

E. C. YUST HOMESTEAD WALKING TOUR

National Register Number 5GA193, 9-24-1982, 10-29-1982

160 acre homestead, Final Patent Jan. 7, 1895
40 acre DLE Desert Land Entry, July 9, 1906

**WATCH OUT FOR BADGER HOLES, NAILS, AND OTHER
HAZARDS!!!!!!**

**PETS ARE NOT PERMITTED IN BUILDINGS --
THERE ARE MOUSE AND RAT POISONS AND ANTIFREEZE PRESENT!!!!!!**

Ver. 08182013C

- **MAIN HOUSE**

The original one and one-half story house built May-Nov, 1885 was mostly clapboarded for many years, with a shed roofed frame section on the east (front) added prior to 1900, and an addition on the north wall off the kitchen. The roof is steeply pitched and was originally covered (1885) with sawn cedar shingles, which can be seen underneath the present aluminum covering (c.1950). The pantry roof still has original shingles.

The one and one-half story log (flattened by broadaxe) was built in the summer of 1885 by locals Willis C. "Bill" Call, Sam M. Snider and Rolland Rol Grindle.

Formal entrance to the house (front door) is on the east side through the porch, which was screened from about 1928 to 1984. Another entrance located on the north side leads in to the kitchen.

The downstairs is composed of a large dining/living room, with a bathroom, bedroom and kitchen in the addition on the north wall. The original one and one half story log portion contains two rooms on the first level and two rooms in the upper story, all used as bedrooms.

The dining room, sewing room, pantry and kitchen have tongue and groove wainscoting on the lower walls. The wainscoting in the kitchen was added in 1928 when Ed Yust, his nephew Ed Howe DVM, and first cousin Randolph Mann raised the wall of the kitchen, bathroom and small bedroom by framing on top of the original log wall the top of which came to the bottom of the kitchen window. This area was originally a dirt floor summer kitchen and storage shed with one or two steps coming down from the living room and pantry doors. The pantry was added 1910-1915.

The porch, which was added between 1907 and 1912, was probably screened c. 1920.

The original pine flooring remains throughout the house, except for the living room floor -- which was laid using Southern Pine (a hardwood). When Charley Yust was ready to lay the living room floor, his friends who built the gold dredge boats using Southern Pine, in the Breckenridge area, came down the Blue and laid the floor. The corner of the living room from the original house to the living room/porch door is frame. Except for the upper portion of the north addition above the bottom of the kitchen window, the rest of the house is log.

Ed Yust called the living room the first room in Grand County large enough with a good enough floor to dance on. People would come to dance, move all the furniture including the kitchen stove (see hole in ceiling) outside, make room enough for two squares, then move the furniture back inside when dancing was finished. Ed Yust (very young) would go upstairs and go to sleep on E.C. (also Capt. Yust)'s round topped trunk until the girls were done dancing, when they came up and put Ed to bed. How many coats on top of the trunk?

All rooms have plain doors and window frames.

The walls in the original log section are plastered and papered.

The story Ed Yust told many times was that at some point a visitor brought bed bugs. Ed's mother Mary (also known as "Oma" attacked the bed bugs by having sons Bill and Henry bring up river bottom sand, which was very coarse, to make plaster. The brothers found that they had to paper the walls to hold in the plaster, but the bedbugs were eliminated. Note the spectacular paper on the ceiling of the south downstairs bedroom.

The Living Room

4x8 foot flat display case, high points:

E. C. Yust ball peen hammer: this was Charley's final exam in blacksmith school in 1872 in Canton, Missouri. Ed Yust always said this was the best balanced hammer he ever used. Ed always kept it hidden beneath the bottom drawer beneath the bookcase on the east wall (built by friend and neighbor Wm Billy Bauer).

E. C. Yust gold pan, holding Capt. Charles Yust's civil war sash (gift if Helen, Mrs. A. V. Haerer -- her daughters keep Capt. Yust's saber/sword, that was used with the sash, in their family possession).

Small handmade drawknife: it is possible that this is the drawknife Ed Yust told about many times: E. C. Yust and his longtime prospecting/mining/saloon partner Luther Bradish Smart were caught on Mt. Lincoln in a snowstorm. One had snowshoes and one had nothing, so Charley built a fire and hammered out a drawknife. With the drawknife he made a pair of skis so both men could get off the mountain. Ed Yust also told a story of both men being caught in an avalanche on Mt. Lincoln. Luther went farther down the hillside, after which Charley called down "are you OK," and got the response "what do you think you blankety-blank Deuchman!!!" (Smart was Irish).

