

1037

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

APR 25 1991  
NATIONAL REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Lake Hotel  
other names/site number N/A

### 2. Location

street & number N/A N/A not for publication  
city, town Yellowstone National Park (YELL) N/A vicinity  
state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 82190

### 3. Classification

|  |   |                                     |                          |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ownership of Property                              | Category of Property                            | Number of Resources within Property |                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> private                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing                        | Noncontributing          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local              | <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <u>1</u>                            | <u>      </u> buildings  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State              | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> sites      |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <u>      </u>                       | <u>      </u> structures |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <u>1</u>                            | <u>      </u> objects    |
|  |   |                                     | <u>      </u> Total      |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Thomas E. Marcea, DSHPO 3/28/91  
Signature of certifying official        Date  
WYOMING STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Cheryl Kishman 4/19/91  
Signature of commenting or other official        Date  
Cheryl Kishman, National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. Robert J. Lee 5/16/91  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Hotel

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic Hotel

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

walls Weatherboard

roof Wood Shingle

other

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Facing south on a bluff, Lake Hotel overlooks Lake Yellowstone. A circular driveway extends to the hotel from the roadway parallelling the lake; the road was originally a segment of the park loop road. The entrance driveway extends under a port cochere. The area between the old loop roadway and the hotel is sandy and very sparsely landscaped with minimal undergrowth vegetation and scattered pine trees. To the west, the hotel is sited above a creek ravine. To the north the hotel is backed by a service area behind the kitchen wing, a boiler building and a large parking area behind the central section of the hotel, and additional natural landscaping behind and to the east of the East Wing. The rear parking lot is proposed for redevelopment to provide a designed approach and containment. A rear pavilion is proposed, in a compatible architectural style, at the East Wing entrance on the north elevation. The pavilion is proposed to be unattached and be a rear entrance focal feature.

Lake Hotel, the exterior of which was restored in 1989-90, is a three and a half story structure with gabled and flat roofs extending generally east to west. The hotel has an approximately 700 foot facade facing the lake and is characterized by three, three-story porticoes and one semicircular portico centered on the East Wing. At the west end of the facade is a two-story wing with a flat roof and a semi-octagonal plan. The two-story kitchen wing extends behind to the north. Extending from south facade adjacent to the central portico, is a one-story, flat roofed, semi-octagonal wing which contains a Solarium. This feature is balanced to the east of the central portico by a one-story, flat roofed porte cochere structure. Beyond the east portico, the flat roofed East Wing angles slightly to the southeast.

The original section of the hotel, dating from 1891, was a large three-story structure with a gabled roof and a projecting pavilion at each end of the facade.

Each of the shallow pavilions had an equilateral gable end. The east pavilion had a one-story open porch at the entrance. This structure was embellished with Colonial Revival detailing in 1903 including full height Roman Ionic porticoes fronting the pavilions, architrave window trim, small balcony projections, balustrades, semicircular openings and sidelights.

The 1903 remodeling also included the addition of the first east wing. This wing, with a slightly lower gabled roof, extended the facade to a third Ionic portico with the same detailing as the other two. Behind the portico the east wing turned at a right angle and formed a north wing of guest rooms. This wing was removed by 1950. In 1922-23, the

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1891 - 1941  
1891 - 1941  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

N/A  
1903 - 1904,  
1910, 1923 - 1924,  
1928

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Robert C. Reamer  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Lake Hotel in Yellowstone National Park is significant at a statewide level for its association with the National Register of Historic Places Themes - Architecture and Commerce and the Criteria A and C. The Lake Hotel is a very good example of the property type - hotel - which can be identified with the Historic Contexts - Architecture, Commerce, and Recreation - developed in the Historic Preservation Plan by the state of Wyoming.

Under Criterion A, the hotel represents the development of concessions in Yellowstone National Park and thus played a major role in the development of tourism not only in the Park, but also in the nearby states. Lake Hotel is the only extant hotel from this early period. The construction of the first Fishing Bridge in 1902 and the completion of the East Entrance Road which traverses the Shoshone National Forest and eventually leads to Cody, Wyoming, certainly influenced the patterns of Wyoming tourism. The opening of the road coincided with the first major addition to the hotel in 1903 - 1904. The decision for the construction of the hotel and its placement near one of the major natural features in the Park is a part of the history of the development of the Park's concessions. Its location also determined the planned itinerary for the early traveling public by the concessioners and offered a different experience for the guests.

