

GOOCH HOMESTEAD, BARN
10401 Gooch Hill Road
Gallatin Gateway vicinity
Gallatin County
Montana

HABS MT-171-A
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WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS
FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
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GOOCH HOMESTEAD, BARN

HABS No. MT-171-A

Location: 10401 Gooch Hill Road, Gallatin Gateway, MT 59718.

Located in Range 5E Township 3S in the NE1/4 of the section 6. The Gooch Homestead sits atop Gooch Hill, a prominent topographical rise to the south-west of Bozeman MT. Gooch Hill is a triangle shaped sliver of land approximately 5 square miles defined by Highlight creek running 1.25 miles to the northeast, cottonwood creek 1.5 miles to the south-west and the Gallatin River running 2.5 miles to the west.

Coordinates: 45.6063 N 111.1513 W

Present Owner: Ronald J. Bos and Janice K. Bos

Present Use: The Barn is rented for special events, predominantly weddings. The surrounding fields are still used to raise wheat and as pasture for the Bos' Clydesdale horses.

Significance: Edward Gooch was a prominent settler of the greater. The ridge upon which his homestead resides carries his name to this day: Gooch Hill. This property overlooks much of the Gallatin valley. The main barn is a well-recognized feature in the community as it sits close to the main road from Bozeman to Gallatin Gateway.

The Gooch homestead was founded in 1889. The exact construction date of the main barn is unknown but its construction suggests it is one of the earliest buildings on the property. The barn is a unique example of a particular building period in Montana history. The main structure is heavy timber, complimented by light framing. This mixed framing technique is relevant to the time in which the barn was constructed. Heavy timber was a somewhat rare technique for this region. Early homesteads used log construction for larger buildings, until the opening of the railroad introduced balloon framing knowledge. Large timbers were also hard to come by, and their use speaks to the importance of the structure. Balloon framing was a relatively new technology and, although easier, was not entirely trusted for large buildings until later in time.

Description: The barn was historically used for livestock as well as winter hay storage. The entire structure was constructed from rough sawn lumber, stone masonry foundations and steel hardware. The structure can be described as 5-bent barn. All connections in the structure are exposed. Mortise and tenon connections

are used at all major joints and fixed with hand carved wooden pegs. On each gable end of the barn are large sliding doors, a hay door and smaller windows. Along the eave sides of the barn are windows, and smaller sliding doors for access to the stalls. The north facing sliding door is unique in that it features a hinged door inside the larger slider. The second floor of the barn was presumably used for hay storage; a steel track along the ridge line still remains for the operation of a hay carrier. The second level features a wooden tongue in groove floor, a relatively new technique for the date of construction. Currently, the horizontal tongue in groove siding is painted red and white. The roof form is a simple gable skinned in wood shingles recently replaced with sheet metal.

History: Until the Bos family acquired the property in 2002, it was owned by the same family for 78 of 112 years, namely Edward H. Gooch and his nephew Virgil Leroy Hanks. Edward Gooch homesteaded the land in 1889¹; from 1912 to 1946 it was owned by a woman name Julia E. Martin who inherited it from her father, a local prominent banker who foreclosed on the land in 1912². In 1946 Martin sold the property back to Hanks. Upon the death of Virgil Hanks in 1991, the land was inherited by Helen. H. Cremer, and Ronda Donnelly, Virgil's daughters. They sold the property to the current owners Ronald J. Bos and Janice K. Bos.

Edward Gooch homesteaded this acreage at the age of 32. At the time it was identified as Middle Creek. Upon settling the homestead, Gooch found that water for irrigation in the creeks nearby was already claimed. In partnership with other neighboring farmers he built the Farmer's Canal, which carried water 14 miles from the Gallatin River in Salesville to a large tract of farmlands west of Bozeman³.

Sources: "CDI Details - BLM GLO Records." *CDI Details - BLM GLO Records*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2013.

Progressive Men of the State of Montana. Chicago: A.W. Bowen & Co., 1900. Print. Pg. 984-985.

Historian(s): Field work, measured drawings, photographs, and historical research and report were prepared by Megan Haughey, Derek Tice and Joe Morgan as part of a graduate course taught by Professor Maire O'Neill in the fall of 2013 at the School of Architecture, Montana State University.

¹ "CDI Details - BLM GLO Records." *CDI Details - BLM GLO Records*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Dec. 2013.

² *Progressive Men of the State of Montana*. Chicago: A.W. Bowen & Co., 1900. Print. Pg. 984-985.

³ Roiter, Margaret. "Gooch Hill ranch has deep roots in Gallatin history." *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, Bozeman, May 1984.