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YELLOWSTONE
OLD FAITHFUL INN



NATIONAL PARK/MONTANA, IDAHO, WYOMING

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HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT
HISTORICAL DATA SECTION
OLD FAITHFUL INN
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK
WYOMING

by
A. Berie Clemensen

DENVER SERVICE CENTER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION BRANCH
MIDWEST/ROCKY MOUNTAIN TEAM
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
DENVER, COLORADO

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ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

This project involves a structural history of the Old Faithful Inn. That hostelry, which is listed on the National Register, is of the first order of significance. The proposed treatment is repair and stabilization of that structure.

STATEMENT OF HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Faithful Inn represents one of the few remaining log hotels in the United States. Its unique rustic design has made it almost as famous as its geyser namesake.

INTRODUCTION

Old Faithful Inn stands as a distinctive structure marked by the imagination of its architect Robert C. Reamer who created a rustic building to blend with the area mountains and forest. In fact his use of support timber columns combined with gnarled branches as bracing and brackets in a very spacious lobby could almost be considered rusticity gone berserk.

The Inn has become almost as famous as its geyser namesake, both as a curiosity and for accommodations. In the early years of its existence, it served as a nightly haven for the wealthier tourists while those of lesser means had to content themselves with the area tent cabins. Although an attempt was made to produce a convivial evening atmosphere in the Inn with musicians playing high above the lobby in the so-called "Crow's Nest" and with an abundance of popcorn, produced in a giant popper designed to swing into one of the large fireplace openings, the staid guests dampened the occasions. Charles Francis Adams, who stayed at the Inn soon after it opened, was not taken by the sedate clientele. He thought that the sounds of merriment which emanated from the nearby tent camp probably meant that the visitors housed there had a more pleasant sojourn in Yellowstone Park.¹ Today, the Inn no longer serves only society's more affluent members, for wide-spread prosperity has opened its doors to others.

UPPER GEYSER BASIN ACCOMMODATIONS WHICH PREDATED THE OLD FAITHFUL INN

As the Northern Pacific Railroad track neared completion to the Yellowstone Park vicinity in the early 1880s, the specter of increased tourism prompted some individuals to envision monetary rewards gained

1. Richard A. Bartlett, "Old Faithful Inn," The American West, XVI (July-August 1979) p. 17.

from housing prospective visitors. Northern Pacific Railroad officials, of course, sought to have potential concessioners who would serve their interests. As a result in 1882 Carroll T. Hobart, one of their division superintendents, together with Henry Douglas and Rufus Hatch formed the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company to develop tourist accommodations. In 1883, after receiving a ten year lease from the Secretary of the Interior, the Improvement Company built a tent hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin near the west end of the present Inn's parking lot.²

Mismanagement of the Yellowstone Park Improvement Company resulted in bankruptcy on March 21, 1884. The receiver, however, allowed Carroll Hobart to continue managing the company. Early in the next year Hobart contracted with his brother Charles to erect a hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin. That jerry-built structure known as the "Shack" managed to survive until destroyed by fire on November 17, 1894. The financially strapped Yellowstone Park Improvement Company, however, ended with a foreclosure sale in late 1885.³

To assure its interest in Yellowstone Park, members of the Northern Pacific board of directors purchased the Improvement Company's assets. Since the railroad wished to influence but not own or operate park concessions, the directors in turn sold their park interests to Charles Gibson, Nelson Thrall, and John Bullit. These three men founded the Yellowstone Park Association on April 15, 1886 with the understanding that they would maintain a friendly relationship with the Northern Pacific. That railroad, however, seemed unable to remove itself from concession operations. When the Association soon proved to be inadequately financed, the Northern Pacific bolstered it by purchasing its

2. Aubrey L. Haines, The Yellowstone Story: A History of Our First National Park, (Yellowstone National Park: Yellowstone Library and Museum Assn., 1977) I pp. 271-74, 176, II p. 33.

3. Ibid., I pp. 274, 311, 318.

stock. Between May 19, 1887 and 1895 the railroad acquired slightly more than fifty percent of the Association's shares of corporate capital.⁴

Having gained controlling interest in the Yellowstone Park Association, the Northern Pacific's operation policy ran counter to the wishes of the minority stockholders. Gibson, the Association's president, resigned in 1895. The following year at the annual stockholders meeting he issued a statement condemning the railroad for having a greater interest in bringing tourists to the park than in a profit for the Association. In 1897, probably out of frustration with the Northern Pacific policy, Gibson brought suit against that railroad. He charged that under Minnesota corporate law, the Northern Pacific could not legally own stock in another corporation. The following year the suit was settled out of court with an agreement by the railroad to buy all of the private stock in the Yellowstone Park Association. In turn the Northern Pacific sold the Association stock to a subsidiary, the Northwestern Improvement Company.⁵

Part of the problem which developed between Gibson, who represented the minority stockholders of the Yellowstone Park Association, and the Northern Pacific stemmed from whether profits should be used to build a hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin as the railroad desired or pay a dividend as the private shareholders wished. After the 1894 fire which destroyed the Upper Geyser Basin hotel, the Association considered moving the main portion of the Fountain Hotel to the Old Faithful site. Unsettled financial affairs, however, prevented the Northern Pacific from carrying out the scheme. Instead, the Association erected crude accommodations at that location. This lodging arrangement was described

4. F.C. Shannd to J.H. Poore, September 8, 1937, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records, Minnesota Historical Society.

5. Ibid.; Minority Report by Charles Gibson, December 17, 1896, found in the Record of the Annual Meeting of the Yellowstone Park Association, December 20, 1897, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

as canvas tents placed side by side next to a small house. The small house served as both the manager's quarters and tourist dining room. The tents had six to eight divisions, separated by canvas which extended only three-fourths the distance to the ceiling. Each division contained a double bed. In total there were ninety-six rooms.⁶

The tents at the Upper Geyser Basin proved ill-suited for tourist housing. As a result the Yellowstone Park Association determined to press forward with hotel construction. It was announced at the 1897 annual meeting that "Plans for the proposed hotel have been made by Mr. William Bement, our Superintendent of Buildings and Machinery." Again, however, construction was delayed.⁷

Perhaps the postponement resulted from the Gibson suit against the Northern Pacific which publicized the fact that the railroad held a controlling interest in the Association in contravention to its Minnesota charter. Since the railroad officials had never wanted to operate the park concessions either directly or through their subsidiary, they began to vacillate between expanding facilities in Yellowstone or selling the Association. The major problem, as Charles Mellen, the president of the Northern Pacific, expressed it, was to sell to a party which would maintain a friendly relationship with the railroad. Otherwise, he feared,

6. C.W. Bunn, Northern Pacific Railroad General Counsel, to Daniel Lamont, Vice President Northern Pacific Railroad, December 23, 1897, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records; Vice President of the Yellowstone Park Association to E.H. McHenry, Chief Engineer Yellowstone Park Association, February 5, 1895, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 394; Unsigned letter to Major W.P. Couper, October 22, 1895, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 408; John Darlington to Ethan Allen Hitchcock, September 29, 1902, Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior Relating to National Parks, 1872-1907, Yellowstone National Park, RG79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

7. Records of the Annual Meeting of the Yellowstone Park Association, December 20, 1897, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

if the Association stock were sold to "just anyone," the Oregon Short Line Railroad would acquire it and divert travel to itself.⁸

Still the Yellowstone Park Association hoped to construct a hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin. In 1898 that corporation hired an architect, A.W. Spalding, to design a hotel for it.

Although the drawings were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on November 25, the Northern Pacific decided not to allow construction. Probably out of frustration with the Northern Pacific directors' disapproval, James Dean, the Association's president, wrote, "I trust that the erection of a hotel at the upper Geyser Basin has been only temporarily postponed. If the Association intends to continue doing business in the park, it appears to me that it would be unwise for it to allow others to build a hotel at such an important point, and operate it contrary to the interests of the Yellowstone Park Association."⁹

Construction plans for an upper Geyser Basin hotel languished until September 1900 when the issue again arose. At that time Thomas Ryan, the assistant Secretary of the Interior, visited Yellowstone Park and strongly impressed upon James Dean the need for a hotel at that location. Ryan also thought that the hotel and transportation business in Yellowstone should be combined.¹⁰

Perhaps Ryan's latter utterance provided part of the impetus for the Northern Pacific executives' decision to sell the Yellowstone Park

8. Charles S. Mellen to Daniel S. Lamont, November 29, 1897, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

9. R.H. Relf, assistant Secretary Northern Pacific Railroad, to James Dean, June 1, 1901, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 731, Part 1; James Dean to the Board of Directors, Yellowstone Park Association, December 5, 1898, President's Subject File 209B, Northern Pacific Railroad Records. Spalding's drawings for an elaborate Queen Anne style hotel are located in the Montana State Historical Society.

10. James Dean to Daniel Lamont, September 20, 1900, President's Subject File 210A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

Association to the owners of the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company rather than build a hotel. In late December 1900 Harry Child and Edmund Bach, two of the three Transportation Company owners, met with Charles Mellen, the Northern Pacific president, to begin negotiations to purchase the Association. Mellen felt he could trust Child and Bach to maintain a beneficial relationship with the Northern Pacific and not direct tourists to other competitor railroads. As a result the sale of the Association stock to Child, Bach and the third partner, Silas Huntley, was consummated on April 3, 1901.¹¹

Just prior to the sale, the Secretary of the Interior granted a new ten year Lease to the Association. Part of that lease was for a site of an Upper Geyser Basin hotel. Plans and specifications for that hotel were to be submitted to the Secretary of the Interior for approval. The approximate cost of that structure and a barn was to be \$75,000. According to the lease, the hotel was to be opened to the public on or before June 1, 1903. Permission was granted to make brick, quarry stone, and use fallen, dead or other timber in the park to construct the buildings. The Association's new owners temporarily revived the Spalding drawings for an Upper Geyser Basin hotel, but for an unknown reason they decided not to use them.¹²

THE INN

Perhaps Child initially failed to build a hotel on the Old Faithful site because he lacked the money. However, in September 1902, when

11. Charles Mellen to Daniel Lamont, December 31, 1900, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records; Agreement Between the Northwest Improvement Company and Harry Child, Edmund Bach, and Silas Huntley, April 3, 1901, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 731, Part 1.

12. Lease to Yellowstone Park Ass'n, President's Subject File 210A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records; R.H. Relf to E.H. McHenry, Chief Engineer Yellowstone Park Association, June 1, 1901; E.H. Relf to James Dean, June 1, 1901, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 731, Part 1.

pressure was again applied by the Interior Department to develop accommodations at that location, he began to act. Child began by assuring the Secretary that plans were being prepared for a new hotel. His statement was evidently a temporary ruse to quiet the government until he recieved financial aid, for two days later Child met with Charles Mellen to request a building loan. Mellen replied, "I will furnish you the money necessary to erect the hotel at the upper Geyser Basin, upon the obligation of yourself and assocaites for five per cent interest." In addition Child asked for funds to put a wing on the Lake Hotel. He received a \$100,000 loan for work at both sites.¹³

On December 8, 1902, one month after he obtained Mellen's consent to a loan, Child notified the Northern Pacific officials that he was making arrangements to ship lumber for the Lake Hotel addition and the new Upper Geyser Basin hotel. He decided to experiment with hauling the material by sledge to the respective sites that winter rather than wait for spring because, although the roads opened about June 1, their muddy condition made it almost impossible to traverse with a heavily loaded wagon until late June.¹⁴

In the meantime Child hired Robert C. Reamer to design the new hotel. Some stories contend that Child discovered Reamer and brought him west to resolve a drinking problem, but that was undoubtedly not true. Prior to going to Montana, Reamer had worked as an architect for the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. Since Charles Mellen,

13. John Darlington to Ethan Allen Hitchcock, September 29, 1902 and endorsed by Harry Child, November 7, 1902, Letters Received by the Office of the Secretary of the Interior Relating to National Parks, 1872-1907, Yellowstone National Park; Charles Mellen to Harry Child, November 9, 1902; Northern Pacific Railway Company Executive Committee, March 26, 1903, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

14. Harry Child to J.M. Hannaford, Second Vice President Northern Pacific Railroad, December 8, 1902; Telegram from Harry Child to Charles Mellen, December 8, 1902, President's Subject File 210A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

the Northern Pacific president, had connections with that eastern railroad and ultimately became its president, he probably brought Reamer west to design the Gardiner, Montana depot, at which time he undoubtedly recommended Reamer to Child. At any rate Reamer signed the Gardiner depot drawings several months before those he produced for the Old Faithful Inn.¹⁵

If Harry Child succeeded in bringing building materials by sledge to the Old Faithful site during the winter of 1902-03, he unnecessarily exposed men to the rigors of the Yellowstone cold, for such supplies were not used until the summer. Reamer completed his drawings for the Inn on May 28, 1903, and construction began shortly thereafter. The army personnel stationed at the Upper Geyser Basin noted on June 8 that timber for the Inn was being cut at a site about eight miles south of the basin. Lodgepole pine was presumably the type of tree selected for cutting.¹⁶

Probably by the end of June enough timbers had been brought to the Inn's site for construction to begin (figure 1). By the end of October the acting park superintendent noted that "A handsome new hotel is being built at the Upper Geyser Basin and will be ready for occupancy next summer."¹⁷ At that time, however, the Inn was only about two-thirds complete. Child had expended his \$100,000 loan plus an additional \$25,000 from the Northern Pacific by the end of October. Of

15. Robert C. Reamer was born in Oberlin, Ohio in 1873. He apprenticed in two architectural firms in that state before taking a job with the New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad. After completing the Gardiner depot and the Old Faithful Inn, he moved to Birmingham, Alabama where he worked for a time until returning to Montana in Child's employ. In 1910-11 he completed the Canyon Hotel in the park. Soon after Reamer moved to Boston. Probably in the late teens, he relocated to California. In 1923 he took up residence in Seattle, where, except for a brief period in Boston about 1928, he spent the remainder of his life. Reamer died in Seattle on January 7, 1938.

16. United States Army, Yellowstone Park, Upper Basin Station Record, June 8, 1903, in Aubrey Haines files, Bozeman, Montana; Interview of John Egger by Berle Clemensen, April 27, 1979.



Figure 1
Construction of Old Faithful Inn 1903
Yellowstone National Park Photo

that sum he spent \$70,757.25 on the Inn with the remainder used to construct the addition on the Lake Hotel. Child requested another \$25,000 and made provision to work through the winter. Since the railroad did not immediately comply with his request for more money, Child's workmen obviously labored on the promise of future pay. In the Yellowstone Park Association annual report for 1903 Child noted that as of December 15 some ninety men were employed at the two sites.¹⁸

Although Child finally received the supplemental \$25,000 on February 19, 1904, he found that sum to be insufficient to complete the Inn and the Lake Hotel addition. Six days later, he contacted the Northern Pacific officials with another request, this time for \$50,000. Although the directors of that railroad were apparently not pleased, they appeared resigned to make another loan, for, after having invested \$150,000 in Child's venture, it was too late to take another course of action. On April 29 the Northern Pacific Executive Committee authorized the loan, but this time the interest was raised to six percent.¹⁹

When the Old Faithful Inn opened in June 1904, Child had spent \$139,972.01 of the Northern Pacific's money for construction with an additional \$25,291.60 for furnishings.²⁰ The remainder of the \$200,000 loan was used for the Lake Hotel addition.

The hotel which Robert Reamer created at the Upper Geyser Basin had a unique rustic design. Although his inclination was to call it the "Old Faithful Tavern" as attested on his architectural drawings, the hotel

18. Yellowstone Park Association, Annual Report for the Season of 1903, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

19. Elliott Howard to Daniel Lamont, February 25, 1904; W.H. Gemmell to C.A. Clark, April 22, 1904; Northern Pacific Railway Company Executive Committee Meeting, April 29, 1904, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

20. Yellowstone Park Association, Amounts expended in Improvements and Betterments for the Season of 1904, President's Subject File 210A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

was known from the beginning as the Old Faithful Inn. The acting superintendent briefly described the Inn in his 1904 annual report when he wrote,

the new hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin known as "Old Faithful Inn" is a remarkably beautiful and comfortable establishment. It is constructed chiefly of stone and logs, and while rustic in appearance, it contains all of the modern conveniences which the traveler of to-day is accustomed to, such as electric lights, baths, etc.²¹

On the exterior the first floor walls consisted of unhewn horizontal logs, while the frame upper floors were covered with 36x6-inch cedar shingles. The bottom two courses of shingles contained a saw-tooth or chevron pattern (figures 2-25). The walls rested on a stone masonry foundation. Windows were muntined with either square, round, elliptical, or diamond shaped glazing. The central portion of the building was covered by a steeply pitched gabled roof topped by a widow's walk. Originally, eight flag poles, from which pennants flew, surmounted the widow's walk. By 1927 the number was reduced to six; today only four poles remain. A searchlight was also mounted on the roof, and was used to illuminate Old Faithful Geyser for night viewing. About 1910 a second spotlight was added, but both were removed around 1948. In addition the widow's walk contained a bell which was rung a quarter hour before the dining room opened.

Dormer were placed not only on the roof of the central portion, but also on the two original wings. Reamer basically followed a symmetrical pattern when designing the roof dormers. Those dormer windows on the main roof produced an unusual lighting effect in the spacious upper lobby interior when the sun's rays shone through them.

21: Report of the Acting Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior, 1904 (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1904) p. 9.

Figure 2

A photograph of the completed Inn taken from the northeast. It reveals the stonework at the base and one stone pier on the front. The various shapes of window glazing can be seen. Siding shingles, the bottom two courses of which contain a chevron pattern, can easily be seen. The top of the lobby fireplace's cribbed chimney is visible at the rear of the central part of the structure. The widow's walk atop the central portion has eight flag poles and a spot light used for illuminating the Old Faithful geyser at night. The porte-cochere's cribbed supports resting on their rubble bases can be seen beneath the steeply pitched roof of the central part.



Figure 2
Old Faithful Inn 1904
Haynes Foundation

Figure 3

A photograph of the Inn taken from the northwest. Here one can see the design of the original west wing.



Figure 3
Old Faithful Inn 1905
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 4

A photograph of the Inn taken from the northeast shows the original east wing and a portion of the central part of the old house.



