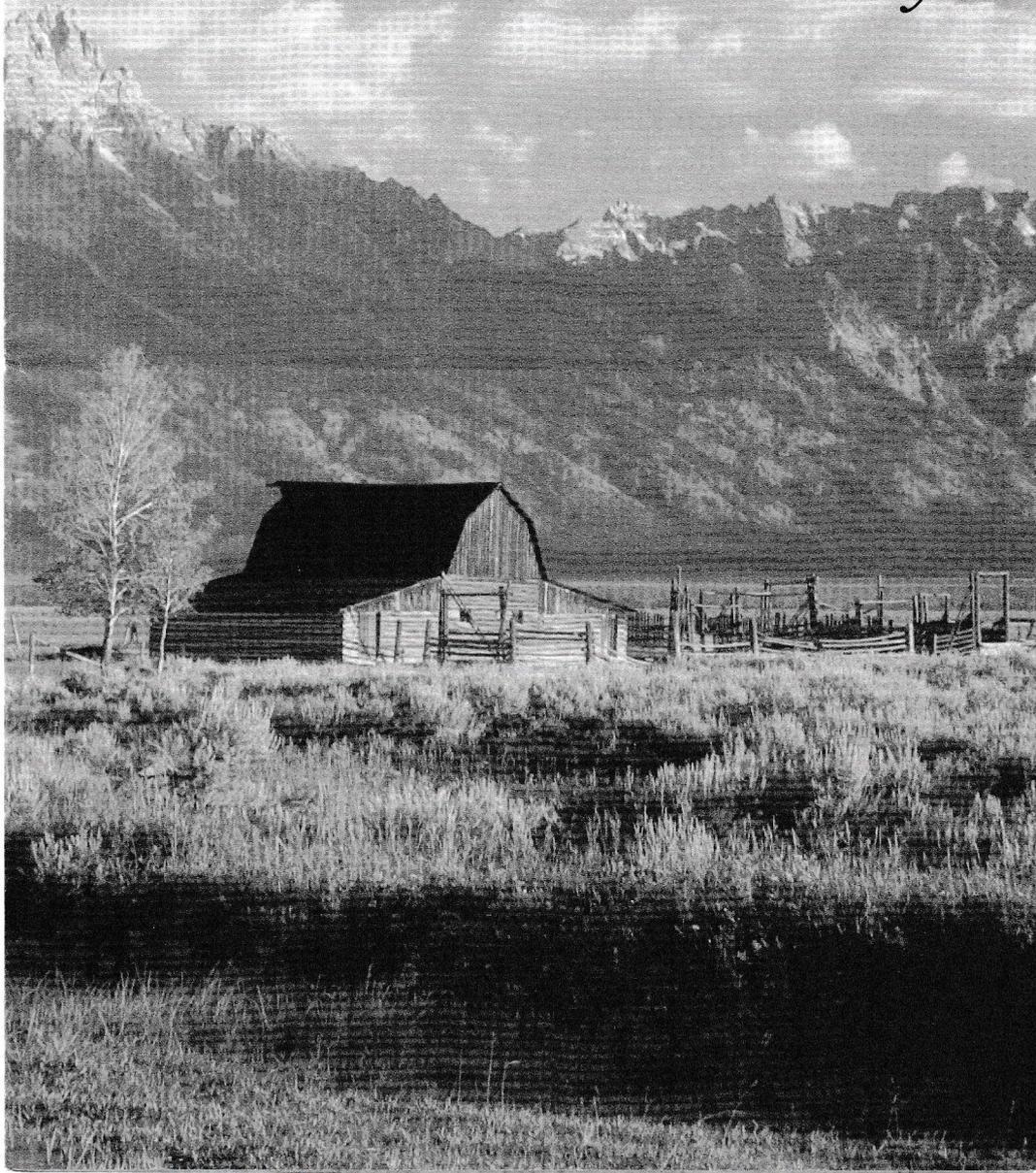


Mormon Row Historic District

A Once Vibrant Community



The buildings on Mormon Row tell the story of a once vibrant community.

The Homestead Act of 1862

enabled this settlement to come together, which promised 160 acres to any person willing to build a house and cultivate the land for five years. Though Mormon Row, originally known as the town of Grovont, was not settled until the 1890s, the promise of land eventually drew settlers into Jackson Hole. Lush sagebrush in the area indicated healthy soil and brought the first Mormon families to the area with hopes of beginning a new life. With the construction of ranches, homes, a church and a school, a true community began to blossom.