The hotel represents two aspects of Criterion C - as a type of construction and the work of a master. The Lake Hotel as it appeared after its first major alteration in 1903 - 1904, epitomizes Colonial Revival style applied to a very large building. Its significance is expanded further when one considers time and place of its construction. This style is not a typical example of the hotel construction movement within the national parks at the turn of the century in which buildings were designed to harmonize with the environment as exemplified by Yellowstone's Old Faithful Inn, Glacier National Park's Many Glacier Hotel, Sperry and Granite Park chalets, and El Tovar in Grand Canyon.

The concessioner's architect, Robert C. Reamer, who played a major role in the creation of a Colonial Revival style in his alterations to the hotel, is also significant in the architectural history of Yellowstone National Park. In addition to his work at Lake Hotel, his other achievements in the Park are the design for the Old Faithful Inn and its additions, the Canyon Hotel, the Mammoth Dining Room, Motor Inn, and cottages, as well

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 6.1 acres

UTM References

A 

|   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 | 2 |
|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 9 | 0 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

D 

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Lake Hotel includes only the hotel and the lawn between the hotel and the road along Lake Yellowstone. The boundary is approximately 710 feet in length and at the widest point approximately 380 feet. See sketch map. Please note that the crosshatched portion of the building (a modern addition) has been removed.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary was drawn to only include the hotel and the front lawn. Behind the hotel many changes have been made and thus no significant landscape or features contribute to the hotel's significance. The front lawn was included in order to give some siting to the hotel. The road patterns have changed over the years. These changes and the changes surrounding the hotel will be addressed in a forthcoming National Register nomination for the entire area.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rodd L. Wheaton, Chief, Division of Cultural Resources and Mary Culpin, Historian  
 organization National Park Service date March 12, 1991  
 street & number 12795 West Alameda Parkway telephone (303) 969-2875  
 city or town Lakewood state Colorado zip code 80225

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

---

original east wing was extended to a new East Wing constructed at a slight angle from the facade. The transition space is an inset elevator-stair lobby. The new three-story East Wing has a flat roof. A full height Tuscan portico, circular in plan, is centered on the elevation.

In 1928 the Solarium lounge was added to the facade and the west Dining Room was doubled in size with the addition of the two-story West Wing. The porte cochere was subsequently doubled in length and then doubled in depth at a later date before 1950. The 1928 remodeling also included the extension of the lobby into the north wing with a shallow semi-octagonal wing projection.

The east elevation of the Dining Room Wing is characterized by the semi-octagonal end which has projecting first floor bay windows at each wall plane. The Kitchen Wing, supported on concrete piers and a basement, is a composite of numerous additions reflecting the need to update and expand the Kitchen functions. Along the rear elevation of the hotel, there is little architectural detailing. The main rear entrance into the hotel lobby was, until recently, sheltered by a 1960's flat roofed canopy that extended diagonally to the curb line of the rear parking area. The area adjacent to the remaining north wing is characterized by a tall brick chimney that serves a fireplace in the lobby. The stack extends well above the roof eave and roof slope and is stabilized in place by iron tie rods.

Steel framed fire escapes, constructed in the early 1980s, are located at the east end of the East Wing and within the ell of the Dining Room Wing and Kitchen Wing at the northwest corner. At that time the Kitchen Wing was extensively altered as part of the National Park Service's upgrading the Yellowstone concession facilities to meet mandatory health, life, safety issues.

