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BAR BC DUDE RANCH

cultural landscape treatment recommendations



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Management Philosophy

The Bar BC Dude Ranch Historic District is the oldest existing dude ranch within Grand Teton National Park. It is significant under National Register Criteria A for its importance in regional history, B for its associations with Struthers Burt and Katherine Newlin Burt, and C for its architectural and organizational characteristics. The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) found that the landscape maintains integrity of location, setting, workmanship, materials, and association. The landscape retains historic integrity, but is in poor condition.

In order to improve the condition of the landscape and maintain its historic integrity preservation of the historic district with limited restoration of select character defining features must be undertaken. Preservation of the overall site can be accomplished by monitoring vegetation and selectively clearing it in order to 1) maintain viewsheds to the core of the ranch compound, the Grand Teton and Gros Ventre mountain ranges, and the Snake River; 2) reinforce the historic zones and land use; and 3) to maintain access to trails through the site. Character defining features from the period significance (1912-1941) such as cabins, small-scale landscape features, and vegetation must be preserved and in a few cases restored or reconstructed.

The CLI identifies five character areas on the site: Wrangler, Guest Cabins 1, Guest Cabins 2, Recreation, and Corse Cabin. Maintenance efforts should focus on the Wrangler, Guest Cabins 1, and Recreation Character Areas, since these make up the core of the ranch. The area northwest of the Main Cabin, which is currently overgrown, was the historic front yard. The importance of this piece of the landscape required that clearing this area of sapling conifers and Aspens be the first priority in the treatment of the landscape. Clearing the now dry swimming pool west of the recreation hall and the entry road of saplings is also a high priority. This simple step will greatly improve the legibility of the organization of the Bar BC Dude Ranch Historic District.

Management Goals

In order to preserve and interpret the cultural landscape of the Bar BC Dude Ranch the following goals have been identified:

- Protect viewsheds
- Promote historic circulation through the site
- Reinforce historic land use
- Minimize fire hazards around the structures on site

Monitoring vegetation on site and selectively thinning and clearing encroaching vegetation is the primary recommendation for achieving these goals. Priority should be given to three of the five character areas that are the core of the historic ranch: Wrangler, Guest Cabins 1, and Recreation areas (specified in the CLI).

Treatment Recommendations

The first priority for treatment is to clear encroaching vegetation from the character areas on site where it is decreasing the legibility and compromising the integrity of the historic landscape. The priority areas for clearing are 1) Guest Cabins 1 Character Area with an emphasis on the space northwest of the Main Cabin, 2) Recreation Character Area with an emphasis on the saplings that are obscuring the pool, and 3) saplings growing along the entry road west of the Burt cabins and the recreation area. The clearing of saplings can be undertaken yearly by volunteer groups in the summer. Vegetation throughout each of the five character areas that are near cabins should be evaluated as potential fire hazards. Historically significant vegetation, such as the Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) stand in Guest Cabins 2 Character Area and the Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) grove south of the Burt Cabins should be maintained despite their proximity to cabins. Sage should be allowed to grow throughout the property even though Burt and Carncross removed all sage brush from the third bench and actively planted native grasses in this area. The sage is important as habitat and as long as it does not exceed a height of two feet it will not distract significantly from the character defining features of the historic landscape.

The historic circulation on the site has been compromised by the widening of the foot path to accommodate vehicles and the removal of the vehicular road west of the Recreation Character Area. Encouraging visitors to reach the site by alternate means – mountain bike, boat, or horse – is preferable to encouraging people to drive to the site. Continuing to restrict vehicular access on the third bench is desirable. CUAs with horses are currently using the corral in the Wrangler Character Area. This use should be further encouraged by giving a concessioner access to the stable.

Site interpretation should focus on digital platforms such as a website and or smartphone app. Temporary installation art could serve to interpret the landscape for visitors. A collaboration with an organization such as Center of Wonder should be investigated.

Character Areas

Wrangler

The vegetation in this character area should be monitored and saplings cleared once or twice a year in order to protect viewsheds of the Main Cabin, the surrounding mountain ranges, and river. The vegetation along the BC Ditch can be used to index this topographic change for visitors. Willows along the ditch should be periodically thinned to maintain viewsheds and pathways to the river.

Guest Cabins 1

New conifer and Aspen saplings along the entry road/trail should be cleared yearly to preserve viewsheds and minimize the risk of fire. Sage and grasses in this area should not exceed two feet in height. Native grasses that are desirable in Grand Teton National Park should be planted by seeding in late spring or early summer. The area where the vegetable garden was planted should be cleared yearly, so that visitors are able to see the raised topography. The space Northwest of the Main Cabin is the first priority for vegetation maintenance as this was the most important space in the organization of the dude ranch during its period of significance.

Recreation

This is the third area where monitoring vegetation and clearing saplings annually is important to maintain the integrity of the landscape. Sage and grasses in this area should be cut if they exceed two feet. It is a priority to clear saplings from the pool, which is now dry. The diving board and bridge should be reconstructed using the material that still exists in situ as a design guide and salvaging as much of this existing material as possible.

Corse Cabins and Guest Cabins 2

The cabins in these two character areas will be allowed to decay and some of the material may be salvaged to repair cabins in other character areas. The vegetation in this area should be allowed to grow unabated in order to demonstrate succession to visitors. The only exception to this is if the vegetation obstructs pathways to the core of the site or obstructs the viewshed of the main cabin from the trail south of the district's core.

Appendix A *existing conditions*

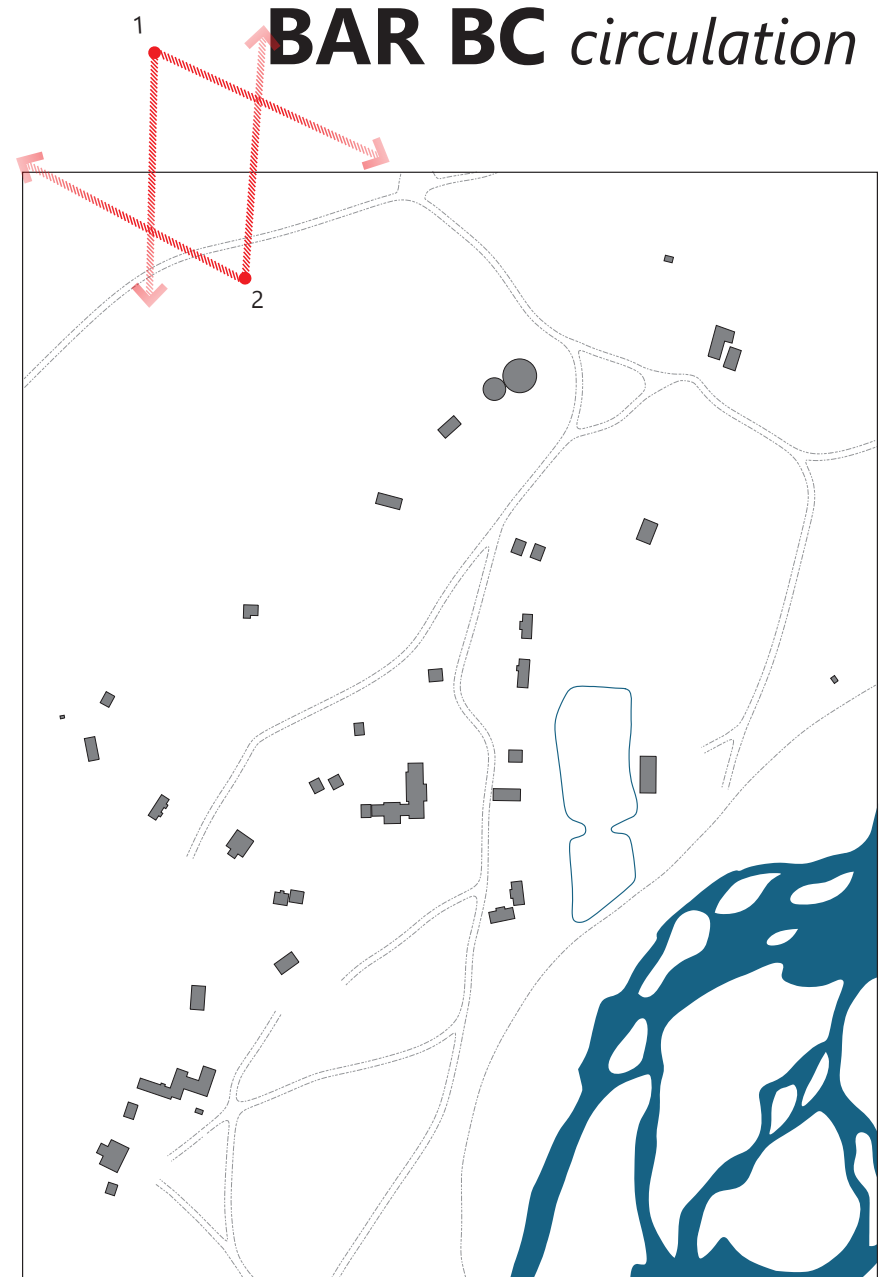
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View from Bench (East Facing)



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Entry Road (West Facing)



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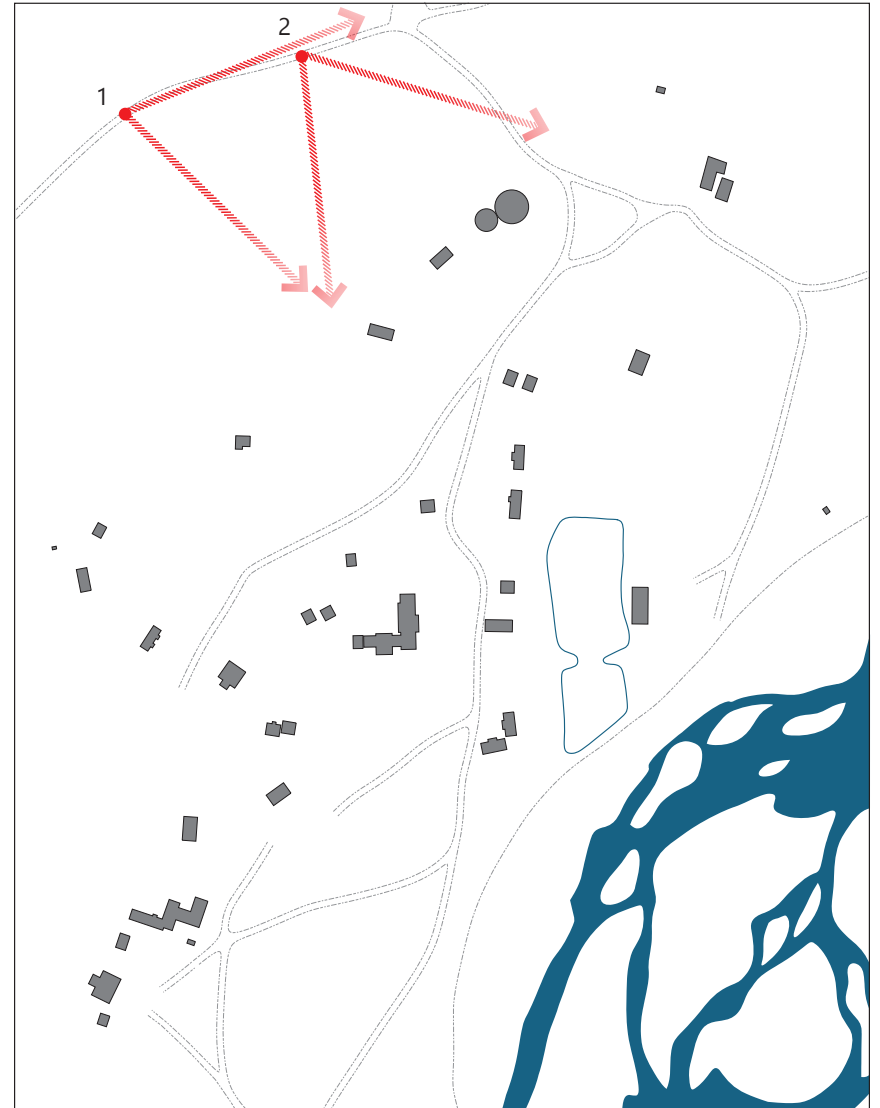


Entry 1 1912-1919 (North Facing)



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Entry 2 1919-1930s (East Facing)