Barns and Livelihood

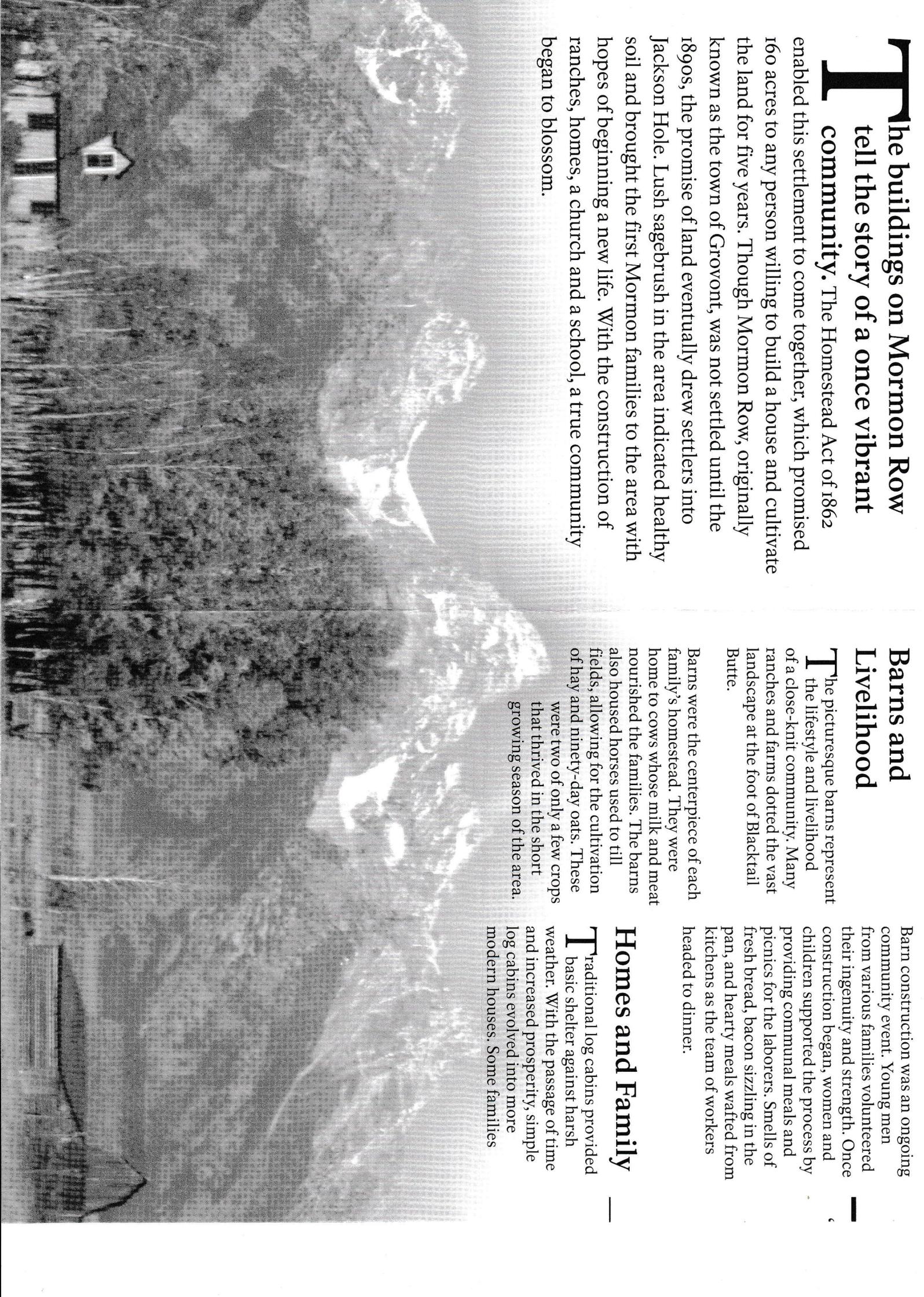
The picturesque barns represent the lifestyle and livelihood of a close-knit community. Many ranches and farms dotted the vast landscape at the foot of Blacktail Butte.

Barns were the centerpiece of each family's homestead. They were home to cows whose milk and meat nourished the families. The barns also housed horses used to till fields, allowing for the cultivation of hay and ninety-day oats. These were two of only a few crops that thrived in the short growing season of the area.

