

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	FEB 29 1980
DATE ENTERED	

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Chapel of the Transfiguration

AND/OR COMMON

Chapel of the Transfiguration

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Grand Teton National Park

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF Moose

First

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Teton

039

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
 - UNOCCUPIED
 - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
 - YES: UNRESTRICTED
 - NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Tourism

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

117 North Glenwood

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 83001

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Teton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

181 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Wyoming 83001

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82001

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chapel of the Transfiguration and two ancillary structures are located within Grand Teton National Park on property owned and maintained by Saint John's Episcopal Church of Jackson, Wyoming. Accessible via a hard-surfaced spur branching from the Teton Park Road, the Chapel complex is situated on a sagebrush flat, part of a broad floodplain of the Snake River flowing southward one fifth mile east. Immediately southwest of the Chapel is Moose, Headquarters and Visitor Center for the National Park; to the southeast, beyond a paved parking loop, is Menor's Ferry, a late nineteenth century commercial operation enrolled on the National Register in 1969.

The Chapel complex is oriented toward the southeast, facing the river and the grounds are enclosed by a lodgepole pine buck-and-pole fence. Three detached structures comprise the complex: a bell canopy which serves as the entrance to the Church grounds, the Chapel itself and a small storage shed. The three are closely related architecturally by proportion, scale and use of materials and are classic examples of a building genre which has come to be known as the Western Craftsman style.

Following are brief descriptions of the three structures:

Bell Canopy. Supported by four diagonally braced log poles, the bell canopy is a nicely proportioned structure which spans the entrance to the church grounds. The roof is a moderately pitched gable, open on the ends, which is supported by braced pole rafters and covered with wood shakes. Sheltered beneath the gable within a rustic log cage is the cast iron bell operated by a pull chain.

Chapel. A wood boardwalk extends from the bell canopy to the entry of the Chapel, a rectangular building measuring approximately 22' x 50'. The Chapel is constructed of horizontally laid lodgepole pine logs, stripped of their bark and saddlenotch joined at the corners with the sawn log ends extending beyond the walls of the building. A moderately pitched, wood shake-covered gable roof covers the main section of the building; similar smaller gables cover the projections from the main section. In an uncharacteristic expression of ornamentation, the fascias along the raking edges of the roofs extend beyond the plane of the roof and have tapered spear-like ends.

A beveled vertical plank door forms the front entrance of the building; it is embellished with decorative wrought iron surface-mounted latch and hinges. Lattice casement windows are situated shotgun-fashion along the side walls of the nave and sacristy. The single most striking feature of the church is the large fixed-sash window centered in the wall over the altar. Somewhat anachronistic to the structure's style, this opening frames a spectacular view of the Grand Teton massif northwest

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES 1925 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local Craftsmen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

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

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

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

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

UTM NOT VERIFIED

See Addendum, Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .9 acres

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

QUADRANGLE NAME Moose

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,2	5 2,3 0,2,5	4,8 3,3 9,9,5
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

1,2	5 2,3 0,8,0	4,8 3,3 9,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

1,2	5 2,3 0,2,0	4,8 3,3 9,2,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

1,2	5 2,2 9,7,5	4,8 3,3 9,6,5
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Addendum, Item 10

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Clayton Fraser, Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

February 25, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE

(307)-777-7695

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jim L. Wilson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 25, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/10/80

ATTEST: *William A. Graham*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 4.10.80

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description . ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

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

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

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

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

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

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

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

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Chapel of the
CONTINUATION SHEET Transfiguration ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

ADDENDUM: ITEM 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY

BOOKS:

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

BOOKLETS:

Voorhis, Charles. Chapel of Transfiguration: the Story. August 15, 1949
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JOURNALS, PERIODICALS:

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

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

NEWSPAPERS:

Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Courier, 1916-1925.

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Chapel of the
CONTINUATION SHEET Transfiguration ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

ADDENDUM: ITEM 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA.

Verbal Boundary Description:

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