

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chapel of the Transfiguration

AND/OR COMMON

Chapel of the Transfiguration

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Grand Teton National Park

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF Moose

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Teton

CODE

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

X OTHER: Tourism

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

117 North Glenwood

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 83001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Teton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

181 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Wyoming 83001

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission: Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82001

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Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

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of the Chapel and is perhaps the key to the Chapel's tremendous popularity among Park visitors.

The interior organization falls among traditional lines for a modest ecclesiastical structure: the vestibule, nave and sanctuary are aligned symmetrically about a central axis, and a small, fourteen-foot square sacristy flanks the sanctuary to the northeast, breaking the symmetry. Typical of the Western Craftsman style, interior finish consists primarily of hand-crafted, varnished logs or boards - native aspen and pine in this instance, used in the Chapel for the floorboards, log walls, trim, roof trusses and decking, pews, pulpit, altar and even the altar cross.

Storage Shed. Standing northeast of the Chapel and facing northeast is the storage shed, a small frame structure sheathed with board-and-batten siding. A wood shake gable roof shelters the building with a shallowly pitched shed roof over a drive-through area along the northeast side.

The structures in the complex remain in basically good condition today. The Chapel, however, does require exterior repairs, particularly restoration of the logs, which are dry and need to be oiled. The windows should be rehung, with missing hardware replaced. A number of the log pews are similarly in need of repair. Despite these needs, the Chapel and its dependencies retain their original appearance and stand today virtually unaltered.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☒ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☒ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☒ OTHER (SPECIFY) Tourism
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local Craftsmen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in 1925, the Chapel of the Transfiguration was intended to serve the employees and guests of the outlying dude ranches which had formed the backbone for Jackson Hole's early tourist industry. Sited alongside the Snake River, the Chapel enjoys an unparalleled vista of the Grand Teton Mountain range to the west. It was built on land donated to the church by Maud Noble, a locally prominent figure, and is now one of the few remaining private inholdings within Grand Teton National Park, which was created after the Chapel was constructed. Patterned after Our Father's House in Ethete on the Wind River Indian Reservation, it was designed, built and furnished entirely by local craftsmen from the surrounding ranches, using funds donated from the ranchers.

The significance of the Chapel of the Transfiguration is based not only upon the Chapel's historical association with early day dude ranching and tourism in Jackson Hole but also upon its representation as a locally important and highly visible example of an architectural style which is significant in the architectural history of the region. This style, now referred to as Western Craftsman, is arguably the most prominent rural architectural statement from the region to emerge during the period.

The Western Craftsman Movement is in reality a provincial offshoot of the more widely publicized Arts and Crafts Movement which had swept as a reaction against the machine-made confections of Victorianism first through England and then the United States after the turn of the century. In the 1901 charter issue of The Craftsman, the seminal Arts and Crafts publication in America, Gustav Stickley, one of the early practitioners and biggest boosters of the Arts and Crafts philosophy, stated:

Present tendencies are toward a simplicity unknown in the past. The form of any object is made to express the structural idea directly, frankly, often almost with baldness.

Western Craftsman represents a stylized synthesis of this pared-back aesthetic with the pragmatic simplicity of the frontier log cabin, resulting in relatively simply massed structures built using often retardaire construction techniques which were learned and passed on informally among local journeymen. Although the Arts and Crafts Movement attracted such notable architects as the Greene

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brothers in California and Frank Lloyd Wright in his early years, the Western Craftsman style, its bastard child, was largely populist in approach, relying upon the work of anonymous or little known local craftsmen and receiving comparatively scant attention in the architectural journals of the time.

The style is most commonly associated with the dude ranches which had sprung up throughout the Rocky Mountain west in America and Canada during the early decades of the twentieth century, although it has been applied, often with picturesque results, to rural and small town lodges, railroad depots, post offices, gas stations, churches and other structures built during the period. As with its predecessor, applied ornamentation was generally eschewed in favor of the more "honest" approach displaying the individual structural elements of the building, made up most typically of locally timbered logs and planks. Another distinguishing characteristic of the genre is the liberal use of varnished wood for the interior finishes and the handcrafted furniture usually found within the buildings.

