

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Wyoming
COUNTY:	Teton
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	SEP 5 1975

1. NAME			
COMMON:			
Leek's Lodge			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
Leek's Lodge			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
On U.S. Highway 89-287, east shore of Jackson Lake			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Grand Teton National Park, 10 miles N. N.W. of Moran		First	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Wyoming	56	Teton	039

3. CLASSIFICATION	
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public Public Acquisition: ☒ Private ☒ In Process ☐ Both ☐ Being Considered
STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)	
☐ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☒ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☒ Comments ☐ Other (Specify) May not be used in 1974 season

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
Leek's Lodge, Inc., Jim Sanderson, President			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Moran		Wyoming	56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
Supt. Office, Grand Teton National Park			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Moose		Wyoming	56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 (1973 revised) ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Wyoming Recreation Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
604 East 25th Street			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Cheyenne		Wyoming	56

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY:

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DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☒ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The natural setting is the paramount interest; fortunately it has suffered no catastrophic changes in the interval between earliest historic and latest contemporary times. Here, over a few acres, the immediate locality is comparatively flat and thinly forested. In truth it is almost if not quite a glade; small clumps of trees occur at random spacings while here and there, seemingly aloof in private separateness, stand venerable conifers. On three sides this semi-opening is hemmed by denser forest, on the fourth---to the west---it is bound by the shore of a lake.

He who comes on this place suddenly, bursting from the view restricting forest, is rewarded by an arresting scene of pristine wilderness---a scene sufficiently imposing to have caused some to stop and camp, to cause all to pause and admire. If historic the viewer followed a trail, if contemporary a road, but in either case he has arrived from the east so that his gaze ranges westward past scattering evergreens to blue waters of a broad lake and beyond to where dark green forests, taking up again on the opposite shore, commence to climb the abrupt slopes of a massive uplift.

It is at this point that the viewer whatever his era and status---aboriginal pedestrian, historic horseman or modern motorist---finds cause to crane his neck as his line of sight progresses through an upward sweeping arc, beyond the end of green at timberline, beyond white fields of snow and ice, beyond sheer walls of gray-brown granite, to the crag crested skyline of a mountain range unique for its unlikely combination of height and ruggedness with brevity. These are the mountains christened "Tetons" by bilingual mountain men who, having given them a French designation, switched to English and, in possessive case, named the lake "Jackson's" after David Jackson the fur trader then most frequenting that region.

There is no way of knowing for certain what man may first have encroached on this enchanting natural setting. No doubt he was an aborigine; surely he came, saw and sojourned some thousands of years gone by. Where he made his camp there also may have bivouacked, sometime during the winter of 1807-1808, a lone white man named Colter; and there, with his brigade of fur gatherers, may have camped David Jackson as long ago as 1825. But all of this is mere speculation; it is known fact that another camper, Mr. Steven N. Leek, sometimes used this place during the early years of the 20th century. In 1925, perhaps commencing in 1924, he established here a semi-permanent type camp for the comfort and enjoyment of his recreation oriented clientele---hunters, fisherman and pack horse trip enthusiasts.

Leek's camp was a success and so, starting in 1926 and finishing in 1927, he built the lodge that is the corporeal subject of this nomination and the building hereinafter described. Although other structures---boathouse, workshop, docks, guest cabins---were built around the lodge they are not of concern here. Only the lodge and its natural setting, including both its tangible and intangible qualifications, are subjects of the nomination.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian; ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☒ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1899

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| ☐ Aboriginal | ☐ Education | ☐ Political | ☐ Urban Planning |
| ☐ Prehistoric | ☐ Engineering | ☐ Religion/Philosophy | ☐ Other (Specify) |
| ☐ Historic | ☐ Industry | | <u>Recreation</u> |
| ☐ Agriculture | ☐ Invention | ☐ Science | _____ |
| ☒ Architecture | ☐ Landscape | ☐ Sculpture | _____ |
| ☐ Art | ☐ Architecture | ☐ Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| ☐ Commerce | ☐ Literature | ☐ Theater | _____ |
| ☐ Communications | ☐ Military | ☐ Transportation | _____ |
| ☒ Conservation | ☐ Music | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Leek's Lodge is primarily significant for the man who built it and who was its first owner. It is secondarily significant for the problems surmounted and techniques used during its construction, for resultant architectural features and for the use to which it was put and in which it has continuously served over the subsequent forty-seven years.

