

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE COLORADO

Date Entered SEP 11 1990

Name

Location

\* Evans-Elbert Ranch

Idaho Springs vicinity  
Clear Creek County

Stockbridge House

Colorado Springs  
El Paso County

Also Notified

Honorable Gary Hart  
Honorable William L. Armstrong  
Honorable James P. Johnson  
Honorable Kenneth B. Kramer

COPY OF CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 1 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Evans-Elbert Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

Elbert-Austin Ranch

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Upper Bear Creek Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Idaho Springs vic.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

R.R. #5, Box 462

VICINITY OF Evergreen

4

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Colorado

08

Clear Creek

019

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

☒ SITE

OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

## PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Prof. Samuel H. Elbert

Prof. and Mrs. Holcombe Austin

STREET &amp; NUMBER

3293 Huelani Drive

20 Elm Street

CITY, TOWN

Honolulu, HI 96825

VICINITY OF

Norton, MA 02766

STATE

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Clear Creek County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Colorado

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Colorado Inventory of Historic Sites

(10/03/0143)

DATE

Ongoing

FEDERAL ☒ STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Colorado Historical Society, 1300 Broadway

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

\_\_\_ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
\_\_\_ FAIR

\_\_\_ DETERIORATED  
\_\_\_ RUINS  
\_\_\_ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED  
\_\_\_ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
\_\_\_ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Evans-Elbert Ranch is located at the foot of Mount Evans in the Upper Bear Creek country west of Evergreen. The primary structure is the main house designed in the Rustic Style of architecture. The secondary structures consist of three related out-buildings: a caretaker's residence, a two-story stable, and a well house. The natural environment consists of streams, meadows, fields, and woods.

#### The Ranch House:

The Ranch House is a single detached structure two stories in height and designed in a U-shape plan. It has multiple, deeply overhanging hipped roofs which are wood-shingled. The building is wood-framed and sheathed with slabs of ponderosa pine with the bark left on. The windows are double hung, one over one. The foundations and the two chimneys are of local stone.

Facing the meadow and the view of Mount Evans is the west porch, impressively large as it extends across the entire western side of the structure. Site on a small crest, the house is nevertheless closely bound to meadow by three large, wide steps which are centrally located to bring a visitor to the middle of the porch deck. There the deeply gable roof gives a strong sense of a protective enclosure, a feeling complemented by the strong, stone balustrade at the outer side. This balustrade is high and wide so as to afford a comfortable and inviting place to sit. Sets of French doors open off the west porch into dining room and living room. These rooms plus the butler's pantry, entry hall, and stairwell, constitute the base of the U-shape. Then there is a north wing holding the master bedroom suite and the south wing with kitchen, utility rooms, and backstairs. The window frames are flat, Ponderosa slabs set flush with the siding. Lugsills provide an accent.

The living room and the dining room which adjoin the west porch are sizable formal rooms. Each has a large native-stone fireplace; in each case the massiveness of the fireplace is lightened by the presence of window seats and by the lowering of the ceiling above these window seats. In the living room the wall opposite the French doors has built-in bookshelves with a niche for a desk and a special niche for an early Seth Thomas mantel clock. The decor employs, rather sparingly, objects made by native American artists, e.g. old Navajo blankets and works by the Martinez family of Idelfonso. There are also a few paintings, all on horse and rider or cattleman themes, notably an oil painting by Leon Gaspard. The dining room has as its main feature a built-in sideboard in dark burnished pine. A spectacular porcelain turkey platter in red and blue and a Navajo "Chief's" blanket in red, blue and white provide color accent.

Both of these formal rooms are given a special character by the nature of the burnished finish on the Ponderosa pine panels. These were crafted from 25 inch wide boards placed vertically floor to ceiling, their joints covered by board battens rising to meet 5" wide beams supporting the pine ceiling, also wide boards. Beams, ceiling, vertical panels, battens were all finished uniformly by a wood-scorching process done with hot irons; the result is a warm, dark, velvety luster, particularly lustrous in candle or fire light. This permanent sheen is superior to any polish obtainable with stain and wax. In contrast to the dark walls of the formal rooms the interiors in the rest of the house are light. For color and decoration rugs and blankets from Mrs. Everett's collection of Navajo textiles are used.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Spring 1909

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J. Christopher Jensen  
Jock Spence

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Evans-Elbert Ranch is significant for its association with the Evans and Elbert families which have played an important role in Colorado's development, and for its architectural features. The main ranch house is an exceptional and very early example of the rustic style.

The story of the Evans-Elbert Ranch begins in 1862 when President Abraham Lincoln appointed John Evans the second territorial governor of Colorado. Evans was a prominent Illinois Republican who had been active in the early development of Chicago, a founder of the city of Evanston, and a founder of Northwestern University. Also appointed to a territorial office at this time was Samuel H. Elbert, a Nebraska lawyer and Lincoln supporter. Elbert eventually married Evans' daughter, followed him in the governorship, and rose to become Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court. In 1868 Evans and Elbert established a mountain cattle ranch that gradually expanded to take in the greater part of the Vance, Metz, and Corral Creek valleys and uplands. Over the years parts of the ranch gradually changed hands, but some of it remained in the family, and in 1908 Elbert's niece, Louise Elbert Everett acquired this most attractive segment, began to fence it in, and set to building a house she and her family would spend the summers in.