BAR BC *circulation*



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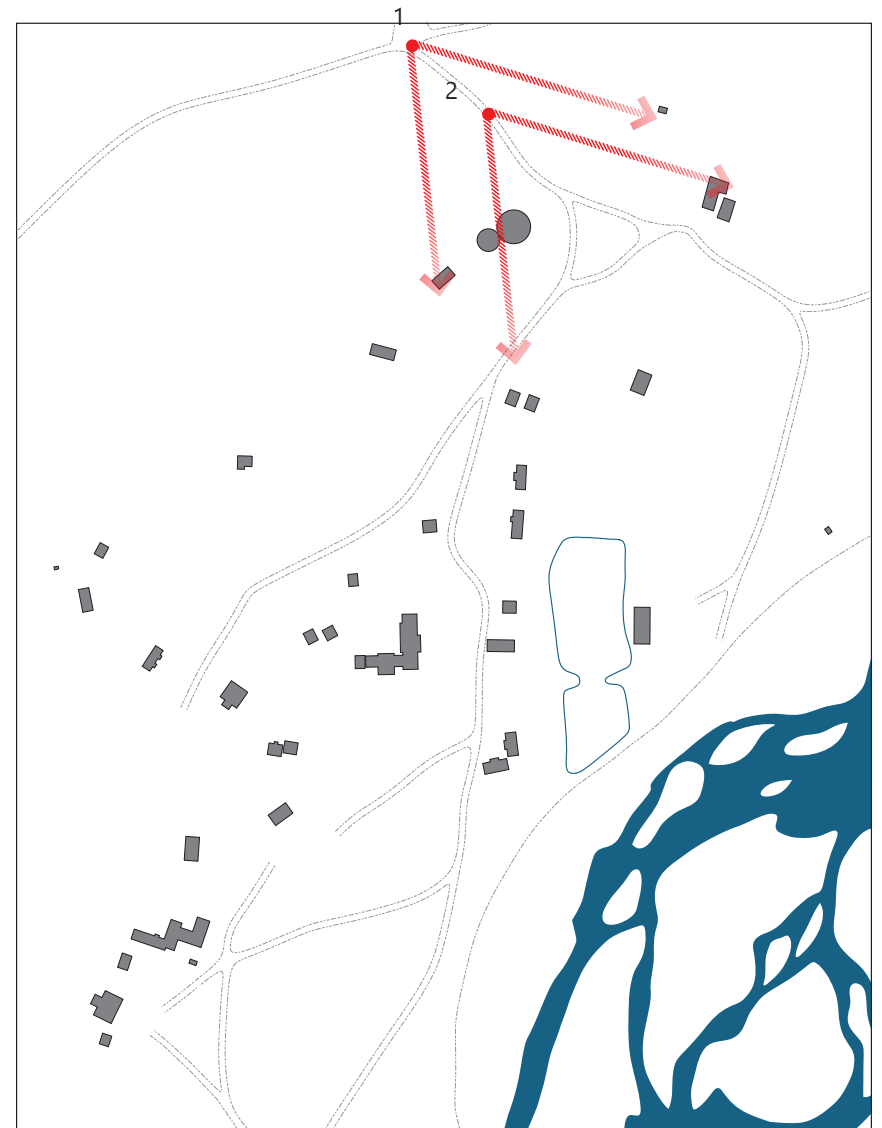


Entry 3 1930s-Present (East Facing)



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Entry 3 Fork (East Facing)

BAR BC *circulation*



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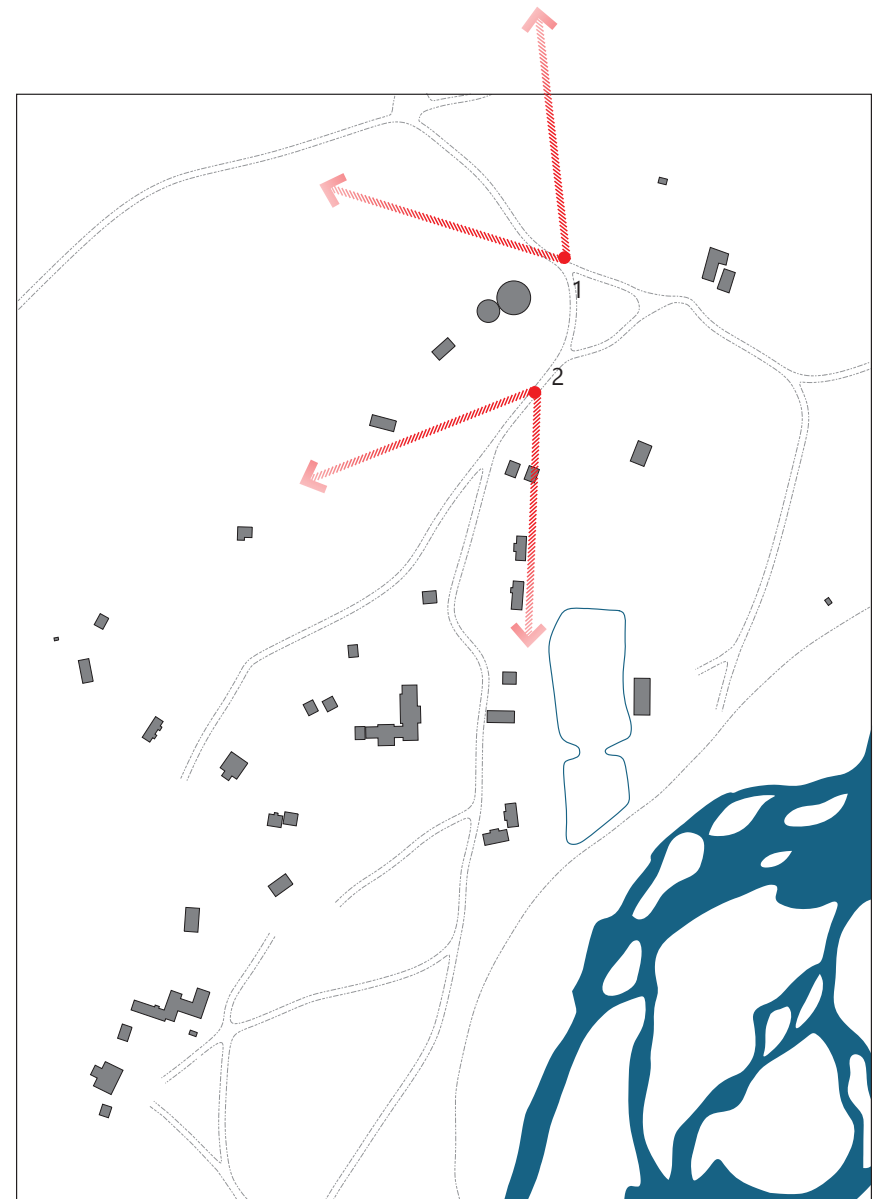


Entry 3 Fork (West Facing)



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Entry Road Aspen Grove near Burt Cabins (South Facing)

BAR BC *circulation*

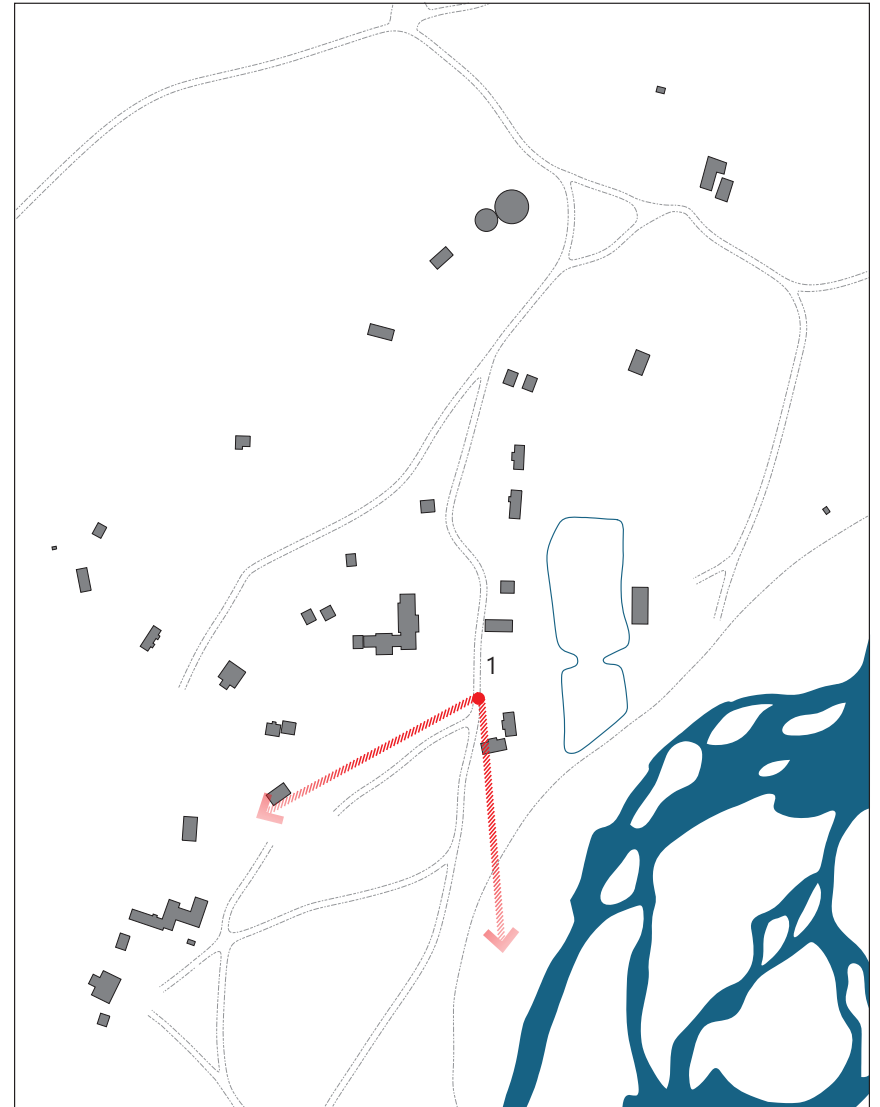


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Fork Road South of Cabins (South Facing)

BAR BC *circulation*



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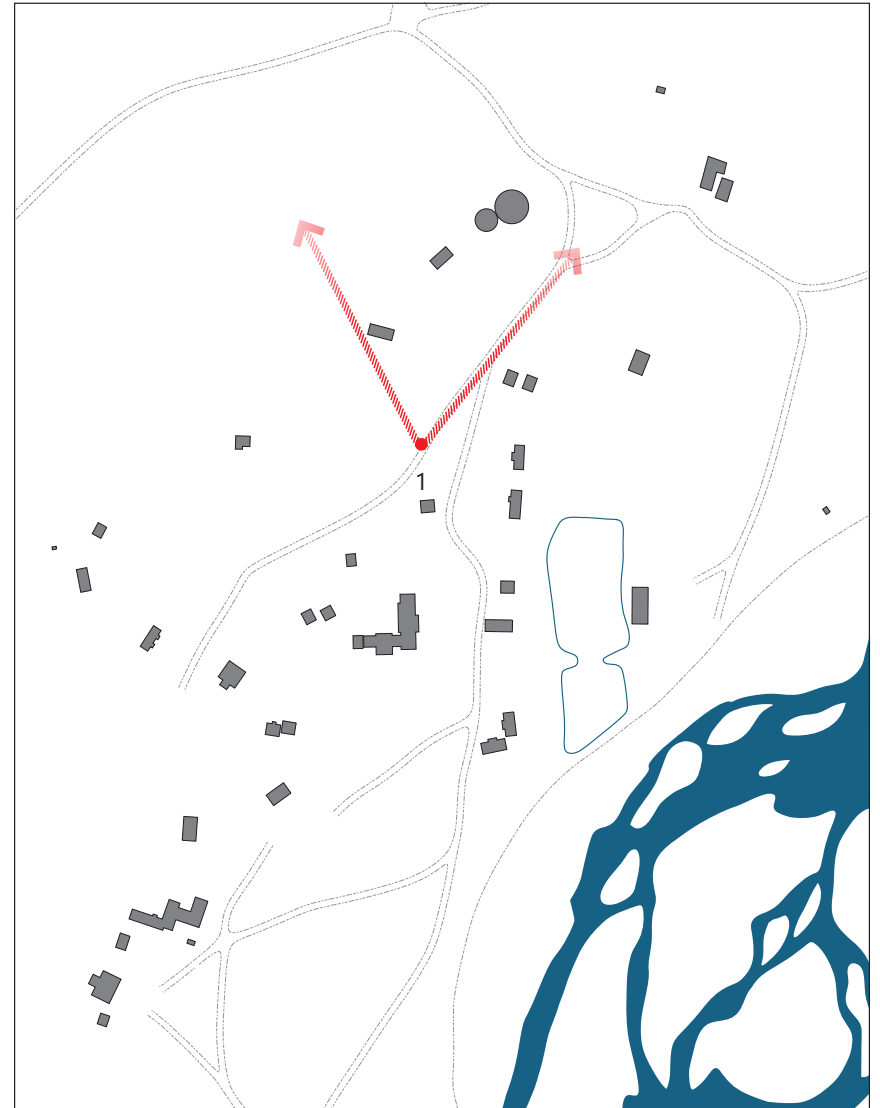


Camp Store and Entry Gate c. 1930 (North Facing)



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Camp Store and Entry Gate 7/2015 (North Facing)

