and north towards the river to include a portion of the old ranch road and the heads of hiking and horseback trails that extended from the ranch to the main road and other local sites (Figure 4-1).

This boundary will delineate the area occupied by the following contributing features:

Land Use and Activities:

- former and ongoing use of site for managing horses
- overall pattern of fenced paddocks and corrals that demonstrates historic use

Spatial Organization:

- arrangement of buildings around a central work yard/parking area

Natural Features and Systems:

- a portion of Paddock Creek
- Little Missouri River floodplain and river terrace

Response to Natural Features and Systems:

- siting of ranch house on high point of property
- use of local clinker as roofing material and to construct the bunkhouse chimney

Topographic Features:

- river terrace on which ranch complex was constructed
- fill used around the bunkhouse new addition

Vegetation Features and Patterns:

- single cottonwood that stands to the west of the ranch house
- cottonwood groves to the north of the ranch complex
- mixed woodland and brush groves to the east and southeast of the ranch complex
- native mixed grassland

Circulation Features and Patterns:

- central work yard/parking lot
- location of walkways between buildings

Buildings and Structures:

- Ranch House
- Bunkhouse
- Barn
- small horse corral

Small-Scale Features:

- well at northeast corner of ranch house

An update to the NRHP nomination should emphasize the integrity of the landscape setting of

the ranch buildings and provide a broader basis for preservation of the cultural landscape.

Comparative Analysis of Existing and Historic Conditions

Based on a period of significance of 1885-1936, this analysis focuses on assessing the degree to which the Peaceful Valley Ranch landscape and each of its features help to convey significant historic associations and contribute to the significance of the property. Comparisons are made for the landscape as a whole, for each of the landscape characteristics discussed in chapter three, and for each individual resource.

The date of origin of each resource is identified, and any changes that have occurred over time are noted. Those features that were established during the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations are identified as contributing, while those that postdate the period of significance or have lost integrity are indicated as non-contributing. Features that existed during the period of significance but are no longer extant are identified as missing resources.

The comparative analysis is illustrated by paired historic and recent photographs taken from the same, or nearby, location. These paired photographs are referenced in the text to illustrate points made in the narrative. Features identified as contributing to the overall integrity of the site are identified in Figure 4-1.

Natural Systems and Features

The Little Missouri River and Paddock Creek continue to flow in approximately the same locations as they did during the period of significance. The natural river terrace on which Peaceful Valley Ranch developed also continues to support buildings and ranch use areas.

Contributing Natural Features and Systems

- Little Missouri River
- Paddock Creek
- River terrace

Non-contributing Natural Features and Systems

- n/a

Missing Natural Features and Systems

- n/a

Responses to Natural Resources

Flooding patterns of the Little Missouri River led Lamb to construct the ranch house on the river terrace that lies above the maximum flood level of the river. Other buildings, including the bunkhouse, barn, and NPS-constructed buildings, were also sited on top of the terrace out of the flood zone.

Another notable response is the use of local clinker to construct the red-hued chimney that stands on the western end of the bunkhouse (see Figure 3-12). Clinker was also used as roofing material on the bunkhouse and later by the CCC as roadway and pathway paving.

In addition, during the period of significance, ranchers harvested juniper trees and collected deadfall from which to construct corrals at the ranch. These materials would likely have been collected in the woodlands surrounding the core of the ranch.

Contributing Responses to Natural Resources

- Siting of buildings on the river terrace above the river's flood level
- Use of local clinker to construct the bunkhouse chimney

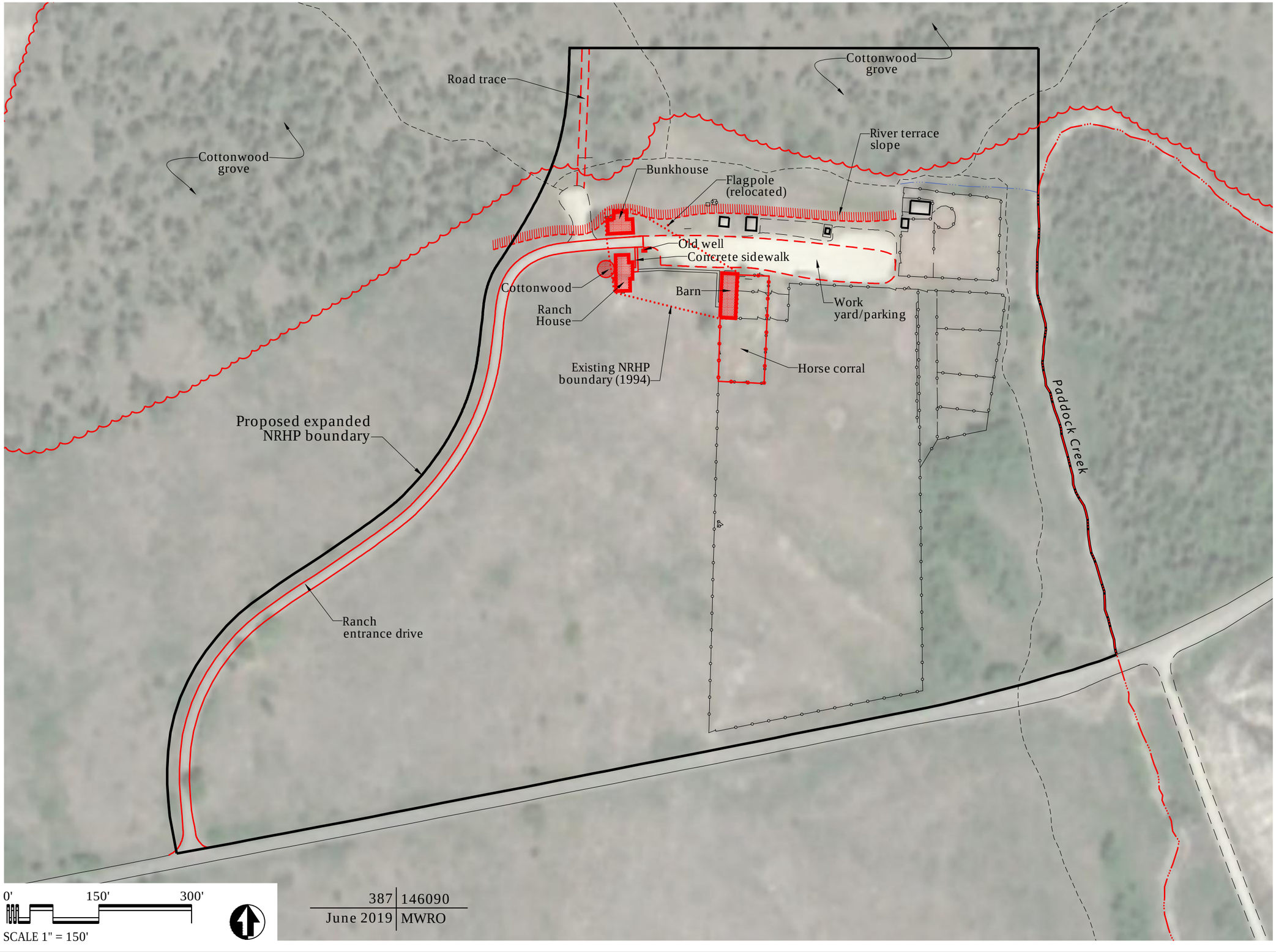
Non-contributing Responses to Natural Resources

- Use of local clinker as gravel paving

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Paved road
- Gravel road
- Trail
- Sidewalk
- Building
- Wood fence
- Stream
- Contributing Feature

FIGURE 4-1.

Contributing Features
Peaceful Valley Ranch

Proposed NRHP
Boundary Expansion

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Missing Responses to Natural Resources

- Use of collected juniper and deadfall to construct corrals.

Topography and Topographic Modifications

The topography of the ranch is generally flat, differentiated only by the river terrace on which the ranch buildings have always been sited to keep them above flood level. Some fill has been added around the foundations of buildings that were sited on the edge of this natural terrace. Although the bunkhouse once rested on piers that extended down the slope of the terrace, with the construction of the addition in 1950, a concrete foundation was installed and the area around the north side of the building filled around it. Due to this fill, the flared base of the clinker chimney is no longer visible (Figure 4-2 and Figure 4-3).

Gravel has been added occasionally to the central lane between the bunkhouse and the ranch house, raising the grade at the entrance of both buildings. The entrance to the bunkhouse, while once accessed by a step or two, is now almost level with the grade of the drive.

In 1941, the CCC constructed a new gravel access road into the ranch, replacing the original ranch lane. The new driveway was engineered and graded for automobile traffic.

Contributing Topography and Topographic Modifications

- Flat topography of ranch
- River terrace

Non-contributing Topography and Topographic Modifications

- Fill around the base of the bunkhouse chimney
- Grading for access road
- Fill on top of the central lane

Missing Topography and Topographic Modifications

- Slope below the bunkhouse when it stood on piers



FIGURE 4-2. View of the western end of the bunkhouse in the 1920s. The bunkhouse stood on a pier and beam foundation that lifted it above the slope of the river terrace. The chimney had a flared base. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-3. Similar view showing the bunkhouse now resting on a concrete foundation. Fill added to support the foundation obscures the flared base of the chimney. *CHG*.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

Since its establishment in 1885, buildings and structures have come and gone, and the animal corrals have been continually reconfigured as needs changed. Development at the ranch, however, has always occurred on the natural river terrace, out of the reach of floodwater.

Under Lamb's ownership, buildings and corrals at the ranch formed a cluster just east of the ranch

entrance road. In 1895, Lamb's ranch house stood at the western side of this cluster, the barns and calf shed stood at the center, and the corrals extended to the east and south (see Figure 2-2).

By 1915, the Burgesses had removed Lamb's central barn and replaced it with three separate buildings, but the corrals remained in the same location. The Burgesses added a bunk house for ranch hands in 1903 just east of the ranch house and constructed a fence around the two residences, forming a yard (see Figure 2-5).

From 1915 to 1936, the Olsens set up a pattern of organizing buildings east to west along the crest of the river terrace (see Figure 2-11). These included the bunkhouse/lodge across the drive from the ranch house and two large stable/barn buildings further east, which provided the northern edge of an open work area between those buildings and the barn and corrals. By 1922, the Olsens had built a cluster of guest cabins on the river terrace west of the ranch house. The only building not following this pattern was a residence constructed south of the ranch house in 1916.

Although the original configuration of the cow corral was preserved, what had been the hay corral was quadrupled in size and oriented with its length going east to west. A second, large, fenced-in corral or pasture was added adjacent to and south of the large hay corral. Post and wire fences extended further south along Paddock Creek, likely to prevent animals from wandering into the creek bed.

After the ranch was acquired by the federal government, the pattern of development began to assume the form of an "L" (see Figure 2-22). In the 1950s, three residences were constructed extending south of the ranch house for park staff and arranged around a central walkway. Two trailers for additional staff were also installed in the same area, and the entire group of dwellings was enclosed with a fence. The headquarters for the Roosevelt Recreation Demonstration Area and three large equipment garages were constructed along the crest of the river terrace and east of the bunkhouse. Several smaller buildings relocated from other places were lined up opposite with a dirt or gravel work yard/parking area was established between the two rows of buildings; the entire area was enclosed with a fence. The horse corral was relocated from west of the stable/barn to the east.

This L-shaped arrangement of buildings and fence areas remained until the mid-1960s when around 16 buildings were demolished, leaving the three original ranch buildings: the ranch house, the bunkhouse, and the barn/stable. In 1975, additional horse pens and corrals were installed south and east of the barn and a paddock at the far eastern end close to Paddock Creek. In the 1990s, five buildings serving the horse-riding concessioners were added along the crest of the river terrace (see Figure 3-2). The only two that do not conform to the historic pattern of buildings along the terrace are the horse/hay shelter and the tack shed, which stand further to the north.