The facade is characterized by the use of extensive Colonial Revival detailing painted white in contrast to the bright yellow painted, narrow clapboarded walling. The Dining Room Wing projects forward and has an additional clipped corner adjacent to the Dining Room portico. The first floor of the south elevation has large fixed plate glass windows with side lights and transoms having multipaned lights. The sidelights are casement sash and the transoms are awning type. The openings of each window unit are trimmed with simple architrave trim. The Dining Room Wing facade includes three bays of first floor windows and one bay on the southeast clipped corner. That opening lacks sidelights. Above at the second floor guest rooms, there is a single window opening over each end bay and a pair of window openings over the central bay. The sash are one over one lights within simple architrave trimmed openings. Similar sash detailing extends around the west elevation of the Dining Room where the projecting bay windows of each wall plane have a fixed center plate glass window with three-light transom and sidelights and a transom at the bay window angles. The transoms and sidelights are multilight with metal comes supporting square quarles. The projecting bay windows have plain mullions and a shallow

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3

entablature consisting of a bed molding, fascia, and a narrow crown molding. Typically, the window sash are painted black.

The Dining Room portico consists of four, three-story Roman Ionic columns supporting the Colonial Revival equilateral pediment. The column shafts are fluted and are supported on concrete plinth blocks on the concrete terrace. The columns are spaced with turned baluster balustrades that extend beyond the end columns to large pedestals having paneled faces. East and west concrete stairways extend down behind the pedestals from the terrace. The column capitals support a full entablature with an enriched architrave, a plain frieze, dentils, and an egg and dart enriched bed molding. The soffit of the entablature is paneled. The soffit and fascia of the cornice are plain and are set with a narrow crown molding that extends under the eaves and up the rake of the pediment. The pediment also has the enriched bed molding, dentils and a flat, one-band architrave. The clapboarded tympanum is set with a lunette window with radial muntins. The architrave trim is set with a tall keystone with a molded cap. The entablature only extends around the projecting portico and terminates at the walling of the main structure without pilasters at the slightly projecting pavilion. There are no cornerboards, though there are typically skirt boards around the structure.

Behind the portico are three bays of openings. Each first floor opening has the typical large fixed center panes, sidelights and, five-light transoms set within architrave trim. Second and third floor window openings have double hung sash typically with 18 over 18 lights. The second floor architrave trim supports a projecting cornice lintel. At the third floor, the windows are fronted by a shallow balcony projecting at each opening. The balconies are supported on enriched consoles which support corner pedestals and turned baluster railings. The three third floor windows heads extend to the frieze board trim which carries the ceiling beams of the portico. The exposed beams form coffers.

Between the porticoes there are six bays of window openings above the Solarium Wing. The fenestration is typical of the two upper floors behind the west portico. The two central third floor windows have balconies. To the west of the Solarium are two first floor window openings with sidelights and transoms. The eastern opening is a 1984 restoration. On the gable roof are three symmetrically located dormers with large equilateral pediments and horizontal multilight sash. Typically roofing is wood shingle with doubled seventh courses. The eave is slightly projecting with a crown molding, fascia, enriched egg and dart bed molding and a flat architrave.

The one-story, flat roofed Solarium, set on a stuccoed concrete foundation, is multifaceted. Each of the five planes facing the lake have large fixed plate glass windows with three-light transoms all set within narrow mullions. The heads of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

---

windows extend to the full entablature which has an architrave, shallow frieze space, simple bed molding, and a projecting cornice. The window openings of the east and west elevations of the Solarium are typical with sidelights and transoms.

The Solarium intersects the central portico, which is similar to the west portico, and projects from the shallow pavilion of the original 1891 structure. At the first floor, the lobby projects out to the column bases. Each of the three bays between the columns are infilled with typical fixed pane plate glass windows with sidelights and transoms. The west bay contains a pair of double doors with single light glazing. The entablature is similar to the Solarium. Third floor windows have balconies behind the portico. The portico is fronted by a concrete terrace that curves along the entrance drive and along the east elevation of the Solarium where concrete steps extend down to grade at the southeast corner.

The 1891 structure extends one bay beyond the central portico. The roof, cornice, and second and third floor window openings are typical. At the first floor is a one-story porch with a cornice set slightly lower than the lobby infill between the columns. The porch shelters the side entrance into the lobby. Double doors have single light glazing. At the first floor of the 1891 one-bay extension, is a double hung window opening with a 1903 projecting cornice lentil.

The one-story, flat roofed porch and porte cochere extends along the facade of the old East Wing section of the hotel and is supported on square columns along both sides of the driveway curb line. The columns, set on concrete plinths, have molded bases, paneled shafts, and simple molded caps with neckings. The columns support a full entablature with a flat architrave, frieze, and a projecting cornice. Behind, the walling of the hotel is characterized by pilasters spacing between double hung window openings set with architrave trim and lintels. The raised terrace above the driveway is concrete paved and has shallow steps.