Figure 4
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1905
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 5

A photograph showing an exterior, front recessed area or corner in the original west wing. Diamond shaped window glazing on the ground floor and the bottom two courses of siding shingles with their chevron pattern are shown in excellent detail.



Figure 5
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1905
Colorado Historical Society



Figure 6
Old Faithful Inn 1905
Haynes Foundation



Figure 7
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1907
Minnesota Historical Society

Figure 8

A close view of the east end of the porte-cochere and the railing on the above veranda. Some of the outriggers fixed to the gable wall and edge of the roof can also be seen.



Figure 8
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1907
Minnesota Historical Society

Figure 9

A close up of the porte-cochere detail and the dormers on the roof of the main section.

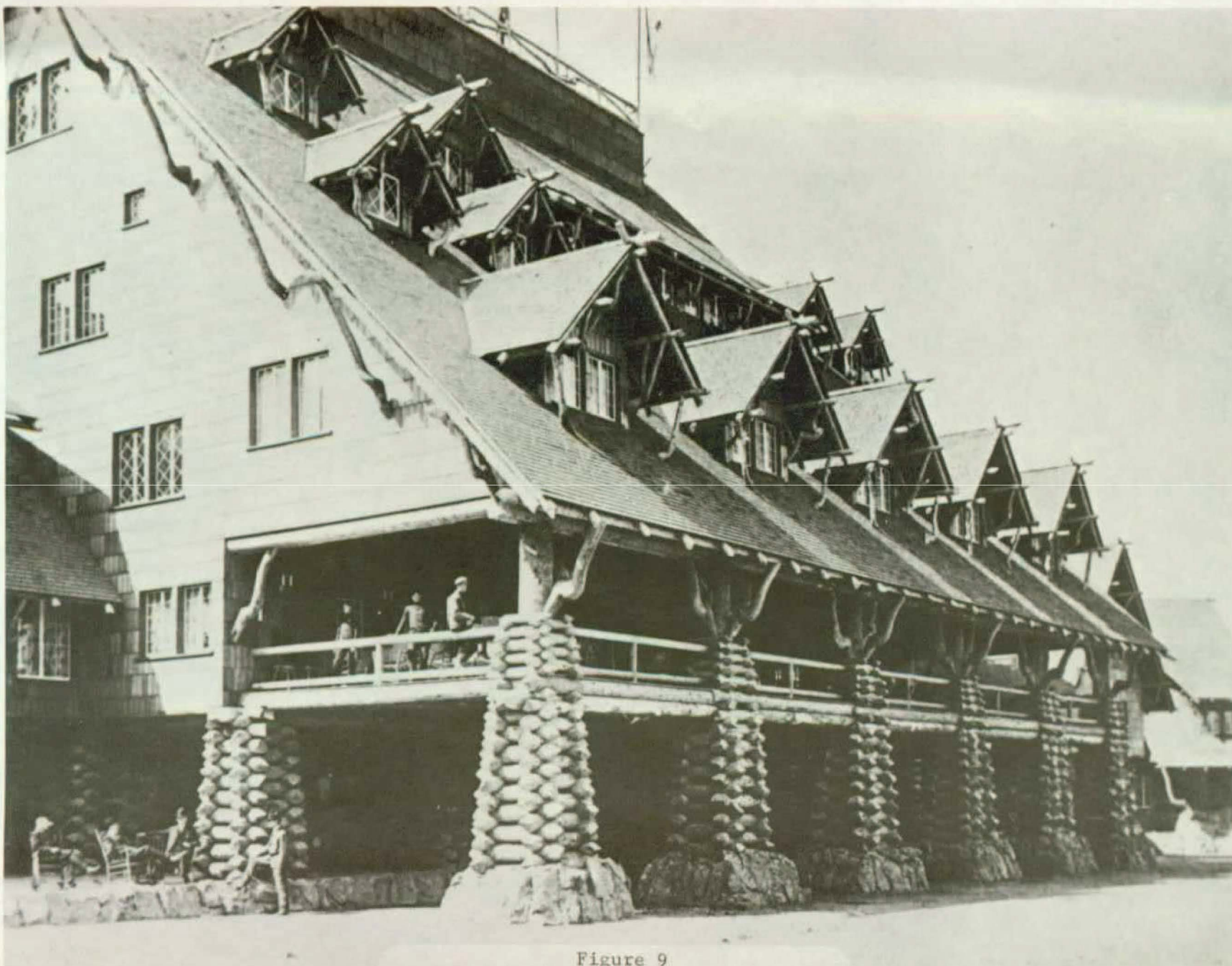


Figure 9
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1907
Minnesota Historical Society



Figure 10
Old Faithful Inn 1907
Wyoming Historical Society



Figure 11
Old Faithful Inn 1907
Wyoming Historical Society

Figure 12

A view of the end of the original west wing. The detail of various window glazing can be observed. In 1927 the new west wing was attached at this point.



Figure 12
Old Faithful Inn 1907
Wyoming Historical Society



Figure 13
Old Faithful Inn 1907
Wyoming Historical Society



Figure 14
Old Faithful Inn 1907
Wyoming Historical Society

Figure 15

A close view of the east side of the porte-cochere and the area immediately above it.



Figure 15
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1910
Henry Ford Museum



Figure 16
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1910
Henry Ford Museum



Figure 17
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1910
Henry Ford Museum



Figure 18
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1910
Henry Ford Museum



Figure 19
Old Faithful Inn 1912
Yellowstone National Park

Figure 20

A photograph taken from the northeast which shows details on part of the original east wing.



Figure 20
Old Faithful Inn 1915
Yellowstone National Park

Haynes
10213

Figure 21

A close view taken from the northeast which reveals the details of the porte-cochere as well as some dormers and east gable wall of the Inn's central portion.



Figure 21
Old Faithful Inn 1916
Haynes Foundation

Figure 22

A view of the Inn from the northeast. Details on the top of the cribbing around the lobby fireplace chimney can be seen as it protrudes above the roof of the original east wing.



Figure 22
Old Faithful Inn 1919
Haynes Foundation



Figure 23
Old Faithful Inn 1916
Haynes Foundation



Figure 24
Old Faithful Inn 1923
Yellowstone National Park



Figure 25
Old Faithful Inn 1923
Yellowstone National Park

The roof was covered with cedar shingles which were painted red (figure 27). The use of red paint on roofs at Yellowstone began about 1897 when a ready mixed red mineral roof paint was applied to the shingles on existing hotels. The rationale for painting hotel roofs stemmed from the thought that it would both preserve the shingles and protect against fires caused by chimney sparks.²²

A large porte-cochere, supported by cribbed log piers, was tucked beneath the steep roof of the structure's central section (figure 26). That roof also protected a second floor veranda which was located above the porte-cochere (figure 28). There guests could lounge in rustic hickory rockers and chairs.

A spacious dining room was attached to the rear of the Inn (figure 29). The kitchen was entered from the west side of the dining room.

Entrance to the Inn was gained from the porte-cochere through a large front door made of rough sawed lumber. The hinges and iron lock were designed by Reamer and hand forged on site by a blacksmith named Colpitts.²³ Once in the lobby, the visitor was struck by the vastness, for the area was open from the ground floor to the roof some ninety-two feet overhead (figures 30-38). Vertical log columns with their bark intact provided support for balconies on the second and third floors and continued upward to the roof. Purlins connected with the upright timbers to provide added support of the roof. In contrast to the present number only three support column timbers were originally placed on the ground floor (see Appendix A-original floor plan). Room walls directly under the outer edge of the second floor balcony provided additional

22. Painting Roofs on Park Hotels, 1894, Northern Pacific Railway Company File 374; Record of the Annual Meeting of the Yellowstone Park Association, December 20, 1897.

23. Interview of Mrs. Lena Potter, Gardiner, Montana, by Aubrey Haines, April 20, 1962, in Aubrey Haines' personnel files; Interview of John Egger by Berle Clemensen, April 27, 1979.

Figure 26 •

A view of the inner part of the porte-cochere showing details of the ceiling and the Inn's front entrance area.



Figure 26
Old Faithful Inn 1909
Colorado Historical Society

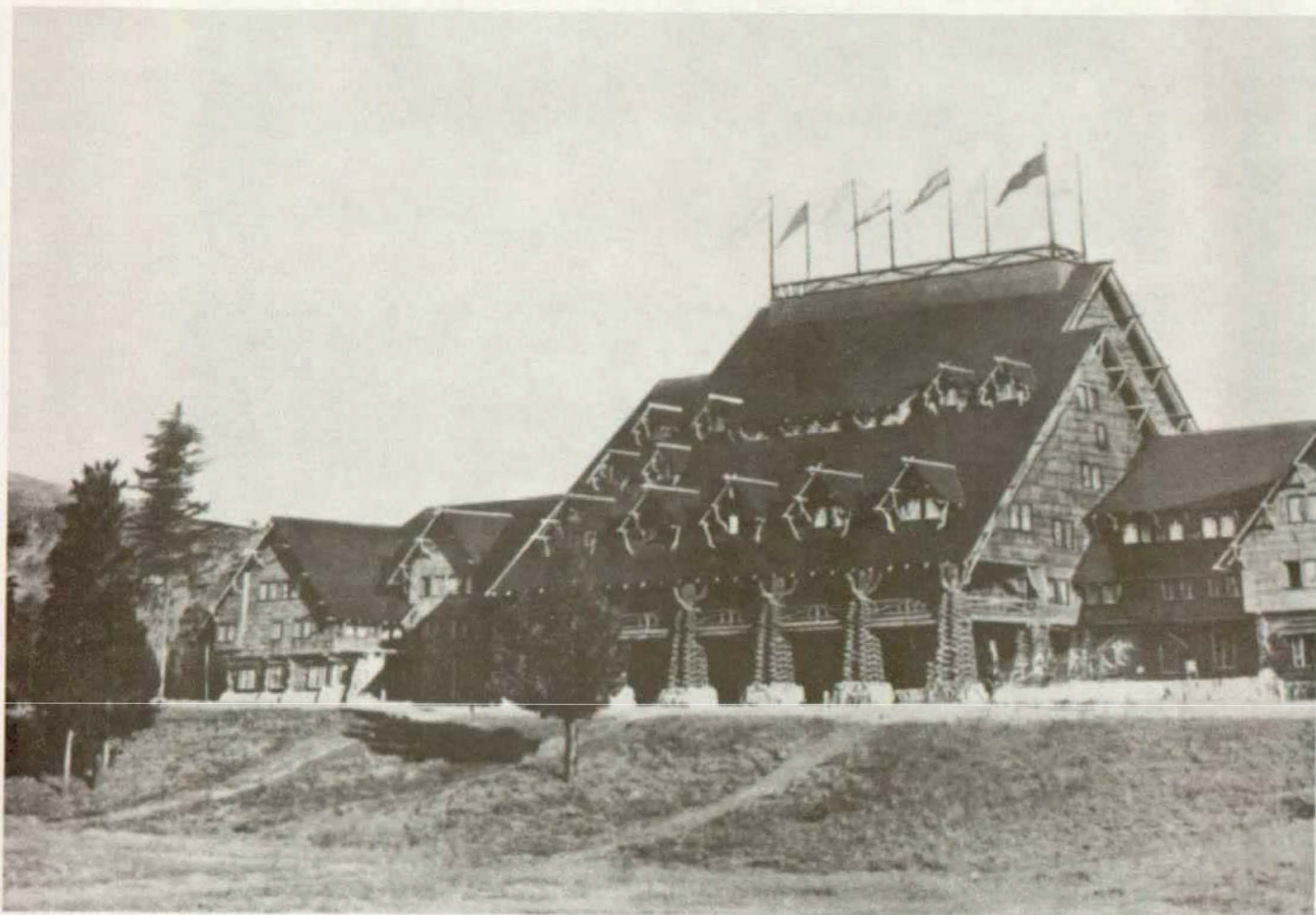


Figure 27
Old Faithful Inn ca. 1907

A colored photograph of the front which shows the original
reddish-brown color of the roof.

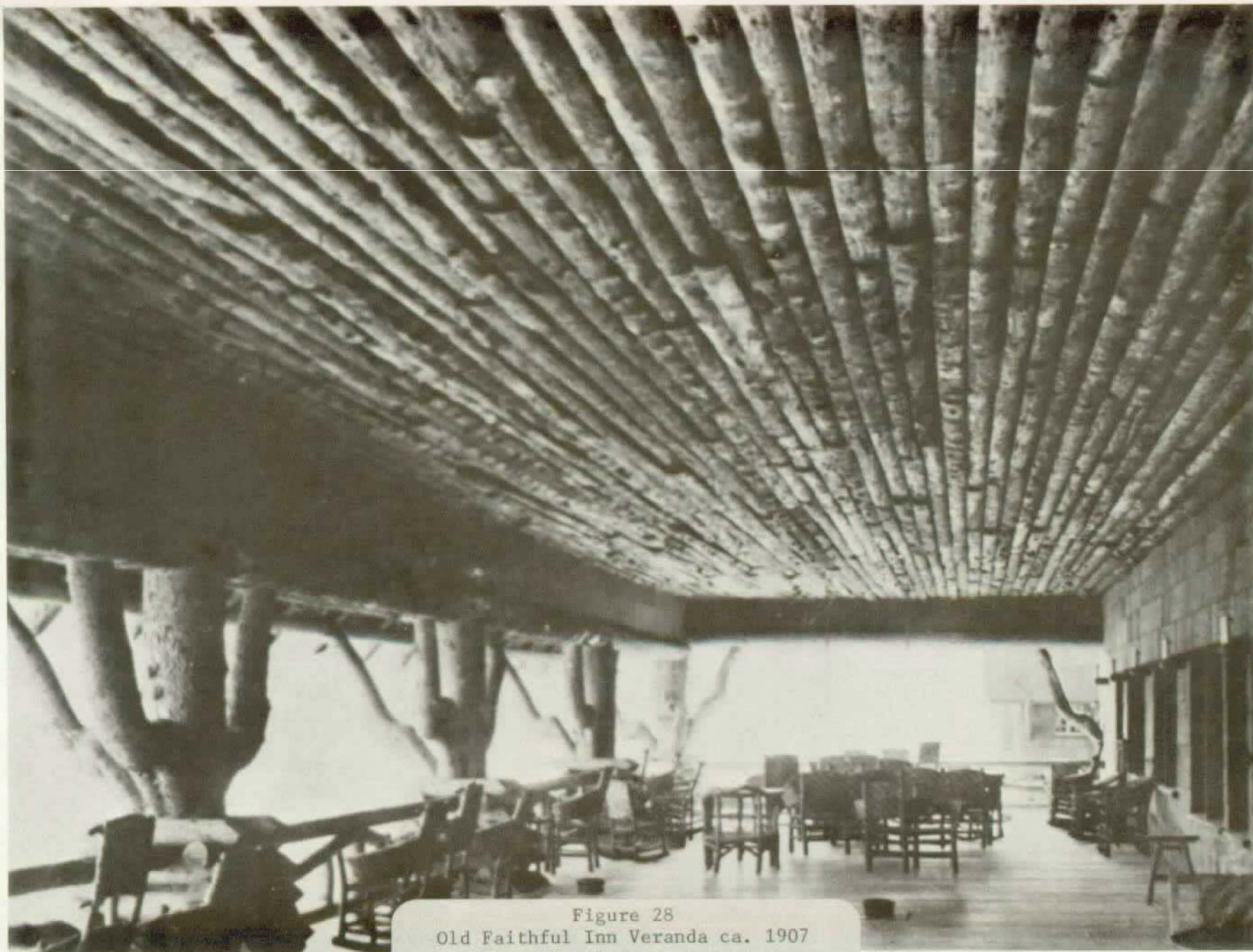


Figure 28
Old Faithful Inn Veranda ca. 1907
Minnesota Historical Society

Figure 29

A view which reveals the rarely photographed original rear of the Inn without the present day dining room extensions. The lobby fireplace's cribbed chinmey is visible as well as the exterior of the dining room stone fireplace stack. Both fireplace chimneys were severely damaged in the 1959 earthquake. As a result neither bears any resemblance to the ones shown in this picture.

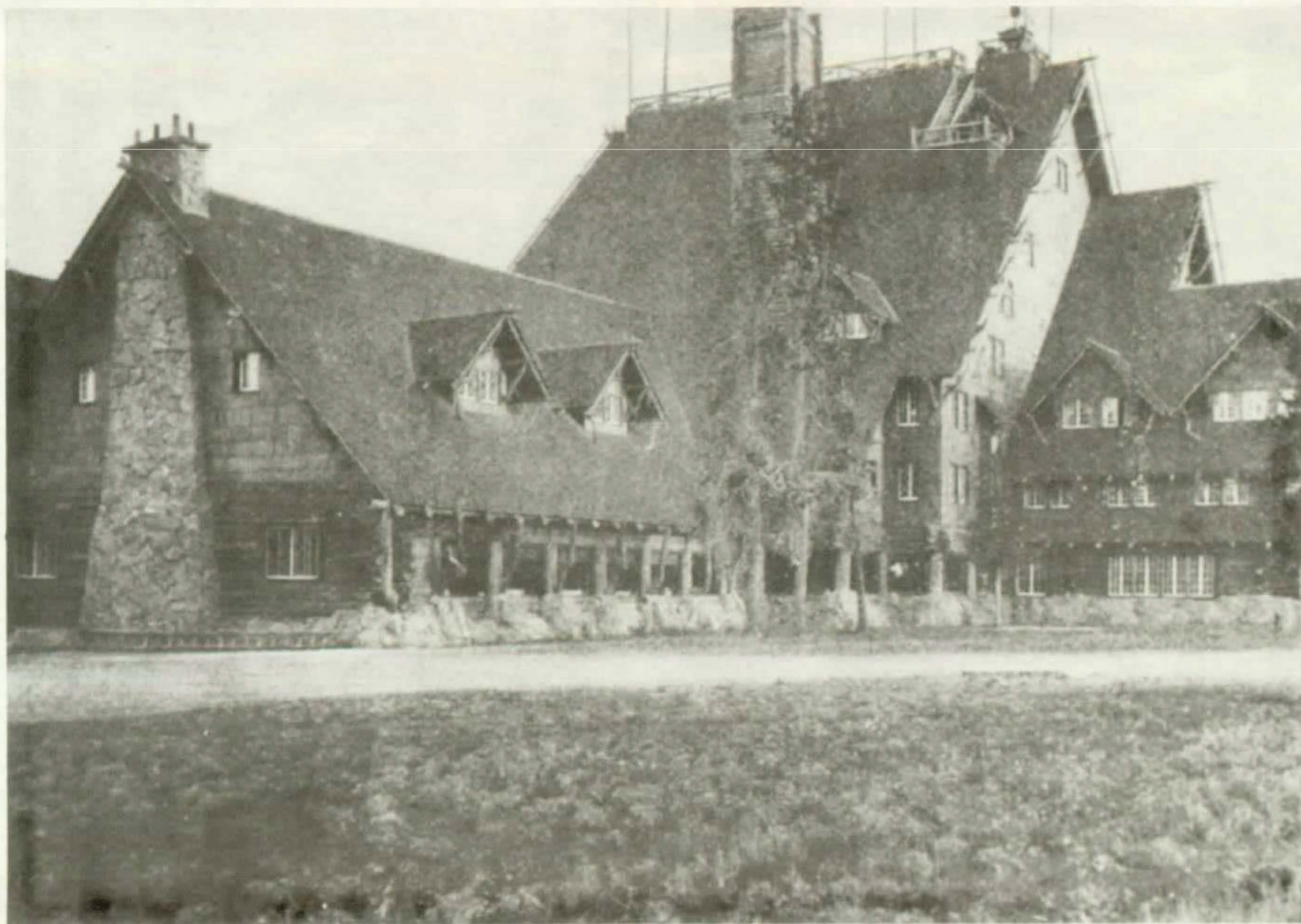


Figure 29
Rear of Old Faithful Inn ca. 1907

Figure 30

The earliest known photograph of the lobby. Some of the details have been drawn by hand on the original glass plate.