Contributing Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Arrangement of buildings along the crest of the river terrace

Non-contributing Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Orientation of the horse corral by 1959
- Location of horse/hay shelter and tack shed

Missing Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Horse corral ca. 1895
- Hay corral configuration ca. 1915
- Cluster of guest cabins ca. 1922
- Location of residence south of ranch house, ca. 1916
- Fenced-in yard around the ranch house
- Locations of fenced-in areas ca. 1936

Land Uses and Activities

Land use at Peaceful Valley Ranch during the period of significance changed from agriculture (1885-1920s, open range or fee-simple ranching) to recreation (1920s to 1936, dude ranching). After

1936, it changed to conservation (1936 to 1947, New Deal era), then back to recreation (1947 to today). Currently, the ranch serves as a temporary support area, but the park has proposed adaptively reusing the ranch as a multi-purpose facility.

Contributing Land Uses

- n/a

Non-contributing Land Uses

- Conservation (proposed)
- Education (proposed)

Missing Land Uses

- Agriculture
- Recreation

Cultural Vegetation

Photographs of Peaceful Valley Ranch dating from the period of significance indicate that, except for several large cottonwoods maintained close to the ranch house and bunkhouse, the developed area at the crest of the river terrace was kept clear of trees (see Figures 2-16, 2-17, and 2-29). In the floodplain, however, a wooded area of cottonwood, now mixed with Rocky Mountain juniper and green ash, has continued to thrive between the ranch and the river. The trees have been thinned periodically by both human and natural actions, although the general appearance of the wooded area has changed little through time. It should be noted, however, that since the historic period, the density of the Rocky Mountain juniper has increased through encroachment.

Four notable specimens of cottonwood have been recorded in photographs throughout the history of the ranch (see Figures 2-3, 2-6, 2-9, 2-26 and 2-27). The only one that survives today stands around 12 feet west of the ranch house and is aligned with its original back wall. This tree appears in photographs as early as 1903 as a large, mature specimen; it is in poor condition (Figure 4-4 and Figure 4-5).



FIGURE 4-4. Photo from the 1920s taken of the west side of the ranch house, showing the large cottonwood that shaded the house. A planted sapling stands between it and the ranch head gate. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-5. Similar view from 2017 showing the same large cottonwood shading the house. The sapling is gone. *CHG*.

A second large cottonwood located approximately the same distance from the house but aligned with the north wall of the log addition appears in photographs as late as the 1920s but was in poor condition. It had been removed by 1947 (Figure 4-6 and Figure 4-7). A third appears in 1903 adjacent to the bunk house the Burgesses built the same year. As with the previous two, it was already a mature tree that year; it appears in photographs as late as 1929. A fourth, a double-trunked cottonwood, appears in photographs as late as 1952 between the bunkhouse and the park headquarters, but has since been removed (Figure 4-8 and Figure 4-9).



FIGURE 4-6. View of the ranch house ca.1910s, showing the cottonwoods grouped around the house. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-7. Similar view, showing the remaining large cottonwood. *CHG*.

Other trees located within the developed area include a Rocky Mountain juniper that stands beside the well, and various saplings close to the ranch house that may be volunteers. These likely date to outside the period of significance and are too young to be contributing to the historic landscape.

There are no records of vegetable gardens, orchards, or other types of planted vegetation until 1947. Photographs from 1947-1952, early in the NPS occupation period, show planting beds around the foundations of the ranch house and bunkhouse, edged with large logs. However, the species maintained in those beds is not known.

Contributing Cultural Vegetation

- Large cottonwood adjacent to and west of the ranch house

Non-contributing Cultural Vegetation

- Rocky Mountain juniper next to the well
- Volunteer saplings close to the ranch house

Missing Cultural Vegetation

- Three large cottonwoods as previously described



FIGURE 4-8. View of the bunkhouse and park headquarters in 1947, showing the double-trunked cottonwood and location of flagpole. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-9. Similar view of the bunkhouse from 2017. *CHG*.

Circulation

Vehicular entrance into Peaceful Valley Ranch was historically via a road that ran up the river valley, passed by the ranch, and continued northward. This road originated at the site of Little Missouri, a town on the west side of the river that preceded Medora, then crossed to the east side of the river south of the ranch. From this road, a lane led perpendicular from the road, past the west side of the ranch house, and to the river.

In the 1930s, the CCC constructed a scenic road, now called Scenic Loop Drive, through the park that connected to the old road, now called East River Road. The CCC originally constructed the road using gravel from clinker, but it was paved in asphalt in the 1960s. The old road was in use well into the 1950s but was later abandoned (Figure 4-10 and Figure 4-11).

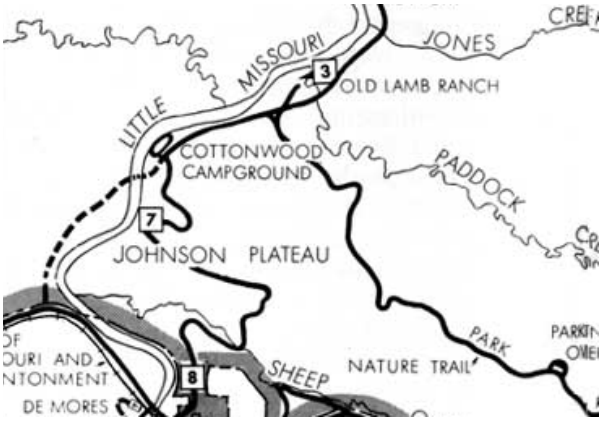


FIGURE 4-10. 1957 park map, showing the old road to the "Old Lamb Ranch" as a dashed line. *National Park Service*.

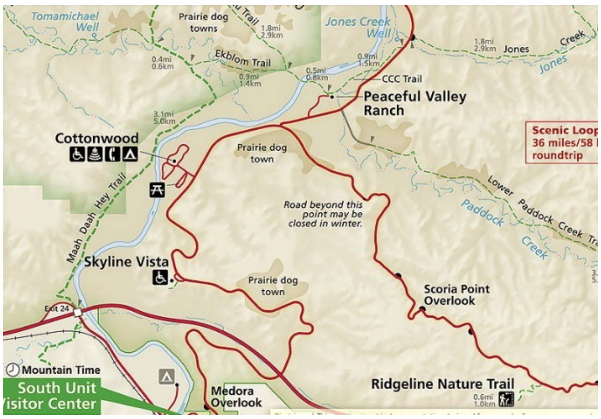


FIGURE 4-11. 2017 park map, showing that the old road has been adapted as a portion of the Maah Daah Hey Trail. *National Park Service*.

In 1941, the CCC also constructed the new driveway into the ranch, replacing the original ranch lane. Using the old road, one would have to take a 90 degree turn into the parking/work area at the center of the ranch building cluster. The new driveway was engineered for automobile traffic, curving in a broad "S" route to lead directly, without any turns, into open parking/work area between the two rows of buildings (see Figures 2-11 and 2-22). In the 1960s, the park demolished the old road and abandoned the road to the river.

Horses were also used to travel through the property and would have also followed wagon and carriage paths. In addition, historic aerials show single trails through the property that would have been used by horses and pedestrians.

Pedestrian circulation was mostly via informal footpaths during the historic period. Historic photographs up to 1936 show a path that led from the driveway, through the head gate, and up to the front (south) door of the ranch house (see Figure 4-6 and Figure 4-7), and another from the east door of the ranch house to the barn. Pedestrians would have also walked along wagon and carriage paths. After the park residences were constructed in the 1940s, a straight concrete sidewalk was constructed that led through the area. The concrete sidewalk was also likely removed in the 1960s when the park residences were demolished.

Today, two wood walkways connect the historic structures with the parking area; one to the east door of the main house and the other to the main barn door. There is also a footpath that connects the main house with the barn. It was most likely created from the frequent use by the concessioners and because the main house is not open to visitors. Wood planks have been laid down as a path to the concrete front stoop of the bunkhouse. The south door of the ranch house is accessed via a 6-inch-high concrete stoop, replacing two wood steps that were there in the 1920s.

Contributing Circulation

- Parking/work area
- Road trace to ranch

Undetermined

- Ranch house concrete stoop
- Bunkhouse concrete stoop
- Hiking trails not following road to river
- Concrete sidewalk on west side of bunkhouse

Non-contributing Circulation

- East River Road

- Peaceful Valley Ranch Road
- Wood boardwalks
- Walkway around pit toilet
- Trailhead parking lot
- Elkblom Trail
- CCC Trail
- Lower Paddock Creek Trail

Missing Circulation

- Old ranch entrance road
- Old road from Little Missouri
- Informal paths present during the period of significance

Views and Vistas

The ranch has always been visible upon approach from the south along the road that is now East River Road. Visitors to the dude ranch also documented views of the ranch from the top of the bluffs to the southeast (Figure 4-12 and Figure 4-13). Views to the larger badlands landscape have always been a dominant feature of the historic ranch and are still a contributing feature today.



FIGURE 4-12. View of the ranch from the bluffs to the southeast, ca.1920s. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-13. Similar view from the same bluffs from 2017. *CHG*.

Within the building cluster, there is a linear exchange of views between the entrance road and parking lot looking east-west standing between the ranch house and bunkhouse. This open view has not always been a feature, since the parking/work yard was typically fenced until the 1940s. At that time, the gate was removed and the area opened to parking (Figure 4-14 and Figure 4-15).



FIGURE 4-14. Tour group posed in front of the gate into the ranch work area, ca.1920s. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-15. Similar view showing open views into the ranch work area. *CHG*.

Contributing Views

- Views to the badlands from the ranch
- Views to the ranch from the southeast bluffs
- Linear exchange of views east-to-west

Non-contributing Views

- View to the ranch from East River Road

Missing Views

- View of ranch gate that once stood between the ranch house and the bunkhouse

Buildings

Ranch House. Since its construction around 1885 by Benjamin Lamb, the ranch house has undergone numerous additions and modifications (Figure 4-16). In 1890, Lamb sold the property to fellow open-range ranchers Joe Caughtin and Tom McDonahue who constructed a one-story frame addition on the building's north façade sometime prior to 1893. Between 1896 and 1898, George Burgess purchased the property and in 1903 constructed the northern log addition. Under Burgess' ownership, the south porch, which was "open and supported by posts" was added. The property was again sold in 1915 to Harry W. Olsen, and by 1924 ownership had been transferred to Carl B. Olsen.[7] In 1922 Olsen added the second-floor dormer window to the south portion of the original house.

The enclosed east porch was constructed between 1936 and 1939, likely by FERA or CCC workers, just after the federal government took possession of the property. Other modifications that have been made to the ranch house over time include replacements and modifications to the building's roof lines and the movement of the central chimney to the east façade where the exterior stairway once stood. Windows have been added in several locations, specifically, to the second story of the east façade where the outside entrance to the attic once was and is now the location of the gable-end chimney.[8]

Despite these changes, the ranch house continues to maintain its integrity to the proposed period of significance and is a contributing feature.

Bunkhouse. The bunkhouse was constructed by the Olsens in 1920 as a single, open room that was used for socializing by dude ranch guests. In 1947, after the ranch was acquired for the national park, the single room was divided into two spaces and in 1950, an addition made to the north side of the building. It was likely around this time that the concrete foundation was placed around the building and the flared base of its chimney was covered up with fill.

The bunkhouse continues to exhibit its characteristics from the period of significance and is a contributing feature.

7. Anderson Hallas Architects, et al., *Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Historic Structures Report,* (Washington, D.C.: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, June 2014), 15-18.