The facade of the old East Wing, with its slightly lower gabled roof, has nine bays of window openings. The roof, with three central dormers, has a deep entablature with enriched bed moldings, a plain frieze, and a projecting architrave band. The third floor windows are set well below the entablature and have architrave trim. The center three third floor windows have balconies; second floor windows have projecting cornice lintels. Between the west three bays and the central three bays and to the east, adjacent to the east portico, are bull's eye windows at each of the three floor levels. These architectural features have "keystones" at the head, sides, and sill of each. The sash has fanned muntins. Typically, window sash is multilight and double hung.

The porte cochere terminates just before the east portico which is similar to the other two porticos. The three bays behind the portico are typical with balconies at the third floor, cornice lintels at the second floor and similar window openings at the first floor. The first floor windows, set low above the concrete paved terrace, have widely overhanging

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

---

lintels probably typical of all the earlier first floor windows lost to various remodelings.

The new East Wing entrance is set back behind the east portico in an alcove that infills the angle of the East Wing construction. A one-story porch with square columns is flush with the walling behind the east portico and the walling of the new East Wing. The porch is several steps above the portico terrace. Above the porch are gang windows at three levels which light stair and elevator lobbies. The windows, in an alternating narrow-wide configuration, have one over one sash. The sills of the third floor windows are set on a continuous beltcourse that extends around the new East Wing establishing a visual site line that relates to the original building.

The new East Wing does not have a full first floor where the hotel accommodates the sloping site and is thus four floors at the east portico and three floors at the east end. The new East Wing is 25 bays long with generally alternating large and small windows accommodating two guest rooms being back to back spaced with intermediate bathrooms. Typically, the topmost window heads are integrated into the full entablature which has an architrave, a frieze, and a widely projecting cornice below a parapet with a cornice. A wood shingled pent roof extends over the entablature cornice. The windows have architrave trim; those of the floor above the continuous beltcourse have projecting cornice lintels. Skirt boards define the change in grade near the east end and are stepped towards the central semicircular-plan porch that is centered on the wing. The sash are one over one double hung.

The semicircular porch has a three-story, flat roofed Tuscan portico with two fluted columns and two fluted pilasters at the walling. The portico has a full entablature with an architrave and a projecting cornice. The concrete paved porch is one step above grade and leads into a central doorway into the wing. The doorway, a single light glazed door has sidelights and a projecting cornice lintel.

The east elevation of the new East Wing is similar, though three stories. It is three bays with the double center windows altered to accommodate the fire escape at each floor's center hallway. Likewise, the north elevation is similar to the south facade stepping down the slope. The flat roof of the new East Wing ties in directly to the gable of the old East Wing's now demolished north wing. The transition is clearly visible. Backing the stairtower-elevator connection are various service areas with the rear main entrance providing access from the north parking lot. Fenestration is double and triple openings which alter the rhythm of the alternating bathroom and guestroom windows. This is the location proposed for the new entrance pavilion.

The old East Wing gable end has three bays with a single opening in the gable end clearly defined with rake moldings. The remainder of the old East Wing has regularly spaced openings in 11 bays with small attic windows set just below the unornamented eave. The rear of the 1891 section of the hotel is characterized by having a gable roof at the east



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

---

and a hipped roof at the west. The eaves are ornamented with the original 1891 entablature which had vertical beaded board panels suggesting a frieze. A gabled three-story North Wing extends out from the structure above the semi-octagonal lobby extension. The verges of the gable end are open. Original four over four light sash remain in the window openings of each floor. A continuous gang of window openings extend around the first floor semi-octagonal structure. The flat roofed Kitchen Wing extends to the north in two-story, including basement, stepped structure and has various window, door, and stoop configurations accommodating the interior functions of kitchen, storage, and employee dining room.