Born in 1858 in the Canadian Province of Ontario, the son of a Welsh emigrant farmer, Steven N. Leek came to the United States with his family while still a child. He went to school in Illinois receiving, presumably, no more formal education than the elementary one basic to that period of time. As a young man he went to Nebraska and there operated a small ranch. After a few years in that endeavor he sold his holdings and took up the life of a hunter-trapper. Following that roving profession he arrived in the course of time, 1888 to set a date, on the shores of Jackson's Lake, Wyoming Territory. There he found himself in the very center of almost the final extensive tract of completely wild country anywhere remaining along the old High Plains and Mountains Frontier.

As expressed, well on toward a century later, by a family member of the succeeding generation: "he knew this was to be his home and took to his heart the beauty of the scenery and the wonder of the abundant wildlife." Such, of course, was an understandable reaction, but it was also mandatory for a young Mr. Leek to consider man's physical needs as well as his aesthetic delights. So he traipsed on along the trail somewhat more than thirty miles toward the valley's southern and lower end. There he founded a ranch and in doing so became one of the very first settlers to establish a permanent residence in Jackson's Hole.

Here it becomes pertinent to repeat a part of the foregoing quote: "...and took to his heart the beauty of the scenery and the wonder of the abundant wildlife". Therein is found cause for reflection; it is in fact a tip-off to a man's character and an augury of resultant actions.

When, in 1888, S. N. Leek, a thirty year old hunter-trapper possessing no highly accredited formal education, stood on the shores of Jackson's Lake he was also standing, surely without realization, at the crossroads

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Communications October 14, 1971 and January 7, 1972 from Mr. Ed. Lloyd, P. O. Box 1004, Jackson, Wyoming.

Personal Communications March 11, 1974 from Mr. Gary Everhardt, Superintendent, Grand Teton National Park, Moose, Wyoming.

S. N. Leek, File Material, Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming.

S. N. Leek, File Material, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, State of Wyoming, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 55' 49"	110° 38' 20"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: less than one acre.

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: <u>Ned Frost, Chief, Historic Division</u>	
ORGANIZATION <u>Wyoming Recreation Commission</u>	DATE <u>6/26/74</u>
STREET AND NUMBER: <u>604 East 25th Street</u>	
CITY OR TOWN: <u>Cheyenne</u>	STATE <u>Wyoming</u> CODE <u>56</u>

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is: National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐ Name <u>Paul H. Westedt</u> Paul H. Westedt Title <u>Historic Preservation Officer</u> Date <u>August 2, 1974</u>	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. <u>AB Martensen</u> Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation Date <u>9/5/75</u> ATTEST: <u>G. M. [Signature]</u> Keeper of The National Register SEP 4 1975 Date _____
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

10/6 28950 10/6 28950

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

OCT 2 1974

NATIONAL
REGISTER

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 5 1975

Leek's Lodge

(Number all entries)

Physical Appearance - 2

Leek's Lodge is a log building structured to house the office, lounge, dining room and kitchen of an early 20th century resort complex catering to an outdoor recreation type clientele. The building is 29 feet wide by 58 feet long and is bordered across the front and along one side by a roofed porch seven feet in width, resulting in overall ground surface dimensions of 36 feet by 65 feet. In outside appearance it is a two-story structure but that appearance is deceiving since there is actually only a partial second floor, one that extends over no more than the kitchen area in the rear quarter of the building. It is partitioned into two bedrooms and a lavatory, evidently having been designed to serve as private quarters for kitchen personnel.

On entering the front door the dominant impression is one of space---both horizontal and vertical. Probably the height is most impressive, there existing in that combined office-lounge only space between the floor and the roof-tree some twenty feet above. However, since there is only a partial partition between this lounge and the dining area beyond, a sense of depth and breadth is also present. Holding central location is the room's single most commanding feature---a huge fireplace made of native stones. This rock-masonry construction measures about nine feet long by six feet high and is capped by a massive chimney, a yard wide and two-thirds as thick, rising another 14 feet to egress between sections of the ridgepole. The fireplace, although centrally located between sidewalls of the office-lounge, is placed adjacent to the wide entrance into the dining area. Thus, it provides heat for both areas.

There can be no question that this building was designed for summer and early fall living only, the absence of a ceiling in the office-lounge and the lack of any other insulation indicates as much. No winter habitation was planned herein, not in this region where outside temperatures sometimes plummet to 40 or 50 degrees below zero. Besides, in the 1920's, outdoor winter sports were not yet a commercially profitable occupation, at least not in such an isolated place as this.