Figure 30
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1904
Haynes Foundation

Figure 31
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1904

This Xerox of a colored slide shows the same arrangement as the previous figure.

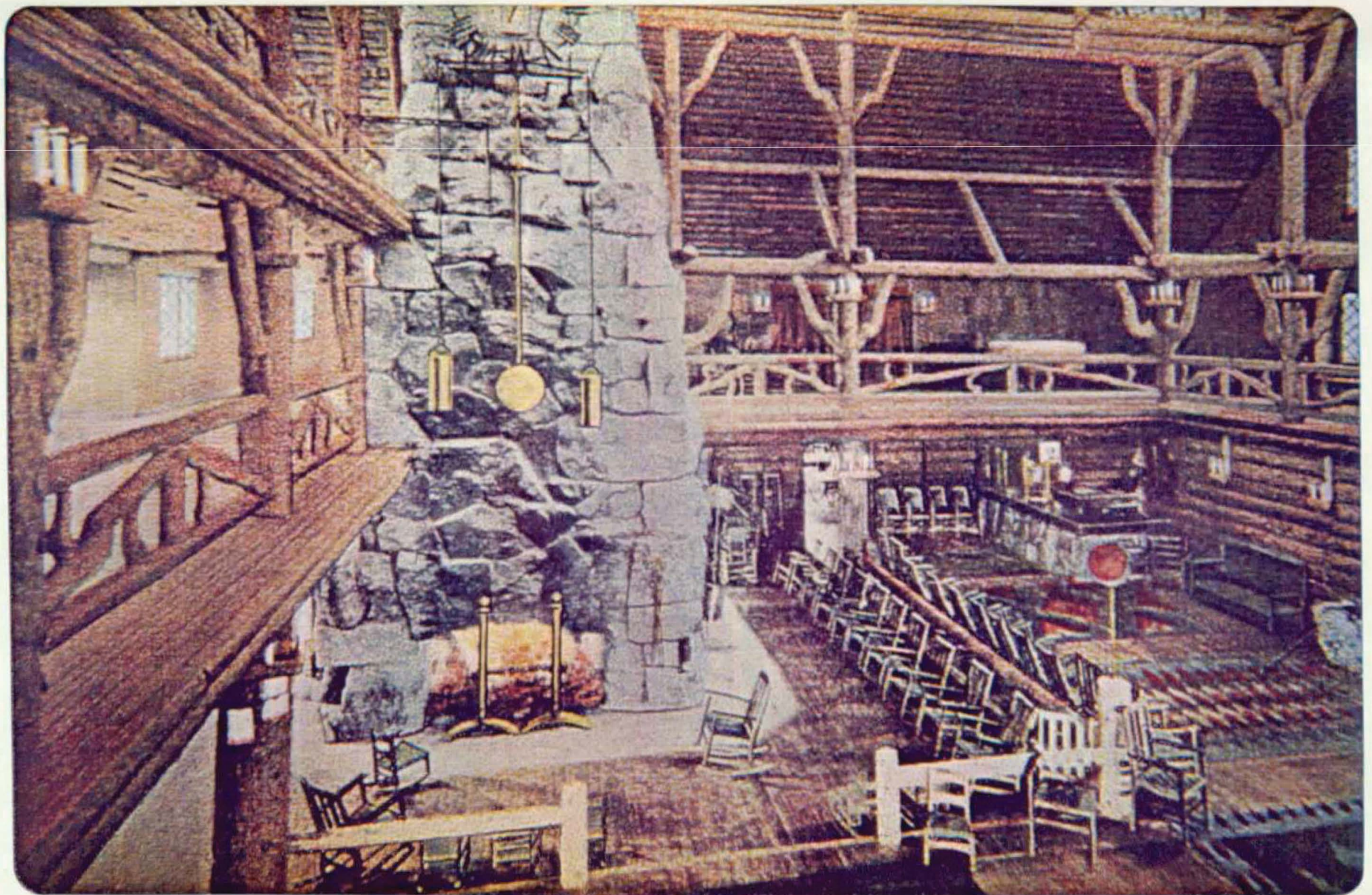


Figure 32

A photograph of the northeast interior lobby corner. The large iron hinges on the front door are visible.



Figure 32
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1907
Wyoming Historical Society

Figure 33

An interior view of the east side of the lobby near the fireplace. It shows the stairway to the second floor balcony. The wall against which the stairs abuts was removed in 1927 and the space behind it used for a porters' desk area.



Figure 33
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1909
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 34

A view of the west interior side of the lobby and hallway leading to guest rooms. The stone drinking fountain can be seen. The stairway leads to the basement where the original bar was located. The walls to the left of the stairs and behind the drinking fountain were removed in 1927. Support timbers in line with the outer edge of the balcony replaced the walls.

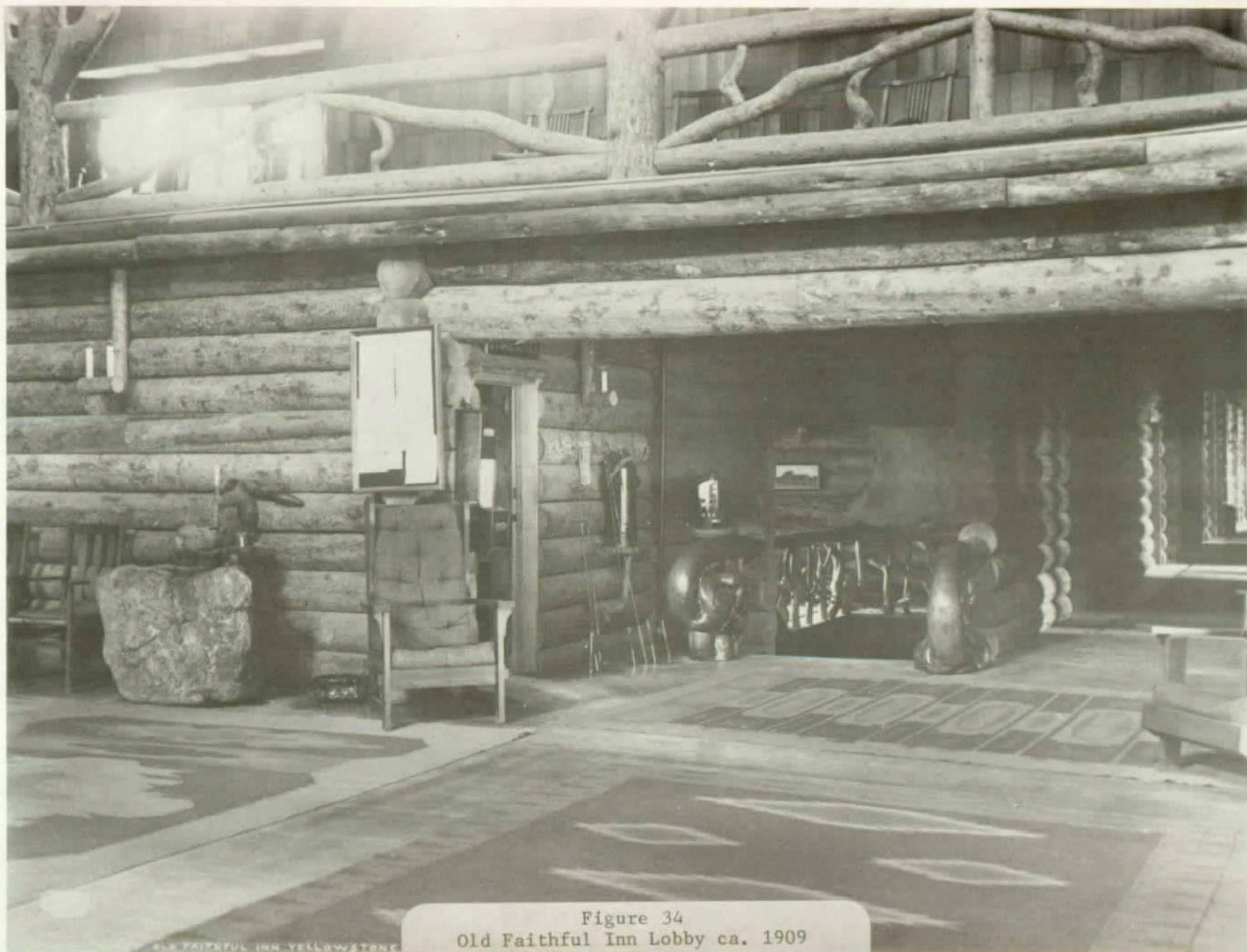


Figure 34
Old Faithful Inn Lobby ca. 1909
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 35

A view of the west interior side of the lobby from a slightly different angle than the previous figure. The wall beneath the balcony which abuts the front wall was removed about 1915 to allow a gift shop to be installed in that area.

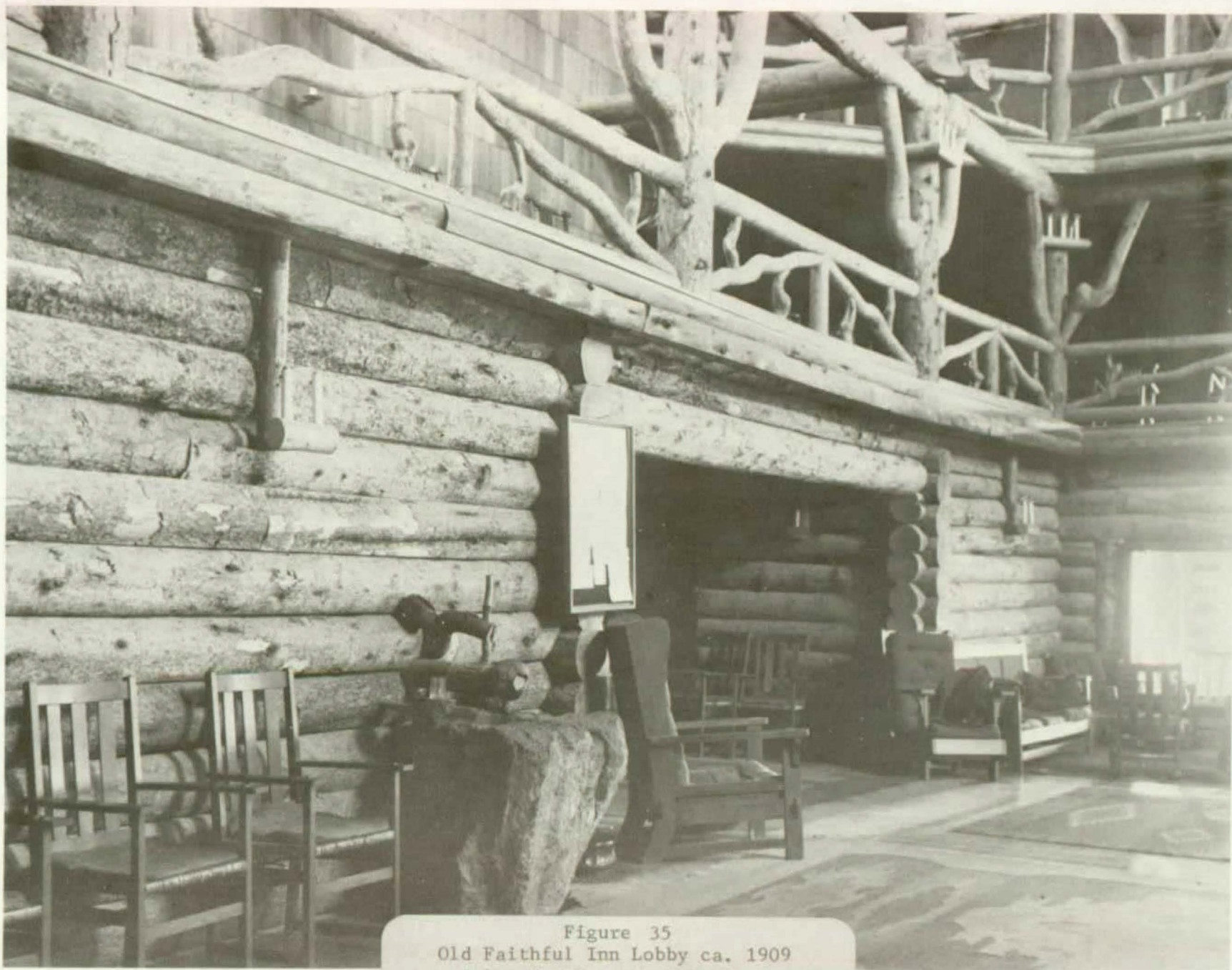


Figure 35
Old Faithful Inn Lobby ca. 1909
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 36

A photograph of the interior front of the lobby. Details on the front door can be seen as well as the entrance to the newly installed gift shop mentioned in the previous figure.



Figure 36
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1917
Haynes Foundation

Figure 37

A view of the interior northeast corner of the lobby. The support timber columns with their bracing and brackets of gnarled branches are visible on several floors.

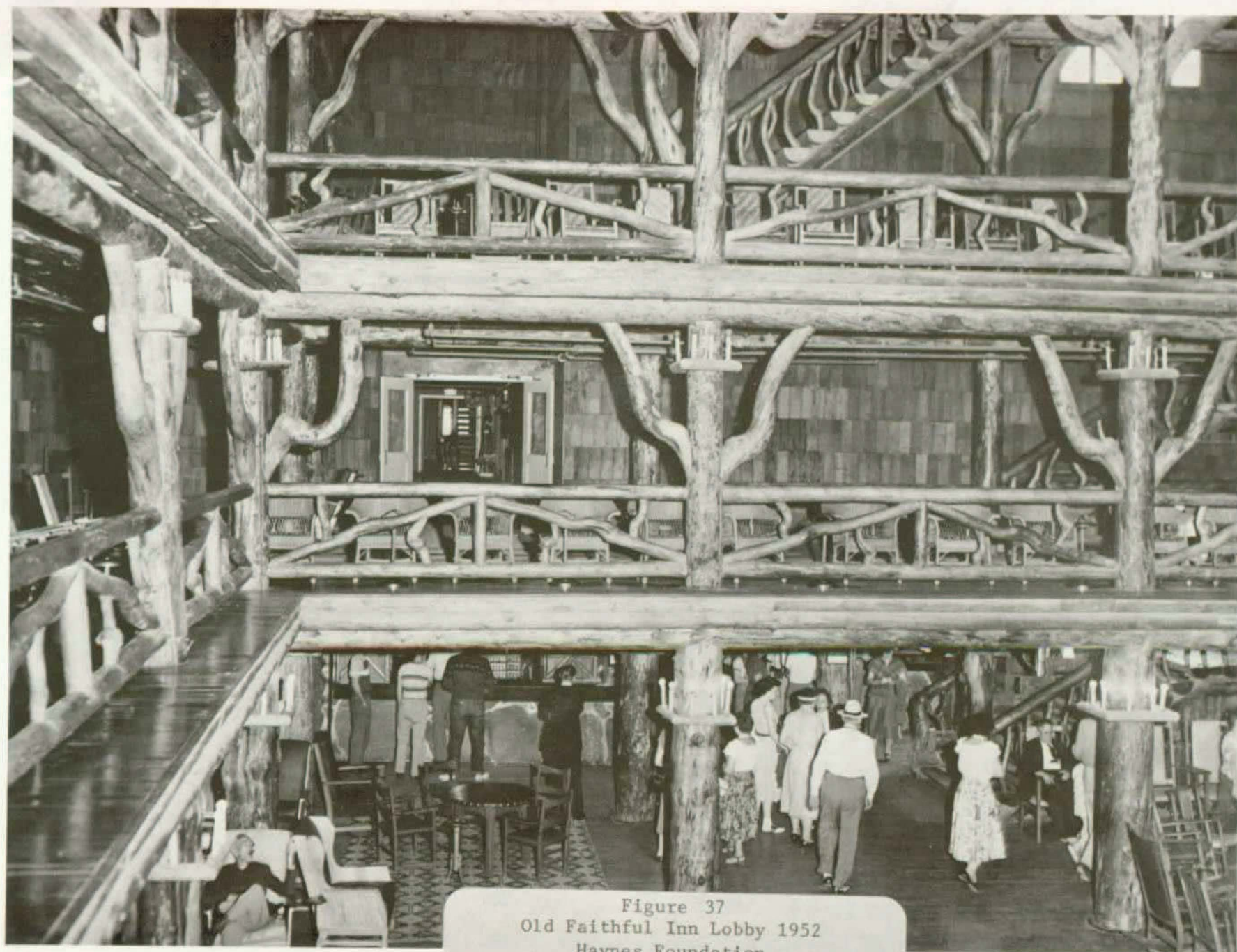


Figure 37
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1952
Haynes Foundation