The Lake Hotel floor plan is lineal with central hallways, at various levels, paralleling the facade. The first floor contains the Dining Room at the west, central lobby spaces, and a corridor that extends to the new East Wing lobby. Down a short flight of steps, the corridor extends to the end of the building. Typically, guestrooms line the central corridor, though the first floor guestrooms of the old East Wing have been converted into offices, restrooms, and a conference area that opens onto the corridor. In the new East Wing the room arrangement was originally typically two rooms with a shared bathroom. This configuration has been altered to provide private bathrooms for each guestroom. At the upper levels, the corridor extends the length of the building with intermediate lobbies at the new East Wing stair tower. Within the old East Wing, the wide central corridor has been altered by the bathrooms which were expanded into the corridor.

Lake Hotel's contributing interior spaces include the Registration Lobby, the main Lobby, the Solarium, the Dining Room, and the main staircase to the third floor from the Lobby. The corridors, guestrooms, secondary lobbies and staircases, service areas, and kitchen are non-contributing. Of the latter, the corridors and secondary lobbies were undistinguished spaces and were extensively altered as part of the 1984-1990 rehabilitation of the hotel carried out under the direction of Spencer and Associates of Palo Alto, California. Harry Rodda and Linda Ludden were the project architects. Susan Ritchie of TWA Recreation Services was responsible for carpets and refinishing the wicker and rattan furniture. Rodd L. Wheaton, of the National Park Service, provided consultation for this project and for the rehabilitation of all of the guestrooms and the bathroom reconfiguration which was designed by A & E Partnership, Billings, Montana. These spaces were also undistinguished with little architectural embellishment. A period summer hotel ambiance was retained in the rehabilitation which included the retention of simple window and door trim and picture molding. All the bathrooms, service areas, and the kitchen have been totally rehabilitated.

The 1984 rehabilitation of the Registration Lobby, Lobby, and Solarium enhanced the original interior architecture of the building. During this project the gift shop, added after 1950, was relocated into the north lobby wing. The lobby spaces are characterized by having square columns supporting dropped ceiling beams. The columns, set on paneled

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

---

pedestals and with molded capitals, define longitudinal corridors reflecting the construction of the above rooms and corridors. The room has a low wainscot that matches the height of the pedestals.

In 1984, the spaces within the beams were trimmed with crown moldings. In addition, the registration desk, the entrance to the Gift Shop in the lobby's north wing, and the Dining Room entrance were redesigned. Window openings flanking the Dining Room doorway, with new pilasters, were also added. The prominent design element is cut and etched glass in doors, borrowed light openings, and in transoms. A service bar was added in the southwest corner of the Lobby. During the rehabilitation, however, the ceramic tiled fireplace and the adjacent ceramic tile water fountain were retained in place. The fireplace has a plain green tile border with a mottled green tile field around the firebox which is flanked by two decorative tile relief panels. A row of patterned diamond tiles extends over the firebox which is covered with a fire screen. The wall hung drinking fountain is a green tile basin with a decorative base and a tall backsplash with an elk in trees motif set within an arch. The tile work was reputedly designed by Robert C. Reamer and made by E. A. Batchelder of Los Angeles, California.

The Lobbies and the Solarium were furnished with restored wicker and rattan furnishings that are, in part, original to the hotel. Many of the pieces, however, were originally from the now demolished Canyon Hotel in the park. The area around the fireplace is set with "Flemish" style oak settles which were originally from Canyon Hotel's registration lobby.

The main staircase rises from the lobby at the east of the fireplace. The wide staircase has a rounded bottom step which receives a violated hand rail. The balusters are turned and set two to a step; wainscoting extends up the run and across the intermediate landing. Between the second and third floors, the staircase is the one original remaining section of millwork from the 1891 building. The oak balustrade is characterized by oak spacers between the spool turned balusters in a Queen Anne style.

The Dining Room was essentially restored to a semblance of its original appearance capitalizing on the grand axis extending the length of the space. The axis is defined by columns supporting cross beams. Mirrored panels, reflecting the design of the outside windows, were reproduced for the inside walls based on original examples. The space was generally refurbished and set with new rattan side chairs to suggest the original furnishings. As in the Lobbies, the light fixtures attached to the columns were replaced with brass sconces with halothane shades. Brass chandeliers around the registration desk are modern.