As indicated by the structural description in Item #7 of this nomination, the Chapel complex strongly typifies the philosophy and characteristics of this regionally important style of building. But architectural history aside, the Chapel and Bell Canopy (and to a lesser extent the shed) are handsomely scaled and proportioned structures, placed in a breathtaking setting. Historically the complex has close ties with the dude ranchers who, before John D. Rockefeller purchased much of the land for the National Park, were instrumental in developing the area for tourism. The Chapel's heavy rate of visitation is due in part to its prominence at the main entrance to the Park and in part because of its architectural interest (i.e. significance) as a nationally known landmark. It stands today virtually unchanged from its date of construction. It deserves to be enrolled on the Register.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED

See Addendum, Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

QUADRANGLE NAME Moose

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 2 5 2 3 0 2 5 4 8 3 3 9 9 5

B 1 2 5 2 3 0 8 0 4 8 3 3 9 2 0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1 2 5 2 3 0 2 0 4 8 3 3 9 2 0

D 1 2 5 2 2 9 7 5 4 8 3 3 9 6 5

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Addendum, Item 10

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

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Clayton Fraser, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

February 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE

(307)-777-7695

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

John L. Wilson

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 25, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William A. Graham

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

4/10/80

DATE

4.10.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET Transfiguration ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

ADDENDUM: ITEM 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:

Makinson, Randell L. Greene and Greene: Architecture as Fine Art. Salt Lake City, Utah: Peregrine Smith, Inc., 1977.

BOOKLETS:

Voorhis, Charles. Chapel of Transfiguration: the Story. August 15, 1949
(no publisher information available).

JOURNALS, PERIODICALS:

Balcom, Reverend Royal H. "The Church's Mission in Jackson Hole." The Churchman, CXV, 1 (1917), 15, 16, 17.

Thomas, W.A. (no title available) Wyoming Churchman, XVIII, 2 (October, 1927).
no page listed.

NEWSPAPERS:

Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Courier, 1916-1925.