Barn construction was an ongoing community event. Young men from various families volunteered their ingenuity and strength. Once construction began, women and children supported the process by providing communal meals and picnics for the laborers. Smells of fresh bread, bacon sizzling in the pan, and hearty meals wafted from kitchens as the team of workers headed to dinner.

Homes and Family

Traditional log cabins provided basic shelter against harsh weather. With the passage of time and increased prosperity, simple log cabins evolved into more modern houses. Some families



ordered new homes directly from the Sears and Roebuck Catalog.

A ranch to the Moulton's is more than just land and buildings; it's the husband, wife, and family all getting together in the field helping each other."

Clark Moulton

Other homes were made from stucco and cement and had the feel of modern structures. A pink hued, stucco house still stands on the northern end of Mormon Row, a colorful remembrance of the once vibrant community.

The homes on Mormon Row meant more to the settlers than a way to keep out the cold and

the snow. Home meant warm feelings of family, friendship and love. The home was where new generations of children were born, where parents played music and sang with their families, where women gathered for quilting circles and where neighbors would pass long winter nights playing cards and recalling stories by the fire. The buildings that still stand on Mormon Row echo with the voices, laughter and memories of the families who once called them home.

Church and Community

What barns and homes were to the family farm, the church was to the community. Though the church no longer stands on Mormon Row, it once played an important role in bringing settlers together. The church served as the

social stage for all, regardless of their beliefs. Everyone participated in weddings, political meetings, harvest celebrations, dance parties and concerts behind the welcoming doors of the Grovont church. Christmas and Halloween parties were always well attended and dances held throughout the winter helped warm the toes and the hearts of the locals.

Land and Lifestyle

and was the foundation of the Mormon Row community. Families dug miles of ditches across the landscape to bring water from the Gros Ventre River to nourish their summer fields. On cold winter days, these ditches froze solid. Families then wrestled with icy buckets of water from the distant river in order to survive during these months. The scarcity of this valuable resource

encouraged families to reuse the same bucket of water to take a hot bath, to clean clothes and to scrub floors.

In 1927, the Kelly Warm Springs emerged as a result of a powerful flood. Residents of Mormon Row named it "The Miracle Spring" as it provided the community with much needed water year round.

The land provided food, water and sometimes income for settlers. However, it was also a place to play in all seasons. In the winter, irrigation ditches became ice skating rinks, and snow-covered Blacktail Butte was a favorite sledding and skiing hill. In the summer, berry-picking expeditions to Taggart Lake and hours spent splashing in a nearby swimming hole filled the long warm days.

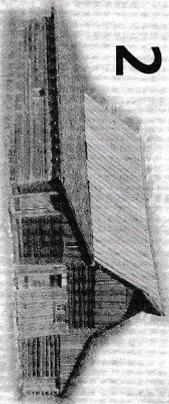
Mormon Row Historic District

US Highway
89/191/287

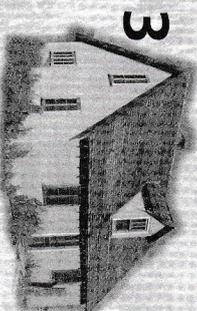
↑ The Teton Range



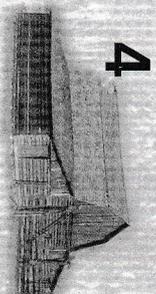
1
Clark & Veda Moulton
Homestead
Circa 1930s



2
Thomas Alma & Lucille
Moulton Homestead
Circa 1910s



3
John & Bartha Moulton
Homestead
Circa 1910s



4
Thomas Murphy
Homestead
Circa 1920s

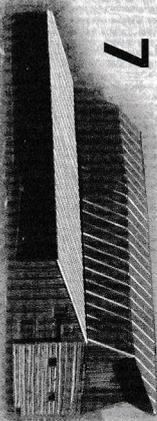


5

Mormon Row Road (open seasonally)



6
Thomas Perry
Homestead
Circa 1910s



7
Andrew & Ida
Chambers Homestead
Circa 1920s

Welcome to Mormon Row

For your safety please enjoy these historic buildings from a distance. Some of these buildings are over one hundred years old and are weathering naturally. The deteriorating buildings may be unsafe, so please stay on the road.

Although only a handful of buildings stand today, a church, a school, and over a dozen homesteads made up this once vibrant community. Let this map be your guide to the existing structures.

Have a safe and pleasant visit to Mormon Row.

To Gros Ventre
Road & Kelly Warm
Springs