BAR BC comparison



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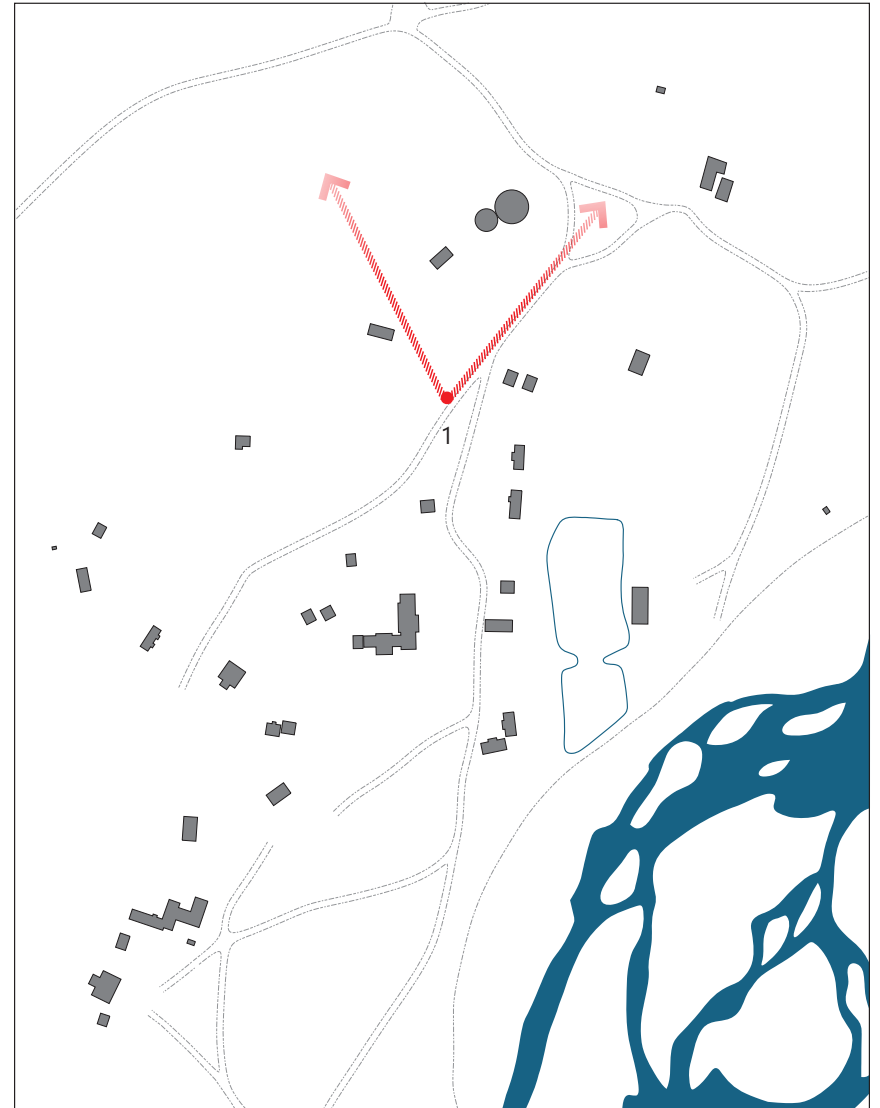


Tack Stable Date Unknown (North Facing)

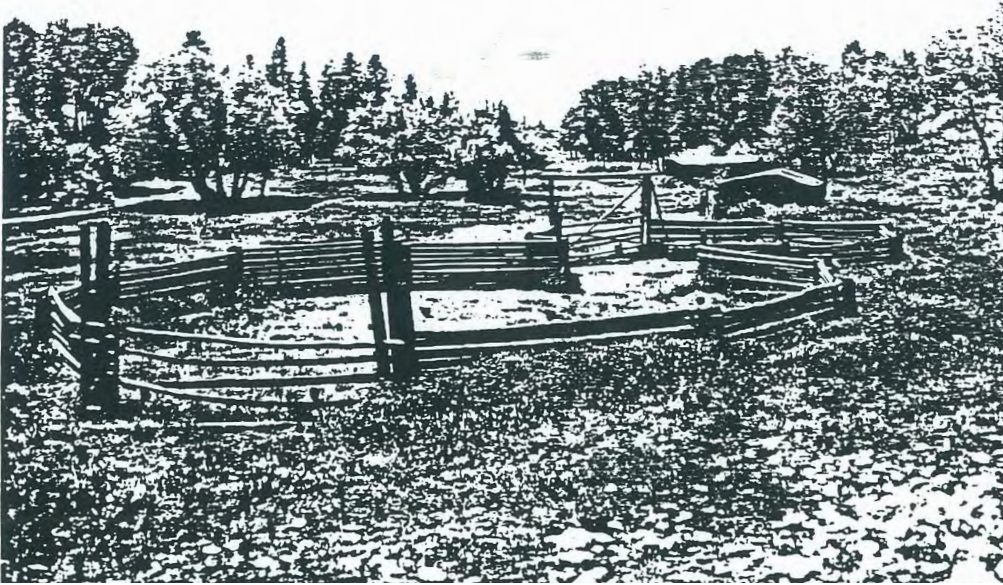


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Tack Stable 7/2015 (North Facing)

BAR BC comparison



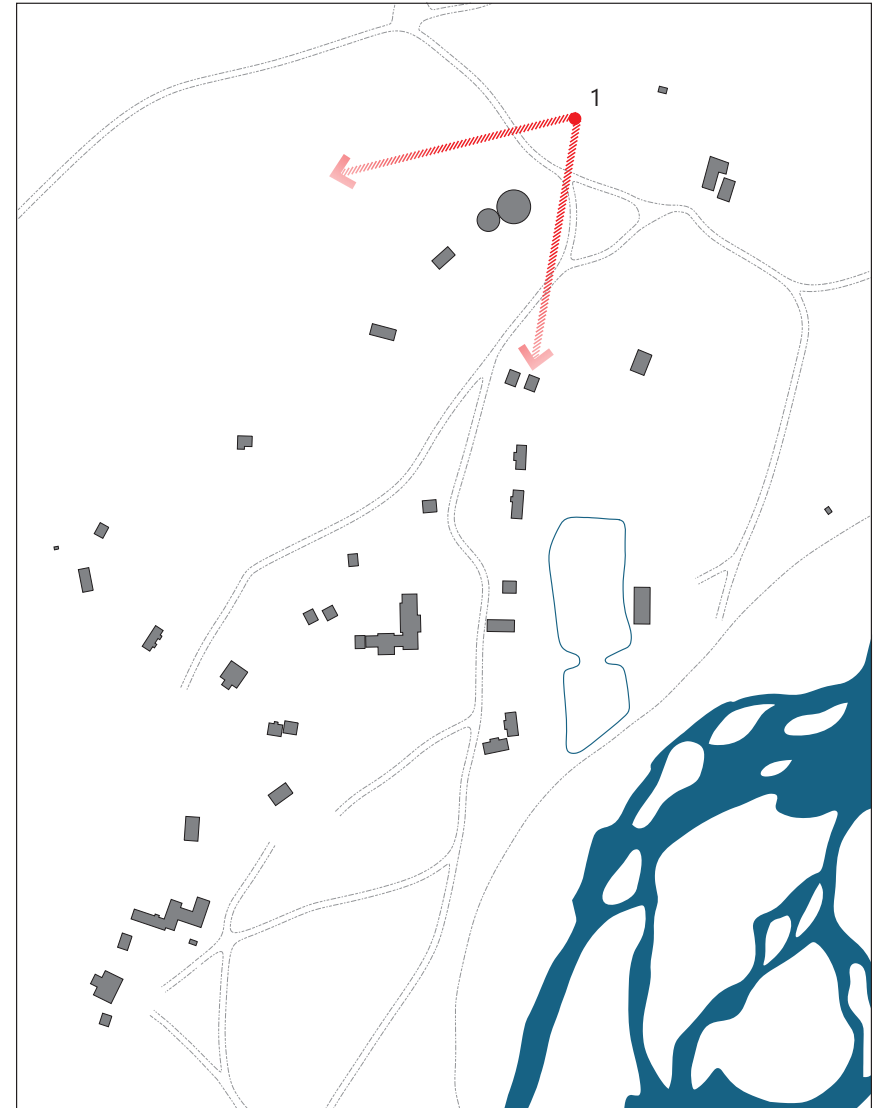
BAR BC comparison



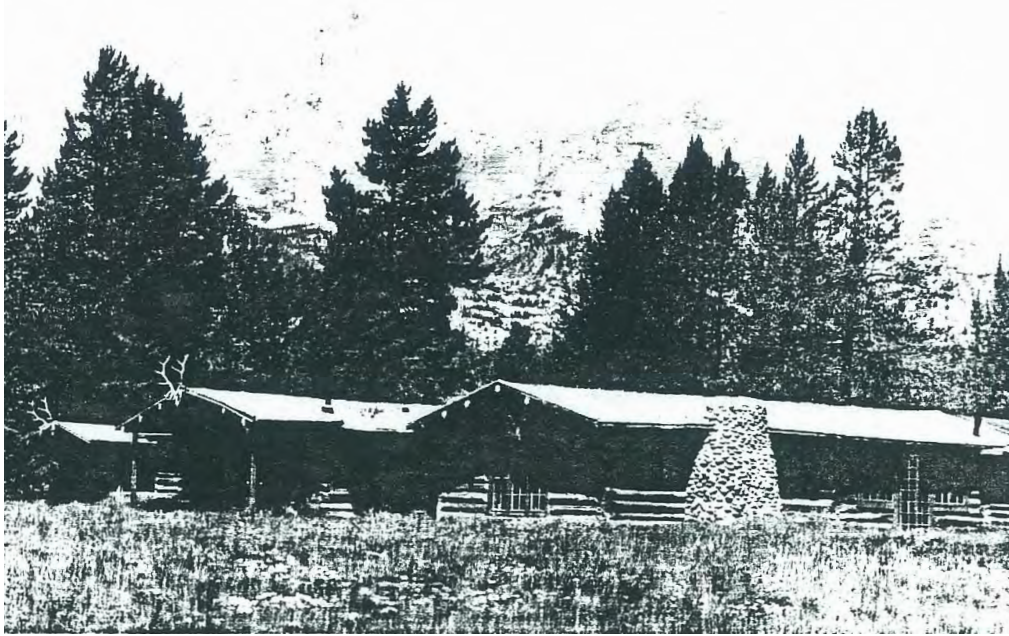
Corral 1940 (South Facing)



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Corral 7/2015 (South Facing)



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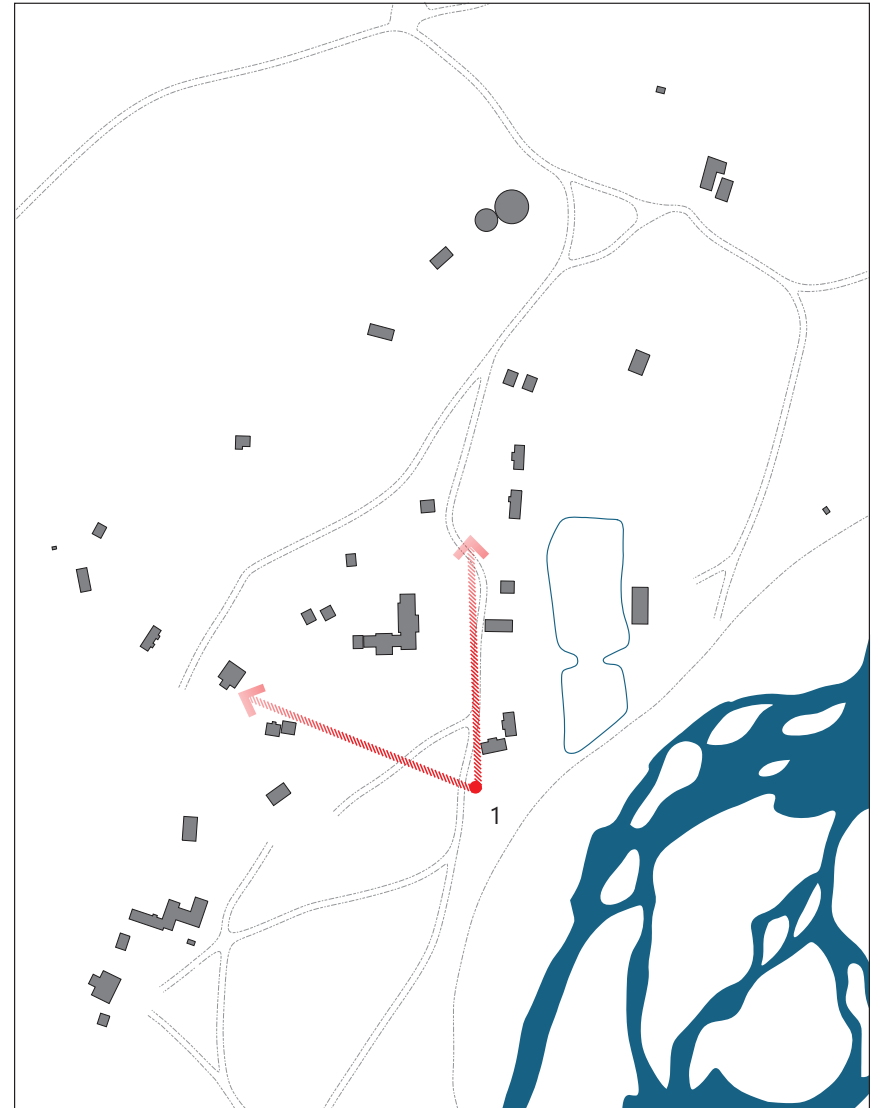


Main Cabin Date Unknown (West Facing)



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Main Cabin 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC *comparison*