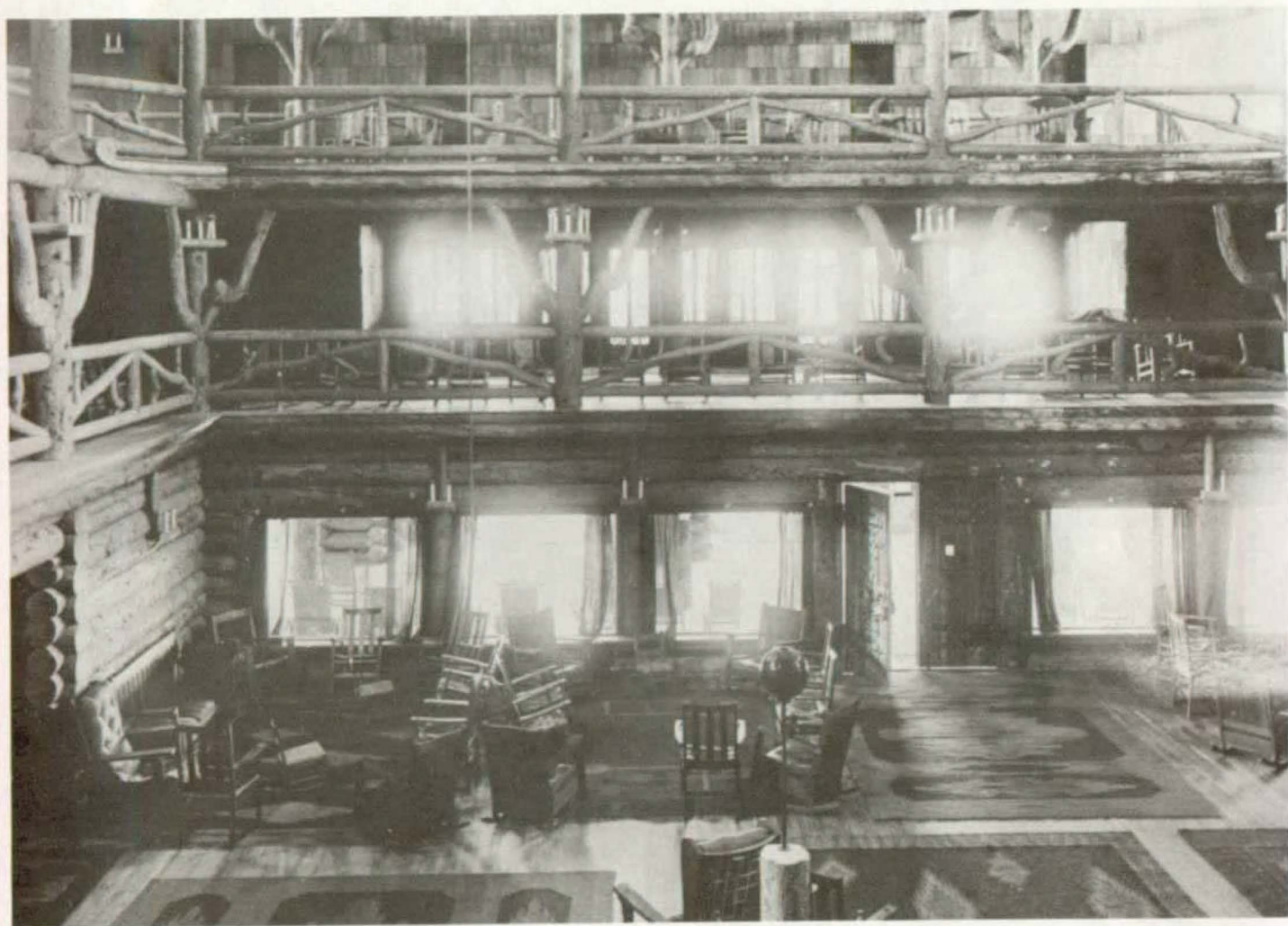


Figure 38
Old Faithful Inn Lobby 1905
Haynes Foundation

A view of the original front of the lobby's interior. In 1927 the ground floor front wall was moved forward beneath the porte-cochere.

support. When those walls were removed in the 1923 and 1927 renovations, supplemental support column timbers replaced the room walls. In the latter year more support columns were placed in the lobby extension.

Besides the spaciousness, the lobby provided guests with a comfortable relaxed feeling. To get to the registration desk which was situated in the southwest corner, the guest trod upon a rug covered pine floor. The registration desk was unique, for the counter was supported by native stone. A stage office was located in a room on the west side of the lobby next to the registration desk (figure 30). A fireplace obelisk of imposing dimension was found on the opposite side of the lobby. Sixteen feet square at the base, it towered upward to the ceiling. Inside the Inn the stack was constructed from lava stone obtained from Blacksand Basin, but above the roof line the chimney was made of brick, on the outside of which there was log cribbing. The chimney stack contained four large and four small fire boxes (figures 39-45). A large clock, designed by Reamer, hung on one face of the fireplace. A rail placed on two sides of the chimney stack prevented direct guest traffic from disrupting the quietude of those seated in chairs inside the cordoned area. About 1910 the rail on gate side was removed only to be replaced around 1917. It was permanently taken out in 1923, and the other rail was also removed by 1927. A bay window with bench seats was located on the east side of the fireplace. It was partly secluded by a stairway leading to the second floor balcony. The stair steps, like those on many of the other stairways in the old part of the Inn, were made of split pine logs. The banister posts were composed of gnarled tree branches. Beginning with those stairs, an individual could climb past two balconies and suspended porches to the highest reaches of the lobby. At the highest point Reamer designed a small, open room called the "Crow's Nest." It was complete with its own roof. In the earliest years of the Inn, musicians congregated in that location to play for the guests.

The light fixtures, which Reamer designed, blended with the structure's rustic design. Imitation candlesticks with incandescent bulbs

Figure 39

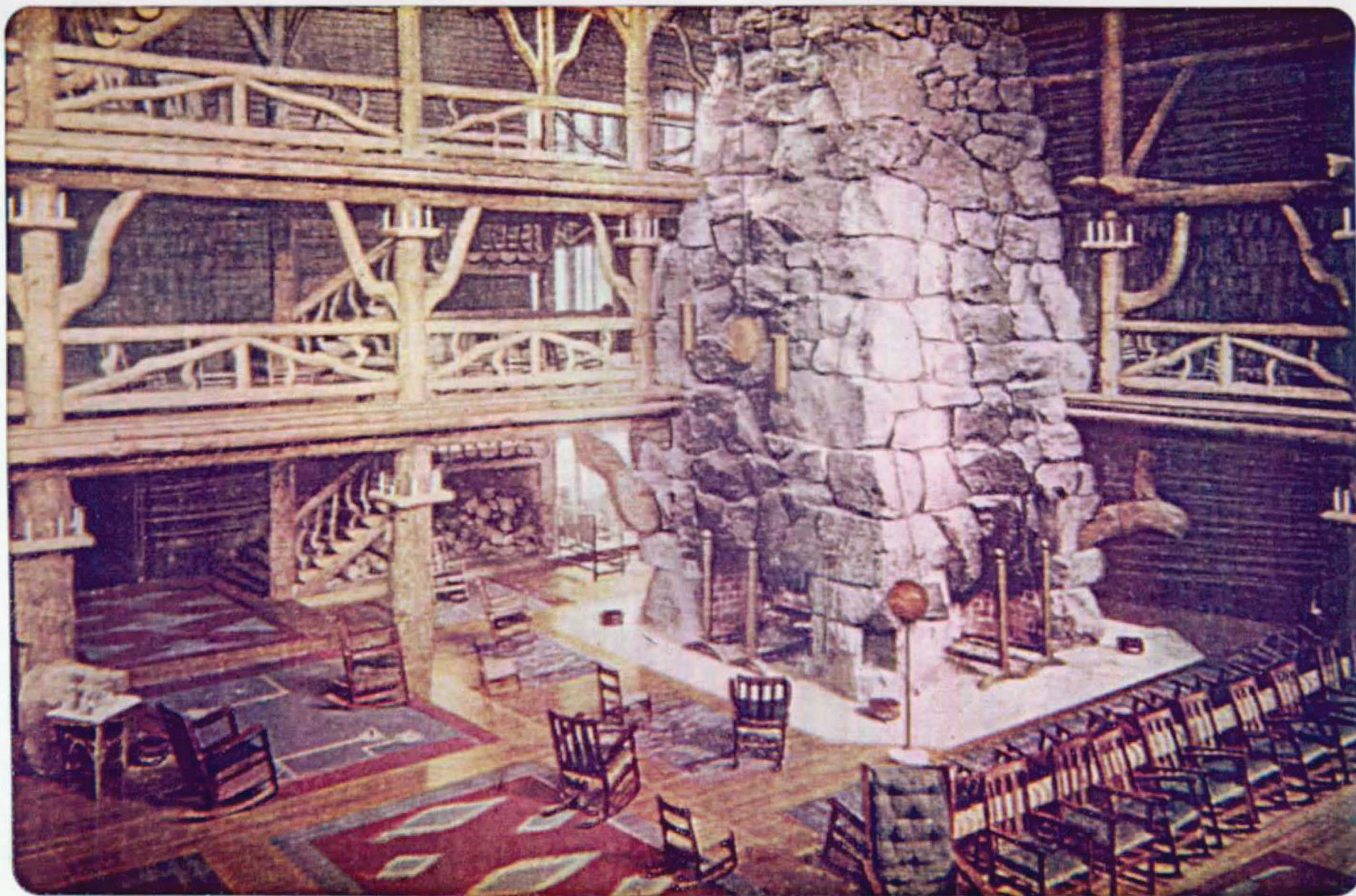
A photograph of the massive stone fireplace with its large iron clock designed by Robert Reamer.



Figure 39
Lobby and Fireplace 1907
Wyoming Historical Society

Figure 40
Lobby and Fireplace ca. 1910

This Xerox of a colored slide shows the fireplace and lobby detail as well as the rug coloration.



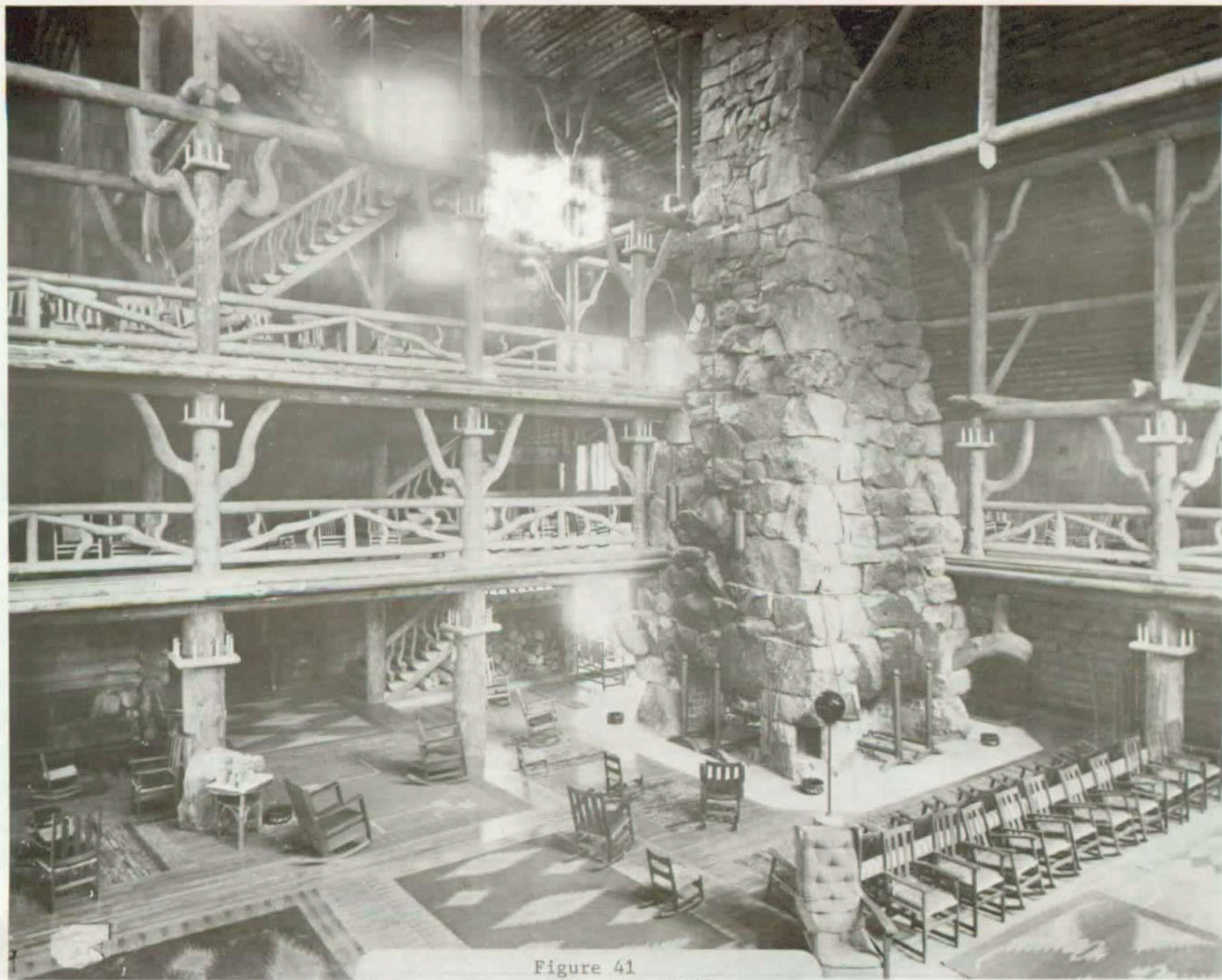


Figure 41
Lobby and Fireplace 1905
Colorado Historical Society



Figure 42
Lobby and Fireplace ca. 1910
Henry Ford Museum

Figure 43

A photograph of the fireplace which reveals that the concrete area around the base has been replaced and extended slightly. That task was accomplished in 1926.



Figure 43
Lobby and Fireplace ca. 1929
National Archives

Figure 44

A view of the fireplace corner of the lobby. One can now observe that the wall which abutted the ground floor stairway has been removed. A support timber was used to bear the weight once held by the wall.



Figure 44
Lobby and Fireplace 1929
Haynes Foundation



Figure 45
Lobby and Fireplace 1936
Haynes Foundation

resembling flames were mounted on small logs which ringed the support columns on the first three floors. In addition small logs fashioned in an L shape contained similar imitation candlesticks. Those latter lights were periodically fixed to the lobby, hall, and ground floor guest room walls (figures 30-48).

Hallways off the east and west sides of the lobby led to the guest accommodations. Part way along the west hall a stairway with a large newel post led to the second floor (figure 46). Halls on the second and third floors, leading from the balconies, paralleled the ones on the ground floor. The original part of the Inn had 120 rooms, fifty of which were used to house female employees until the girls' dormitory was constructed in 1922. Rooms on the ground floor (figures 47-49) differed from those on the upper levels. The first floor rooms had a rustic log decor while the ones on the above floors were finished with rough, unpainted pine boards (figure 50). Room numbers were made of metal and produced on the site (figure 48).

The dining area was located behind the lobby (figures 51-56). Its entrance contained smaller double doors similar to the ones found at the main entrance. These doors also had iron hinges forged on site. Inside, this log room was open to the roof, which, like the underside of the lobby roof, was veneered with split logs. However, unlike the upper reaches of the lobby, the dining room roof was supported by a series of scissor trusses reinforced with turnbuckled iron rods and gusset plates. A stone masonry fireplace was located against the south wall. As opposed to the lobby fireplace, the stone continued above the roof line and had no log cribbing at that point. The firebox contained a spit and oven.²⁴ A decorative partition on the west concealed the kitchen entrance.

24. A.B. Gaptill, Haynes Guide to Yellowstone Park: A Practical Hand Book Containing Accurate and Concise Descriptions of the Entire Park Region, Maps, Distances, Altitudes, Geyser Time Tables and all Necessary Information, Profusely Illustrated, (St. Paul: Illustrated and Published by F. Jay Haynes, 1908) p. 57.

Figure 46

A photograph of the hall stairway in the original west wing shows its large newel post.



Figure 46
West Hall Stairway ca. 1905
Colorado Historical Society

1018200- REAR HALL AND CORR.

Figure 47

A view of a first floor room in the original east wing with its rustic decor. Presently numbered room 46, it retains its original appearance down to even the window latches.



