

## RHONE RANCH

### Owners:

John H. "Johnny" Gains

Henry Wolcott Rhone - cabin built 1918, homesteaded 1920

Portion of property lying east of Colorado River sold to US January 1951.

Rest of property sold to Holzwarth interests; acquired by Nature Conservancy March 1974, transferred to US February, 1975.

### Location:

North Fork, nine miles from Grand Lake

W1/2 of the SW1/4, the SE1/4 of the SW1/4, and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 25, Town 5 North, Range 76 West

### General Ranch Information:

\* Original property was 360 acres, reduced to 180 acres over time. Jimmy Reed presently owns the back 80 acres, near the GL Golf Course.

\* According to Aron Rhone, Gains built the Gains Ditch, which ran a bit below the later Red Top Valley Ditch (see Church Ranch). The Gains Ditch started above Winding River Ranch, and went past the old "dump road" 466. RMNP wanted to buy the irrigation rights (#12?), but Gains refused. Aron says the Gains Ditch was "pretty much ignored" once the Red Top Valley Ditch was built, but Jackie Boyd disagrees as no one there has water in the Red Top Ditch. They would have to use the Gains Ditch, unless they just use the Red Top to transport water.

\* By 1921, Henry Rhone family in town, Corner Cupboard, not on homestead.

\* Developed land along Shadow Mountain Reservoir, "Shorewood"

### Files:

Rhone, Henry W. & Carolyn

### Pictures:

Brochure for Shorewood

Pix of Carolyn and Henry

**Cabin construction  
unusual for the area.  
Vertical logs typical of  
French construction.**



## Henry W. Rhone Homestead Cabin

Built in 1918 – destroyed – in poor condition – 1985

The Henry W. Rhone Homestead Cabin is most unusual architecturally due to its modified pieux en terre construction. Such construction, showing a French influence rarely found in the American west, is unique to the Colorado Rockies. The cabin was built by Henry W. Rhone, one of the early settlers of the Colorado Valley, in 1918. Homestead Entry was filed on June 16, 1920, and Rhone received his patent on December 12, 1922. The cabin was occupied for only three winters. In 1920 Rhone opened the Corner Cupboard, a well-regarded restaurant in Grand Lake, and after 1921 the cabin was used only as a cook-out site for restaurant guests and the lands were leased to nearby ranchers for grazing.



Henry W. Rhone was born near Grand Junction, Colorado in 1888. Soon after attaining the age of eligibility, he joined the U.S. Army and patrolled the Mexican border. He was mustered out and almost immediately reenlisted, serving as a mess officer through most of World War I.

Rhone had heard of the Colorado Valley while attending college in Denver and came to the valley shortly after his marriage on May 24, 1918. Encouraged by John Holzwarth, Sr. he immediately built the cabin, intending to formally enter a homestead claim at his leisure, a practice commonly followed in the region at that time.

On June 16, 1920 he filed a Homestead Entry on the W1/2 of the SW1/4, the SE1/4 of the SW1/4, and the SW1/4 of the SE1/4 of section 25, Town 5 North, Range 76 West. Upon filing the Homestead Entry, he learned that a portion of his claim (including that on which the Rhone Cabin stood) had already been claimed by a certain John Rausch of Estes Park, Colorado, and Rhone's entry was suspended. However, as a result of his failure to prove the claim, Rauch's interest was cancelled on June 22, 1920, and Rhone's entry was allowed effective the same date. The patent was issued on December 12, 1922.

Rhone lived at the cabin for only 3 winters while his wife returned to Denver where she was employed as a teacher at South High School.

Capitalizing on his Army experience as a mess officer, in 1920 Rhone opened the Corner Cupboard which became one of the leading establishments of the Grand Lake resort community.

After the spring of 1921, Rhone no longer lived at the homestead site, though it was occasionally used for cookouts organized at the Corner Cupboard.

The portion of the property lying east of the Colorado River was sold to the US by deed of January 9, 1951. The remainder – that including the Rhone cabin – was sold to the Holzwarth interests. This property was acquired by the Nature Conservancy on March 13, 1974, and ownership was transferred to the US on February 5, 1975.

The one-room Rhone Cabin is sited on a steep, isolated hillside of the Colorado Valley, surrounded by a dense forest of mixed lodgepole pine and aspen.

A crude foundation of uncoursed, uncemented rubblestones, topped by horizontal, saddle notched logs, establishes the base of the 14' x 25' cabin on the sloping hillside. The structural walls are made of vertical logs, sawed to appropriate length and set on the cabin floor.

Each slope of the gabled roof is supported by a log purlin midway between the plate and the ridgepole. The rafters, 3" log poles flattened on top to receive the decking of rough-sawn lumber, rest on plates of flattened logs. The structure is roofed with deteriorated composition roll-roofing, horizontally laid.

The interior of the cabin is unembellished. The structural walls, chinked with wool, wadded newspapers, and cement, form the interior finish of the cabin, and the exposed rafters and decking form the ceiling. Three vertical logs, 10' from the west end of the cabin, support the ridgepole and the purlins.

Interview with John W. Rhone by F. Atkins, July 24, 1974.