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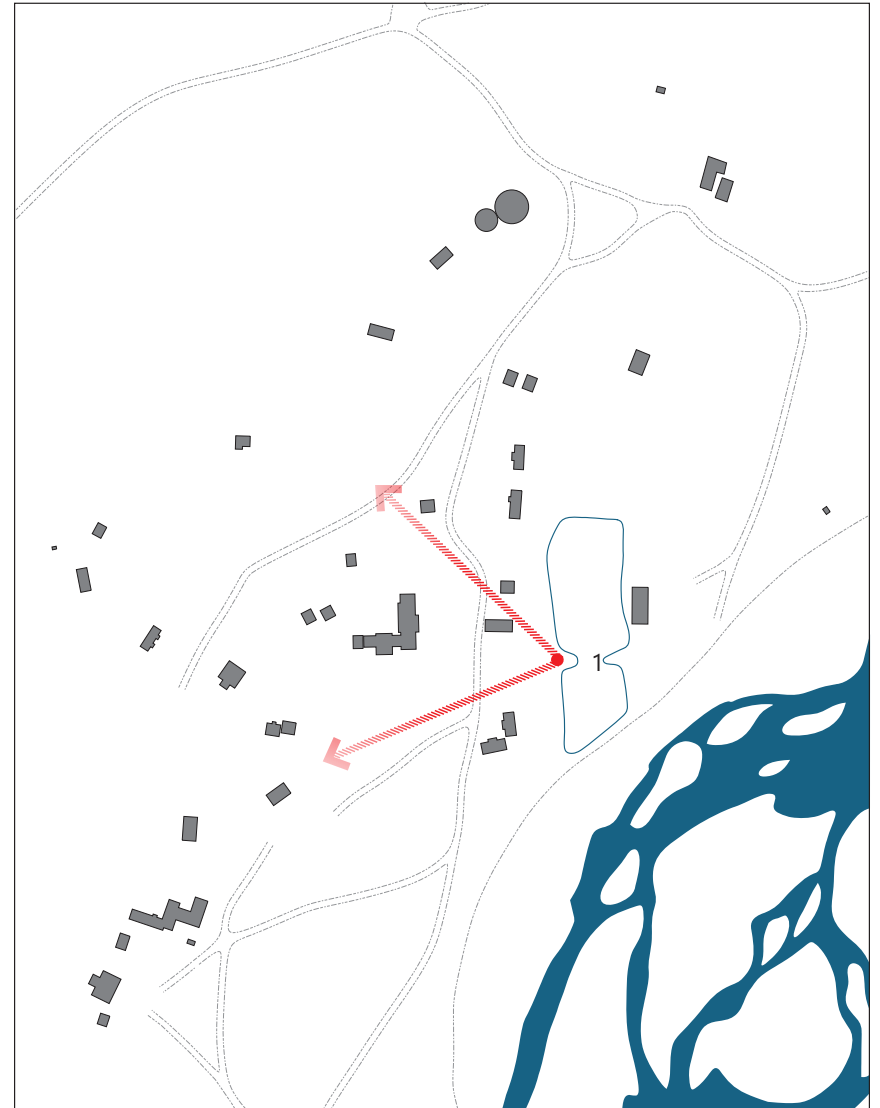


Main Cabin Date Unknown (West Facing)



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Main Cabin 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC comparison



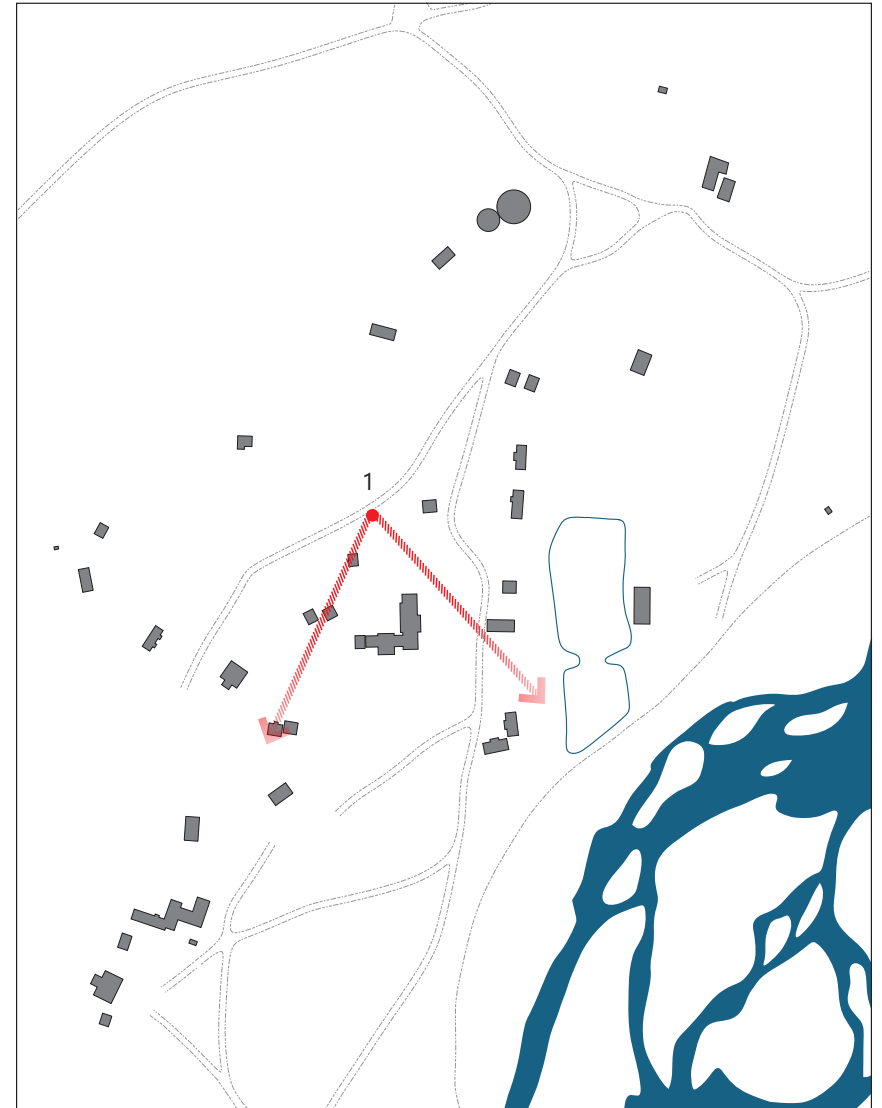
BAR BC *comparison*



Main Cabin and Front Yard Date Unknown (South Facing)



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Main Cabin and Front Yard 7/2015 (South Facing)



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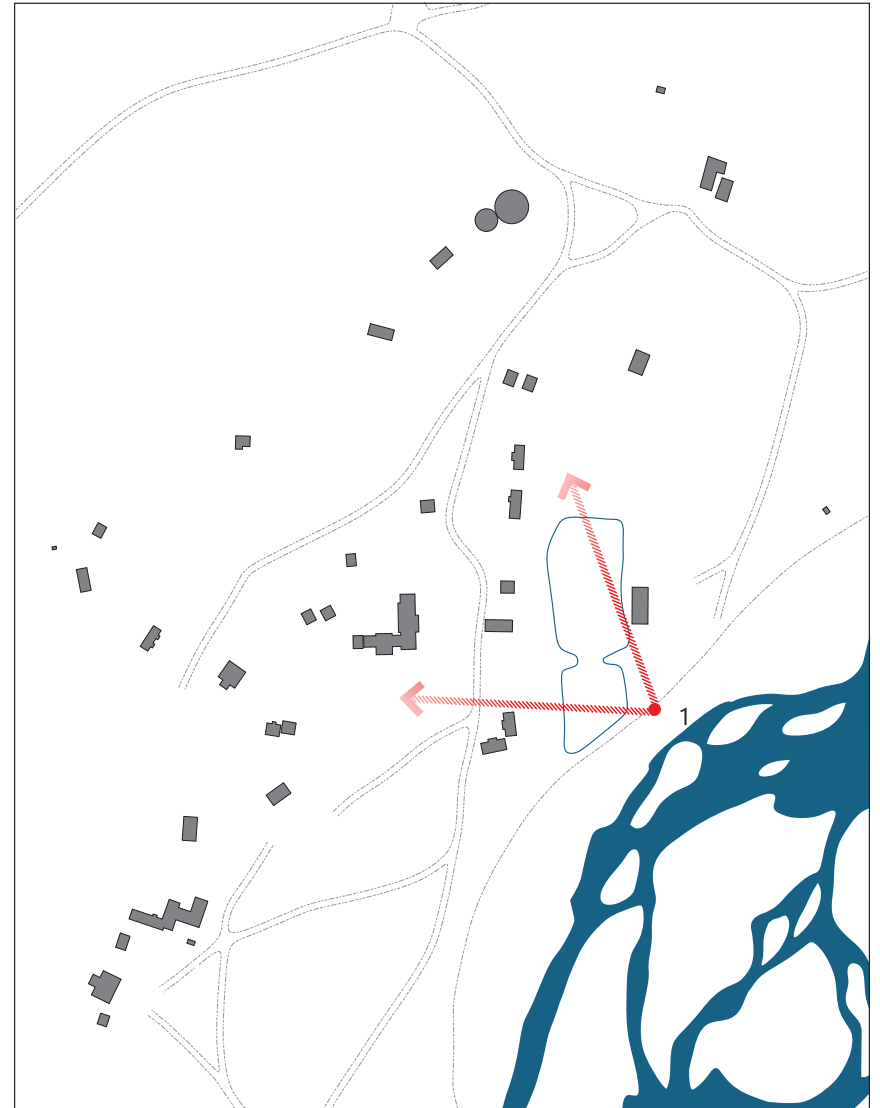


Pool and Main Cabin 1936 (West Facing)

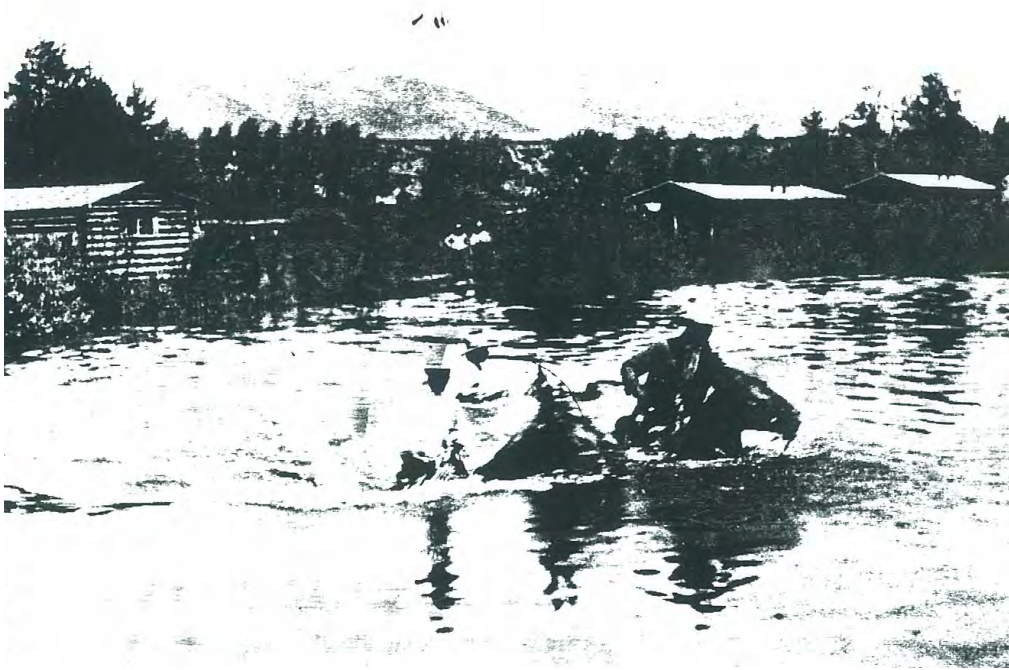


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Pool and Main Cabin 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC *comparison*



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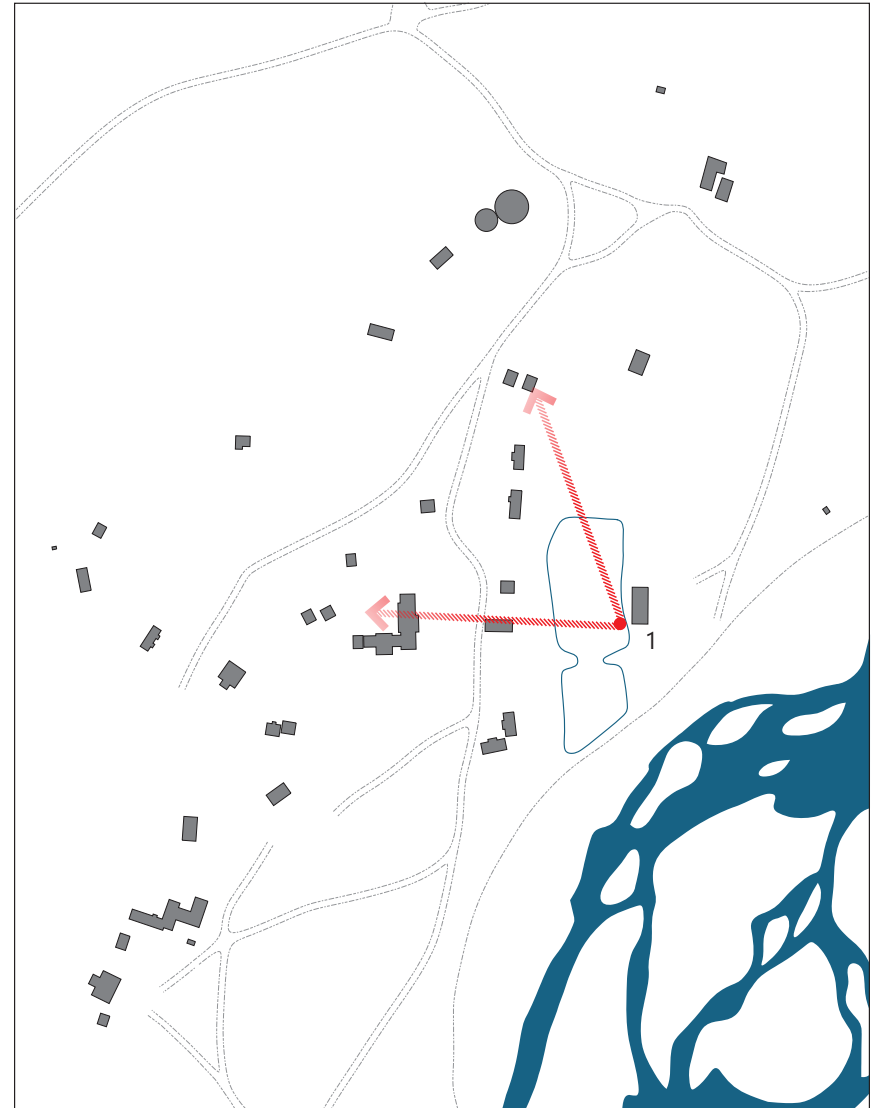