Mrs. Everett chose an exceptionally fine stretch of woodland, meadow, and pastureland, and it was her declared intent to place the house in the meadow and have it look "as if it had grown there," thus keeping the character of the landscape as undisturbed as possible. She ordered the exterior of the house to be done in pine slabs with the handsome Ponderosa pine bark intact. This would provide a visual tie-in with the pines growing near the house. These aesthetic concerns were not at the expense of practicality. Ponderosa pine was plentiful on the spot, distant barns and corrals would reduce the fly menace to a minimum, and a water reservoir up the mountain a way would provide the pressure for the house. The site also had two springs never known to run dry, and this abundance of water permitted the contrived but nevertheless natural touch of developing a small waterfall as a feature of the north patio of the house.

Mrs. Everett was also fortunate in her architect and builder. To design the house, she chose J. Christopher Jensen of Council Bluffs, Iowa. He had a sensitivity about order, balance and proportion, which is evident in the handling of the gabled roof and the interlinked eaves. To build the structure, Mrs. Everett chose Jock Spence of Evergreen, a prominent local contractor, some of whose structures are now listed in the National Register, notably those within the Evergreen Conference District. When completed, Mrs. Everett spent fifty summers in her new home.



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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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From an architectural perspective, the main ranch house reflects a successful combination of the ideals of rusticity. The simplicity, comfort, and compatibility with the natural environment complement to a very high degree the beauty of the materials, the care in detailing, and the thoughtful attention to the architectural form.

ED. JEF 4/80

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

H. H. Bancroft Works, Vol XXV, History of Nevada, Colorado, and Wyoming.  
Department of Interior, Bureau of Landmanagement;  
Homestead Filings  
Historical Highlights of Public Land Management  
Rocky Mountain News, January 14, 1872; July 30, 1958  
Tales of the Bar P D by Kay Klepetko. Lakewood, Colorado 1978

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED  
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100

QUADRANGLE NAME Squaw Pass

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 4,5,9 1,2,5 4,5 9,4 6,5,0

B 1,3 4,5,9 1,2,0 4,3 8,8 8,2,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,3 4,5,8 4,8,5 4,3 8,8 8,0,0

D 1,3 4,5,8 4,9,0 4,3 8,9 4,6,5

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mr. and Mrs. Holcombe M. Austin

ORGANIZATION

20 Elm St.

STREET & NUMBER

Norton

CITY OR TOWN

DATE

September 27, 1979

TELEPHONE

617-285-4849

STATE

Massachusetts 02766

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL ✓

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*William C. Townsend*

*June 23, 1980*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

*W. D. Ray*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*9/11/80*

DATE

*9/5/80*

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Geographical  
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Verbal Boundary Description:

0.4 mile north of the Evans Ranch Headquarters is located a wooden gate with the sign "Elbert-Austin." 200' east of this gate at the fence line one can find a USGS section marker (see the Squaw Pass Quadrangle Map which places this marker at 8324' elevation). Beginning at this mark proceed east 645' to a stone cairn; turn north skirting willow thicket, pick up line of fence and go 1320' to another stone cairn, continue due north 560' - the fence ends as one reaches the "4th of July Cliff;" turn west and proceed 1975' to the open "Mountain Lion Meadow;" turn south 1886' following fence to corner near Freyer entrance Road. (The surveyor's mark for this corner is a pointed vertical stone at the side of the road). Turn east and follow fence 1352' thus returning to the USGS section marker.





Evans-Elbert Ranch: The Ranch House  
Upper Bear Creek Road  
West of Evergreen, Colorado  
Photographer: Merrill Ann Wilson  
Date of Photograph: 1980

Negatives in possession of Colorado State  
Historic Preservation Office

View: West (left) and south facades  
Photographer looking northeasterly

This photograph shows related structures in  
the distance (at right) and shows some of the  
general terrain and landscape features.

*Clear Creek Co.*

1980

SEP 11 1980



Evans-Elbert Ranch: The Ranch House  
Upper Bear Creek Road

West of Evergreen, Colorado

*Clear Creek*

Photographer: Merrill Ann Wilson

Date of Photograph: 1980

Negatives in possession of Colorado State

Historic Preservation Office

View: South facade

SEP 11 1980

Photographer looking north

JUL 1 1980

*2/4*





Evans-Elbert Ranch: The Ranch House

Upper Bear Creek Road

West of Evergreen, Colorado

*Clean Creek*

Photographer: Merrill Ann Wilson

Date of Photograph: 1980

Negatives in possession of Colorado State

Historic Preservation Office

View: West (main) facade

Photographer looking east

*3/4*

JUL 1 1980

SEP 11 1980



Evans-Elbert Ranch: The Ranch House  
Upper Bear Creek Road *Clear Creek co.*  
West of Evergreen, Colorado  
Photographer: Merrill Ann Wilson  
Date of Photograph: 1980  
Negatives in possession of Colorado State  
Historic Preservation Office

View: East (left) and north facades  
Photographer looking southwesterly  
This photograph also shows some of the terrain  
and landscaping of the ranch.

SEP 11 1980

JUL 1 1980

4/4