Figure 47
First Floor Room 1904
Haynes Foundation



Figure 48
First Floor Room 1909
Colorado Historical Society

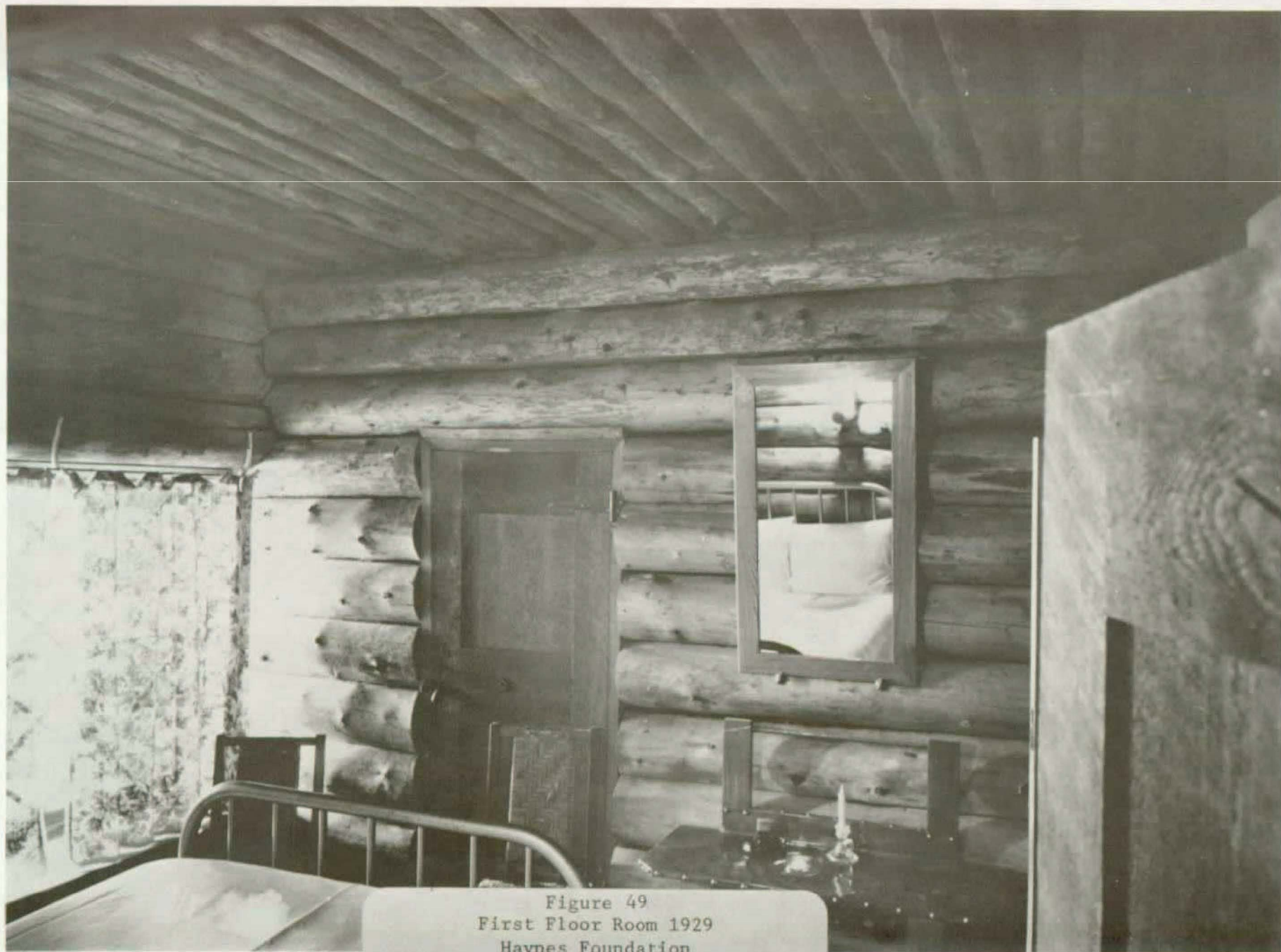


Figure 49
First Floor Room 1929
Haynes Foundation

Figure 50

A photograph of a second floor room in the original west wing showing the rough, unpainted pine boards used on the walls and ceiling. The window on the right was removed in 1927 when the new west wing was added.



Figure 50
Upper Floor Room ca. 1905
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 51

A photograph of the original dining room. It reveals a different roof support system from the lobby, for here Reamer used a series of scissor trusses reinforced with turnbuckled iron rods and gusset plates. The stone fireplace was severely damaged in the 1959 earthquake necessitating its removal to the hearth.



Figure 51
Original Dining Room 1905
Colorado Historical Society

Figure 52

Another view of the original dining room showing the family style dining as well as the place setting detail.



Figure 52
Original Dining Room ca. 1905
Henry Ford Museum

Figure 53

A photograph of the original dining room. The windows in the upper portion of the far gable wall were removed in 1968.



Figure 53
Original Dining Room ca. 1907
Minnesota Historical Society

Figure 54
Original Dining Room ca. 1907

This Xerox of a colored slide is a copy of the previous figure.

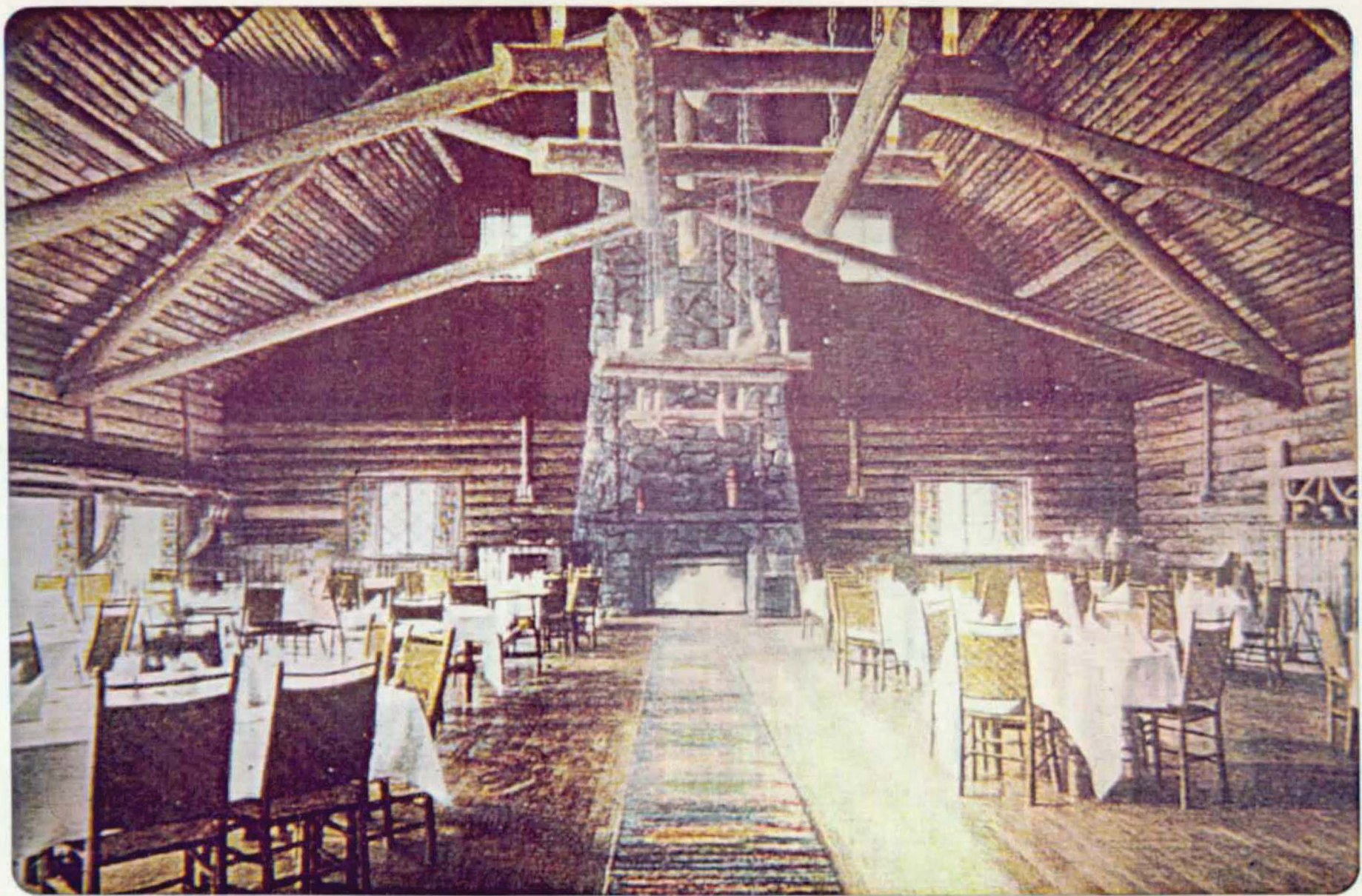


Figure 55

A view of the original dining room. It reveals that the two lower windows on either side of the fireplace have been converted to doorways to the 1921-22 south dining area extension.



Figure 55
Original Dining Room 1923
Haynes Foundation



Figure 56
Original Dining Room 1928
Haynes Foundation

EXTERIOR MODIFICATIONS

A) The East Wing

The first major modification made to the Inn occurred in the 1913-14 period. Robert Reamer returned to supervise an east wing addition (figure 57) which provided over 100 more guest rooms (see appendix A-floor plan of 1913 changes). Once again the Northern Pacific provided the construction funds which amounted to \$100,000.²⁵

Reamer designed the east wing with some log features, but it had a flat tar and gravel roof with a slight mansard overhang. Cedar shingle siding covered the exterior walls. A passageway connected the east wing to the old house. One guest room in the original structure was converted into a hall for access to the passageway. The guest room interiors were plastered (figure 58). Except for minor repairs, interior painting, and a new tar and gravel roof in 1966, the east wing has not changed.

B) The West Wing

In 1927 Robert Reamer designed a new west wing for the Old Faithful Inn which had 150 guest rooms and ninety-five bathrooms. Harry Child decided to construct the addition because the Northern Pacific, Union Pacific, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Milwaukee Railroads pressured him to increase the park housing to accommodate the large groups of people they were bringing to Yellowstone.²⁶ Those four railroads jointly provided the construction loan.

Child hired a construction firm named Teufel and Carlson to build the addition. It began work to excavate for the footings in late

25. Thomas Cooper to Howard Elliott, June 16, 1913, President's Subject File 209A, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

26. In 1917 the Northern Pacific ceased to be the sole financier for Harry Child's park operations. The three other above named railroads combined with the Northern Pacific to make joint loans.

Figure 57

A view of the 1913 east wing with its flat roof which had a slight mansard overhang.



Figure 57
View of East Wing 1917
Yellowstone National Park

Figure 58

A guest room in the new wing reveals plaster walls instead of a rustic design.

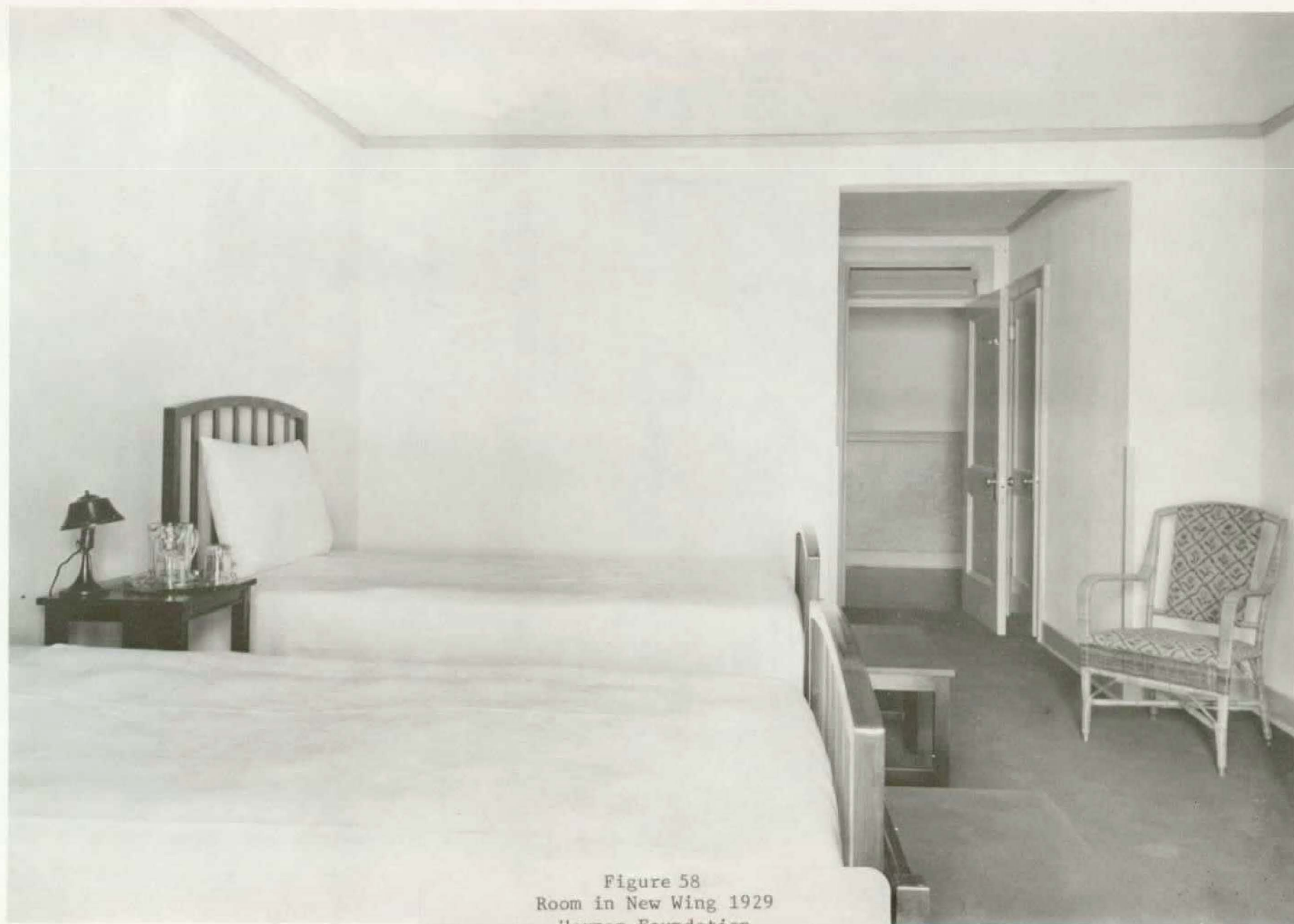


Figure 58
Room in New Wing 1929
Haynes Foundation

June. By mid-August the wing was half completed. It was finished before the end of the 1927 season at a cost of \$209,848.08 (figures 59-60).²⁷

The west wing differed somewhat in appearance from the 1913 east wing. It was laid out in the shape of a Y with the base of that design attached to the original structure. It, too, had a flat tar and gravel roof with a slight mansard overhang. The mansard portion differed from the 1913 east wing, for the pitch was steeper and it contained a series of small dormers. It, like the other addition, had shingle siding. Interior rooms in this addition were also plastered. Aside from a new tar and gravel roof in 1974 and minor repairs, the west wing remains unchanged.

C) Dining Room Additions

In June 1920 the Yellowstone Park Hotel Company constructed a temporary canvas roofed addition on the south end of the dining room to accommodate the increased number of tourists. That structure served the visitor needs for two seasons while Reamer made plans to remove it and build a 50x51 feet permanent log room. Work on the permanent structure began in September 1921 with the cutting of trees in the vicinity. All of the logs necessary to fabricate the room had been brought to the site by October when work was suspended until the next spring. In June 1922 the room was completed including heat and lights (see appendix A-floor plan of 1921-22 changes).

27. Superintendent's Monthly Report for June 1927, p. 12; Superintendent's Monthly Report of October 1927, p. 6, Yellowstone National Park, Central Classified File, 1907-1949, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Annual Report for Yellowstone National Park 1927, p. 25, in the Yellowstone National Park Library; H.W. Child to Charles Connelly, September 13, 1927, President's Subject File 209B, Northern Pacific Railroad Records; Report for the Year Ended September 30, 1928, Utility Operators, Yellowstone Park Hotel Company Reports 1907-32, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, National Archives, Washington, D.C.



Figure 59
West Wing under Construction 1927
Haynes Foundation



Figure 60
West Wing under Construction 1927
National Archives

The floor consisted of 3/8-inch thick oak which was replaced after the 1959 earthquake. The two lower south windows of the original dining area were removed and doorways installed for entrances to the addition.²⁸

A second room was attached to the original dining room in 1927 (see appendix A-floor plan of 1927 changes). Robert Reamer designed that multi-sided addition. Work began on September 6 and was completed by mid-November.²⁹ The east wall of the original dining room was removed and replaced by three columns. Those columns, the beams spanning between them, interior columns, and some ceiling boards were etched with designs and pictures of park wildlife (figure 61). In addition to the opening between the original dining room and the new area, a window was removed from the southeast corner of the lobby in the region behind the fireplace and converted to an entrance for the new room.

D) The Kitchen

Several modifications have been made to the kitchen. In 1923 an exterior cement platform was constructed in the rear at a cost of \$742.00. Reamer designed extensive changes in 1929. Room additions were built on the southeast and southwest sides while walls were moved to substantially change the interior appearance (see appendix A-floor plan of 1929 changes). Those improvements cost the Yellowstone Park Hotel Company \$27,446.80. A new floor was installed in 1948, 1960 and again in 1976. The latter was composed of quarry tile. Concrete was first

28. Superintendent's Monthly Reports for June 1920, p. 13, October 1921, p. 9, and June 1922, p. 16, Yellowstone National Park, Central Classified File, 1907-1949; Report on Earthquake damage to Yellowstone Park Company Facilities by Thomas Hallin to John Nichols, October 1, 1959, in the Yellowstone Park Company Maintenance Files.

29. H.W. Child to Charles Donnelly, September 13, 1927, President's Subject File 209B, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

Figure 61

A view of the interior of the side dining room which was constructed in 1927. It reveals the etched design on the columns, beams spanning between them, and some ceiling boards. In 1962 this room was converted into the Bear Pit.



Figure 61
Interior of Side Dining Room 1928
Haynes Foundation

poured to shore up the floor enabling it to bear the weight of the quarry tile.³⁰

E) Lobby, Porte-Cochere, and Guest Room Wall Extensions

Enlargement of the lobby began on September 6, 1927 and was completed by mid-November of that year (figure 62).³¹ The original front lobby wall was removed and extended forward under the porte-cochere to the innermost row of the porte-cochere support cribbing (see appendix A-floor plan of 1927 changes). The inner four of those six cribbed supports were removed to accommodate the new front wall. The side walls of the lobby extension were not placed in line with the width of the old lobby, but were situated several feet wider on either side. The cribbed corners on both exterior sides of the old front lobby wall were removed to accommodate the extra space inside the new lobby area. These two cribbs were replaced by support timbers at the juncture of the new side walls and the original structure. Inside, a series of support timber columns replaced the old front wall. Large plate glass windows were installed in the side walls while the original door and windows were placed in the new front wall. The old area of the porte-cochere under which vehicles drove was filled with a concrete walkway. On the east side the concrete area was extended beyond the porte-cochere to form an area where tourists could sit in front of the Inn.

At the same time as the lobby enlargement, the porte-cochere was extended to form a new area under which vehicles drove (Figure 62). The lengthened front rested on a new row of six cribbed supports while

30. Reports for the Years Ended September 30, 1923 and September 30, 1929, Utility Operators, Yellowstone Park Hotel Company Reports 1907-32, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service; Yellowstone Park Company Hotel Division Reports on Improvements, June 17, 1948, Buildings, Yellowstone Park Company January 1, 1948-June 30, 1948, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service, Regional Archives, Denver, Colorado; Interview of John King, Chief of Maintenance Yellowstone Park Company, by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

31. H.W. Child to Charles Donnelly, September 13, 1927, President's Subject File 209B, Northern Pacific Railroad Records.

the old first row of supports was changed to accommodate the log beams on which the floor of the veranda extension rested. All six of those old cribbed supports were removed as well as their stone bases. Only the two side cribs were replaced in a modified form. Those now truncated columns were set on the concrete which filled the old driveway. The inner four cribbed supports were exchanged for large timbers. A rustic railing enclosed the new uncovered veranda extension. That porch was slightly lower than the original veranda. By 1956 the porte-cochere's cribbed supports had weakened, probably through deterioration. They were removed in that year and reconstructed around steel beams which now bore the veranda weight. The cost of that operation was \$2,261.64.³²

The exterior wall of the front first five guest rooms in the old west wing was removed at the time the lobby was extended and moved forward. The interior walls of those guest rooms were removed at the same time and the space converted into a store/gift shop.