As it remains, Lake Hotel represents 100 years of hotel operation in Yellowstone National Park. Prominently located on Lake Yellowstone, the hotel faces south greeted the early visitors who boated across the lake from West Thumb and those who later drove or rode the Loop Road. The building is the product of expansions to meet visitor needs. It evolved

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   8  

---

from a barracks-like structure to a large Colonial Revival edifice characterized by white painted trim and bright yellow walling. As the hotel's status declined during the twentieth century, it was threatened at least twice with demolition, and was abused during the 1960's and 1970's as an anachronism. It finally was restored and rehabilitated in 1984-1990 under the leadership of the National Park Service and TW Recreation Services, the park concessioner. It is a testament to changing tastes and to renewed appreciation of older buildings characteristic of the national historic preservation movement in the United States.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

---

as the Child's residence at Mammoth Hot Springs. Outside of the Park, several examples of his work can be found in the Seattle Washington area.

The Lake Hotel is a testament to changing tastes and to renewed appreciation of older buildings. As the hotel's status declined during the twentieth century, it was threatened at least twice with demolition and was abused during the 1960s and 1970s as an anachronism. It finally was restored and rehabilitated between 1984 and 1990 under the leadership of the National Park Service and TW Recreation Services, one of the park concessioners.

While the hotel's significant period for its role in Concession History in Yellowstone began with its construction as a typical railroad hotel of the era, it has several significant periods in its association with Architecture. It is the only one of the three hotels that were built at that time that is left. For the construction period, 1891, the significance is derived in part from time and place, i.e. the difficulties of obtaining materials, transporting them to this isolated location in an isolated territory. The road network was not much more than muddy tracks. The style of the original building was similar to the other two hotels built at the approximate time. The 1903-1904 period reflects the transition from a barracks-type building to Colonial Revival, which in turn reflects the changing expectations from the turn of the century tourists. With each alteration through the 1920s, the hotel became more refined. The latest rehabilitation period, 1984 - 1990, reflects the same continuing expectations. In a broader comparison, across the country, many older or historic hotels have been rehabilitated and many homes converted to Bed and Breakfasts to meet the changing aspirations of the traveling public. Within the Rocky Mountain Region of the National Park Service, which covers 6 states, the rehabilitation of historic hotels can be found at Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park, and at Old Faithful Inn and Mammoth Motor Inn and Dining Room in Yellowstone National Park.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1872 when Yellowstone National Park was created, only one small, crude log cabin, McCartney's Hotel, offered accommodations for visitors. This hotel, was described in 1878 by Ferdinand Hayden of the United States Geological Survey, as "Very primitive, consisting in lieu of a bedstead, of 12 square feet of floor room . . . provide his own blankets . . . fare is simple, and remarkable for quantity rather than quality or variety."<sup>1</sup> The hotel, as well as the nearby facilities of Matthew McGuirk, catered to visitors who came to take advantage of the thermal waters at Mammoth Hot Springs and on the Gardner River. "Taking the waters" was a popular pastime in America during the 19th century. Since both predated the establishment of the park, their claims remained questionable and troublesome for several years. McCartney's Hotel burned in 1912 and the McGuirk property was razed in 1889 under the direction of the Army.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 3

Despite the fact that the newly created park did not have benefit of appropriations or clearly defined guidelines for management, the first superintendent, Nathaniel P. Langford, did envision the Grand Loop Road which would make the scenic and scientific wonders accessible to the public: Lake Yellowstone, Old Faithful geyser basin, Norris geyser basin, the falls and canyon of the Yellowstone River, and Mammoth Hot Springs. These areas would naturally become the locations of future hotels.