Pool and Cabins 1376, 1374, and 1373 Date Unknown (West Facing)



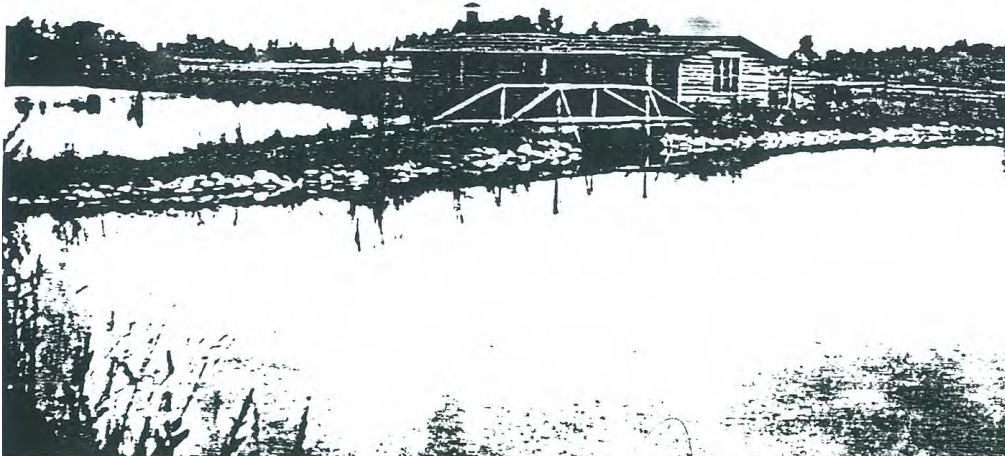
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Pool and Cabins 1376, 1374, and 1373 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC *comparison*



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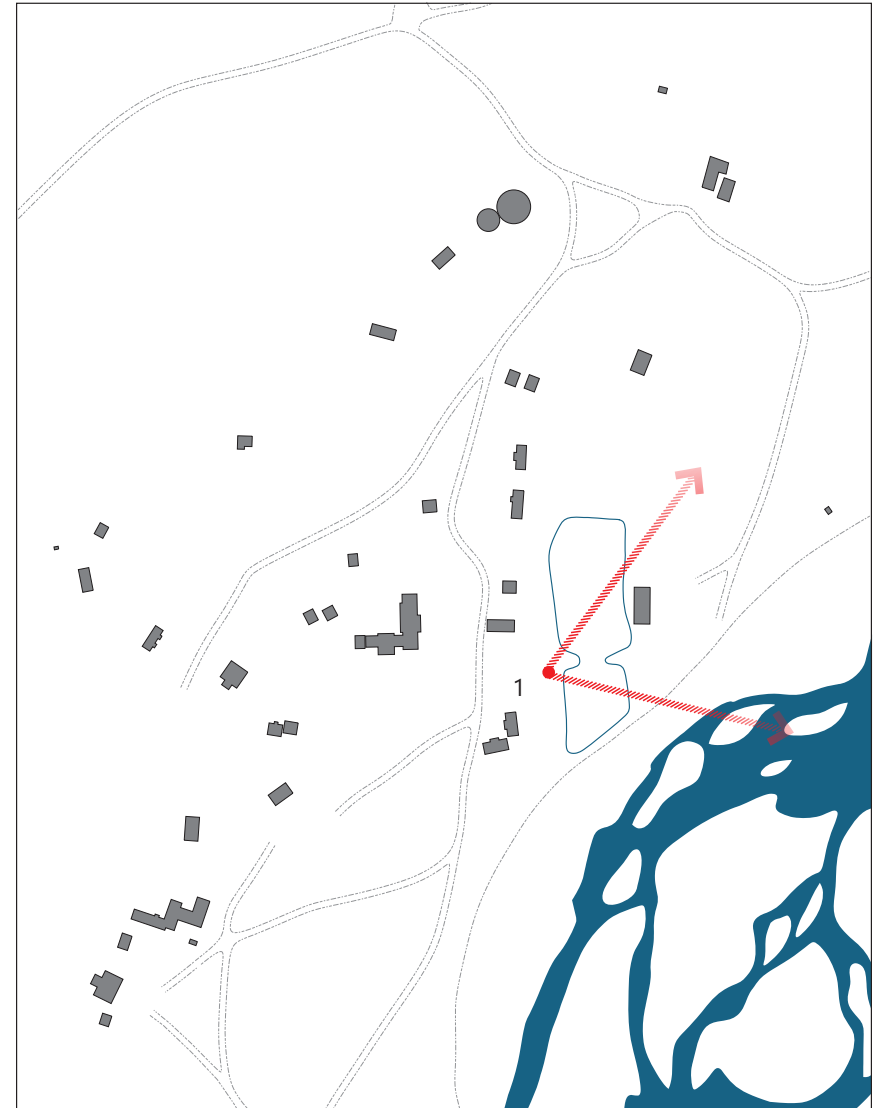
BAR BC *comparison*



Pool and Dance Hall 1920 (East Facing)



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Pool and Dance Hall 7/2015 (East Facing)



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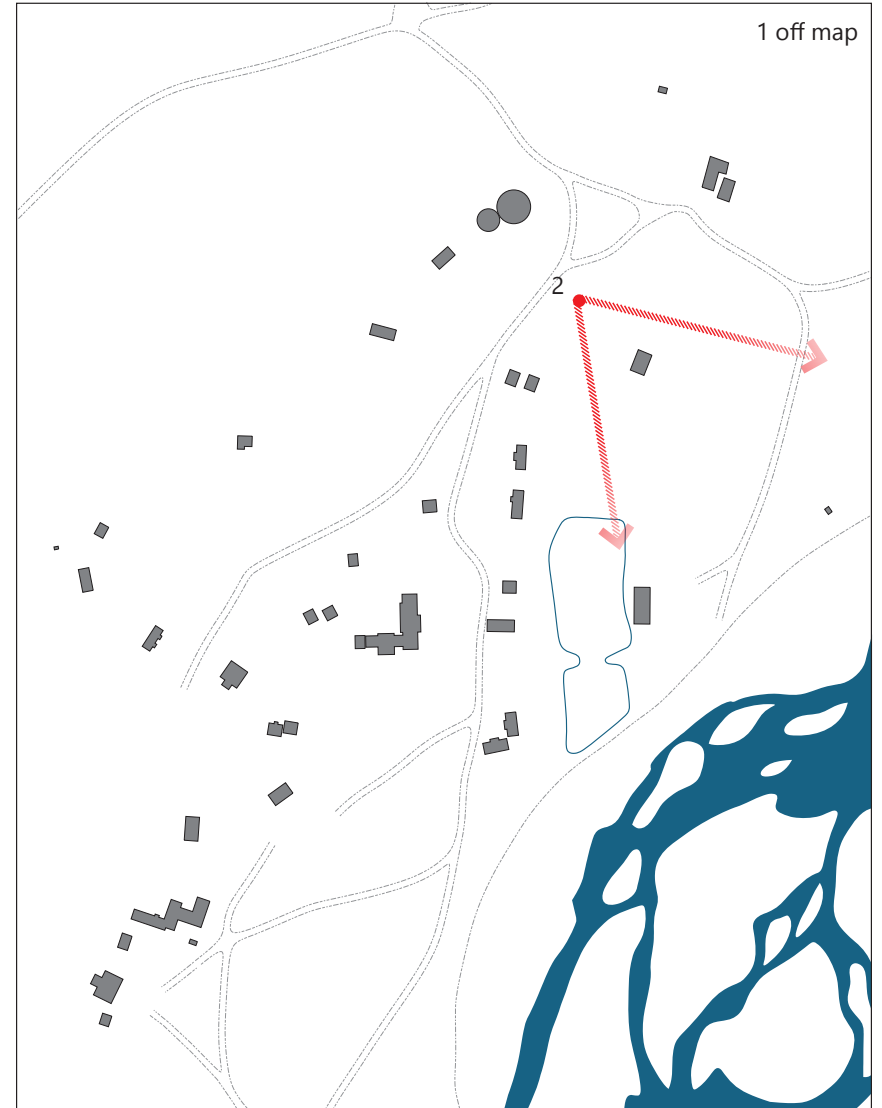


Picnic Grove 7/2015 (North Facing)



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Garage 1368 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC context



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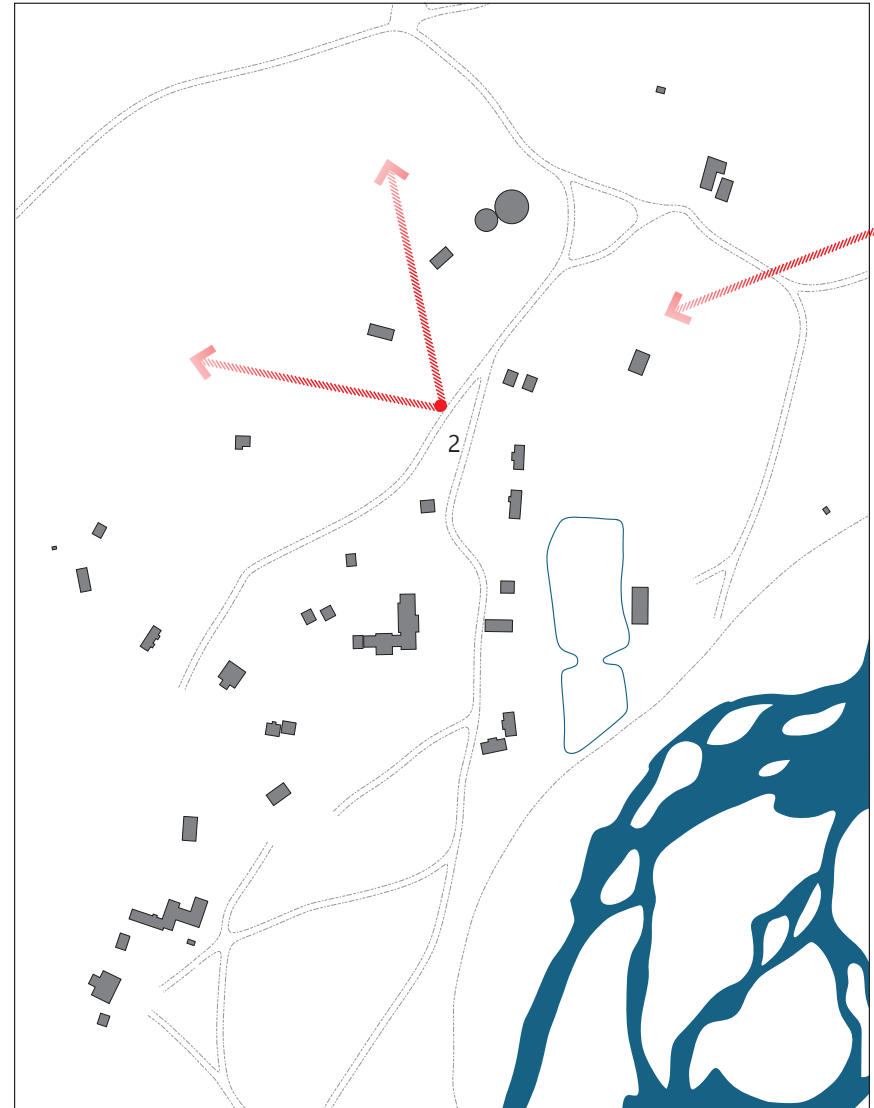


Snake River encroaching on Cabins 7/2015 (South Facing)



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Camp Store 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC context