F) The Original Bear Pit (Cocktail Lounge)

Robert Reamer's last project in connection with the Inn involved designing a cocktail lounge addition which was located in the ell between the kitchen and the west wing of the old house. It was known as the Bear Pit (see appendix A-floor plan of 1936 changes). The project was conceived in 1935 and constructed the following year.³³ It consisted of a flat roofed area divided into two rooms, the smaller of which was used as a service area. The exterior south wall of one bedroom in the old west wing was removed to allow a niche off the main room. Patrons were given a choice of three entrances. Two doorways were located in the southwest

32. John King to Berle Clemensen, June 18, 1979; Annual Financial Statement of the Yellowstone Park Company, September 30, 1956, in the Yellowstone Park Company Financial Office.

33. William M. Nichols to Roger Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, February 5, 1935, Buildings, Yellowstone Park Hotel Company, Yellowstone National Park Central Classified File, 1933-1949, RG 79, Records of the National Park Service; Annual Report for Yellowstone National Park 1936, p. 33, in the Yellowstone National Park Library.

Figure 62

A photograph of the 1927 porte-cochere extension, the top of which serves as an addition to the veranda.



Figure 62
View of Porte-cochere Extension 1935
Haynes Foundation

corner of the lobby and a third was cut through the northwest corner wall of the old dining room. One of the two lobby entrances had served as an outside exit while the other replaced a window. The Bear Pit contained etched panels showing bears performing various barroom tasks such as tending bar or playing a piano. These panels were removed in 1962 when the Bear Pit was relocated and placed in storage.

G) The Roof

As previously stated, the original roof was covered with cedar shingles which were painted red. In 1926 the original shingles were removed and the old house was resingled, but only half of the lobby roof and half of the kitchen roof was repainted red. Presumably, only those portions most visible to the public were painted. The entire roof of the old house was painted red in 1932. During the 1947-48 seasons, the roof of the original structure, except the dining room, was once again shingled. The 1926 singles were not removed. Although the Yellowstone Park Company planned to paint the new shingles red, the task was never accomplished, perhaps because the Park Service Regional Director in Omaha objected to the shade of red which had been previously used. He wanted a darker tone such as a maroon color. The dining room shingles were replaced in 1953. Both the roofs on the original dining room and the 1922 south addition sustained considerable damage during the 1959 earthquake when the dining room fireplace collapsed. Falling rock made approximately forty holes in those roofs. Two of the rocks caused four foot holes in the south addition roof. All holes were patched. The two brick chimneys on the kitchen roof were removed and capped at the same time. They had not been used since the stoves were converted to gas in 1949. Cedar shingles were placed on the fireplace (back) side of the main lobby roof and on the original dining room roof in 1966. These shingles also remained unpainted.³⁴

34. Annual Reports for Yellowstone National Park 1926, p. 30, and 1932, p. 18; Superintendent's Monthly Report for July 1926, p. 12, Yellowstone National Park, Central Classified File 1907-1949; Annual Financial Statement of the Yellowstone Park Company, September 30, 1947; Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, to Huntley

H) Siding Shingles

The siding shingles on Old Faithful Inn were made of cedar which, on the old house, measured 36x6 inches. They were never painted, only allowed to weather to a natural brown. In 1964 the siding shingles on the old house which were missing or cracked were replaced. All the shingles were then coated with a Sherwin Williams oil stain so they would all have an even natural color.³⁵

INTERIOR MODIFICATIONS

A) The Lobby

Although not readily apparent to an individual entering the present lobby numerous modifications have occurred in that area. Besides the railing removals discussed earlier, one guest room wall in the northwest corner of the lobby was removed about 1915 and the space converted to an art shop (see appendix A-floor plan of ca. 1915 changes).

Several changes occurred in 1923 (see appendix A-floor plan of 1923 changes). The registration desk was moved from the southwest to the northeast corner. Two walls of a guest room were removed to accommodate the desk. The new desk counter, like the other one, rested on native stone. Opposite the new registration desk, behind the stairs, two guest rooms were removed to make space for a bellhops' desk. It was a smaller version of the guest registration desk. An exit door was cut through the back wall near the bellhops' desk. Since one wall of the

Child, Jr., June 20, 1947, Buildings, Yellowstone Park Company, January 1, 1944-December 31, 1947; Yellowstone Park Company Ledger Book, 1952-56, in the Yellowstone Park Company Financial Office; Report on Earthquake damage to Yellowstone Park Company Facilities, by Thomas Hallin to John Nichols, October 1, 1959; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

35. Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region Two from Superintendent Edmund B. Rogers, May 28, 1947, Buildings, Yellowstone Park Company, January 1, 1944-December 31, 1947; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

two guest rooms which were dismantled had rested against the stairway to the second floor balcony, its removal left an open stairs. A bannister with gnarled posts was constructed on the side formerly occupied by the wall. In addition several new large support timber columns were added to bear the weight previously held by the guest room walls. F. Jay Haynes opened a photo shop in the location of the old registration desk.³⁶ It probably operated only until the lobby was remodeled in 1927.

In 1926 a new concrete floor was laid around the fireplace.³⁷

At the time the lobby was extended in 1927, the front five rooms in the original west wing were removed to make space for a store/gift shop complex. More space was created for that area by moving the exterior wall of those rooms forward. In addition the walls of the old stage office were taken out and replaced by three support timber columns.

When the Bear Pit was built in 1936, two entrances were made from the west side of the lobby. One entrance was cut through an existing window while the other was formed from the old exit door. In 1962, when the Bear Pit was converted to the snack bar/coffee shop, the farthest southwest entrance between the lobby and that room was enclosed (see appendix A-floor plan of 1962 changes).³⁸

In 1940 all of the lobby logs were scraped and treated. The scraping removed the bark. In addition all three of the original ground floor support timber columns were replaced. One of those new timbers was sawed in half and hollowed so that it could be placed around a steel

36. Superintendent's Monthly Reports for October 1921, June 1923, and October 1923, Yellowstone National Park Central Classified File, 1907-1949.

37. Superintendent's Monthly Report for October 1926.

38. William M. Nichols to Edmund Rogers, Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, October 14, 1936, Yellowstone Park Company, Yellowstone National Park Central Classified File, 1933-1949.

support beam. About that same time a new maple floor was laid in the lobby. In addition, the art shop was remodeled.³⁹

About 1943 three of the purlins involved in the upper area truss system were doubled with diagonal timbers placed under them. Heavy snow in that year, which threatened to collapse the south side of the lobby roof, made the added support necessary. One of these double purlins can be seen in figure 67 with its diagonal brace propped against the fireplace. All three areas of additional trussing can be easily identified, for the timbers are slightly darker in color than the original timbers.

An earthquake in 1959 caused some damage to the lobby chimney stack. The brick inside the log cribbing above the roof line collapsed and some brick fell inside the flues, blocking two of the four flues. As a result only fireboxes which faced the lobby and cocktail lounge could be used for fires. Above the roof line the brick and cribbing were removed. A concrete cap with anchors was poured on the stone at that point and the present forty feet high, self-supporting steel stack was installed.⁴⁰

In 1964 an Indian gift shop was installed in the northwest corner of the 1927 lobby extension (see appendix A-floor plan of 1964 changes).⁴¹ Probably about the same time, a travel office was constructed in the southwest corner on the site once occupied by the original registration desk.

39. Annual Report for Yellowstone National Park 1940, p. 27.

40. Report on Earthquake damages to Yellowstone Park Company Facilities, by Thomas Hallin to John Nichols, October 1, 1959.

41. Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.



Figure 63
Double Purlin and Diagonal Brace 1952
Haynes Foundation

A photograph which shows one of the double purlins and its diagonal brace propped against the fireplace. The reinforcing of the upper truss system occurred about 1943.

The entire lobby was cleansed with compressed air in 1971 and all the wood, including the support columns, trussing, and underside of the roof, was coated with a clear satin varnish.⁴²

B) The Dining Areas

The floor of the original dining room was planed in 1921. About 1940 its floor was replaced with the present one. The original and south dining rooms sustained the greatest damage of any of the Inn's areas during the 1959 earthquake. The fireplace was cracked to within four feet from its hearth. As a result it was removed to the firebox. A tapered metal panel was used to replace the interior chimney and breast. Two large rocks fell from the chimney above the ridge line and penetrated the south dining room roof. One of those rocks struck a sprinkler pipe causing the floor to be flooded while the other broke through the floor. As a result the south dining room floor was replaced. In 1968 the windows located high on the south wall of the original dining room were removed and the spaces were enclosed.⁴³

The side or east dining area was converted to a cocktail lounge (Bear Pit) in 1962. A wall was placed between the three outer columns to allow partial seclusion from the original dining room (see appendix A-floor plan of 1962 changes).

C) Kitchen

The first description of the kitchen, although brief, was penned by a Department of the Interior inspector in 1916. He stated that a French chef was in charge of the kitchen which was neat and clean.

42. John King to Berle Clemensen, June 18, 1979.

43. Superintendent's Monthly Report for October 1921; Interview of John Egger by Berle Clemensen, April 27, 1979; Report on Earthquake damages to Yellowstone Park Company Facilities, by Thomas Hallin to John Nichols, October 1, 1959; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979; John King to Berle Clemensen, June 18, 1979.

Large ice-boxes, cooled by ammonia and brine refrigeration, held grass beef, pork, lamb, corned beef, premium ham and bacon, tongue, and brook trout. In addition to the usual canned goods, the inspector found potatoes, lettuce, radishes, young onions, oranges, and red raspberries. The major interior kitchen change occurred in 1929 with additions to that area. Interior walls were relocated and the pantry was removed. In 1949 propane gas replaced the wood and coal formerly used in the cooking stoves. About 1960 the bakery was discontinued. By the late 1960s convenience meats, stored in a refrigeration system in the basement, replaced the previously used butcher shop arrangement. In addition to painting and general cleaning, new kitchen equipment has been periodically installed.⁴⁴

D) The Bear Pit

When the Bear Pit was moved to the east dining area in 1962, the space which had formerly housed that lounge was converted into the present snack bar/coffee shop.⁴⁵ The farthest doorway south in the southwest corner of the lobby was enclosed. Probably about the same time another entrance was created from the west hall in the old house when a wall between that area and the niche was removed.

E) The East Wing

In 1940 base outlets were placed in all of the rooms and new night lamps were installed. About 1965 the old hot and cold water pipes were removed and replaced by copper pipes.⁴⁶

44. Report on Inspection of Yellowstone, Glacier, Ranier, Crater Lake and Yosemite Parks, by J.A. Hill, inspector, Department of the Interior, 1916, Yellowstone National Park Central Classified file, 1907-1949; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

45. Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

46. Annual Report for Yellowstone National Park 1940, p. 27; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

F) The West Wing

About 1965 the hot and cold water pipes were replaced by copper ones. In the period from 1975 through 1977, 100 rooms were renovated with new bathroom fixtures, paneling, and carpeting.⁴⁷

G) Fire Protection

The original fire equipment as seen in figure 48 was a series of hoses on reels placed in the halls. Fire escapes were attached to the building's exterior. In 1925 the existing fire escapes were extended to the ground and additional ladders were built on the rear of the old house. A new 500 gallon per minute fire pump was also put into service. More escapes were placed on the exterior in the following year. In the 1947-48 period a Grinnel sprinkler system was installed at the demand of the National Park Service for greater fire protection. It cost approximately \$55,000. The following year forty-eight fire doors were placed in the halls to retard the horizontal spread of smoke. Although the Park Service also suggested that stairways be enclosed, that task was never accomplished.⁴⁸

H) General

In 1916 the Interior Department inspector stated that the Inn contained a barbershop, beauty shop, tailor shop, "unique" bar, and a dispensary. All but the dispensary were undoubtedly located in the basement. The dispensary was housed on the ground floor of the old house in the room presently occupied by the beauty shop. At an

47. Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

48. Annual Report for Yellowstone National Park 1925, pp. 31-32, and 1926, p. 30; Memorandum for the Regional Director, Region Two, from Edmund Rogers, November 3, 1947; Buildings Yellowstone Park Company, January 1, 1944-December 31, 1947; Yellowstone Park Company Annual Financial Statement, September 30, 1949; Interview of John Egger by Berle Clemensen, April 27, 1979.

unknown date the dispensary was moved to a room across the hall and the beauty shop was installed in its place.⁴⁹

In June 1927 one additional light fixture was installed in seventy-five rooms of the old house.⁵⁰

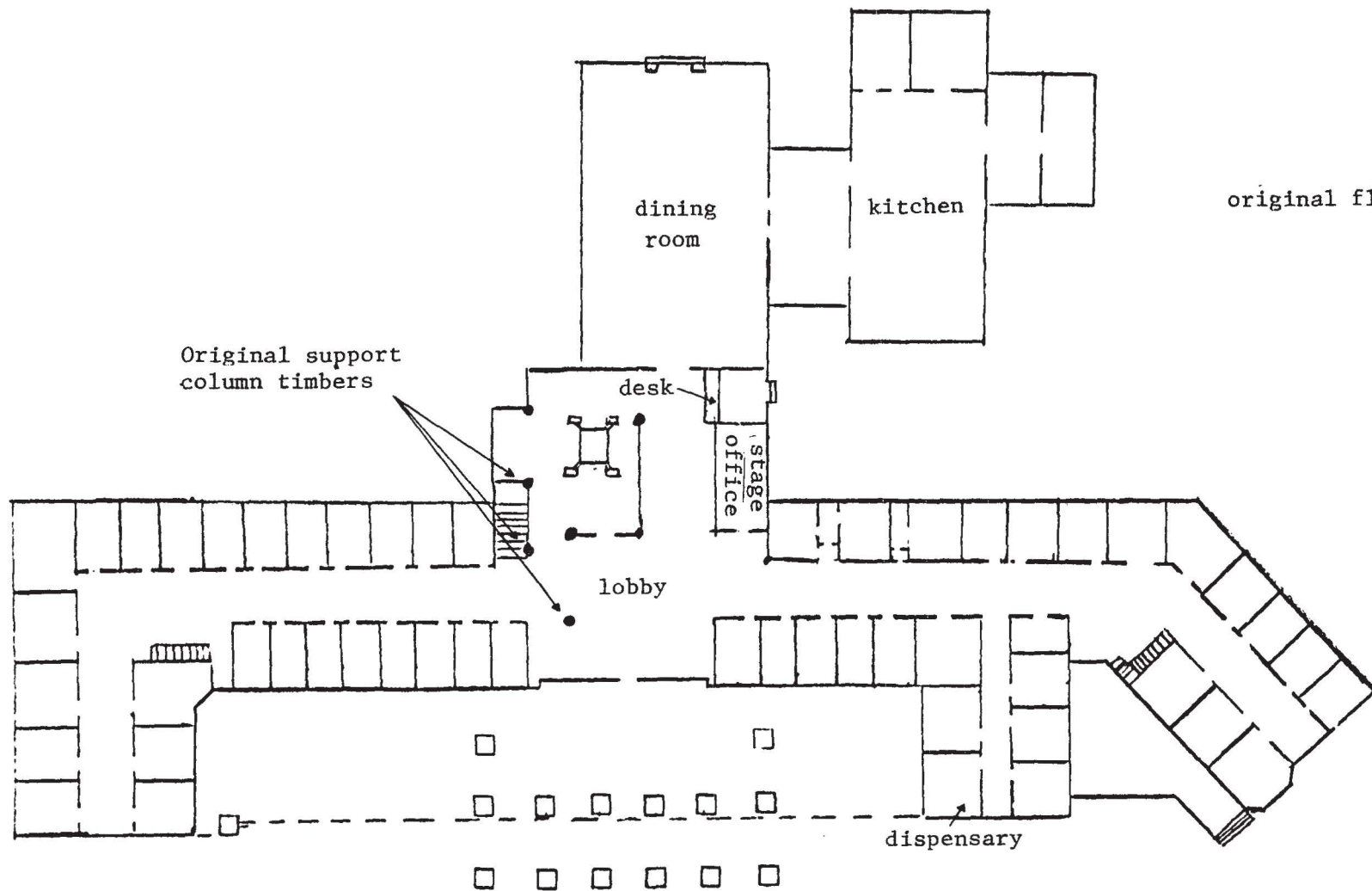
Approximately in the late 1960s, the original galvanized hot and cold water pipes were removed from the old house and replaced with copper pipe.⁵¹

49. Report on Inspection of Yellowstone, Galcier, Ranier, Crater Lake and Yosemite Parks, by J.A. Hill, inspector, Department of the Interior, 1916; Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

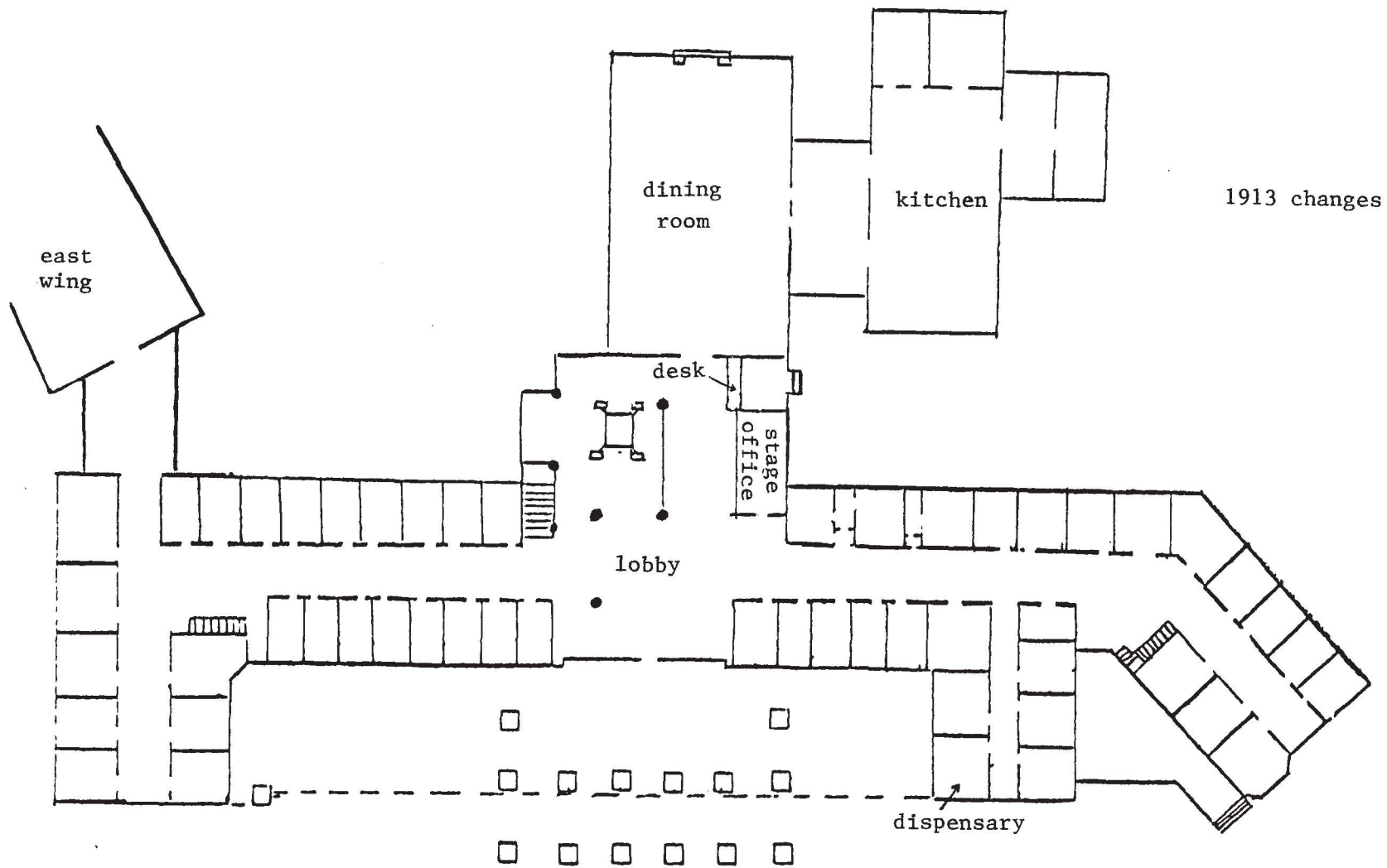
50. Superintendent's Monthly Report for June 1927, p. 12.