8. Anderson Hallas, *Historic Structures Report*, 18.

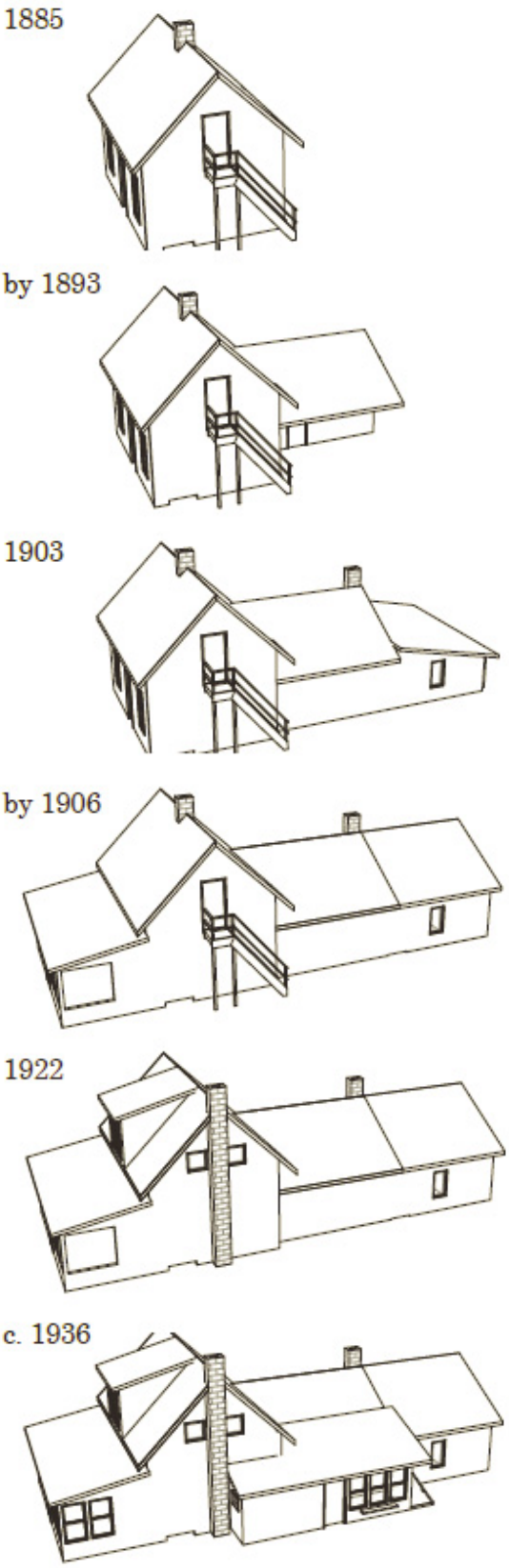


FIGURE 4-16. Series of drawings showing the evolution of the ranch house. *Anderson Hallas,* Historic Structures Report*, 20.*

Log Barn. The log barn was constructed of Washington cedar around 1905, originally with a sod roof. It is likely that its south half was constructed first, and the north half added later. Around 1914, the sod roof was replaced with trusses, rafters, and wood shingles. In 1949, two years after the federal government established the park, the barn was remodeled to create a blacksmith shop. In 1954, a concrete foundation was installed under the building and the barn converted to a carpenter shop on one end and a horse barn on the other. The six-light windows and double hung window on its south elevation were replaced after 1977 with the current five-window configuration (Figure 4-17 and Figure 4-18). The log barn continues to exhibit its characteristics from the period of significance.



FIGURE 4-17. View of the southeast corner of the log barn in 1947. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-18. Similar view of the log barn in 2017. *CHG*.

Hay storage shed. The hay storage shed was constructed after the end of the period of significance. Located directly across from the barn on the north side of the access road, the shed stands at the crest of the river terrace where other buildings of similar function have been located throughout the history of the ranch.

Water shed. The water shed, also called the well house or pumphouse, was constructed in 1998 and is situated roughly 25 feet east of the hay storage shed at the crest of the river terrace.

Vault toilet. The vault toilet was constructed in 1993 and is located roughly 100 feet east of the water shed at the crest of the river terrace.

Tack shed. The tack shed sits at the eastern edge of the ranch at the end of the parking area at the crest of the river terrace. Although smaller, this building is similar in appearance to the water shed and may have also been constructed in 1998.

Other buildings. Missing from the ranch landscape are numerous other buildings dating from as early as 1885 that have since been demolished. These include Lamb's barns, calf shed, and outhouse; the Burgess' cow and calf sheds, wood shed, buggy shed, bunk house, and pit toilet; and the Olsens' large sheds, guest cabins, and worker's residence.

Contributing Buildings

- Ranch house
- Bunkhouse
- Log barn

Non-contributing Buildings

- Hay storage shed
- Water shed
- Vault toilet
- Tack shed

Missing Buildings

- Paddock's log cabin
- Lamb's original barn and blacksmith shop, cow shed, horse barn, and calf shed (see Figure 2-2, Period Plan 1895)
- Burgess' cow shed, calf shed, buggy shed, wood shed, and bunk house for ranch hands (see Figure 2-5, Period Plan 1915)
- Olsens' large ranch buildings/barns, guest cabins, residence constructed in 1916, and corrals (see Figure 2-11, Period Plan 1936)
- Various outhouses and pit toilets constructed during the period of significance (see period plans, Chapter 2)

Structures

One of the most prominent features of the ranch landscape has always been the pattern of corrals and other fencing used to control the movement of animals. At one time it appears that a boundary fence even extended past the main road and surrounded the flat area adjacent to Paddock Creek, where the horse track once stood. Since the establishment of the ranch, the fences that formed the ranch house yard and the corrals have been added, removed, and relocated as changing needs dictated (see period plans, Chapter 2).

The ranch house and the bunk house constructed by Burgess in 1903 were surrounded by a post and wire fence documented as early as the 1904. The yard of the ranch house was enclosed by a post and wire fence until well into the 1950s. Entrance into the yard was through a head gate located at its southwest corner. The fence kept large animals out, and in the 1910s, kept chickens in close to the house (see Figure 2-9, and area "A" in Figure 4-19). By 1947, the wire fencing on the north side of the house had been replaced with post and rail fencing (see Figure 2-28). By the early 1950s, an entrance into the ranch house yard had been established at its northeast corner and marked by a wood picket gate (Figure 4-20 and Figure 4-21). A stone curb threshold, extant, rose above the road and led to a crushed clinker path. A similar fence also enclosed the yard around the bunkhouse. All the wire fencing was removed by 1967 (see Figure 2-36).

The earliest and most consistent corral space was located between the barn and the ranch house (see area "B" in Figure 4-19). It was present as early as 1895 and as late as 1959. The corral that encloses the southeast corner and east side of the barn has also been in place since 1915 to the current day (see area "C" in Figure 4-19). Today, the ranch continues to maintain the "C" corral in its historic configuration. However, the other existing corrals and paddocks are laid out in patterns that were not used during the period of significance.

Corral fencing materials and fence-building methods have also evolved throughout the period of significance at the ranch. The earliest photograph of the ranch, taken in 1903, shows area "B" contained by a fence around 4 feet tall, made of 6-7 rails, their ends sandwiched between the two halves of a split log post (Type 1, see Figure 2-3).

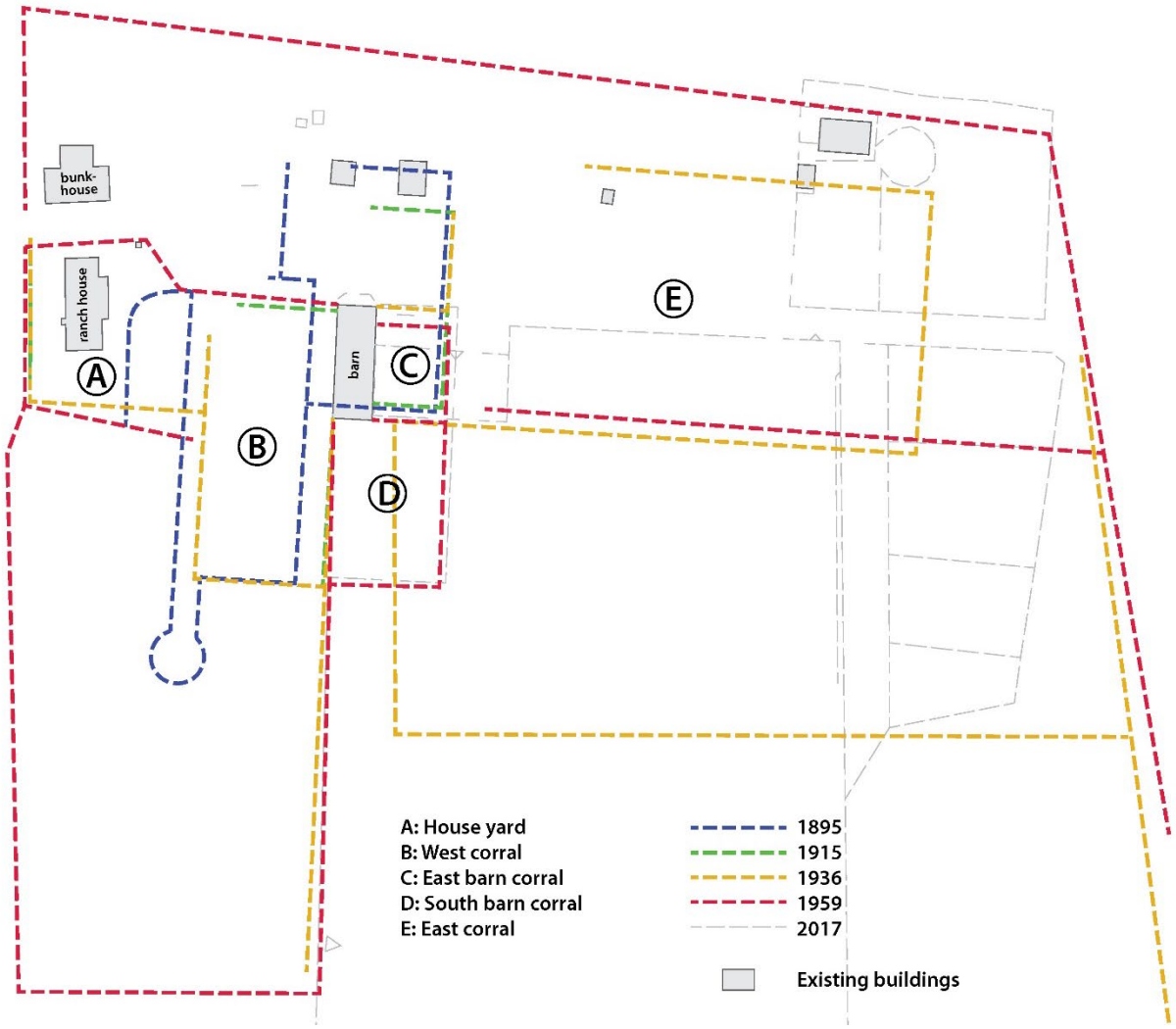


FIGURE 4-19. Peaceful Valley Ranch Fence Overlay Study. *Commonwealth.*

Photographs from around 1928 show that the corral fence around area "B" was replaced with a taller fence, as much as 6 feet high in places, made of 6-7 rails, their ends nailed to posts (Type 2, see Figures 2-19 and 2-20). The irregular lines of the rails suggest that they were made of salvaged wood and not manufactured. The posts appear to be made of trimmed tree trunks, set upright, with their tops extending sometimes several feet above the top rails. The overall irregular appearance of these corrals gave the ranch a rugged, "Wild West" appearance. This type of corral fence was used at the ranch until the late 1940s.

By 1954, the irregular wood corral fences had been removed and replaced with a post-and-board type fence (Type 3, see Figure 2-35). The milled posts and boards would likely have been purchased at a lumber yard.

The post-and-board fence appears to have been maintained well into the 1960s. Sometime between the late 1960s and the 1990s, this fence was replaced with the type of corral fence used today. This type of fence comprises 3 or 4 milled rails, attached to large, flat-topped milled posts with steel lag or carriage bolts (Type 4, see Figure 3-42).