Other personal items belonging to Capt. Yust:

Straightedge, patented 1851, used by Capt. Yust during the civil war; meerschaum brought from Little Saxony, Prussia arriving at New Orleans on the bark (sailing vessel) "Admiral Brommy" on June 14, 1852 (8 days after son E. C. was born in Prussia); leather bound books written in German, in the sidewall bookcase. Many Yust family

books are in the bookcase. Also see cardboard tube fire extinguisher (given to Jim in July 2013) purchased by cousin Joe Moyer in Leadville for \$2.50 about 1960, this model having been in use since 1920. Joe and his father had a combined career exceeding fifty years of employment at the Climax Molybdenum Mine.

Georgia Yust Jones 4x5 inch b/w photo developing kit.

The mug that Georgia made for Ed Yust during the portion of the school year that Oma, Ed and Georgia lived in Boulder -- two months in 1915 when Ed was 13. Story by Ed regarding carrying the mug from Chataqua to the train station on a bicycle with no brakes, when the family left Boulder: he got there without breaking the mug!!!!.

Small Georgia Yust flower painting.

Painted ceramic brooch made by Georgia and given to friend Helen Call (King), later given by Helen to Jim Yust.

Small rectangular portable writing desk used by the Yust girls.

Small items eg: bolo ties made by H. H. Henry Yust and cousin Monroe Coleman.

Civil War padlock brought from Pennsylvania by Beulah Yust's grandfather Adoniram Judson Russell Lohr.

Reed organ being stored for GCHA.

Small homemade cot, black cover on the cot is part of a 1917 Dodge Auto engine cover. Photos displayed on cot.

Original hand crank one wire line telephone, phone number 39F4 -- used four long rings. Compare, the adjoining Noonan ranch had a two-wire crank phone system, one pole of that system is still standing south of the south Homestead gate.

Separate b/w hand chalk colorized photos of Capt. Charles and Christena Yust, and one color hand chalk colorized photo of Capt. Charles, standing, and Christena, seated.

Large ornate frame holding photo of Henry, E. C. Yust's brother born in Canton Missouri.

Closet, holding more of the Yust family medicine bottles. See display shelf.

Family reed organ, living room lamp, mantle clock, writing desk/book case, ceiling lamp, phonograph and many photos are located at Jim's home.

Stoves have been located at various places in the house -- southwest downstairs bedroom (original kitchen), three locations in the living room, and one in present kitchen.

Grandmother Oma's sewing room., added 1910-1915. Jeanne Yust Off remembers it being used as sewing room. Now, storage.

South downstairs bedroom, original house. Included original kitchen.

Did some of the antique iron beds come from the Howe place when Wynn and Clara sold the ranch and moved to Grand Junction?

John Love has E. C. and Mary's bed and nightstand.

Georgine Traber has their dining set and china rack.

Ed Yust dug a small “cellar”/crawl space under the living room in the 1920’s in anticipation of installing a furnace, but the project ended when he had dug as far as the staircase and his mother asked where he was going to vent the furnace. For many years Ed Yust used the house as a hunting cabin, and Clara and Wynn Howe made many extended visits here after moving to Grand Junction in 1948.

OUTBUILDINGS

Cellar. Concrete, earth-insulated, was used primarily to store potatoes grown on the homestead.

The Ice House. This dove-tailed squared log cabin was the first cabin on the property, built by John W, Grig(g)s on his homestead pre-emption filed Apr. 29, 1881. This pre-emption was sold to W. C. Call Feb. 1, 1884, and purchased by E. C. Yust November 29, 1884. It was ultimately E. C. Yust who received the final patent on the homestead. Originally located next to the Spring Ditch in what became the first garden, the Yust’s moved it to its present location and lived in it during 1885 while building the large main house, converting the cabin into an ice house as soon as the couple, with two children, moved in to the new house. The family had moved from Breckenridge down the Blue River on May 23, 1885.

The Milk Shed. Log. Located immediately to the south of the Ice House. See milk stool made out of piece of log with a railroad spike. Also see two milking stalls in the barn.

Original Outhouse. Board and pole. Behind wood shed, dismantled parts of roof frame next to red port-a-potty.

Additional **Retired Former Frame USFS Outhouse**, just north of woodshed. Was Al Erickson’s outhouse at The Ponds.

Woodshed, frame. Was Charlie Switzer’s cabin on his 320 acre homestead filing at the “Slab Pile.” Dorothy Yust (Traber) held on to this filing until Ed Yust was old enough to prove up on it as half of his homestead. Moved to present location about 1928.

Bunkhouse, log. The older boys and any hired help lived here. Baby Ed and the girls lived in the main house. Contains the 1926 GenCo 32 Volt DC Edison Alkaloid Battery Gas Generator that provided limited lighting starting c.1926-1928. Ed Yust always said it was Kremmling’s first light plant, I wonder if he bought it new. Have some billing invoices indicating Ed owned it quite early. New roof installed in 2002.