51. Interview of John King by Berle Clemensen, April 5, 1979.

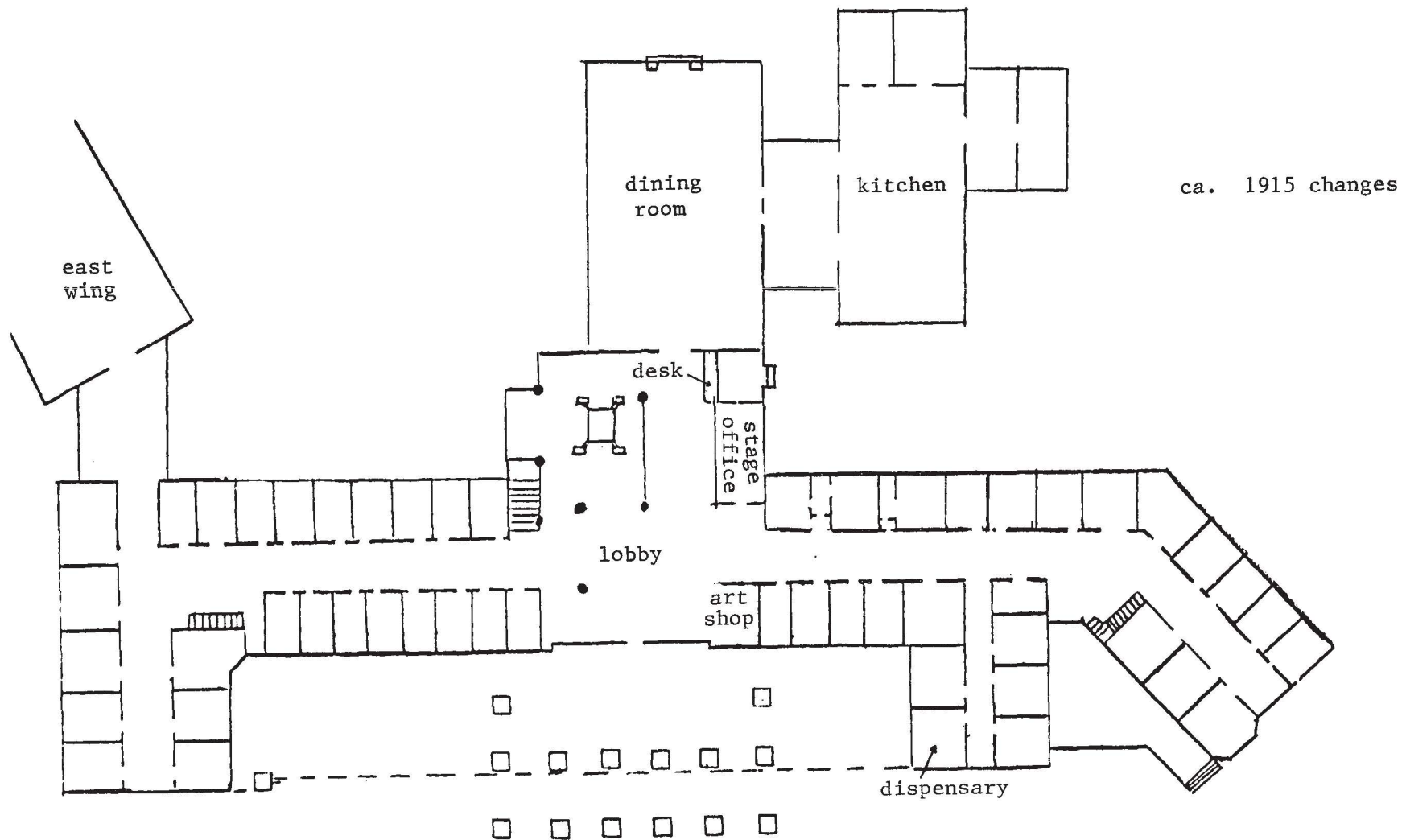
APPENDIX A



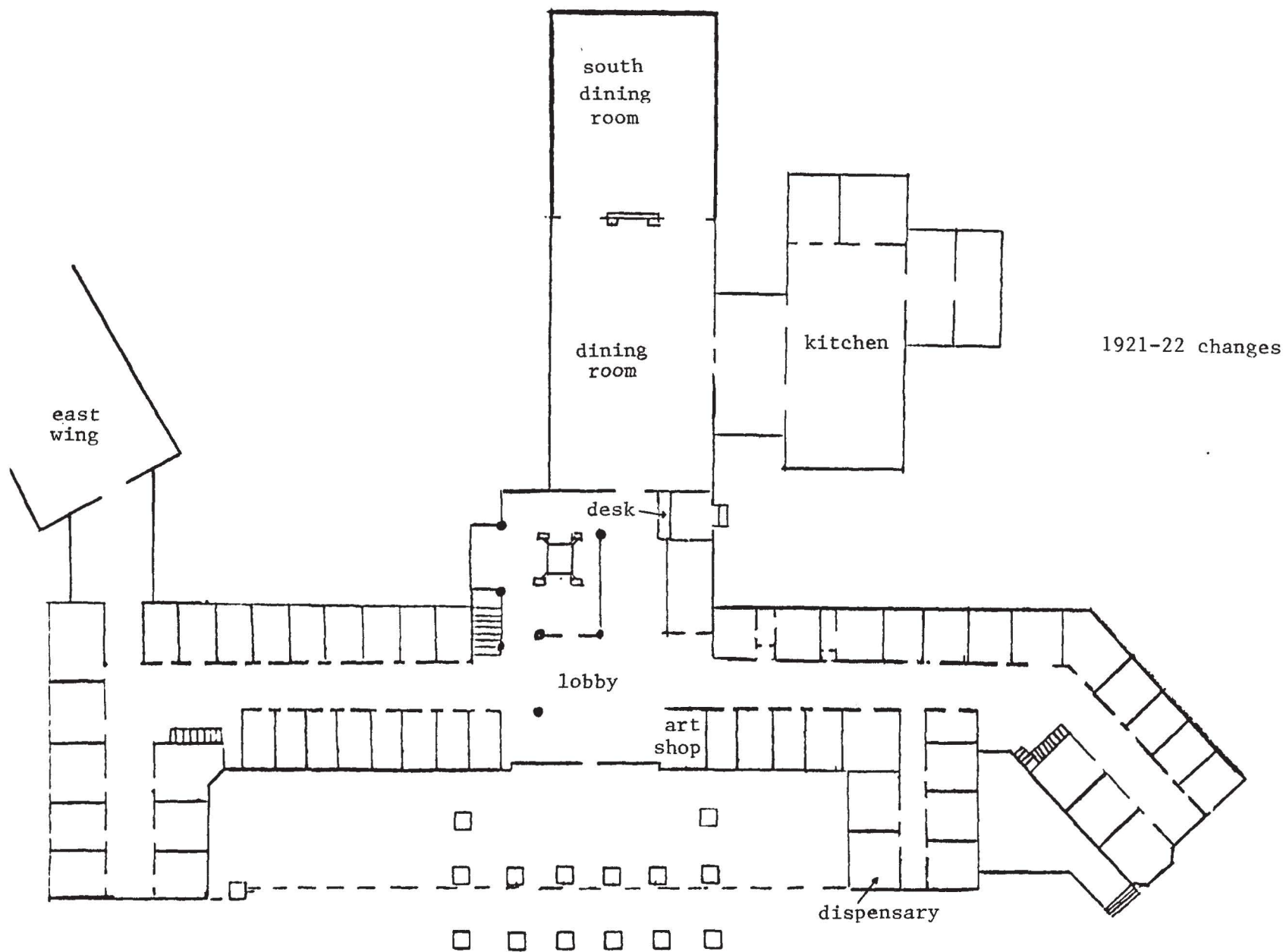
original floor plan

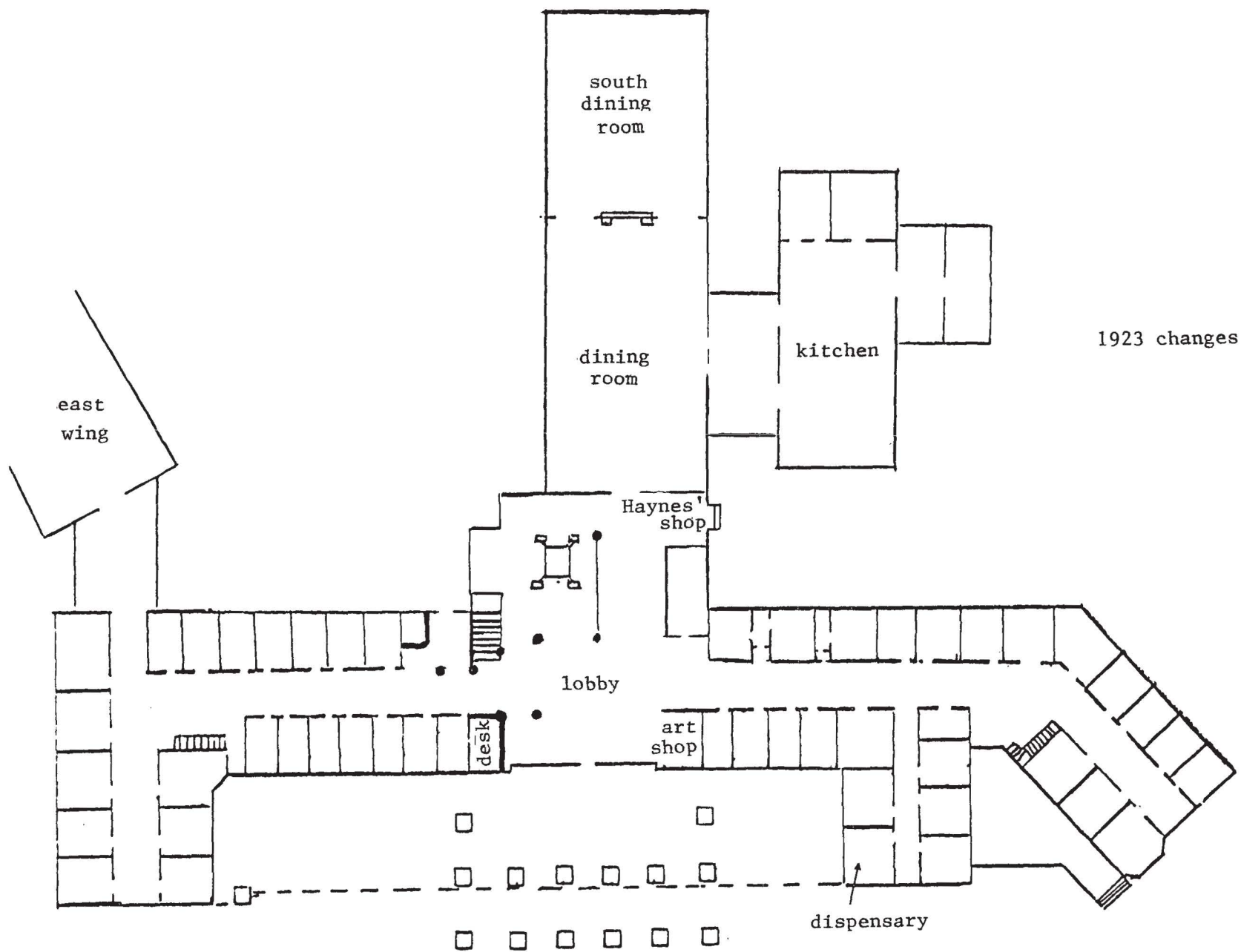


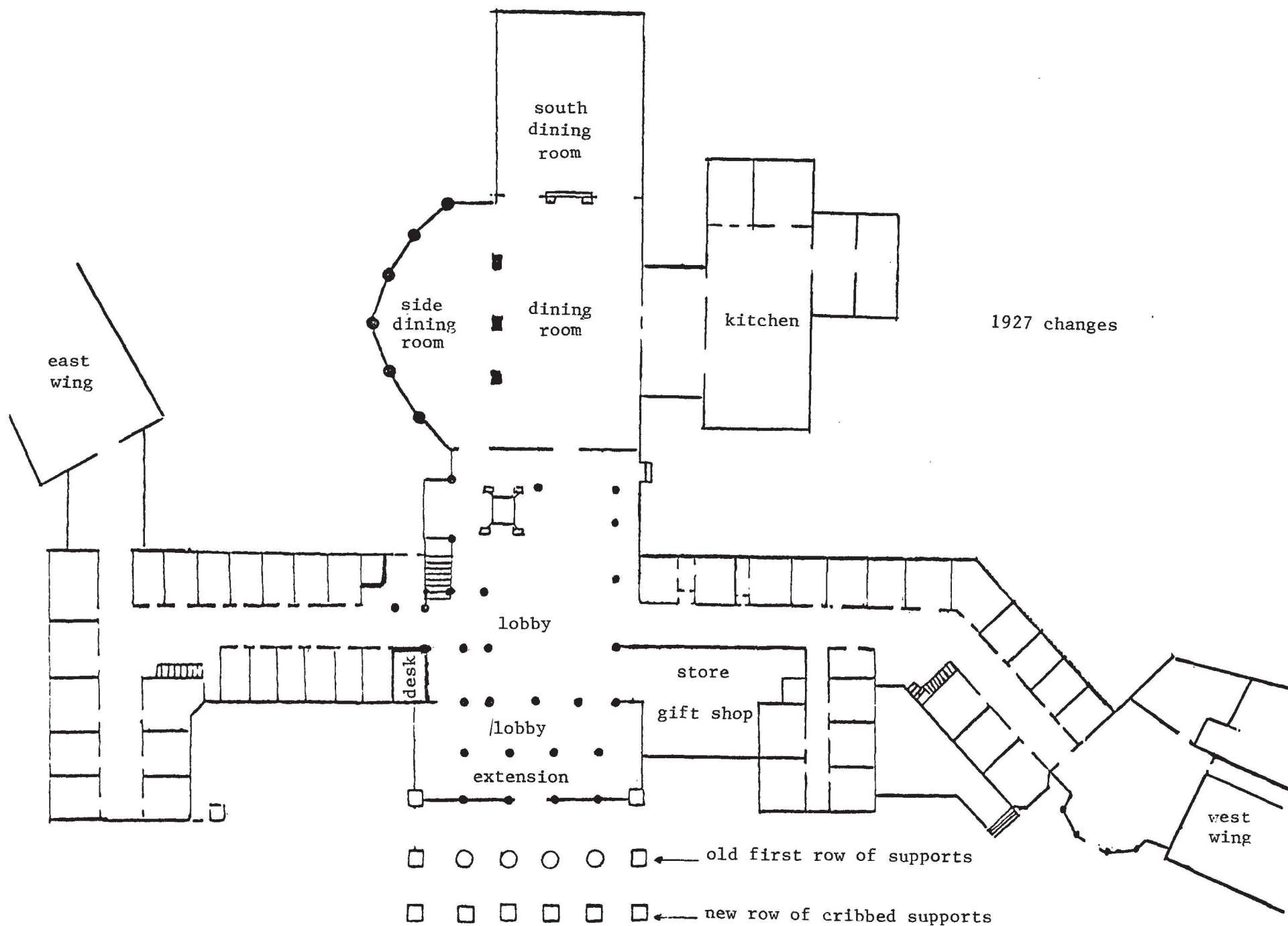
1913 changes

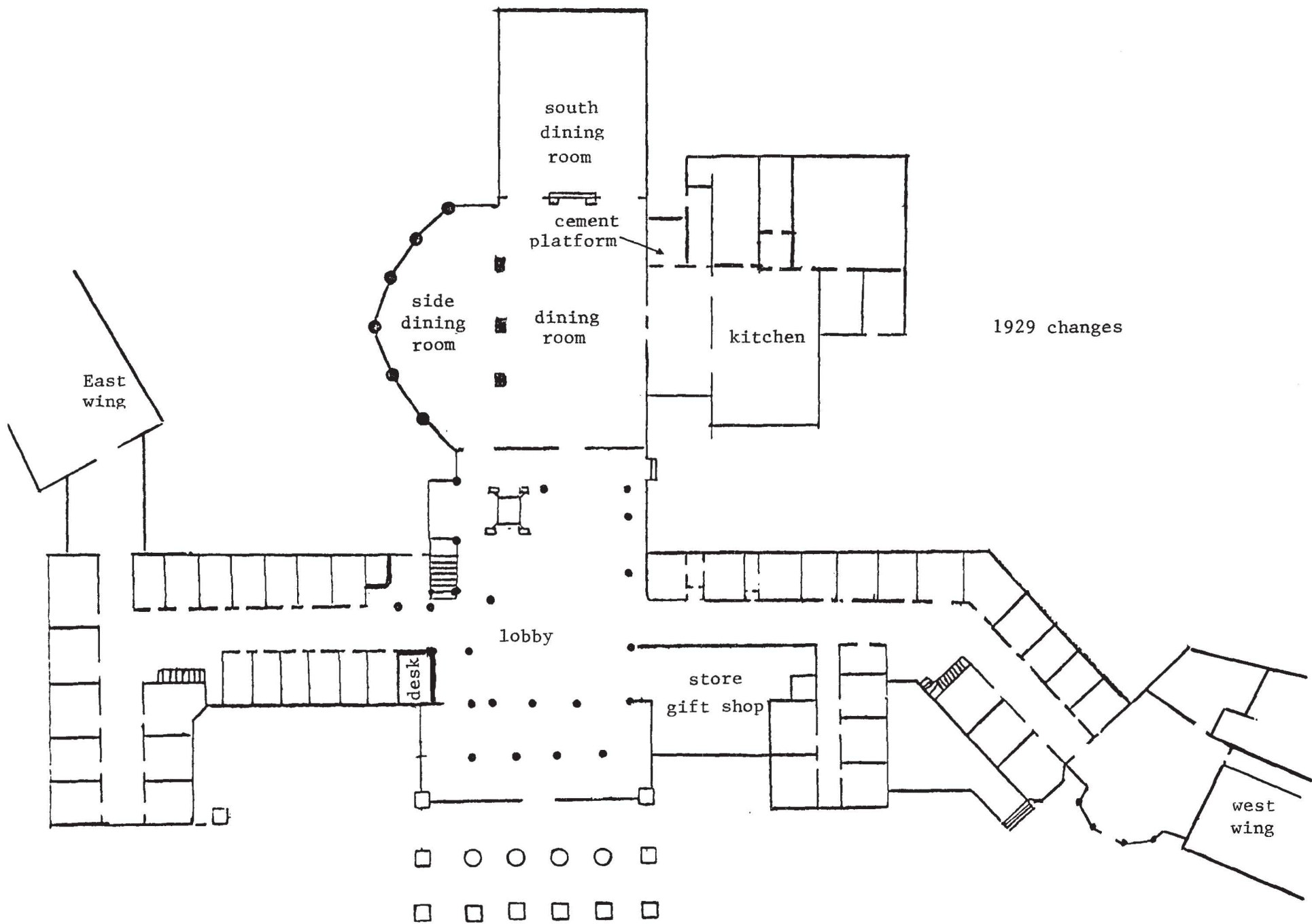


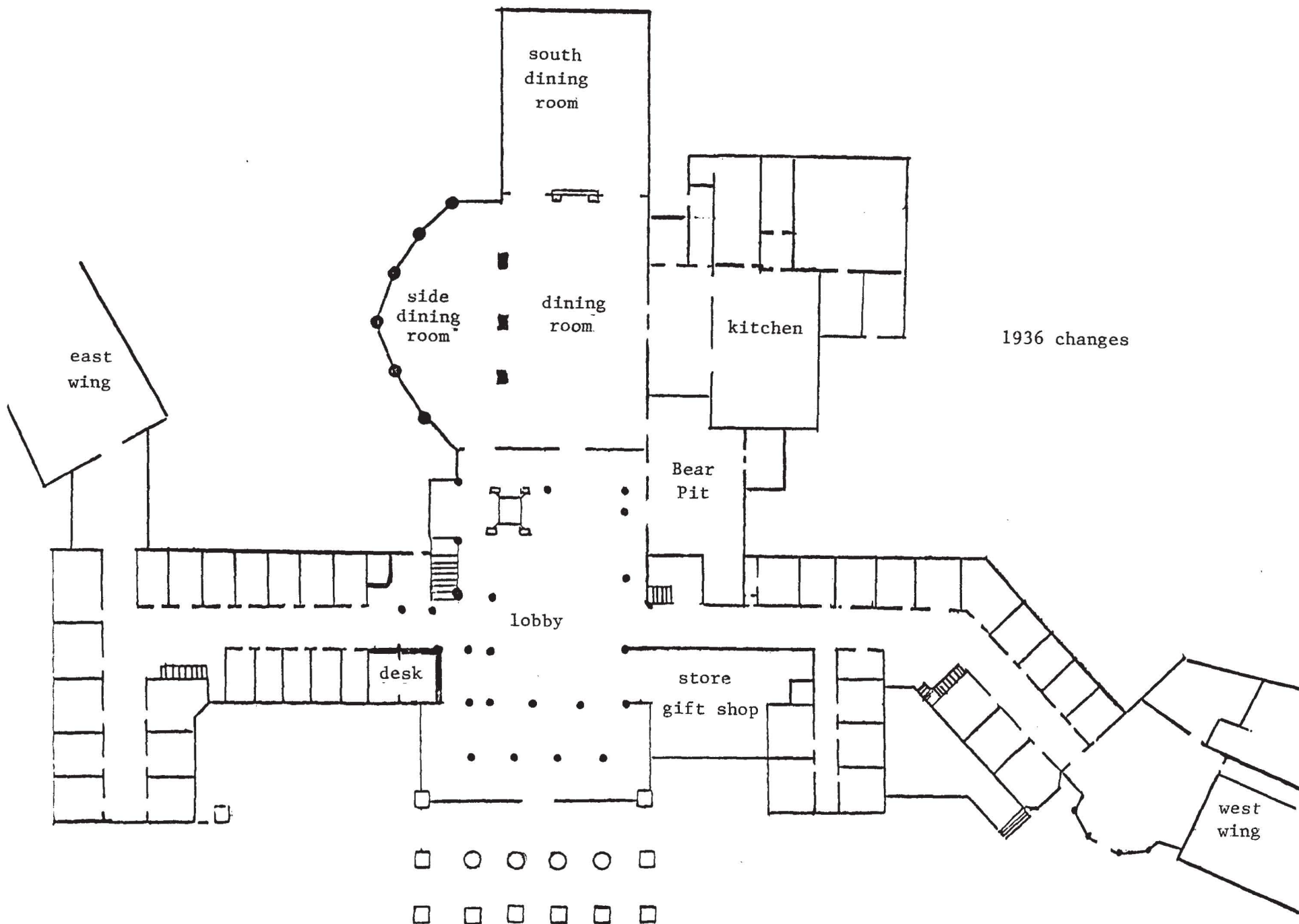
ca. 1915 changes

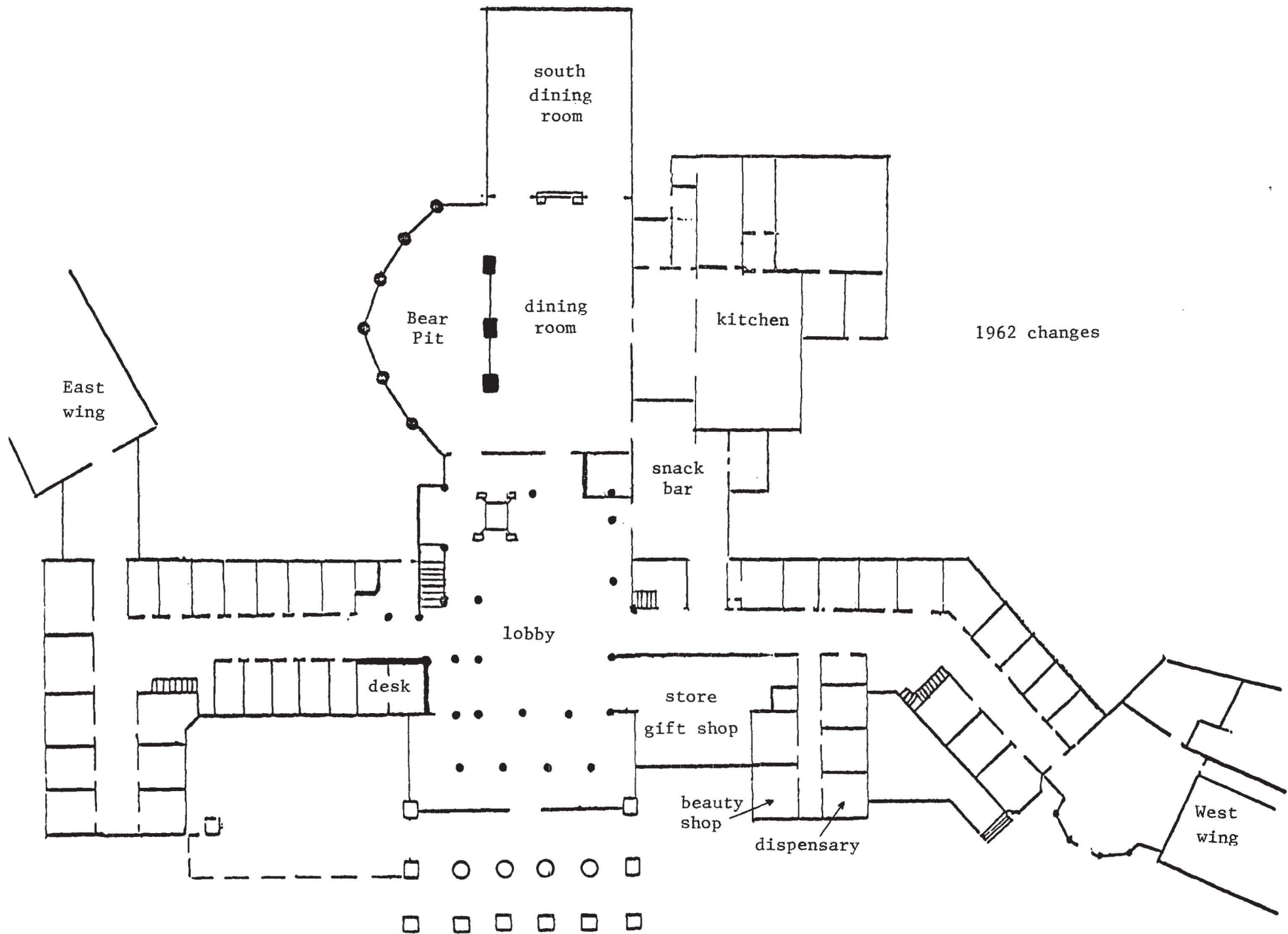


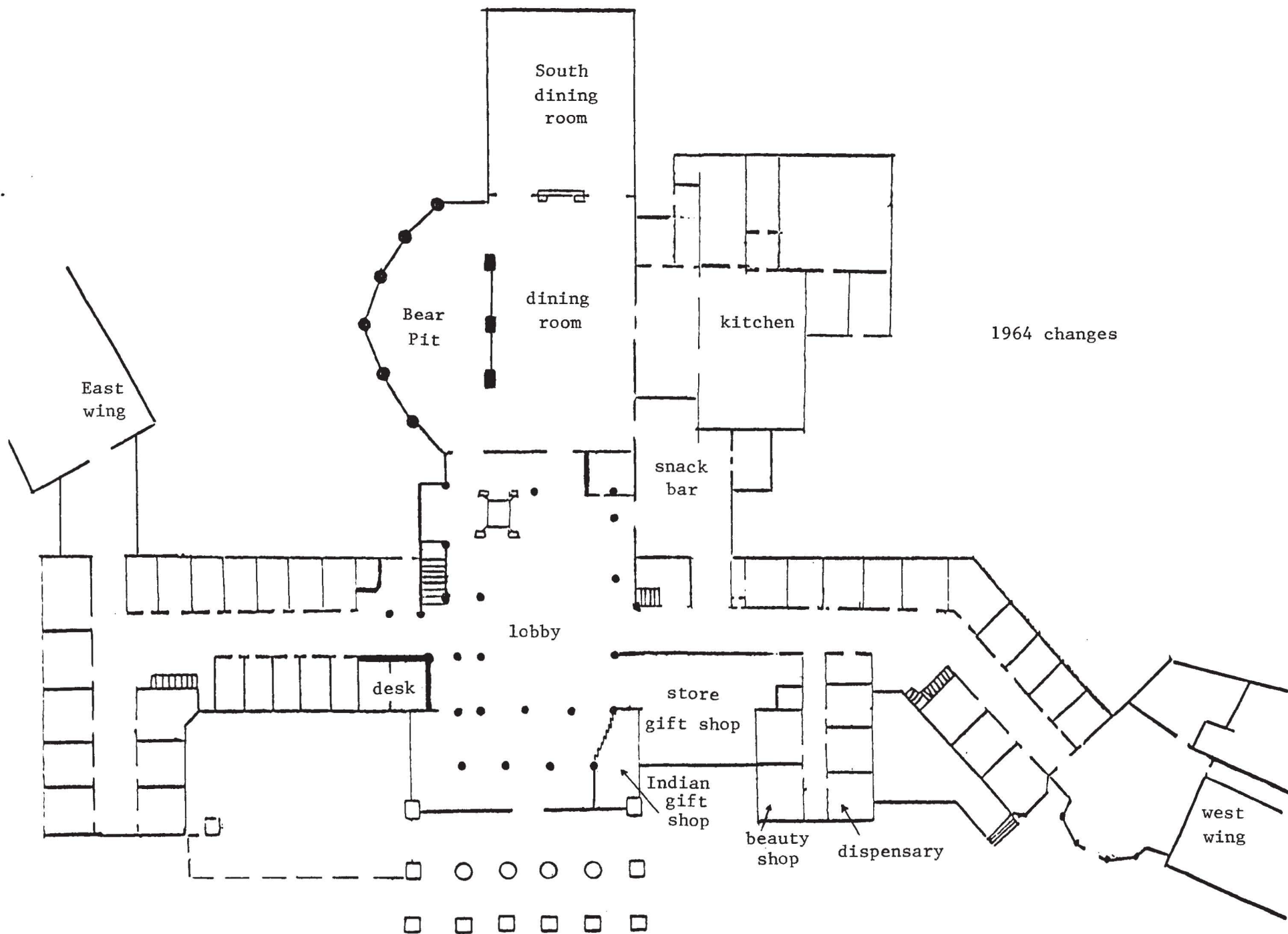












APPENDIX B

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Evidence of Original Furnishings

In his construction report for 1904 Harry Child listed only monetary figures for the Old Faithful Inn furniture and equipment. At the same time, however, he itemized his purchases for the other hotels. Those objects included hickory chairs, hickory tables, hickory valise benches, hickory costumers, black rockers, and washstand and dresser scarfs. As a result one can conclude that Child provided the same type of furnishing for Old Faithful Inn.

Interior pictures of the Inn taken in 1904 yield sufficient data to copy or identify remaining original furnishings. Those photographs of the lobby show a mission style furniture (figures 31-35). The chairs and rockers were probably made of hickory wood. Some rugs on the lobby floor appear at first glance to be made in an American Indian design, but they are not. Colored picture postcards reveal the rug colors. Veranda pictures show wicker chairs, rockers, and round, wooden tables. Several spittoons are also visible.

The rustic ground floor guest rooms each contained a bed with four metal posts, a copper topped washstand on which was located a light tan pitcher and basin and a clear drinking glass, a wicker topped table with a vase of flowers, a rocker with wicker seat and back, and a wicker waste basket (figures 47-49). Wicker waste baskets remained in use until the late 1940s when they were replaced by metal baskets because of the fire hazard. A chamber pot of the same color and floral design as the pitcher and washbasin was located on a shelf of the washstand. Several white towels hung from a rack attached to the back of that piece of furniture. A large mirror in a wooden frame hung from a wall while a multi-colored rug covered part of the floor.

Upper floor rooms had the same style bed, rocking chairs, and carpet, but the table differed, for it had an octagon-shaped top. In addition those rooms had large, wooden dressers (figure 50).