Other structures that were present during the historic period include the windmill (Figure 4-22 and Figure 4-23), the head gate (see Figure 4-4 and Figure 4-5), and the overhead utilities (see Figure 4-8 and Figure 4-9). A concrete well box was constructed over the 1914 well when it failed in 1998 (see Figure 4-21).



FIGURE 4-20. View of ranch ca.1905. The windmill stands to the right of the barn. *National Park Service*.



FIGURE 4-21. Similar view of the ranch in 2017. *CHG.*

Contributing Structures

- Corral surrounding the south and east sides of the log barn

Non-contributing Structures

- Corrals constructed after 1936
- Well box

Missing Structures

- Post-and-wire fencing around ranch house yard and bunkhouse
- Lamb's horse training track
- Patterns, materials, and methods of corral fencing present during the period of significance
- Windmill
- Head gate
- Overhead utility system

Small-Scale Features

Small-scale features located within the ranch during the period of significance included items within the yard of the ranch house related to domestic use and items located within the working landscape related to ranching and dude ranching use. None of these features remain within the ranch today.

In the yard of the ranch house, photographs from the 1910s and 1920s show large, light-colored slabs of what is likely petrified wood, displayed leaning on the trunk of the cottonwood that still stands on the west side of the house (see Figure 4-4 through Figure 4-7). These are not visible in the landscape today.

In 1947, wagon wheels were used as garden ornaments at the ranch house, set on edge to flank the screen door to the south porch. Logs were used as edging for foundations plantings around the house, and a tire swing hung from the same large cottonwood (Figure 4-24 and Figure 4-25). Another photograph shows a small bird house mounted on a fence post north of the ranch house and the slabs of petrified wood that had been

moved to lean on the west side of the bunkhouse; the bunkhouse foundation plantings were also edged with logs.

After 1947, the year the park was established, a flagpole appears in photographs for the first time, erected outside the park headquarters building that was constructed in the 1930s by the CCC (see Figure 2-27). This may be the same flagpole that stands at the ranch today, although in a different location. A barrel stands outside the barn (see Figure 2-25), but its purpose is not known.

By 1952, a framed bulletin board stood in front of the headquarters building and a wood sign with orange letters announced opening hours (Figure 4-26 and Figure 4-27). Rectangular pipe-rail clothesline supports stands just west of the staff bunk house (Figure 4-28 and Figure 4-29).

Metal trash cans appear outside bunkhouse in 1967, along with fuel tanks outside bunkhouse and ranch house. A wood bench appears on the south side of the ranch house the same year.

Existing small-scale features are described in Chapter 3 and include trash bins, a fire pit or grill, water troughs, hitching rails, a pole-mounted yard light, and a variety of signs. Except for the fire pit or grill, which may be a remnant feed trough, none of these features were present during the period of significance.

Contributing Small-Scale Features

- none

Non-contributing Small-Scale Features

- Stone curb
- Fire pit or grill, which may be remnant feed trough
- Plastic trash and recycling bins
- Metal and wood benches and picnic tables
- Hitching rails
- Water troughs
- Signs
- Wood bollards
- Light pole
- Ash receptacle

Missing Small-Scale Features

- Slabs of petrified wood used as ornament

Integrity Assessment

As a cultural landscape, Peaceful Valley Ranch has a diminished level of integrity to the proposed period of significance, 1885 to 1936. Although the ranch house, barn, and bunkhouse remain in their original locations, as does the parking lot/work yard that lies between them, few other cultural landscape features have survived from the end of the period of significance. Missing elements include buildings and structures, circulation features, cultural vegetation, and small-scale features.

The ranch, however, does retain integrity of **location** as the site of early free-range and fee simple ranching operations, and a tourist-oriented dude ranch. The remaining three historic buildings, central parking lot/work yard, and historic road trace towards the river remain in their historic locations.

Peaceful Valley Ranch also retains integrity of **setting** for its unchanged relationship with the larger Little Missouri badlands landscape and the easy proximity of its rugged hills and bluffs. The scrubby woodlands, cottonwood galleries, constantly-changing river, and presence of wild animals in the landscape also contribute to the rustic scenic character retained from the historic period.

In addition, Peaceful Valley Ranch retains integrity of **association** with the significant periods of its history because of its generally rustic aesthetic, and surviving buildings and landscape features. The bunkhouse represents the site's association with the dude ranching period. The barn represents the site's association with fee-simple ranching and also extends to 1936. The ranch house represents the entire span of the period of

significance, from the establishment of the Lamb Ranch in 1885 to 1936.

Peaceful Valley Ranch has only a moderate level of integrity of **design**, **materials**, and **workmanship** because of the missing elements, including buildings and structures, such as corrals and fenced yards, that would have contributed to its character during the period of significance. Although most of the historic materials in three historic buildings have been maintained and show details of original workmanship, other materials that formed the work areas of the ranch, including the corrals and fenced yards, have been replaced with modern materials or removed altogether. Certainly, the rustic patterns of corral fences created from salvaged wood are no longer experienced in the landscape. No small-scale features that can be traced to the historic period remain.

Despite the missing buildings, structures, and small-scale features, Peaceful Valley Ranch maintains integrity of **feeling,** primarily from the overall sense of isolation, views into the larger landscape setting of the Little Missouri badlands experienced from the property, and the character of the three contributing buildings. Although somewhat diminished, integrity of feeling is supported by the presence of animal corrals in the landscape and walking trails that follow historic road traces.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Peaceful Valley Ranch
CLR-FMSS Crosswalk Table for Analysis and Evaluation

CLR Feature Name	FMSS Asset Type	FMSS Location Record	FMSS Asset Record	CLI No.	LCS Number	ASMIS No.	Cultural Landscape Evaluation	Historic Character	Deficiency (Historic)	Additional Guidance
Natural Systems and Features										
Little Missouri River	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Historically, the river route was generally the same as present.	No	
Paddock Creek	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Historically, the creek route was generally the same as present.	No	
Cultural Vegetation										
Cottonwood Groves	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Cottonwood groves historically were in the same configuration as present.	No	
Cottonwood Tree next to Ranch House							Contributing	Historically, there were several other individual cottonwood trees in the general area of the extant cottonwood tree.	Yes	Tree is in poor condition.
Circulation										
Peaceful Valley Ranch Road	Roads (1100)		30276	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Follows historical route.	No	
Peaceful Valley Ranch Gravel Parking Area	Parking Area (1300)		108356	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	This area was used historically as a work yard, staging area, and for various utilitarian purposes.	Yes	
Gravel Trail Head Parking	Parking Area (1300)		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	This area was not historically used for parking.	Not Historic	
Scenic Loop Drive/East River Road	Roads (1100)		49027	N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Scenic Loop follows historical route.	No	
Wood boardwalk	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Wood boardwalk was not present historically.	Not Historic	
Concrete Sidewalk at Bunkhouse	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Concrete sidewalks were present on the site historically though not in their current configuration.	Not Historic	.
Elkblom Trail	Trails (2100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Historically, several trails existed in proximity to the current trails on the site though not in their current configurations.	Not Historic	.
Lower Paddock Creek Trail	Trails (2100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Historically, several trails existed in proximity to the current trails on the site though not in their current configurations.	Not Historic	
CCC Trail	Trails (2100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Historically, several trails existed in proximity to the current trails on the site though not in their current configurations.	Not Historic	
Views and Vistas										
Views to the badlands from the ranch	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Views to the badlands landscape from within the ranch have been a dominant feature since the historic feature.	No	

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Peaceful Valley Ranch
CLR-FMSS Crosswalk Table for Analysis and Evaluation

CLR Feature Name	FMSS Asset Type	FMSS Location Record	FMSS Asset Record	CLI No.	LCS Number	ASMIS No.	Cultural Landscape Evaluation	Historic Character	Deficiency (Historic)	Additional Guidance
Views to the ranch from the southeast bluffs	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Views to the ranch from the southeast bluffs have been documented since the historic period.	No	
View to ranch from East River Road	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Historically, the ranch has been visible along the approach of what is now East River Road.	No	
Linear exchange of views east-to-west	N/A			N/A	N/A	N/A	Contributing	Within the building cluster, there is an exchange of views between the entrance road and parking lot looking east-west between the ranch house and bunkhouse.	Yes	The removal of the yard fence in the 1940s opened the view.
Buildings										
Ranch House	Buildings (4100)			149869	11579	N/A	Contributing	Late Victorian ranch house with multiple modifications and additions.	No	In general, the condition of the Ranch house ranges from good to poor depending on the element. The building is in need of exterior repairs and stabilization of structural members and systems.
Bunkhouse	Buildings (4100)			149871	11580	N/A	Contributing	The bunkhouse was built in 1920 as a one-story single open room. Rectangular in plan, it was erected using chinked logs It has a clinker chimney is on its west façade and a pitched roof.	No	In general, the bunkhouse is in fair to poor condition. The building is in need of exterior repairs, repairs, structural work, and mold mitigation.
Barn	Buildings (4100)			149873	11581	N/A	Contributing	The barn was built in 1905. It is a long rectangular building of chinked log construction with a pitched roof.	No	In general, the barn is in fair condition. The building is in need of attention to deferred maintenance and structural issues.
Hay Storage Shed	Buildings (4100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	There have been various hay storage sheds on the site. The current is not historic.	Not Historic	
Water Shed	Buildings (4100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	There have been previous water sheds on the site. The current is not historic.	Not Historic	
Vault Toilet	Buildings (4100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	There have been numerous vault and pit toilet at various locations throughout the site. The current is not historic.	Not Historic	
Tack Shed	Buildings (4100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Tack was previously stored in the barn.	Not Historic	

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Peaceful Valley Ranch
CLR-FMSS Crosswalk Table for Analysis and Evaluation

CLR Feature Name	FMSS Asset Type	FMSS Location Record	FMSS Asset Record	CLI No.	LCS Number	ASMIS No.	Cultural Landscape Evaluation	Historic Character	Deficiency (Historic)	Additional Guidance
Structures										
Horse/Hay Shelter	Buildings (4100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Historically, several buildings and structures related to horses were on the site. The current horse/hay shelter is modern. It is a long, rectangular building of pole-frame construction supporting a pitched roof.	Not Historic	
Cinderblock Well Box	Water Systems (5100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Cinderblock well box covers 1914 well which failed and was covered in 1998.	Not Historic	Well was dug in 1914. Well failed in 1998 and was covered.
Fences and Gates	Boundaries (3800)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Fences and gates were historically on the site, although in a different configuration.	Not Historic	
Mounting Platforms	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	There are two modern mounting platforms which are used for mounting horses on the Peaceful Valley Ranch. Both are incorporated into the fencing associated with the east side of the barn.	Not Historic	There is no evidence of mounting platforms having been on the site historically.
Small-Scale Features										
Flagpole	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	By 1947, a flagpole existed near the one presently on the site. It is unknown if the existing flagpole is the same one.	Yes. If the present flagpole is the same as was historically on the site, it has been moved from its original location.	Further study needed to determine if flagpole is historic.
Bollards	Boundaries (3800)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Wood and Pipe Metal Benches	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Wood Benches	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Picnic Tables	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Fire pit	Interpretive Media (7500)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Trash and recycling receptacles	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Ash receptacle	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Hay Racks	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Unknown. Historically, several buildings and structures related to horses were on the site.	Not Historic	Historically, hay racks were likely found on the site although there is no specific evidence.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Peaceful Valley Ranch
CLR-FMSS Crosswalk Table for Analysis and Evaluation

CLR Feature Name	FMSS Asset Type	FMSS Location Record	FMSS Asset Record	CLI No.	LCS Number	ASMIS No.	Cultural Landscape Evaluation	Historic Character	Deficiency (Historic)	Additional Guidance
Hitching Rails	Maintained Landscapes (3100)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	Unknown. Historically, several buildings and structures related to horses were on the site.	Not Historic	Historically, hitching rails were likely found on the site although there is no specific evidence.
National Register Marker	Interpretive Media (7500)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Concessioner signs	Interpretive Media (7500)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Wood NPS Directional Signs	Interpretive Media (7500)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Trail Signs and Markers	Interpretive Media (7500)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Lighting and Utilities	Electrical Systems (5400)			N/A	N/A	N/A	Non-Contributing	N/A	Not Historic	
Archeological Resources										
Archeological survey of THRO completed in 1987.	N/A			N/A	N/A	Unknown	Contributing		No	

Chapter 5: Treatment Plan

Introduction

This treatment plan has been prepared to provide the National Park Service with an overall vision for the preservation and adaptive reuse of the cultural landscape of Peaceful Valley Ranch at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It is intended to guide and support long-term use and management of the site and its resources in the short and long term, so that the distinguishing characteristics and features that contribute to its significance are preserved, while new uses are incorporated in a way that complements its historic character. The plan also addresses other park management goals, such as access, sustainability, and interpretation, as well as routine and cyclical maintenance measures necessary to perpetuate the landscape's historic character.