Chicken House, log. Including small overhang, storing horse-drawn/modified to tractor-drawn potato planter and potato digger. New roof installed in 2002.

Blacksmith shop. Pole barn/post/board/pole. Falling down. Look for the post vice and remains of forge --board frame with stone insulation, remains of 3 horse sweep rakes.

Barn, log. Started in 1880s as one story. After the Yust family partnership bought Oscar Crawford's homestead in The Columbine, Bill and Henry brought the roof off the Crawford house to the Home (Old) Place using teams and sleds about 1912. When they got the roof to the bottom of the Columbine, they got in trouble (near the Charlie Yust Ranch headquarters at The Columbine Lodge) and had to cut the roof in half to finish the journey. See photos of barn roof with 3 sections (two- Crawford roof, one- scabbed on), and photo of one- story barn. New roof 2002.

Pole Barn. Open- ended shed with new roof adjoining north end of barn. Stored 1926 Dodge, one motorized sweep rake and one grass and grain drill for many years. Now stores the grain drill and two tractors: One 1938 Ford-Ferguson 9N gas Tractor (purchased from Ed's lifelong friend and neighbor Glenn Pharo), the first tractor sold by Middle Park Auto Co. in Granby -- now High Country Motors, owned by Glenn's grandson Mike Garrett), and One 1948 Ford 9N Ford Tractor, both purchased new by Ed Yust. New roof Aug 2011.

New Steel Shed/Storage Building/garage. Built 2001. Mint Condition Freight Wagon, Yust family Spring Wagon, Yust Family mowers and plows, two- wheeled breaking carts, 1926 Dodge Victory 6 Sedan, Buick motor buzz saw driver, water gage from USGS station in Gore Canyon. Many other items.

Stored at Yust ranch headquarters: Yust Family Buggy, disassembled and in poor condition, and One homemade Model A Bug Tractor (The Original Dunebuggy?); one pedal operated grindstone, and one blacksmith Bellows in fairly good condition.

Bill Yust Homestead Cabin/ Al's Cabin. First built by Bill Yust as his homestead cabin on a 320 acre homestead up "Bill's Gulch." Bill held on to the filing until Ed Yust was old enough to prove up on the homestead. The family dismantled the cabin, numbered the logs with Roman Numerals and moved it by either sled or wagon to a three sided concrete foundation second location in the teens? Ed towed it on runners with his new D6 Cat from here to a third location at The Ponds as a caretaker's cabin for Al Erickson in 1948 or before Mar. 1949. The Ponds were licensed for many years as a commercial fish hatchery. New adjoining Blue Valley Ranch hauled/returned the cabin to its present new foundation in July 2001. So, this cabin, in its fourth location, is also approximately in its second location. The "basement" under this cabin in its second location was the garage to store the family auto during the winter. It was also where the GenCo Generator (see in Bunkhouse) was operated.

Al Erickson built the cinderblock garage at the Ed Yust ranch headquarters, built the “White House” and bunkhouse at the same ranch out of materials salvaged from the “Old Hotel [New Century Light and Power Co. Offices & Rooming House] - the former C. H. Charlie Yust residence and Columbine Ranch headquarters, installed the aluminum roof on the “Main House” (see above), and built extensive stone retaining walls on U. S. 40 west of Empire (only two portions of these walls remain, on the uphill/north side of the highway, as of 2013).

Capt. Charles Yust homestead cabin. See story on Colorow School. First built on land adjoining the south edge of the E. C. Yust homestead. Moved to Henry’s Gulch and used as Henry’s homestead cabin in the teens. Moved to the Ponds by Ed Yust with D6 Caterpillar and converted into a fish hatchery building. In early 70s Jedd Roe’s Eagle Pass Ranch irrigated the flat above enough to slide the cabin in to the adjoining pond. Two of the logs are stored on the rafters of the Pole Barn (see above) next to the green boat.

- **OUTDOOR STORAGE**

4 gas sweep rakes, Thirty Caterpillar (Thirty Drawbar Horsepower), SN # P.S.1287, purchased used by Ed Yust Oct. 4, 1935. (The last “Thirty” cats were made in 1931). Horse/tractor drawn Sulky/Dump rakes. Disassembled cattle loafing shed from Middle Bench/Johnson Place, had originally been the Call Ranch Barn located on flat above the “Ditch Bridges.”

The two tall pine trees next to the Spring Ditch were planted by Clara (born 1881) and Henry (born 1891) when they were youngsters. There is one surviving pine tree south of the walk to the kitchen door. The one that was planted north of the walk in memorial of brother Carter (died in January 1918 at Camp Funston, Kansas [Fort Riley]) survived for many years, but eventually succumbed to damage by porcupines, which had harassed both trees for many years.