UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park; Partial Inventory Madison Museum
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Yellowstone National Park
CITY, TOWN N/A
STATE Wyoming
CODE 056
COUNTY Teton
CODE 039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

— DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

— STRUCTURE

— SITE

— OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

N/A IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

X AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
655 Parfet
CITY, TOWN Denver
STATE N/A
VICINITY OF Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Yellowstone National Park
STREET & NUMBER N/A
CITY, TOWN Yellowstone National Park
STATE Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
List of Classified Structures
DATE June, 1976

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office
CITY, TOWN Denver
STATE Colorado
The Madison Museum nomination is a portion of the Multiple Resource Nomination for Yellowstone National Park.

The Madison Museum is located near the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers which form the Madison River and at the junction of the Grand Loop Road and the West Entrance Road in the western part of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. The museum, situated on a gentle slope among lodgepole pines, overlooks the historic campsite of the Washburn, Langford, Doan Expedition of 1870. The rustic style building is sympathetic to the natural setting. Built in 1930, the T-plan building is approximately 41' in length with the former ranger-naturalist area being 13' in width and the wing (the exhibit room) being 21'-10" in width. The one-room building, on a native rubblestone (ryolite) foundation, is of frame construction, and is one story. The buttressed stone foundation extends approximately 1/3 of the way up the exterior wall; a transition member, a large log, joins the foundation to the cedar shingled frame wall. The 8 inch cedar shingles alternate horizontally with 2 inch icedar shingles to form a strong horizontal pattern. The upper gable ends are sheathed in vertical boards with alternating designs of diamonds and fir tree cut outs. Large log brackets extend from the masonry foundation to support the heavy log framed cedar shingled roof. The rafters and purlins have been sheared. At an earlier time the configuration of the log brackets was altered and the brackets were enlarged and the former two-room building was opened up to form one exhibit space. These changes have not lessened the integrity of the building. Most windows are multi-pane casement. Large plate glass windows are used in the exhibit area. During renovation for Yellowstone's centennial celebration in 1971, the building was converted to a single room. The building has a terrace with stone slab floor, buttressed retaining walls, and wood slab benches.

The survey of the Madison Museum, Yellowstone National Park was completed by Lance Olivieri, a consultant on historic properties, and under the supervision of Supervisory Historical Architect Rodd L. Wheaton during June 1976. Mr. Olivieri used the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places for his evaluations and the structure was entered on the Rocky Mountain Region's List of Classified Structures Inventory.
SIGNIFICANCE

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- Archeology-Prehistoric
- Archeology-Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- Community Planning
- Conservation
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Exploration/Settlement
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Other (Specify)

SPECIFIC DATES

1930

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Madison Museum is nationally significant for both its architecture and its role in education in the National Park System. This small, but impressive museum exemplifies the National Park Service ideal of blending the structure into the natural setting. The vision and skill of the museum's architect, Herbert Maier, made it a part of, not an addition to, the landscape. The rustic style of the museum was used for many decades by the National Park Service.

The building of the Madison Museum as well as the other museums in Yellowstone National Park was the result of a new objective of the National Park Service of "equating education with recreation." In 1925, this new objective established National Park Service activities at Berkeley, California and in Yosemite National Park. By 1927, the enrichment of the spirit and education were primary objectives of park management. In 1928, with encouragement from Superintendent Horace Albright, the American Museum Association planned a series of Trailside museums for Yellowstone National Park. The plan was funded by a $118,000 grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial "for the development of educational activities in Yellowstone National Park." Of the four museums built, Madison Museum focused on the history of Yellowstone National Park. Not only did the structure provide exhibit space to tell the history story, but other activities centered in the area, campfire talks, nature walks, etc. The other three museums built at Yellowstone were Norris Museum, Fishing Bridge Museum and the Old Faithful Museum. The Old Faithful Museum which was associated with thermal geology has been demolished. Norris Museum, focusing on thermal geology and Fishing Bridge Museum, focusing on ecology of the Yellowstone Lake area, will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


(see continuation sheet)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre, approximately 62' x 42'

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

A 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0

B 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0

C 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0

D 1 1 1 0 1 0 0 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Madison Museum is located approximately 800 feet west of the Grand Loop Road at a point approximately 16 miles from the Old Faithful area. The nominated property is approximately 62' x 42'.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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FORM PREPARED BY

Mary Shivers Culpin, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: National Park Service

DATE: January 20, 1982

STREET & NUMBER: 655 Parfet

CITY OR TOWN: Denver

STATE: Colorado

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES__ NO__ NONE__

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

TEST: Keeper of the National Register

GPO 800-214
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NAME: Madison Museum
LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Rodd L. Wheaton
DATE: June, 1978
VIEW: Looking northeast
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, Colorado
PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 1
NAME: Madison Museum
LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Rodd L. Wheaton
DATE: June, 1978
VIEW: Southwest corner
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, Colorado
PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 2