The treatment plan also responds to the goals for the site's management as identified in various park planning documents, including the 1987 General Management Plan (GMP), the 2011 Long-Range Interpretive Plan (LRIP), the 2014 Foundation Document, and the 2014 Historic Structures Report (HSR). In addition, it addresses specific management issues, concerns, and objectives communicated to the CLR team by park and regional NPS personnel during the project start-up meeting, a design workshop, and their review of report drafts.

The treatment plan chapter is organized into four sections, as follows:

1. **Park Management Goals, Issues, and Concerns** describes the issues raised by park planning documents, and NPS park and regional staff for consideration within the CLR treatment plan.
2. **Recommended Treatment Approach** presents the four approaches recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for treating historic properties, and identifies the approach recommended for Peaceful Valley Ranch.
3. **Treatment Concept** conveys the overarching vision for landscape treatment for Peaceful Valley Ranch based on the significance of the property and NPS goals for its management and interpretation.
4. **Treatment Recommendations** identify the individual actions required to address the management goals, issues, and concerns identified for Peaceful Valley Ranch, organized by landscape characteristic.

Park Management Goals, Issues, and Concerns

The management goals, issues, and concerns to be addressed by this treatment plan were identified through review of previous planning documents and in meetings with NPS park and regional staff. Of highest priority to the park are planning for flexible use, providing historical interpretation, ensuring universal accessibility, and accommodating events, all while protecting the historic character of the site.

Previous Planning Documents

General Management Plan (1987)

The 1987 General Management Plan details a number of concerns that were evaluated during the preparation of this treatment plan. The ones listed below are still relevant over thirty years later:

- The ranch buildings are located within the 100-year floodplain of the Little Missouri River. NPS policy for floodplains and flash-flood areas is to avoid development within the 100-year floodplain whenever there is a practicable alternative and to prohibit the development of structures in which humans might seek shelter in potential flash-flood areas. *Note*: the park intends to conduct a more detailed floodplain assessment.

- Due to the dangers of flooding, the bunkhouse and ranch house should be phased out as dwellings when the structures are no longer suitable for habitation. *Note*: this use ceased in 2014 following the closure of the horse-riding concession.

- Flood-proofing the ranch buildings by berming or elevating the structures would greatly alter the historic scene, so repair is recommended instead. Facilities should be marked with flood heights.

Of particular relevance to this treatment plan is the recommendation for flood-proofing that does not alter the character of the historic landscape.

Long-Range Interpretive Plan (2011)

In 2011, Theodore Roosevelt National Park published its long-range interpretive plan, which recommends wayside exhibits, including trailhead bulletin boards with maps, trail, and safety information for orientation, as well as historical interpretation. Since then, one trailhead sign has been installed at the Peaceful Valley Trailhead.

Future waysides should interpret elements of the park's history themes, including the history of Peaceful Valley Ranch (see Foundation Document, below). A virtual tour of Peaceful Valley Ranch should be made available for those unable to visit in person. As of 2018, a wayside exhibit plan is currently underway.

Foundation Document (2012)

The 2012 Foundation Document lists interpretive themes for the overall park. The following two themes are best suited for interpretation at Peaceful Valley Ranch:

- The stories of the people who traveled through or lived in the Little Missouri Badlands serve as powerful reminders of the human drive to survive and thrive in challenging environments.

- The spectacular vistas, natural beauty, clear air, and dark night skies of Theodore Roosevelt National Park provide opportunities for solitude, exploration, inspiration, reflection, and spiritual renewal that can fulfill the human need for self-discovery through connection to the land.[1]

The first theme has particular importance in interpreting not only the history of the ranch, but the entire history of the park from open-range cattle ranching and Theodore Roosevelt, to the present. The second is linked to the use of the ranch as an ideal location for Dakota Nights.[2]

Historic Structure Report (2014)

A historic structure report (HSR) for the ranch house, bunkhouse, and log barn at Peaceful Valley Ranch was completed in 2014. It reported that the foundations of the ranch house were stabilized and replaced in 2007-2008.[3] This involved demolition and replacement of various deteriorated foundation and subfloor materials in the frame structure and log addition. While this work helped slow deterioration of the structure, the 2014 HSR noted that much of the above-ground portion of the ranch house and other

1. Foundation Document,11.
2. Foundation Document, 32.
3. William J. Hunt, Jr., *Monitoring Foundation Construction at the Peaceful Valley Ranch Site (32BI67) and Site Condition Assessments at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO), Billings County, North Dakota,* Technical Report No. 103, (Lincoln, NE: National Park Service Midwest Archeological Center, 2008), 6-7.

structures on the site were in only fair to poor condition and continue to deteriorate.[4]

The 2014 HSR also emphasized the need to accommodate universal accessibility in the landscape. It recommended that designs for accessible accommodations ensure protection of the buildings' character. It also recommended that

- If the ranch house is converted to public use, the park should retrofit one of the entrances to accommodate an accessible route. The park should also add a wheelchair ramp as needed and raise the interior floor level to provide a level entrance area within the structure;
- If the bunkhouse is converted to public use, the park should widen the south door and extend an accessible route from the accessible parking space; and
- If the barn is converted to public use, the HSR advised that the park add an accessible route to the office that is housed within it.

In 2018, the HSR consultant completed schematic design plans to stabilize the three buildings and adapt them for reuse.[5] Plans include an accessible route from a drop-off point between the ranch house and the bunkhouse to the barn. This route has been included in the treatment concept for Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Meetings with Park

Park management goals, issues, and concerns were conveyed during a project start-up meeting held at the park on November 14, 2017, and a design workshop on August 6, 2018, both attended by NPS regional staff, Theodore Roosevelt National Park personnel, and members of the CLR consulting project team. Additional information was gleaned from email exchanges and teleconferences conducted throughout the term of the project. Additional park goals, issues, and concerns included:

Flexible Use

- The specific eventual use of the site is still under consideration, but the envisioned outcome is a site that supports a variety of visitor programs. This includes areas where facilities can be constructed for flexible use, as well as outdoor multi-use areas.
- Areas where visitor and event parking can be accommodated in an identified overflow area should also be included in the treatment concept. While expanded permanent parking is not envisioned as necessary, formalizing or better definition of the existing parking area is desired.

Community Relations

- Dakota Nights, an astronomy festival, is held in the corrals to protect visitors from wandering bison. A local telescope club sets up telescopes and the public is invited to observe the night sky. The park would like for areas set up to host telescopes to be paved with stabilized soil to reduce dust. In addition, because bison have damaged landscape features, knocking down fence rails and signposts, new features must be sturdily built to withstand wildlife activity.
- A visitor use survey for the entire park is underway. Visitors will answer questions about where they go in the park, what facilities they use, and how they use technology in the park. The park will use this information to add or remove facilities as necessary. Community engagement began in Spring 2018.
- The park works with the surrounding communities to building better relationships

4. Anderson Hallas Architects, PC, Architects, Peaceful Valley Ranch Historic Structures Report, 2014.

5. Anderson Hallas Architects, PC, Architects, "Stabilize Buildings/Convert to EEC" Final Schematic Design, 2018. The National Parks Foundation has granted an endowment to stabilize these historic structures.

and improve communication between the park and its neighboring communities.

- The park hopes to develop a reciprocal relationship with the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library, which is planned to be constructed in Medora in the future. It is not yet known how Peaceful Valley Ranch will be used in conjunction with the library.

Additional Issues

The CLR team conducted field work within the ranch and also identified some addition landscape issues in addition to integrity issues mentioned in Chapter 4:

- Soil erosion along the banks of Paddock Creek should be monitored on a regular basis to protect water quality.

- Wayfinding is difficult on park trails within the brushy area between the developed portion of Peaceful Valley Ranch and the Little Missouri River because of additional wildlife trails. This issue should be addressed through improved trail maintenance and identification.

Treatment Approach

The four treatment approaches recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for historic properties were considered in conjunction with the park's objectives in developing this CLR to determine the approach most suitable for the Peaceful Valley Ranch landscape. Described in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as forming the "philosophical basis for responsible preservation practice and enable long-term preservation of a landscape's historic features, qualities, and materials," the four treatment approaches include: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.[6]

The approaches are defined as:

Preservation: the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction.

Rehabilitation: the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration: the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period.

Reconstruction: the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Recommended Treatment Approach for Peaceful Valley Ranch

Based upon the goals for the property set forth by the park, **rehabilitation** is recommended as the most appropriate overarching treatment approach for Peaceful Valley Ranch. Rehabilitation makes possible a compatible use for a historic property, protecting its historic character and resources while carefully addressing the need for the enhancement of interpretive opportunities, improved universal accessibility, sustainability, and flexible use. As part of rehabilitation treatment, stabilization, protection, and

6. Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports; Contents, Processes, and Techniques* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior, 1998), 82.

preservation of historic and natural resources are assumed even when new uses are accommodated.

The other treatment alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior and considered for possible application to Peaceful Valley Ranch were deemed inappropriate for the following reasons:

- Preservation is overly restrictive because it does not allow for the site enhancements associated with interpretation and access that are currently needed;
- Restoration and reconstruction are also inappropriate because they assume, as a prerequisite, that sufficient documentation exists to accurately portray a lost historic condition.

At this time, it does not appear that there are documentary sources detailed enough to support comprehensive restoration or reconstruction of the park's cultural landscape to a particular year or period, and removal of existing features to replace missing historic features.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation

The Secretary of the Interior has developed standards for rehabilitation as applied to historic properties. The ten basic principles that comprise the standards are intended to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic property while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs. The standards (36 CFR Part 67) apply to historic properties of all periods, locations, sizes, conditions, and uses. They provide a baseline of guidance to which intended changes to the historic landscape must be compared. These standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but promote responsible preservation practices as follows:

1. A property will be used as it was historically, or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

Treatment Concept and Recommendations

Peaceful Valley Ranch is highly significant as the only extant historic ranch landscape within Theodore Roosevelt National Park. It represents the history of open-range, fee-simple, and dude ranching at Peaceful Valley Ranch, as well as within the park and the rest of the North Dakota badlands. The treatment concept focuses on balancing protection and enhancement of the site's historic integrity as a working ranch, with interpretation, visitor access, and flexible use. The treatment concept is the basis for the recommendations that follow, which also provide information about reversing changes to historic resources that have diminished the integrity of the cultural landscape.