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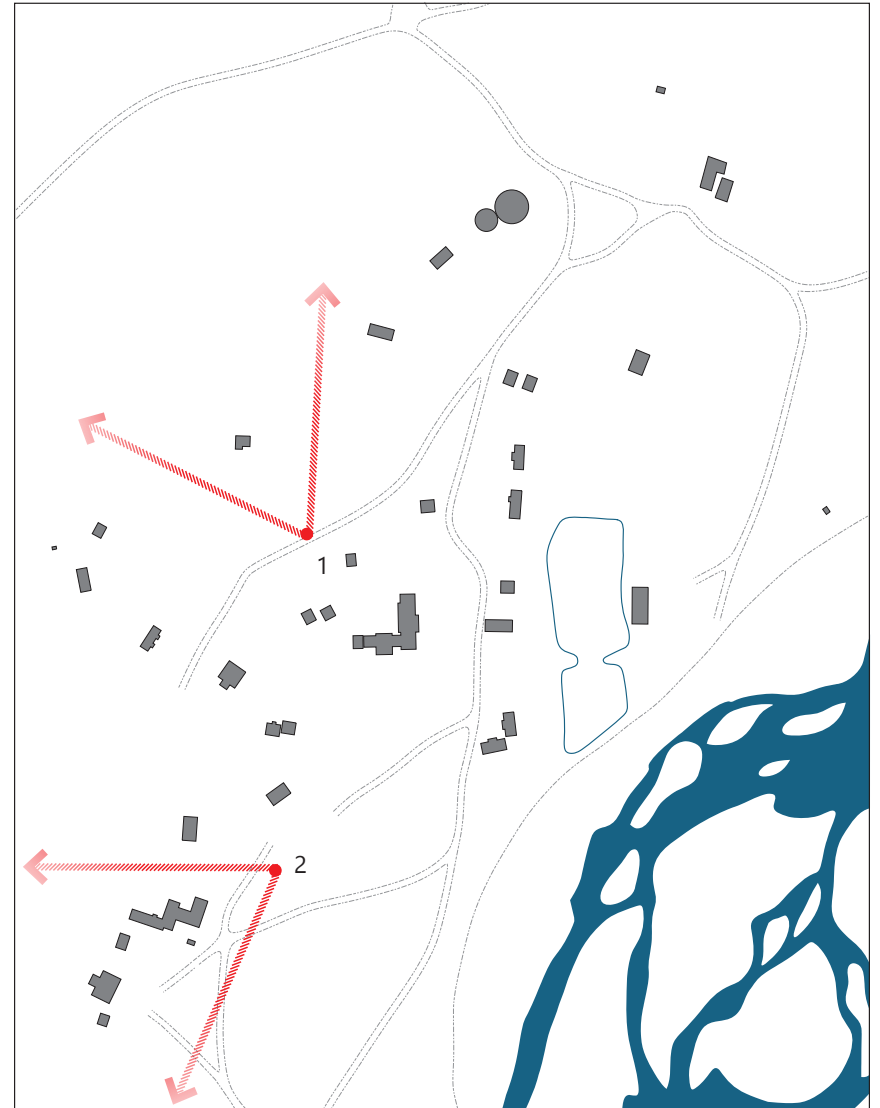


Large Conifer and Cabin 1399 7/2015 (West Facing)



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Corse Cabin and Hangar 7/2015 (West Facing)

BAR BC context

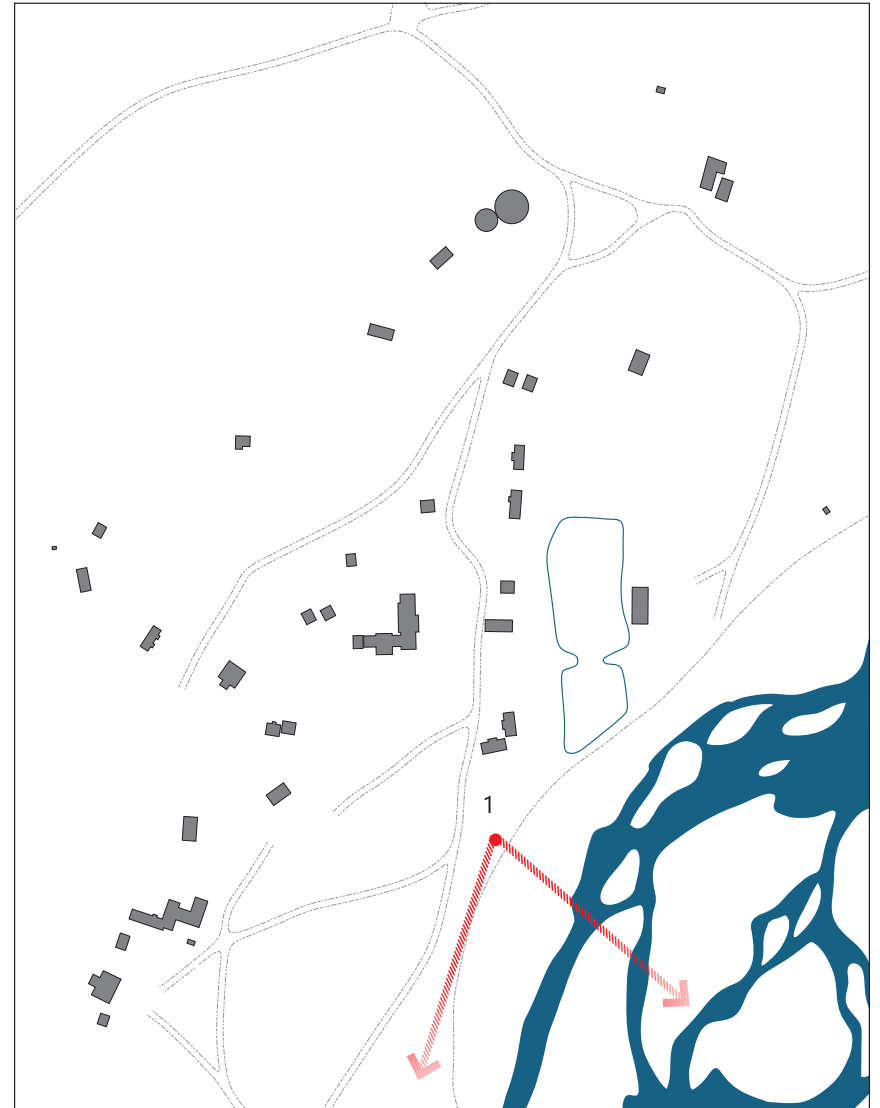


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Snake River South of Cabins 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC *context*



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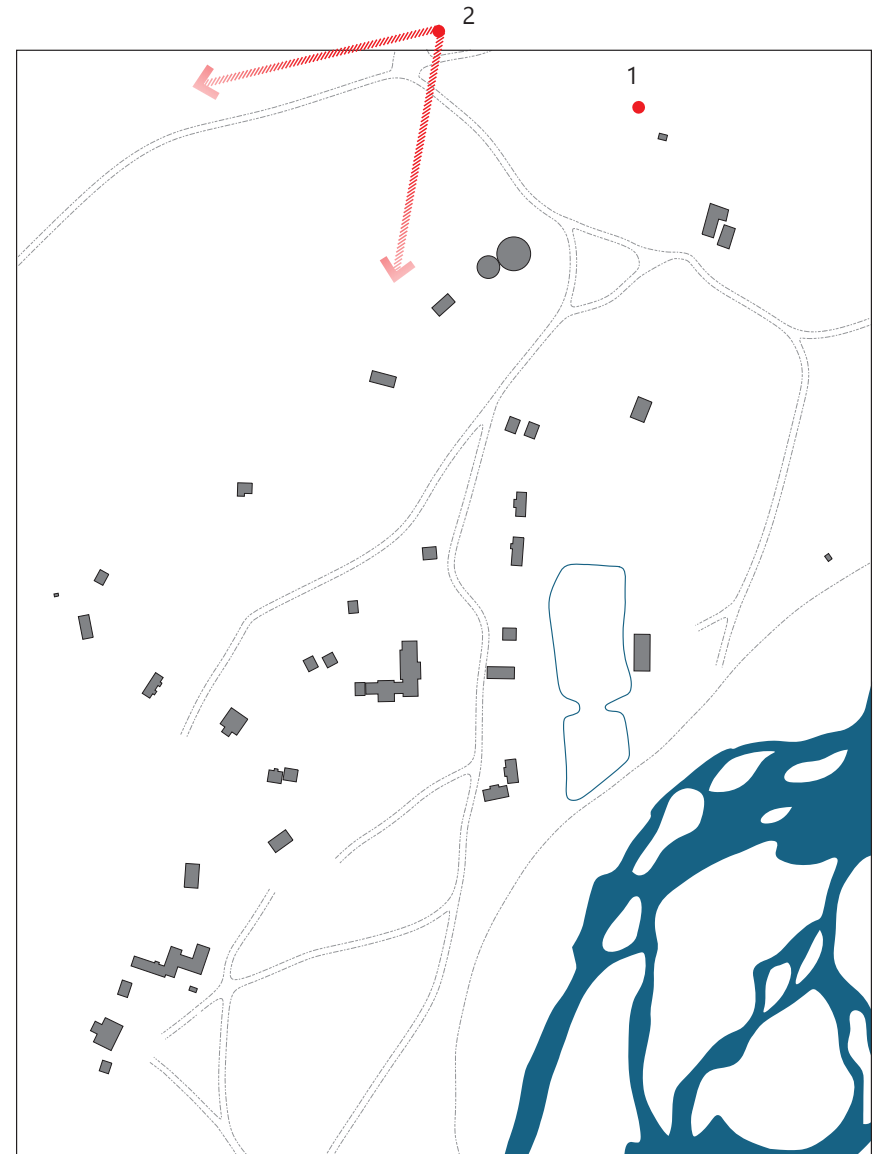


Water Settling Tank Middle Terrace 7/2015



Fence at Entry 3 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC details



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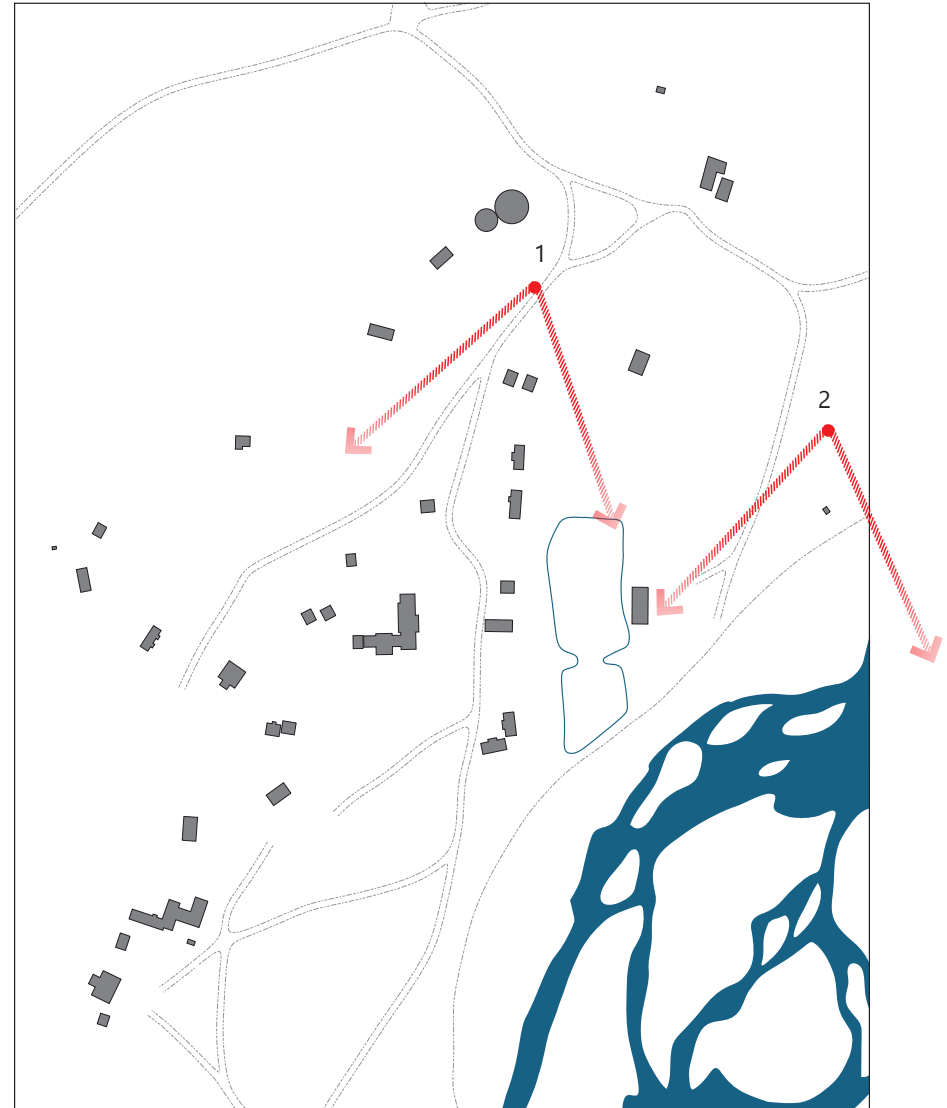


Entry Road 7/2015 (South Facing)



Skeet Shed 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC details



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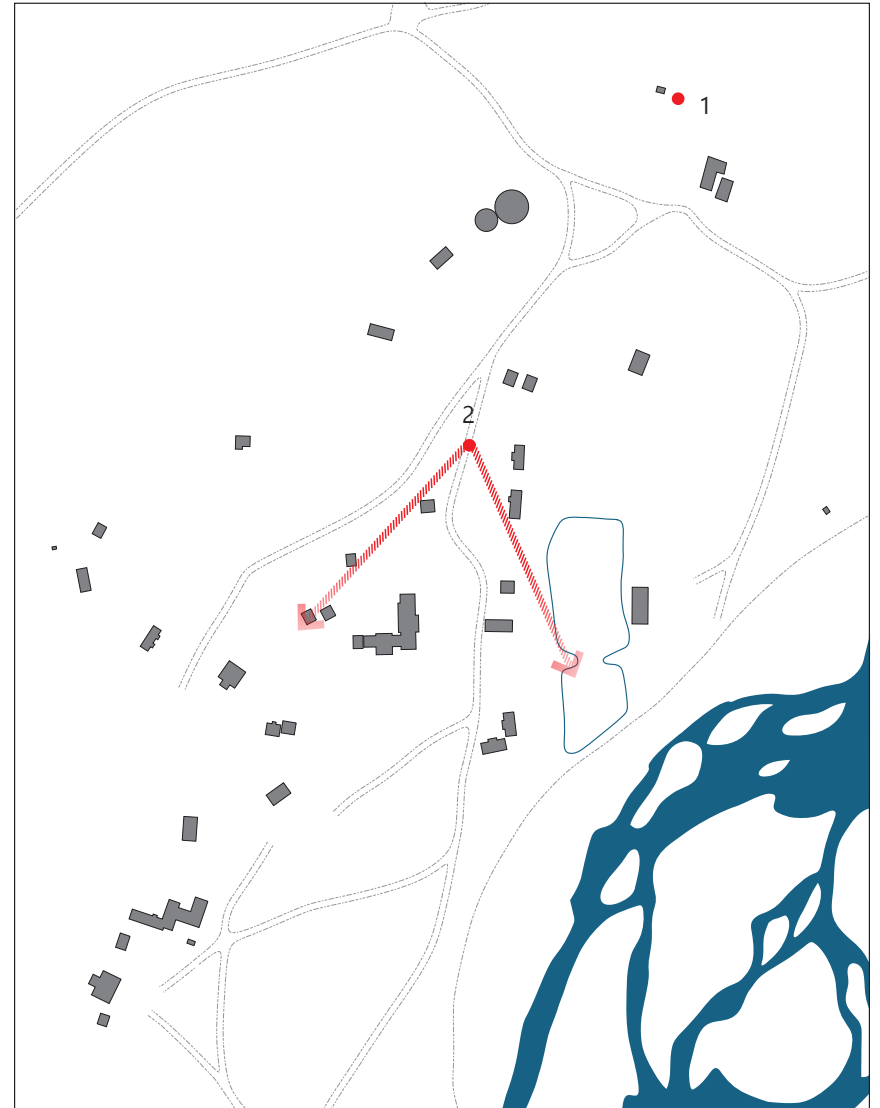


