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

Yellowstone National Park Multiple Resource Area

(Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park (Partial Inventory:
AND/OR COMMON Obsidian Cliff Kiosk)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
N/A

CITY, TOWN
Yellowstone National Park

STATE
Wyoming

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
 DISTRICT
 _X BUILDING(S)
 _ STRUCTURE
 _ OBJECT
  _X multiple

OWNERSHIP
 X PUBLIC
 _ PRIVATE
 _ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION
 N/A PROCESS
 _ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS
 X OCCUPIED
 _ UNOCCUPIED
 _ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESIBLE
 _ YES: RESTRICTED
 _ YES: UNRESTRICTED
 _ NO

PRESENT USE
 _ AGRICULTURE
 _ COMMERCIAL
 _ EDUCATIONAL
 _ ENTERTAINMENT
 _ GOVERNMENT
 _ INDUSTRIAL
 _ MILITARY
 _ OTHER:

X resource

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER
655 Parfet Street, P.O. Box 25287

CITY, TOWN
Denver

STATE
Colorado

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
N/A

STREET & NUMBER
Yellowstone National Park

CITY, TOWN
Wyoming

STATE
N/A

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
List of Classified Structures Inventory

DATE
1976-1977

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

CITY, TOWN
Denver

STATE
Colorado
**DESCRIPTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONDITION</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
<th>CHECK ONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>EXEMPLARY</em></td>
<td><em>UNALTERED</em></td>
<td><em>ORIGINAL SITE</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>GOOD</em></td>
<td><em>ALTERED</em></td>
<td><em>MOVED</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>FAIR</em></td>
<td><em>UNEXPOSED</em></td>
<td><em>DATE</em></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

The Obsidian Cliff Kiosk nomination is a portion of the multiple resource nomination for Yellowstone National Park. The kiosk is set against a cliff on the west side of the Grand Loop Road approximately 12 miles south of the Mammoth Hot Springs Headquarters area and just to the north of Beaver Lake. The kiosk is approximately 16' x 6'. The clustered piers are constructed of large balsaltic stone blocks formed into columns. The wood shingle roof covers the exhibit panel which is mounted in cast aluminum with no glass covering. The kiosk's original exhibits were behind plate glass. The roof has exposed 8' log rafters and 9' verge logs. Stone paving surrounds the kiosk. The structure was built in 1931 although the exhibit panel is of more recent years.
# Significance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Areas of Significance</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td>Archaeology—Prehistoric</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1400-1499</td>
<td>Archaeology—Historic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1500-1599</td>
<td>Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1600-1699</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1700-1799</td>
<td>Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>1800-1899</td>
<td>Commerce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1900+</td>
<td>Communications</td>
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</table>

Check and justify below:

- Landscape Architecture
- Law
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Philosophy
- Politics/Government
- Religion
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Humanitarian
- Theater
- Transportation
- Other (specify)

## Specific Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Dates</th>
<th>Builder/Architect</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>National Park Service</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Statement of Significance

The Obsidian Cliff Kiosk is significant for its outstanding representation of "individuality achieved by the use of a material which is a phenomenon of the immediate environs" and because it is the first wayside exhibit built in the National Park System. The "open air museum-in-miniature" aids the public in understanding and enjoying the natural aspects of the nearby Obsidian Cliff, a mountain of volcanic glass which extends for approximately 2 miles. This exhibit was one of the many significant innovations in interpretation made by Carl Russell, which are widely reflected today in how parks are interpreted and in how they are experienced by visitors.

Good, p. 176.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


GEOPHGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 26' x 36' less than an acre

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORHTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Obsidian Cliff Kiosk is on the west side of the Grand Loop Road 12 miles south of the Mammoth Hot Springs Administrative Area. The kiosk is approximately 25 feet off the Grand Loop Road. The nominated area is 26' x 36' or less than an acre.

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE
Mary Shivers Culpin, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION
National Park Service

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

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Associate Director, Cultural Resources Management

DATE 6/17/82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

SIGNATURE

DATE 7-9-82
Obsidian Cliff Kiosk - Yellowstone National Park
NAME: Obsidian Cliff Kiosk
LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park
PHOTOGRAPHER: Rodd L. Wheaton
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1978
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service, Denver, CO
VIEW: Looking southwest
PHOTO NUMBER: 1
NAME: Obsidian Cliff Kiosk
LOCATION: Yellowstone National Park
Masonry detail of Obsidian Cliff Kiosk
PHOTOGRAPHER: Rodd L. Wheaton
DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH: August 1978
LOCATION OF NEGATIVE: Rocky Mountain Regional Office, National Park Service Denver, CO
VIEW: Looking southwest
PHOTO NUMBER: 2