The treatment concept and recommendations support the park's goal of interpreting the history of ranching within the park and that of Peaceful Valley Ranch by:

- recommending land uses and activities similar to those of the ranch's period of significance;
- protecting or reestablishing important patterns of spatial organization;
- protecting natural features and systems;
- restoring historic patterns of vegetation;
- protecting historic patterns of circulation and adaptively re-using select circulation features;
- protecting historic buildings and reconstructing historic structures; and
- adding small-scale features that complement the ranch's historic character.

The concept and recommendations also provide parameters for adding new development, including expanded, flexible-use facilities within the historic core of the ranch, as well as on a new site located east of Paddock Creek. In addition, they provide guidance for rehabilitating other features, particularly historic circulation features, for adaptive new uses.

In addition, because deterioration resulting from weather, vegetation, and other natural processes, takes a toll on landscape feature conditions, the treatment recommendations provide sustainable maintenance and repair practices to protect the integrity and condition of resources and enhance their appearance. These practices will also potentially improve the efficiency of maintenance practices.

Treatment Concept Plan

The treatment concept plan was developed to guide development at Peaceful Valley Ranch, while protecting remaining historic landscape characteristics and features (Figure 5-1). The Treatment Recommendations section, below, provides additional details for preserving and adaptively reusing the ranch's cultural landscape.

The treatment concept plan shows the limits for proposed building and landscape development, most of which is sited in historic locations. Although the plan also proposes a location for overflow parking in the viewshed, it is a temporary use and will not permanently impact the historic character of the site.

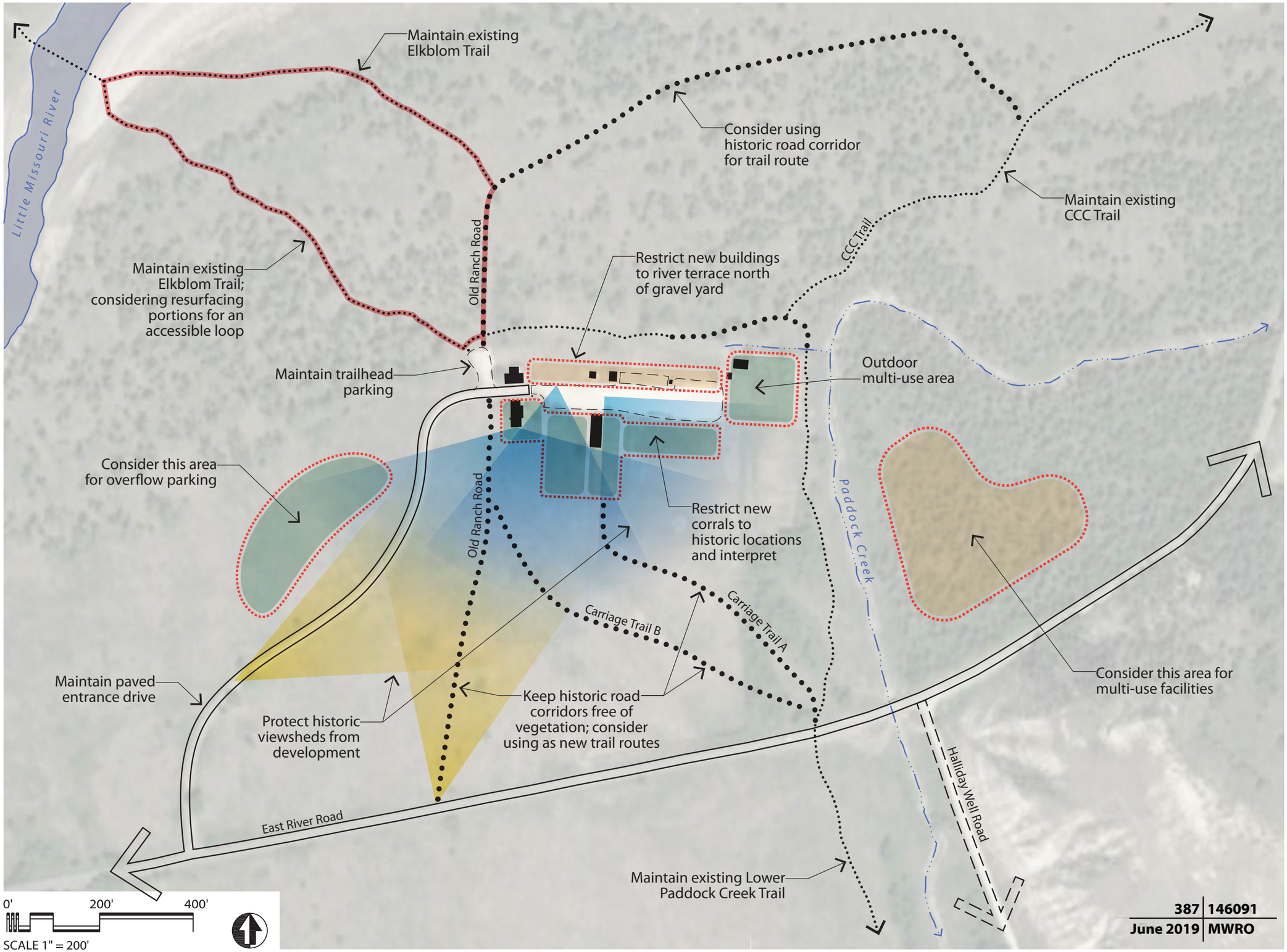
The concept plan also recommends protecting historic viewsheds from development. If necessary for facility expansion, the park should consider locating new multi-use facilities east of Paddock Creek, out of the historic viewshed.

In addition, the plan recommends that when new corrals are needed, they should be constructed in historic locations. As detailed below, the historic character of the ranch can be enhanced if historic corral materials and methods are used.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Peaceful Valley Ranch, Theodore Roosevelt National Park



Legend

- Existing paved road
- Existing gravel road
- Existing trail
- Proposed trail
- Proposed accessible route
- Existing building
- Proposed landscape development
- Proposed building development
- Historic viewshed into ranch
- Historic viewshed out of ranch

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

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FIGURE 5-1.
Peaceful Valley Ranch Treatment Concept

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Finally, the concept plan proposes that the Elkblom Trail be redeveloped as an accessible route to the river and back, and recommends the reuse of historic road traces as trails. This includes the old road trace north of the ranch, which can connect to the CCC Trail, and the old carriage roads south of the ranch, which should be maintained free of brush to keep them visible in the landscape and allow them to be used as trails.

Treatment Recommendations

These treatment recommendations detail those presented in graphic form in the treatment concept plan (see Figure 5-1). The primary goal of these treatment recommendations is the long-term preservation and protection of Peaceful Valley Ranch features that contribute to the historic character and significance of the park, while addressing specifically the goals, issues, and concerns identified for consideration by the CLR.

Given the extensive period of significance for the property, the goal of treatment is not restoration of the Peaceful Valley Ranch landscape to a particular period of time, but rather, appropriate long-term treatment measures to preserve and protect the qualities and character-defining features of the site, while maintaining its historic resources in good condition.

Important considerations include protecting original historic fabric, replacing deteriorated features in kind where necessary, and addressing contemporary needs in the least intrusive and most compatible manner possible. It is recommended that the park consider interpreting the various layers of history present today using a range of creative means and methods that have a limited physical impact on the integrity of historic resources.

These recommendations are based in the philosophy of cultural landscape treatment presented in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* with *Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. They should be referred to when planning for any and all landscape changes.

Natural Features and Systems

- Protect the banks of the Little Missouri River from erosion when establishing new trails crossing the river. Utilize established historic traces when possible to minimize soil erosion.

- Establish native vegetative cover for erosion control by seeding plant species that are suited to the local soil and moisture conditions. Further research is needed to determine the best seed mixes for this purpose.

- Preserve native vegetation within the boundaries of the ranch by controlling invasive species, including leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), smooth brome (*Bromus inermis*), Japanese brome (*B. japonicus*), cheatgrass (*B. tectorum*), musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*), spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*), Canada thistle (*Cirsium arvense*), houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria),* five-stamen tamarisk (*Tamarix chinensis*), and salt cedar (*T. ramosissima*).[7]

- Monitor the effect of herbicide application for leafy spurge on the native cottonwood galleries between the historic core of Peaceful Valley Ranch and the Little Missouri River.[8]

- Utilize juniper thinning as a way to maintain the cottonwood galleries. Due to anthropogenic fire suppression, juniper competes with cottonwoods for resources, and presents an unnatural hazard to cottonwoods if wildfire ever should reenter

7. "Keep a Look Out for Common Invasive Plants in the Northern Great Plains." Midwest Invasive Plant Network.
8. See Jonathan M. Friedman and Eleanor R. Griffin, "Management of Plains Cottonwood at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, North Dakota Natural Resource Report NPS/THRO/NRR—2017/1395," US Geological Survey.

the landscape (i.e., torching of large junipers would kill cottonwoods that would otherwise survive fire). Juniper thinning is being completed in accordance with the park fire management plan under a memo in PEPC File #81231.[9]

- Encourage the use of BMPs, integrated pest management (IPM), and soil and erosion control measures in all maintenance and management practices in order to minimize pollution into Paddock Creek and the Little Missouri River.

Response to Natural Features and Systems

- Retain and maintain the pattern of development above the Little Missouri River floodplain on the natural river terrace.

- Continue to incorporate salvaged materials from the surrounding woodlands into the reconstruction of animal corrals (Figure 5-2).

Land Uses and Activities

- Use Peaceful Valley Ranch for activities similar to those that occurred on the ranch during its period of significance. These include open-range and fee-simple livestock ranching, dude ranching and tourism, horseback riding, and wildlife conservation.



FIGURE 5-2. View of the corral fences at Peaceful Valley Ranch, ca.1928. *National Park Service.*

- Avoid land use activities, permanent or temporary, that threaten or impair known or potential archeological resources, particularly those related to the locations of missing buildings, structures, and circulation features.

- Monitor activities within the landscape to minimize immediate-to-long-term damage to cultural resources. Immediate damage includes excavation or soil disturbance without archeological oversight. Long-term damage includes wear created by foot and vehicular traffic, and erosion and other natural processes that take place over an extended period, resulting in soil disturbance.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

- Preserve existing historic patterns of spatial organization within the historic core of Peaceful Valley Ranch. These include the linear arrangement of buildings on either side of the parking lot/work yard and the locations and configurations of portions of the corrals. See period plans in Chapter 2 and Figure 4-19 for additional information.

- When adding new buildings into the historic core, site them on the north side of the parking lot/work yard, in the general location of those that stood there during the period of significance. Smaller utility buildings can be sited on the south side if they are less than twenty feet wide and are spaced forty feet apart or more. See Buildings and Structures for additional information.

- Reconstruct the ranch house yard post-and-wire fence in its original location (area "A," see Figure 4-19), using post-and-wire similar to that used before its demolition in the 1960s (Figure 5-3). Consider reconstructing the entrance portal in that fence that was surmounted with the "Peaceful Valley Ranch" sign (see Small-scale Features, below).

9. Blake McCann, personal communication, comments on Peaceful Valley Ranch Cultural Landscape Report, 95% draft, March 27, 2019.



FIGURE 5-3. Post-and-wire fence around the ranch house yard in 1959. *National Park Service.*

- Restore the general configuration of the area "B" corral (see Figure 4-19), using Type 2 fencing (see Figure 5-2, and Figures 2-19 and 2-20). The desired rustic effect can be had by using salvaged deadfall and cedar saplings cut from the surrounding woodlands.

- Maintain the general configuration of the area "C" corral (see Figure 4-19). Materials can be either post-and-wire or post-and-board, both of which were used for that enclosure during the historic period (Figure 5-4).



FIGURE 5-4. Post-and-board fence around the area "C" corral in 1954. *National Park Service.*

Topography and Topographic Modifications

- Preserve existing landforms and natural drainage patterns to the greatest extent possible by minimizing soil disturbance and grading. Of particular importance is the river terrace upon which most of the built resources of Peaceful Valley Ranch were constructed to protect them from flooding.