1401 Generator Shed 7/2015 (West Facing)



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New Growth along Entry Road 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC details



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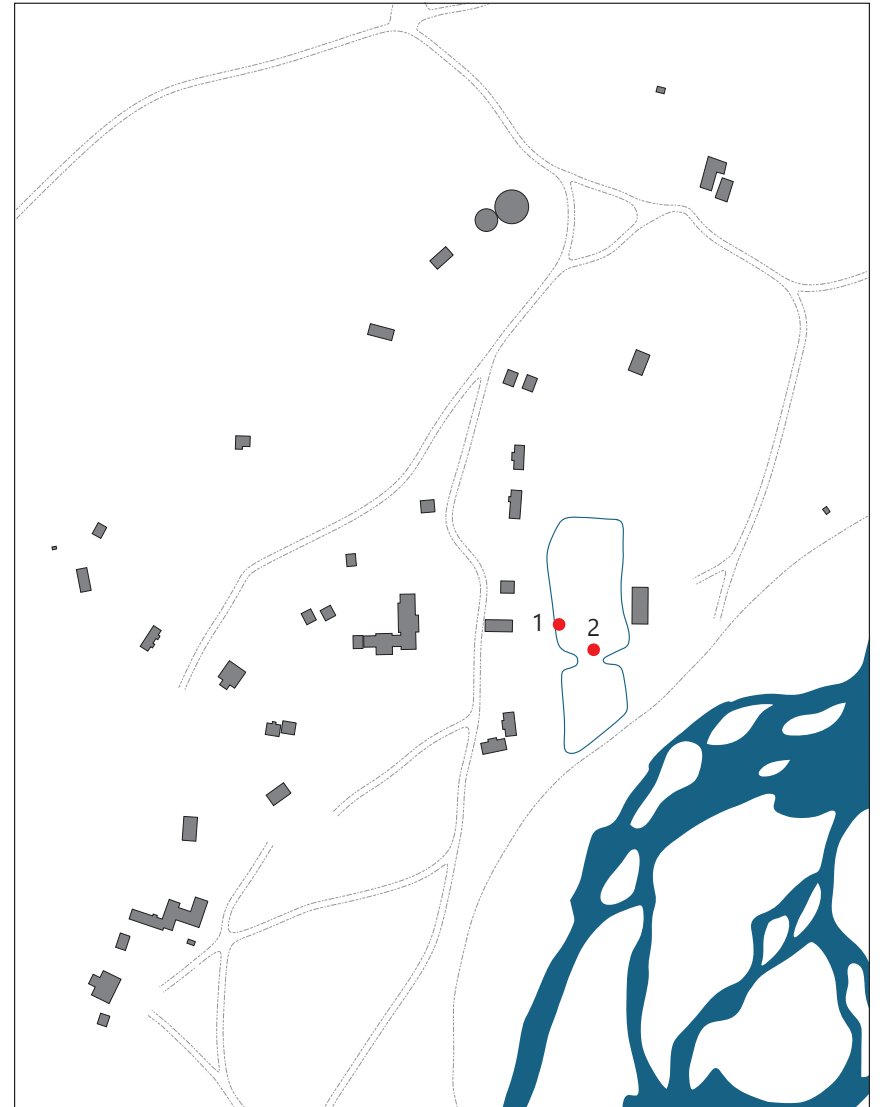


Diving Board 7/2015



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Pool Bridge 7/2015

BAR BC details



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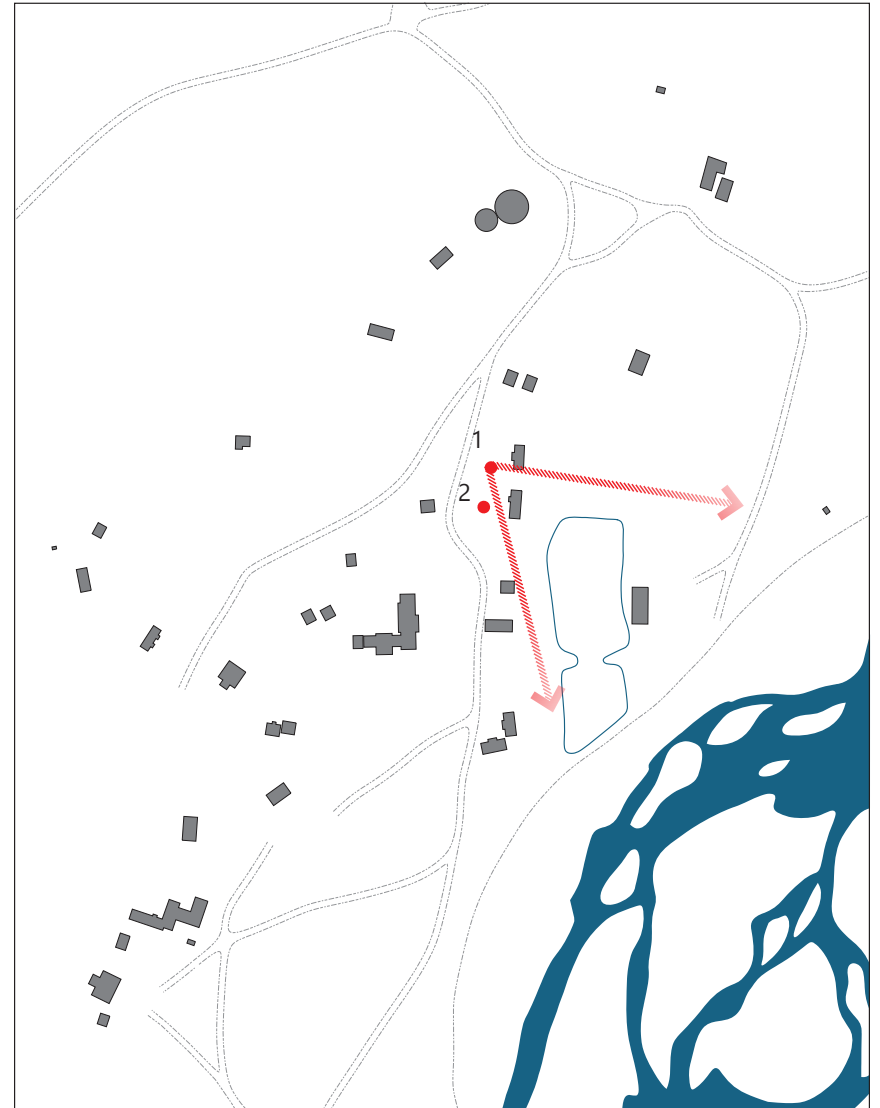


Cabin 1374 and Stone Ring 7/2015 (West Facing)



Stone Ring in front of 1374 7/2015

BAR BC details



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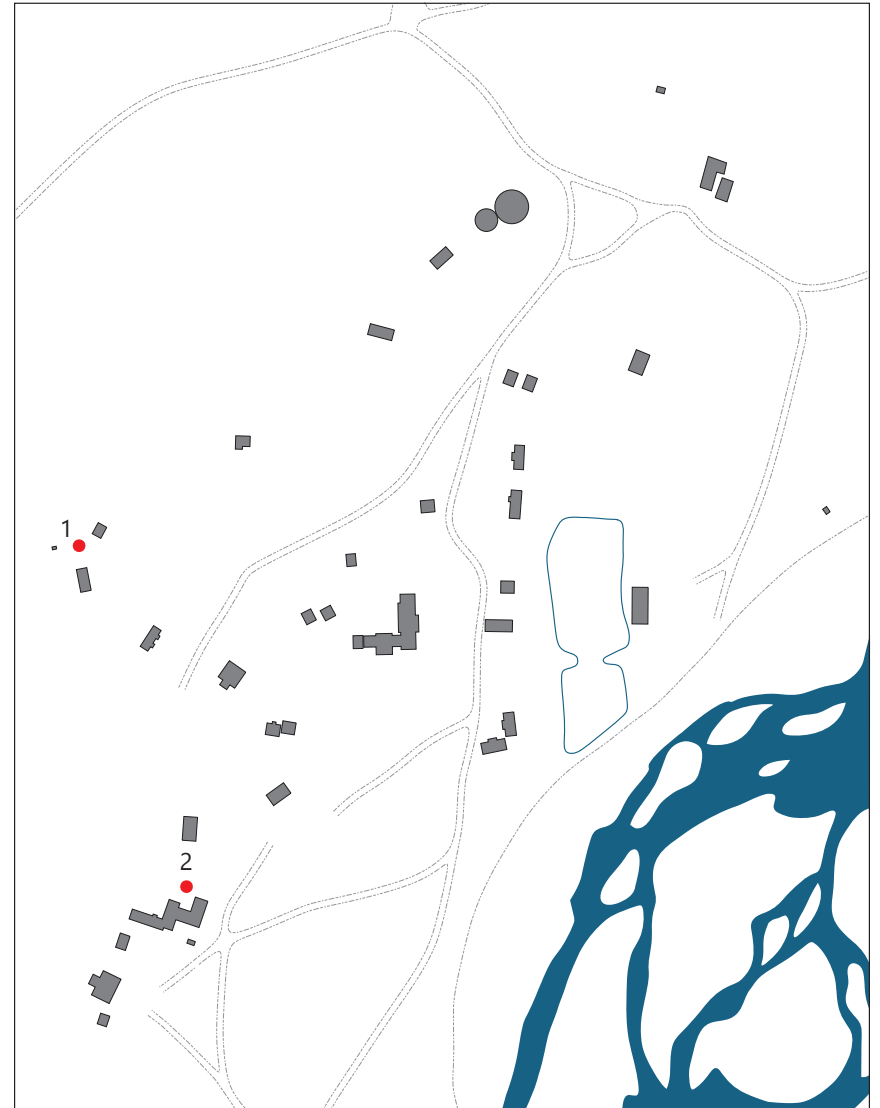


Outhouse between 1397-1398 7/2015 (West Facing)



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Corse Cabin Well 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC details