The interior walls are of natural logs, no more finished within than are their opposite surfaces without. The floor, now commencing to sag, is supported by two by ten inch joists set on 24 inch centers; the subfloor is of one by eight inch boards, rough sawed, and the finished flooring is of one by six inch wood. The doors are homemade and fasten with homemade latches. Like the fireplace formed from lakeside rocks, all other structural features so far described were built of native materials, that is of materials native to the very locale. The sawed lumber was a product of pine and fir trees cut in the vicinity and fashioned in a mill brought to the premises and set up for that specific purpose.

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Leek's Lodge

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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SEP 5	1975

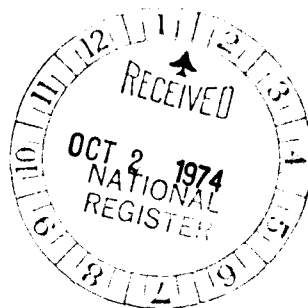
(Number all entries)

Physical Appearance - 3

However, windows apparently are one of the few manufactured rather than home-made features; they are wood sash, uninsulated and multi-pane. Plumbing and light fixtures, also, of course, brought in manufactured items, are limited---simple but serviceable. Both pipes and wiring are exposed to view; it is not determined if the electric utility was original with the lodge, but small private electric plants were becoming standard installations in this area at the time of its construction. Many of the furnishings are homemade, some of them might presently be classed as antiques and possess considerable market value.

There is no excavation beneath the lodge. Large boulders and rock pillars serve for a foundation. Exterior walls stand 13 logs high, each end gable is layed an additional 10 logs higher and, finally, a hip section slopes upward to the roofline which is supported by framework standing three or four feet higher than the final gable logs. The roof, then, is a semi-gable, semi-hip construction; the rafters are poles, the sheathing native boards, and the shingles---another of the few nonnative features---are asphalt. Some of the house logs, particularly bottom ones, are presently showing deterioration.

Standing partially sheltered by trees similar to ones used in its construction, offering a view from its porches as heretofore described, this lodge is not incongruous to its surroundings. In truth, it fits into the natural scene.



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Leek's Lodge

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(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 2

of a career and---if the choice was in keeping with the preservation of a valuable national heritage---the threshold of a life promising infinite personal satisfaction gained through doing a valuable service to posterity.

He was then already following in the footsteps of that colorful society of mountain men who had also---otherwise they would not have continued their occupation---found in their hearts a response to "the beauty of the scenery and the wonder of the abundant wildlife". But those ones had experienced their reactions at a time when wildlife was abundant over a far vaster area and when man himself, at least the European invader, was a much rarer species. Even so, and in despite of whatever love may have been secreted in their hearts, those mountain men had managed to gravely deplete certain forms of regional wildlife, particularly beaver. In the course of their business, contrary to their own personal long range welfare, they became the region's first despoiler of the natural ecology.

No doubt Leek had even then, sixty years past the famous hey-day of the mountain fur trade epic, established a concourse with others of that vanishing fraternity who still carried on in Jackson's Hole environs a shabby vestige of the old trade. Despite the continuing decline of their economic status, these trapper-hunters persisted as an element of advancing civilization committed, against their own inclinations and interests, to carry on a despoliation of nature even to the very brink of no return.

Whether Leek understood this fact or not, and the evidence is that he did, he made his choice when he abandoned the life of a foot loose trapper to establish his ranch at the lower end of Jackson's Hole valley. There he became a member of society dedicated to making his living within a prescribed range of activity. That living by the nature of the country's isolation was limited to livestock production, a commodity that could itself walk to the market place, and recreational hunting, a commercial enterprise catering to an exclusive and physically active clientele. Thereupon Steve Leek gave up the trade of a trapper but not that of a hunter. From henceforth, in addition to ranching and the production of beef, he concentrated on guiding only indoctrinated sportsmen in hunting the most worthy trophies of the chase. In following that procedure he was a leader, before his time, in the enactment of laws placing a proscribed limit on the activities of market hunters and trappers. Thus, he early found himself, or thrust himself, into a leadership position of the 1890's and the 1900's conservation movement.

In that conservation movement Steve Leek had made his final decision, he was no longer a representative of the old "free trappers society". He stood for controls designed to protect the status quo, the live wild animals and their environment. The difficulty of this position was that already environmental

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Leek's Lodge

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Statement of Significance - 3

pressures were running ahead of the remaining wildlife, there was more wildlife around and about than the remaining winter ranges, though not the available high mountain summer ranges, could support.

The chief difficulty was that new settlers, their fields and their fences, had cut off the wildlife's established migration route to winter ranges---in addition the livestock belonging to these new settlers was using in the summertime the forage that nature had traditionally produced for winter maintenance of wild animals. A tragedy was in the making and to some extent materialized; but it would have been much worse if it hadn't been for S. N. Leek.