- Avoid attempts to reconstruct or restore historic grades unless supported by clear documentary evidence of their appearance or original design during a specific period.

Cultural Vegetation

- Replace cottonwoods that grew within the historic core of Peaceful Valley Ranch during the period of significance (Figure 5-5). Refer to period plans in Chapter 2 for locations. Of particular importance are the three cottonwoods that grew to the immediate west of the ranch house, and the cluster of three cottonwoods that grew between the bunkhouse and the park headquarters.

- Avoid introducing new species into the ranch landscape unless they can be proven to exist in the proposed locations during the period of significance and are not invasive.



FIGURE 5-5. Many trees have been lost from Peaceful Valley Ranch since this photograph was taken in 1947. *National Park Service.*

Circulation

Vehicular Circulation

- Maintain the existing entrance road in its current alignment and material. Extend its paving past the ranch house and bunkhouse as shown in the 2018 plans for Peaceful Valley Ranch building stabilization and accessibility modifications, including accessible parking and accessible route (PMIS 228216, Drawing No. 138248).

- Maintain the parking lot/work yard and the trailhead parking area in gravel, preferably local clinker. Retain their informal character with individual parking spaces undefined, except for accessible parking. Avoid extending the boundaries of the parking lot/work yard.

- Maintain the extents of the parking lot/work yard and the trailhead parking area by retaining log bollards. When these are replaced, consider using salvaged stumps or boles instead of milled lumber to contribute to the rustic character of the ranch.

- Consider utilizing an area to the northwest of the entrance drive and out of the viewshed for overflow parking during large events. This area would not be paved but should be restored by aerating and reseeding on an annual basis.

Pedestrian Circulation

- Retain the boardwalks where possible to support the rustic, western character of the ranch. To improve longevity, when replacing boards in existing boardwalks, ensure that they are installed bark side down to avoid cupping and gaps.

- Maintain the wood boardwalks at Peaceful Valley Ranch for compliance with ABA guidelines. Replace boards that allow gaps or changes in level over one-half inch. If the boardwalks cannot feasibly be used for accessible routes, replace with a firm, stable surface.

- Install, if wood boardwalks must be replaced for accessibility, concrete sidewalks made with a mix that utilizes clinker and/or other local aggregate, so that their walking surfaces are close in color and texture to naturally-worn earthen paths within the ranch.

- Redesign the Peaceful Valley trailhead to improve wayfinding at the site by utilizing the historic road corridor as the entrance, then extending the Elkblom and CCC trails from a common intersection.

- Maintain the existing Elkblom Trail in its current alignment, except for the portion between the historic road corridor and CCC Trail, as shown on the Treatment Concept Plan. Relocate that section of the trail to follow the historic road corridor, as shown.

- Consider resurfacing the Elkblom Trail to create an accessible loop from the historic core of the ranch to the river and back. The path material should provide a firm and stable surface in all weather and otherwise comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG). One material that is an alternative to concrete or asphalt and has proven to be successful in creating an accessible surface is a soil stabilizer called StaLok, which is applied to a base of compacted native soil (Figure 5-6).[10]

- Consider establishing a hiking trail in the trace of the historic road corridor to the north of the ranch, which connects to the existing CCC Trail.

- Keep the historic road corridors in the area between the historic core of the ranch and East River Road clear of shrubby vegetation. Consider utilizing these corridors as pedestrian trails and interpret their use during the historic period.

- Ensure that all trails, paths, and walkways are wide enough for two people to walk comfortably side by side, evenly graded, and well-drained to prevent trampling of vegetation, soil compaction, and erosion of the path margins.

- Consider utilizing StaLok or other similar product to reduce dust in outdoor gathering areas. Mix with native soil to create a surface

10. National Center on Accessibility, *National Trails Surfaces Study*, 26.

that is compatible with the historic ranch character. Outdoor gathering areas are those locations within the developed area of the ranch that are fenced to exclude bison.



FIGURE 5-6. Accessible trail created from native soil using StaLok. *National Center on Accessibility.*

Views and Vistas

- Preserve views of historic building facades as seen from the entrance drive or East River Road (Figure 5-7 and see Figure 3-27). Avoid placing additions onto the bunkhouse, bunkhouse, and the barn, particularly on their southern and western facades.

- Keep brush located within historic viewsheds below three feet in height to avoid allowing brush to block views into the ranch from the entrance drive and East River Road.

- Preserve views from selected vistas within the historic core of Peaceful Valley Ranch into its surrounding landscape setting (see Figure 3-29). Of particular importance are the view from the south porch of the ranch house, from the historic location of the park headquarters, and from a selected location within the parking lot/work yard at the center of the historic core.

- Avoid siting new clusters of buildings and structures within historic viewsheds. If new buildings and structures must be added, place them in locations where buildings and structures were located historically. Consider restricting new buildings to the top of the river terrace north of the parking lot/work yard. See Buildings and Structures, below, for more information.



FIGURE 5-7. View of the bunkhouse, ranch house, and barn (l-r) as seen from East River Road. *CHG*.

Buildings and Structures

Buildings

- Restrict new buildings in the historic core to the north side of the parking lot/work yard, where other buildings were located historically. A cluster of smaller buildings that follow a consistent orientation is preferable to one very large building. Smaller utility buildings could be added to the south side if they are less than twenty feet wide and at least forty feet apart.

- Place future development, if it cannot be accommodated as described above, out of the historic viewsheds. One possible location is east of Paddock Creek.

- When adding new buildings into the landscape of Peaceful Valley Ranch, ensure that their scale, form, and materials are compatible with existing historic buildings (see Figures 3-31, 3-32, and 3-34). They should not exceed one story in height nor should they exceed in length that of the barn.

- New buildings should be designed in a way that avoids conjectural reconstructions of historic buildings. New buildings should be sympathetic to local traditions in scale, massing, roof form, and details. They should

be constructed of locally-available and indigenous materials, such as stone and wood, with gabled roofs. New buildings should be situated to lie lightly on the land, minimizing soil disturbance, particularly cut and fill.

- Consider the interpretive value of non-intrusive, non-contributing buildings, and retain when possible. Remove non-contributing structures that are intrusive to the historic landscape only if they are found to be without historical or functional merit or value.

Structures

- When adding fence systems to the landscape of Peaceful Valley Ranch, follow historic patterns of fences (see Figure 4-19).

- Restore the general configuration of the area "B" corral, using Type 2 fencing, as identified in Figure 5-2, and see Figures 2-19 and 2-20. This fencing was used historically, particularly during the dude ranch period. It appears to have been constructed of deadfall and cut small trees, likely juniper, for durability. Further research is needed regarding the construction techniques used to create this corral fencing.

Small-Scale Features

Site Furnishings

- Limit the addition of new small-scale site features for contemporary use. Place benches and trash receptacles within the landscape to enhance the visitor experience and comfort on site without cluttering historic viewsheds.

- If new small-scale features are required within the historic district, they should be designed to reflect a vernacular and rustic style in materials, color, and simplicity of line. Hand-split or salvaged wood, or a mix of wood and weathering steel for site furniture, such as picnic tables, benches, and trash receptacles is historically appropriate (Figure 5-8 through Figure 5-10). Stone for marking trails and delineating vehicular and pedestrian circulation, is also historically appropriate and compatible with the natural setting (Figure 5-11). Avoid installing site furnishings with powder-coated or painted finishes, or aluminum or galvanized steel components.



FIGURE 5-8. This picnic table is made from wood and weathering steel. It can be either bolted down or portable. *Metalco.*



FIGURE 5-9. This bench is made from two milled wood beams set in weathering steel supports. *External Works.*



FIGURE 5-10. These trash containers are made of weathering steel and wood. *Gavarres.*



FIGURE 5-11. Standing stone used to mark a path. *WikiCommons.*

Signs

- Include Peaceful Valley Ranch in a park-wide sign plan that incorporates NPS Sign Design Standards, NPS UniGuide Program Manual Standards, and park-wide guidelines (Figure 5-12).

- Add interpretive waysides that tell the story of the ranch and the ranching traditions of the region. Interpretive wayside signs should be low and below eye level to avoid intruding into historic viewsheds. Taller, kiosk-type interpretive features could be placed on the north side of the parking lot/work yard, or at the trailhead below the river terrace. These signs and kiosks should be constructed of stone, wood, and/or weathering steel.

- Reconstruct entrance sign for Peaceful Valley Ranch in historic location adjacent to the ranch house: painted, rectangular wood sign mounted on unfinished salvaged tree trunks (Figure 5-13).

- Reduce the size and number of signs placed in the historic district whenever possible by consolidating information, considering alternative techniques for dispensing information, and regulating movement by design rather than signage.

- Provide building identification signs per NPS standards. Mount on individual buildings in collaboration with historical architect.

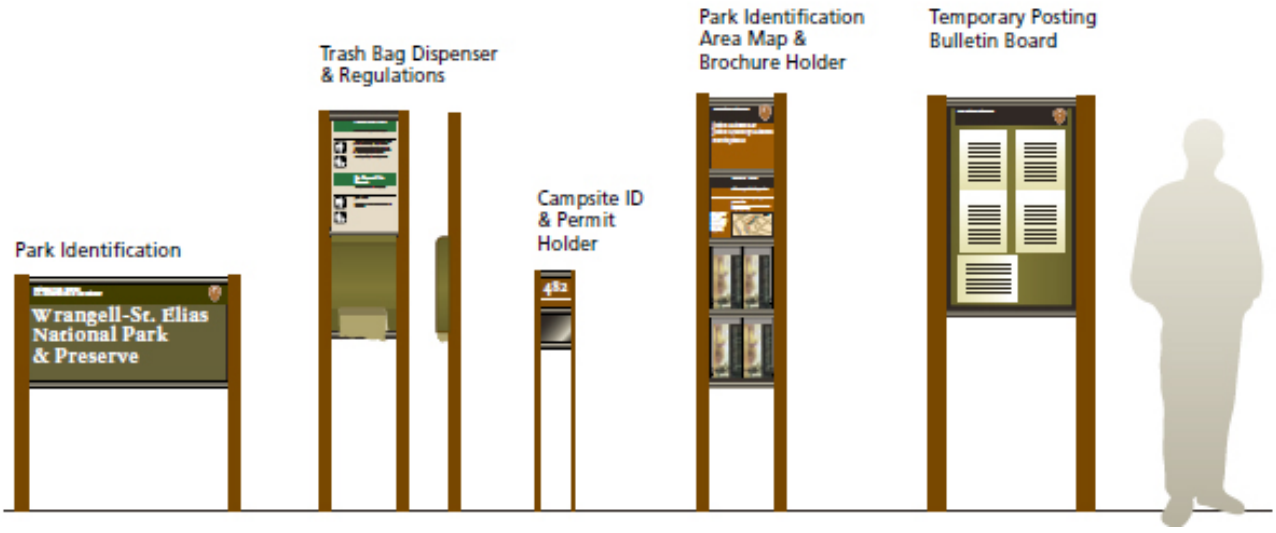


FIGURE 5-12. A variety of signs designed for NPS sites. These examples are shown with weathering steel posts. *NPS. UniGuide Program Manual.*



FIGURE 5-13. Image from the 1920s showing the old sign for Peaceful Valley Ranch. *National Park Service.*

- Provide regulatory signs to define rules for parking or other activities per NPS Sign Program Standards and mounted on unfinished wood members or weathering steel posts.

- Provide trail orientation signs per NPS Sign Program Standards and mounted on unfinished wood members or weathering steel posts. Utilities

- Enhance the visitor arrival sequence by reducing the visual impact of utilities in the landscape.

- Co-locate, whenever possible, all functional and utility features to mitigate disturbance to natural resources and screened to reduce visual impact to historic core.