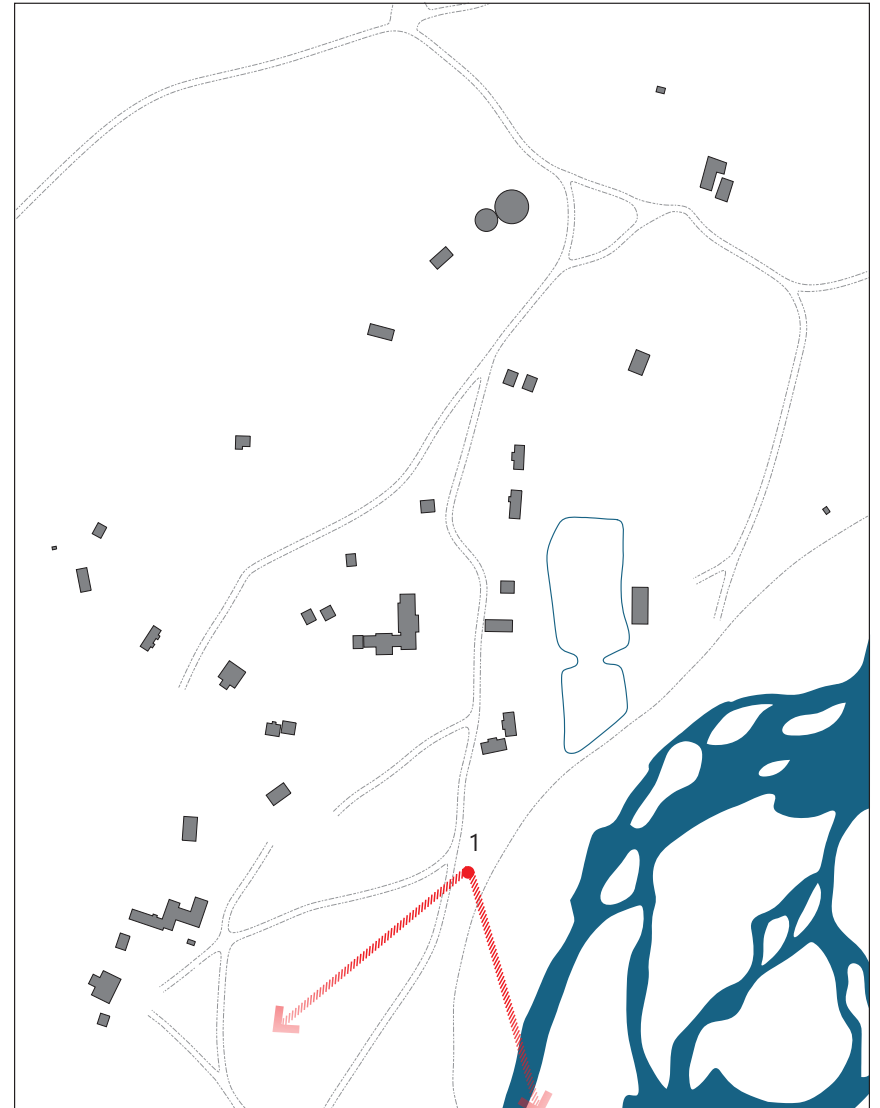


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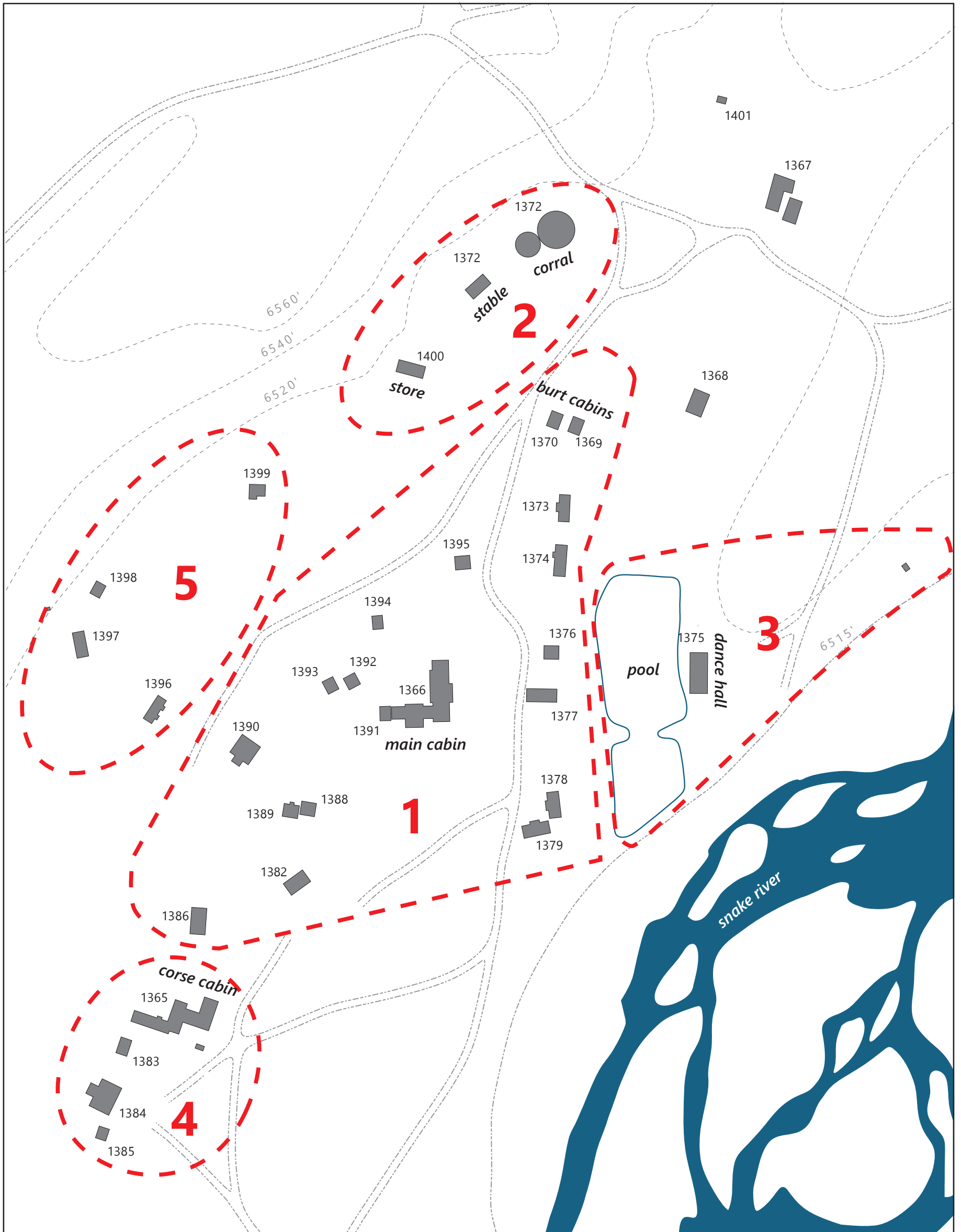
Remnants of Irrigation Ditch South of Cabins 7/2015 (South Facing)

BAR BC details



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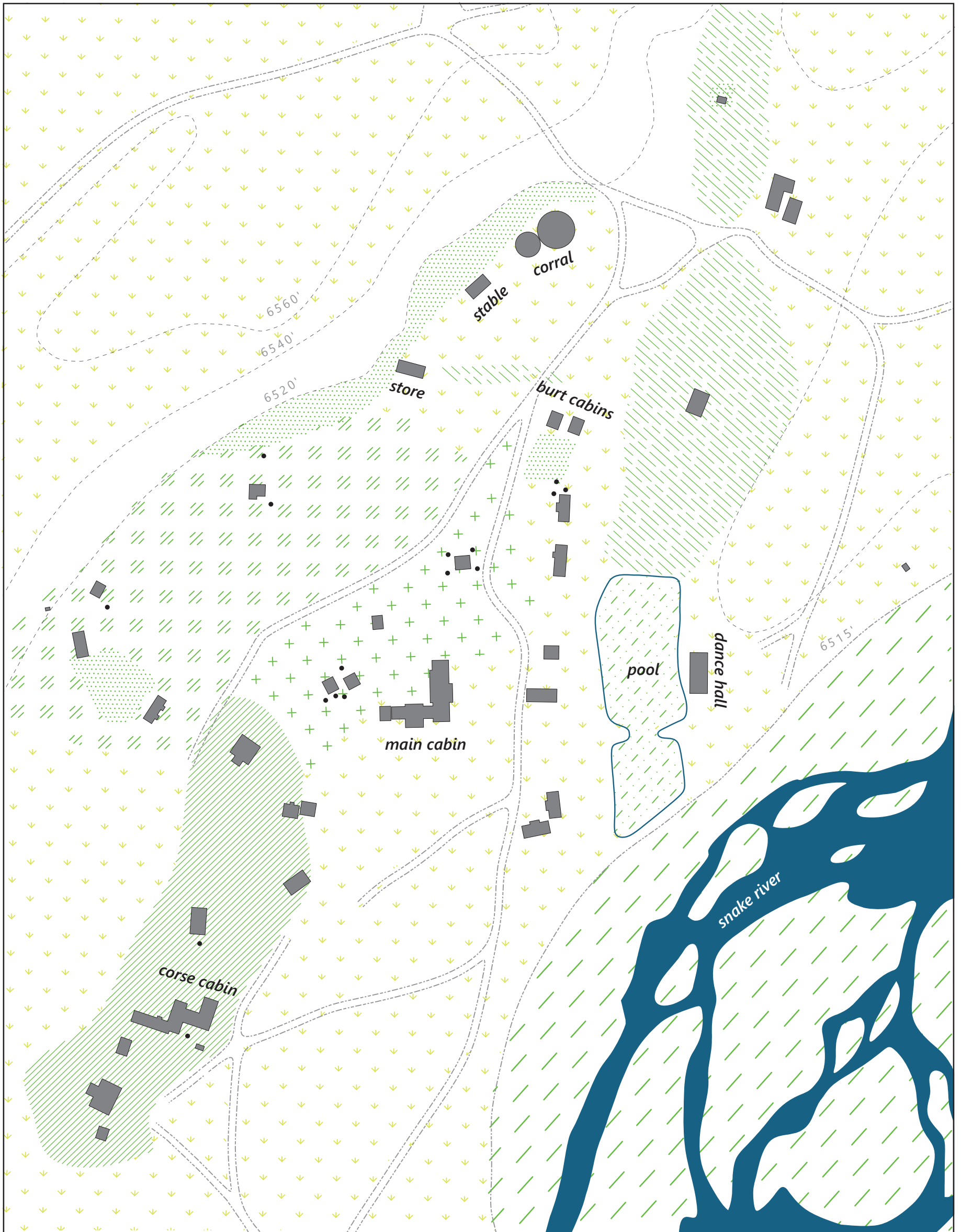
Appendix B *site plans*



BAR BC character areas






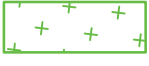





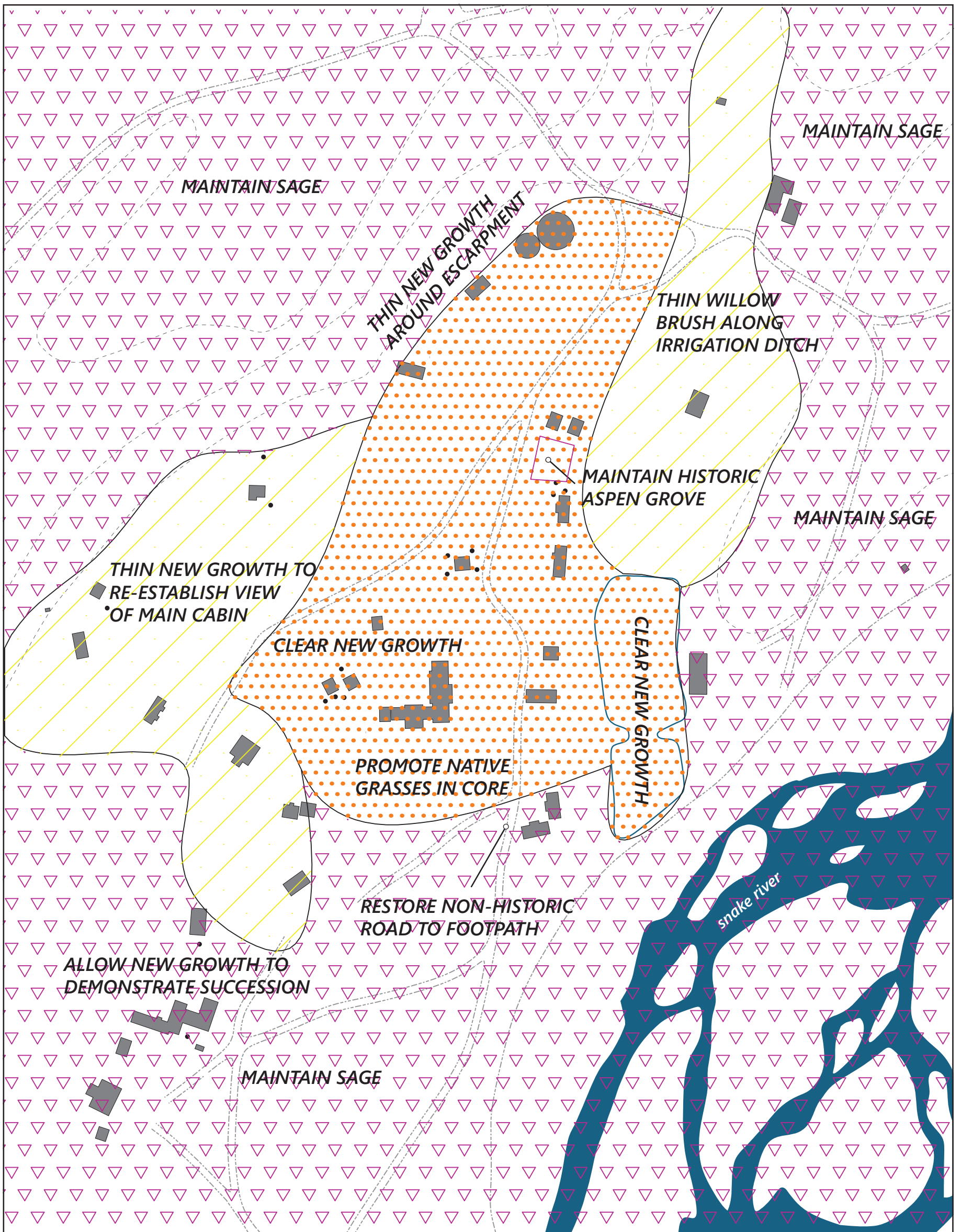
- 1** Guest Cabins 1
- 2** Wrangler
- 3** Recreation
- 4** Corse Cabins
- 5** Guest Cabins 2






BAR BC vegetation patterns



-  sage community dominant (includes grasses)
-  new conifers dominant
-  mix of new + old aspens dominant
-  mix of new + old conifers dominant
-  new aspens dominant
-  mix of new conifers + new aspens dominant
-  willows are dominant
-  wetland community
-  conifer stumps



BAR BC treatment zones

-  LOW monitor: thin and mow as needed to preserve trails, viewsheds, and prevent fire hazards
-  MEDIUM thinning and mowing
-  HIGH clearing, planting, and mowing



GOALS

- + RE-ESTABLISH FRONT YARD
- + CLEAR SWIMMING POOL OF NEW GROWTH
- + PROTECT VIEWSHEDS BY THINNING OR CLEARING NEW GROWTH (ESPECIALLY ALONG ROAD)