During the 1890's and the early 1900's Leek saw this winter starvation of wildlife building to a foredoomed climax and major calamity. First he himself provided and prevailed on other settlers to provide a portion of their hay harvest to the wintertime alleviation of otherwise moribund herds of wapiti (elk). Then, utilizing and improving on the limited formal education he had received, he began to write and to practice photography (he became one of the earliest adapters of motion pictures to educational uses) and to lecture (across the nation) on the plight of western wildlife. During the time when Theodore Roosevelt and Gifford Pinchot were making their historic reputations by pushing through a reluctant Congress the acts which conserved nationally owned forest lands, S. N. Leek and others of his ilk---but Leek in the forefront---were performing like labors on behalf of the forest's denizens. So it came about that Leek, more than any other individual, was responsible for the nation's first great major wildlife refuge---The Federal Elk Refuge in Jackson's Hole. No man achieves such worth-while objectives without some compensation, Leek found his in friendships which included Presidents, U.S. Senators, Governors and, in the private sector, men like George Eastman the founder and president of a great photographic industry; Wm. H. Jackson, most famous of frontier photographers; and Gilbert Grosvenor, long time editor of the National Geographic.

There are many reasons why S. N. Leek should, and no reasons why he should not, have visited the shores of Jackson's Lake many times during the decades of the 1890's, the 1900's and the 1910's. During all of that time, in fact more---from 1888 to 1925, his living came from conducting vacationers to just such places as the lake. Further, his own interests in the conservation of wildlife would have brought him there from time to time even though he had no vacationers to guide. Yet, thirty-seven years of time slipped by before he got around to building a commercial lodge capitalizing on the recreational business for which his favorite lakeside setting was a natural magnet.

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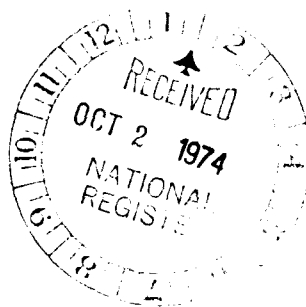
(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 4

Why did he wait so long before building a commercial establishment so plainly marked for success? Probably because he was also busy building a successful ranching operation and succoring regional wildlife. Also it was about the mid 1920's before good roads made it possible for enough vacationers to reach that place to justify such an operation as he planned.

By that time Mr. Leek was an elderly man, in his 67th year, but he was still young in appearance and evidently in physical ability. Moreover, this was to be a family operation and he had two strong, capable sons trained in frontier building craftsmanship. They felled their own building logs and layed them up. They brought a sawmill to the location and sawed their own lumber. They fashioned a platform between two boats and cruised some miles across the lake to bring back rocks suitable for construction of the great fireplace. They built Leek's Lodge. S. N. Leek was both the architect and the master builder.

Leek's name stands in a prominent place among the organizers and workers of the nation's earliest conservation efforts. It will remain so enrolled in any event. But this Lodge should also be preserved as a memorial to a man who, given only a limited formal education, became, in the interests of wild-life preservation, a self-educated biologist, an author, a lecturer, a photographer, a friend of other achievers and still remained a frontiersman. Truly, S. N. Leek was a man of many parts.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM 1974

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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AND/OR HISTORIC: Leek's Lodge			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: On U. S. Highway 89-287, east shore of Jackson Lake			
CITY OR TOWN: Grand Teton National Park, 10 miles North, Northwest of Moran			
STATE: Wyoming	CODE 56	COUNTY: Teton	CODE 039
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: S. N. Leek			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1930's			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western History Research Center, University of Wyoming			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. View is from the west, that is from a point between the lake shore and the building. Shows the lodge from the southwest corner. Porch steps on right lead, behind tree trunk, lead to front door.			



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STATE: Wyoming	CODE 56	COUNTY: Teton	CODE 039
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: S. N. Leek			
DATE OF PHOTO: August 25, 1937			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Western History Research Center, University of Wyoming			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. Photograph shows S. N. Leek seated before the fireplace in the lounge of Leek's Lodge. A corner of the dining area shows behind Mr. Leek.			



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STATE: <u>Wyoming</u>	CODE <u>56</u>	COUNTY: <u>Teton</u>	CODE <u>039</u>
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: <u>S. N. Leek</u>			
DATE OF PHOTO: <u>August 30, 1937</u>			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: <u>Western History Research Center, University of Wyoming</u>			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. <u>Photograph shows S. N. Leek standing along the east wall of Leek's Lodge, posing with a shed Wapiti (elk) antler. Mr. Leek, born in 1858, would have been either 78 or 79 years old at the time this photograph was taken.</u>			