The original dining room furniture consisted of long rough-hewn tables for family style dining (figures 51-52). The chairs had wicker seats and backs. Tray stands were situated at the end of each table. A long carpet runner of the same color and design as those found in the guest rooms extended down the center aisle from the lobby entrance to the fireplace. The original place settings can be seen in figures 51-52.

Several guide books printed in the 1905-09 period provide collaborative furnishing evidence. The Northern Pacific publication Through Wonderland, printed in 1905, mentioned rugs on the room floors and in the large halls. The 1908 Haynes' guide stated that the furniture was mission style. Reau Campbell's guide for 1909 reported that an individual could relax in hickory rocking chairs. In that same booklet he also noted that clothes hooks in the ground floor rooms consisted of wooden pins driven into the logs.

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SECONDARY WORKS

Numerous early books, journals, and travel guides on Yellowstone National Park mention or give brief descriptions of the Old Faithful Inn, but these works have only limited value. They are basically repetitive and present few useful details for a structural history of the Inn. The Northern Pacific Railroad printed several guides, one of which appeared as an annual journal. The Oregon Short Line Railway also sponsored literature on the park. Probably the two best known guide series were those printed by F. Jay and Jack Haynes, and Reau Campbell. In Campbell's 1909 guide he claimed that he conceived the idea for a log hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin and gave rough sketches of such a structure to Harry Child, the Yellowstone Park Association president. Child, Campbell wrote, had Robert C. Reamer make more elaborate drawings from his initial sketches. It cannot be proved or disproved whether Campbell's claim were true. No contemporaries, however, credited Campbell with the initial conception of the Inn.

Since those works contained little information beyond photographs, they are not included in the bibliography. The source of nearly all photographs used in the books or guides were either those taken by F. Jay and Jack Haynes, the Detroit Photographic Company, the Northern Pacific Railway, or the Union Pacific Railroad.

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