- Large dumpsters within the historic core should be located in designated service areas out of public view.

- Contemporary utility objects, structures, and facilities associated with operations should be visually compatible with historic structures within the core. Consider encasing potentially intrusive utilities in weathering steel cases (Figure 5-14).

Archeological Resources

- Protect and preserve archeological resources in place. If such resources must be disturbed, undertake mitigation measures such as recovery, curation, and documentation.

- Limit the use of destructive techniques to gain information required to support research, interpretation, and management goals. Utilize the findings of non-invasive methods to identify areas of possible interest for conducting subsurface investigations.



FIGURE 5-14. Weathering steel case for utilities. *ABK Outdoor.*

Sustainability

- Use cultural and natural resource treatment and maintenance methods that are environmentally sustainable over the long term. Take into consideration life-cycle costs of materials, including their long-term wearing capacity and maintenance costs, when evaluating options. Always consider materials that are non-toxic, durable, and low-maintenance.

- Minimize the extent of ground disturbance, earth grading, compaction, and drainage pattern alteration. Limit the use of mitigating devices such as retaining walls and closed drainage systems. Instead, emphasize landform-based solutions, such as grading, over hardscape solutions, when making changes to circulation and drainage.

- Let sustainability drive the choice of materials and energy use. Incorporate passive solar energy conservation strategies into the design of new buildings and structures. Consider the local climate in the siting and design of buildings and their relationship to solar orientation, heat gain, shading, prevailing winds, and seasonal average temperatures to minimize energy costs. Limit the footprints of new buildings and structures by optimizing use and flexibility of both indoor and outdoor spaces.

New Design and Construction

- Avoid altering existing features or adversely affecting the landscape's historic character when adding new features to support interpretive, management, and visitor access functions. If functions are seasonal, consider using temporary structures that do not require founding in the ground, or involve soil disturbance.

- Undertake sufficient study and recordation of landscape features requiring modification, repair, or replacement before work is performed to protect research and interpretive values. Retain and maintain historic materials, features, finishes, construction techniques, spaces, and spatial relationships when making changes to the cultural landscape.

- Design all new additions and alterations to be a product of their time, and compatible with the historic resources in materials, size, scale and proportion, and massing.

- Consider interpreting typical features in cases where restoration is not possible, but providing the information is important to the visitor experience.

Interpretation

- Develop an interpretive program that addresses cultural resources, natural systems, and their interrelationships in addition to layers of landscape history. Develop programs and media to be as accessible as possible for the widest range of visitors.

- Minimize the visual and physical impacts of interpretive and visitor use facilities on cultural resources and natural systems. Establish wayside exhibits, as well as signs for directional and regulatory purposes, in the least intrusive manner possible to fulfill proposed new interpretive goals.

- Provide an alternative means for interpretation for those features located in areas that cannot be made universally accessible or where new interpretive features would be a visual intrusion.

- Continue to conduct research into the history of Peaceful Valley Ranch to enhance interpretation. Conduct oral histories to collect information about the more recent history of the property.

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Appendix A – Resource Inventory Table

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
* Condition ratings are based on the following definitions:									
Good: indicates the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural landscape's historical and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.									
Fair: indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its historical and/or natural values. The cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the significant characteristics and features of the cultural landscape, if left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.									
Poor: indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural areas.									
Unknown: indicates that not enough information is available to make an evaluation.									
Natural Systems and Features									
Little Missouri River	x			pre-p.o.s.		good			
Paddock Creek	x			pre-p.o.s.		good			
Floodplain terrace	x			pre-p.o.s.		good			
Responses to Natural Resources									
Siting of buildings on river terrace	x			ca.1885 - present		good			
Use of clinker for the Bunkhouse chimney	x			1920		good			
Missing Natural Systems and Features									
Use of clinker as a paving material			x	ca.1930s	replaced by asphalt paving	n/a			
Topography and Topographic Modifications									
Flat topography	x			pre-p.o.s.		good			
River terrace	x			pre-p.o.s.		good			
Fill around clinker base of bunkhouse chimney	x			1950		good			
Grading for access road	x			1941		good			
Gravel fill in parking area		x		post-p.o.s.		good			
Missing Topography									
Slope behind the Bunkhouse when it stood on piers			x	1920	filled after concrete foundation built				

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Patterns of Spatial Organization									
Arrangement of buildings along the crest of the river terrace	x			1885	1885-2017	good			
Orientation of the horse corral by 1959	x			1959		good			
Location of horse/hay shelter and tack shed		x		1990s		good			
Missing Patterns of Spatial Organization									
Horse corral ca. 1895			x	1895	1910s				
Hay corral configuration ca. 1915			x	1915	1920s				
Fenced-in yard around the ranch house and bunk house			x	1915	removed 1960s				
Locations of fenced-in areas ca. 1936			x	1920s-1936	1940s-1959				
Arrangement of residences extending south of the ranch house			x	1947	demolished 1960s				
Fenced-in yard around this group of residences			x	1947	demolished 1960s				
Location of horse corral east of the barn			x	1936	relocated 1959				
Fenced-in work area			x	1959	fence removed, unknown date				
Land Use and Activities									
Conservation	x			proposed					
Education		x		proposed					
Missing Land Use and Activities									
Agriculture			x	1885	ended 1936				
Recreation			x	1918–1930s; 1967–2014	ended 2014				
Cultural Vegetation									
Cottonwood grove in river floodplain	x			pre-p.o.s.		fair			
Cottonwood tree adjacent to and west of the Ranch House	x			pre-1895		poor			
Rocky Mountain Juniper next to covered well		x		unknown		good			
Volunteer saplings		x		unknown		fair			

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Missing Vegetation									
Several mature cottonwood trees			x	pre-1903	all removed by 1952				
Circulation									
Peaceful Valley Ranch Road	x			1941	asphalt-paved post-1994	good	previous paving was clinker gravel		
Gravel parking/work area	x			by 1936		good			
Gravel trailhead parking		x		after p.o.s.		good			
Wooden board walkway		x		after p.o.s.		fair			
Concrete sidewalk at west side of bunkhouse		?		unknown		fair			
Elkblom Trail		x					may follow trace of old ranch road		
CCC Trail		x					may follow trace of old ranch road		
Lower Paddock Creek Trail		x							
Adjacent Circulation									
South Unit Scenic Loop Drive/East River Road				1938	1951				
Missing Circulation									
Old ranch entrance road			x	1885	removed 1960s				
Use of road to river			x	until 1960s or later					
Concrete sidewalk through park housing area			x	late 1940s	removed 1960s				
Informal paths present during the period of significance			x	p.o.s.	1960s to present				
Views and Vistas									
Views to the badlands from the ranch	x			pre-p.o.s.					
Views to the ranch from East River Road	x			1930s					
Views to the ranch from the southeast bluffs	x			1885					
Linear exchange of views east-to-west	x			by 1936					

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Missing Views and Vistas									
View of ranch gate that once stood between the ranch house and the bunkhouse			x	by 1936	1940s				
Buildings									
Ranch House *Lamb House, Superintendent's Residence,Concessionaire's Residence*	x			ca.1885	1894, 1904, 1920s, 1922, 1935, 1942, 1947, 2006		Building 1	HS-01	LCS 011579
Bunkhouse *Lodge/Recreation Hall, Park Rangers Residence*	x			1920	1930s, 1950		Building 4	HS-04	LCS 011580
Barn *Stable and Blacksmith Shop*	x			1905	1954		Building 15	HS-15	LCS 011581
Hay storage shed		x		present 1987			Building 143		
Water shed *Well house/pumphouse*		x		1998			Building 151?		
Vault toilet		x		present 1993			Building 63		
Tack shed		x							
Missing Buildings									
Paddock's log cabin			x	1883	demolished 1930s				
Lamb's original barn and blacksmith shop, cow shed, horse barn, and calf shed			x	ca.1885	demolished 1905				
Burgess cow shed, calf shed, buggy shed, wood shed, and bunk house for ranch hands			x	1903	most gone by 1936, residence (Building #3) moved off site by 1967				
Residence *Maintenance Residence*			x	1916	demolished by 1967		Building 2		
Olsens' large ranch buildings/barns and guest cabins			x	ca.1920s	demolished by 1936				
Olsens' corrals			x	ca.1920s	remodeled by 1936				
WPA warming sheds (3)			x	ca.1936	deconstructed 1947–1948		materials reused to construct Clerk's residence		
Fire cache *Warming shed*			x	ca.1936	demolished by 1963		Building 7		
Coal and wood shed			x	early 1936	demolished by 1963		Building 8		
Oil House			x	early 1936	demolished by 1963		Building 10		
CCC Office *Park Headquarters and Administration Building*			x	1936–1937	moved off site by 1967		Building 14		

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Equipment garage			x	1937	demolished by 1967		Building 12		
Equipment garage			x	1937	demolished by 1963		Building 13		
Garage			x	1937	demolished by 1967		Building 22, also housed well and pump		
Tool shop			x	1940	demolished by 1963		Building 11		
Garage as Residence No. 2			x	1943	demolished by 1967		Building 35		
Clerk's residence			x	1947–1948	demolished by 1967		Building 6		
Hay storage *"Teddy Roosevelt Cabin"*			x	1949	demolished by 1963		Building 36		
Concrete trailer pads			x	1950s	removed by 1993		Building 21, 801		
CAA Houses (2)			x	1955	demolished by 1967		Buildings 59 & 60		
Pit toilets in various locations			x	various	demolished				
Structures									
Corral next to the log barn	x			by 1959					
Corrals constructed after 1959		x		after 1959					
Well box over abandoned well		x		1998					
Mounting platforms		x		1975					
Missing Structures									
Lamb's horse training track			x	ca.1889	visible 1930s				
Patterns of corral fencing present during the period of significance			x	pre-1959					
Windmill			x	1904	removed 1920s				
Head gate			x	by 1910s	removed by 1947				
Overhead utility system			x	1920s	unknown				
Small-Scale Features									
Stone curb	x			by 1952					
Fire pit or grill	?			?					
Flagpole	?			by 1947	relocated at unknown date				
Light pole		x		unknown					
Picnic tables		x		unknown					
Benches		x		unknown					
Wood bollards		x		unknown					
Trail signs/markers		x		unknown					
NRN sign		x		unknown					
Regulatory signs		x		unknown					
Wood NPS signs		x		unknown					
Concessioner signs		x		unknown					

Feature Name *Alternate Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Trash and recycling bins		x		unknown					
Ash receptacle		x		unknown					
Water troughs		x		unknown					
Hay racks		x		unknown					
Hitching rails		x		unknown					
Missing Small-scale Features									
Slabs of petrified wood used as ornament			x	by 1910s					
Wagon wheels used as ornament			x	by 1947					
Logs used as planting bed edging			x	by 1947					
Wood picket gates			x	by 1952					
Park signs from 1959			x	by 1959					
Piperail clothesline supports			x	by 1947					
Utilities									
Water				1950s					
Sewer				1950s					
Electric				1950s	1980				
Telephone				1950s					
Septic system to Ranch House and Bunkhouse				1983					
Well				1998					
Missing Utilities									
Overhead lines			x		unknown				
Archeological Sites									
Brick foundation (site 32BI67)							discovered 1987		
Brick walk on west side of barn				unknown	partially removed to install concrete foundation in 1954		discovered 1998-1999		
Stone-lined well in ranch house basement				ca.1906	likely filled in when addition was constructed over it		discovered 2008		
Possible board walk on north side of ranch house				unknown			discovered 2008		
Anomolies rassociated with historic Euro-American ranching activities at the ranch and its role as park headquarters prior to 1959	potentially, additional testing recommended						discovered via magnetic survey in June 2018		

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Theodore Roosevelt National Park
Medora, North Dakota