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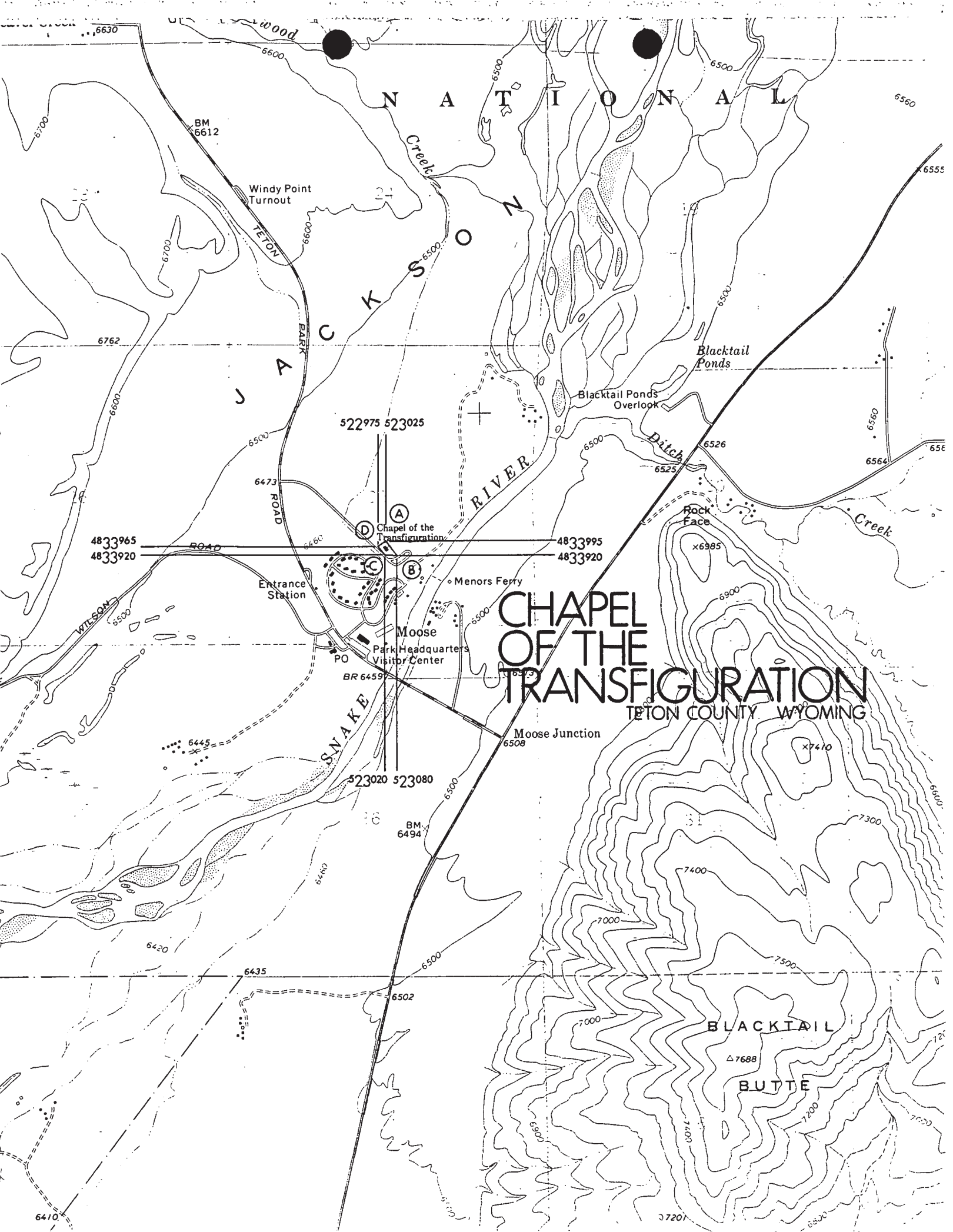
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Chapel of the
CONTINUATION SHEET Transfiguration ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

ADDENDUM: ITEM 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA.

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at corner No. 1 of the tract hereby conveyed, from whence the corner No. 4 of Lot 37 in Sec. 25, T43N, R116W, (6th P.M.), bears No. 09° 05' W. 307 ft., thence S. 38° 30' E. 254 ft. to corner No. 2, thence N. 87° 20' W. 199 ft. 9 inches to corner No. 3, thence N. 39° 15' W. 122 ft. 5 inches to corner No. 4, thence N. 51° 25' E. approximately 154 ft. to corner No. 1, the place of beginning. All bearings being true bearings and the tract thus enclosed and hereby conveyed containing nine-tenths (0.9) of an acre, more or less, lying wholly within the aforesaid Lot 37, together with all rights and privileges appertaining thereto and all improvements situated thereon.



CHAPEL OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

TETON COUNTY, WYOMING

Chapel of the Transfiguration

A

B

C

D

Menors Ferry

Moose Park Headquarters
Visitor Center

PO

BR 6459

Moose Junction

6508

523020 523080

BM 6494

BLACKTAIL

△ 7688

BUTTE



1. Chapel of ~~the~~ Transfiguration
2. Moose, Wyoming (within Grand Teton Nat. Park) *CO.*
3. Dave Violette
4. May 15, 1978
5. Church Office; Saing John's Episcopal Church; Jackson, Wyoming.
6. Looking west
7. #1 *of 4* *Aug 20 1978*



1. Chapel of the Transfiguration *✓*
2. Moose, Wyoming (within Grand Teton Nat. Park)
3. Dave Violette
4. May 15, 1978
5. Church Office; Saint John's Episcopal Church; Jackson, Wyoming
6. Looking west
7. #2 of 4

AUG 14 1978