More hotels, built during the early years, were granted formal leases by the Department of Interior. In 1884, squatter John F. Yancy was granted a lease for his hotel operation, a 50 feet by 30 feet log building, in Pleasant Valley near the Cooke City road. This was mainly used as a stopover on the mail route to Cooke City or by fishermen. The hotel was enlarged after 1887 and burned in 1906.<sup>2</sup> In 1880, mail contractor, George W. Marshall built the first of his two hotels on Fountain Flats near the confluence of the Firehole River and Nez Perce Creek. The combined mail station and hotel was described by Carrie Strahorn in the account of her visit to Yellowstone National Park as

. . . the log house was far from being finished, and the part we occupied was partitioned off with a canvas wagon cover. The second floor was only partly laid, and a window or two was missing in the upper part while the unfilled chinks between the logs allowed the rigorous October breezes to fan us at will.<sup>3</sup>

In 1884, Marshall obtained a lease to build another hotel across the Firehole River from his 1880 hotel. Upon selling his share of the new hotel to his partner George G. Henderson, who took on another partner, Henry Klammer in 1885, the Marshall Hotel became known as Firehole Hotel. The hotel's abandonment in 1891 marked the end of a particular era for hotels. No more individually owned hotels would be built in the Park and the era for "grand hotels" in the Park began.<sup>4</sup>

With the advent of the Northern Pacific Railroad pushing its lines across the country, complete with an extension to near the park northern boundary in 1883, the concession operations in the Park would experience a dramatic change. Since the pre-Park days, the Northern Pacific Railroad had taken great interest in both the creation of the Park and also in the possibilities of being the foremost carrier from the more heavily populated East. The railroad, who advertised the Park as "Wonderland" knew that inadequate facilities existed for the potentially large numbers of visitors.

In March of 1883, just two months after the creation of the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company, an indenture was signed between Secretary of Interior Henry Teller and officers of the Company, Carroll Hobart of Fargo, Dakota Territory, Henry F. Douglas of Fort Yates, Dakota Territory, and Rufus Hatch of New York City, agreeing to the leasing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

---

of specific locations within Yellowstone National Park -- 2 acres at Mammoth Hot Springs, 1 1/2 acres near Old Faithful Geyser, 1 1/2 acres at a point 1 mile east of the western boundary, 1 acre east of Soda Spring, 1 1/2 acres east of Tower Falls, 1 1/2 acres east of falls and canyon of the Yellowstone River, and 1 acre on the bank of Lake Yellowstone.<sup>5</sup> The financially troubled Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company (YNPIC) was purchased in 1886 and only one of the sites of the 1883 leases had been built, the half-completed National Hotel at the Mammoth Hot Springs location.

The Northern Pacific Railroad had strong interests in the Yellowstone Park Association Company as well as its predecessor, the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company. With new leases in hand, the president of the Yellowstone National Park Company (YPA), Charles Gibson, took over the existing hotels and began a program to construct proper hotels in the Park, including one at Lake Yellowstone. Little progress was made on hotel construction and in 1888, a new lease was negotiated with YPA in which the Lake Hotel site was trimmed to one acre instead of the 1886, two acre lease.<sup>6</sup>

Construction began on the hotel on Lake Yellowstone during 1889 under the supervision of R. R. Cummins, who was also supervising the construction of two other similar designed hotels in the Park. Its remote location and the difficulty of transporting materials and supplies from as far away as St. Paul, Minnesota, caused delays. The first major construction problem, however, was the instability of the foundation, which had been built by "laying of the rubblestone foundation over an uneven surface of stumps and clay." One company official described the foundation "there are many places . . . that he can today push over with his foot."<sup>7</sup> The following spring, the YPA eliminated a number of rooms from the original plans and the excess lumber which was sawn locally, was stacked for future use. Despite, several major delays on delivery, iron roofing, steampipes, electrical wiring, and major portions of the oak staircase, the hotel opened during the 1891 season. The rather plain three-story hotel

. . . resembled other hotels built along the railroad rights of way with a flat-faced front, yellow clap-board exterior, and windows with black-painted trim. There was a veranda at the building's east end, with a porch on top of it, whose double doors opened onto a second floor parlor with a fireplace. There was a gable at each end of the roof. An observation deck, or widow's walk, sat atop the east gable. The Hotel's interior walls were finished with lead paint, and the flooring was mostly pine with a bit of oak in the stairway. The building used steam heat and electric lighting, and each bedroom door had a jet doorknob, rubber-tipped doorstop, and a glass transom.<sup>8</sup>

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

---

By 1893, the Lake Hotel was considered "one of the pleasantest, best kept hotels in the Park." The hotel which was on the packaged horse-drawn tours of the transportation company was usually visited on the fifth night in the Park, but Superintendent George Anderson felt that perhaps "a stay in the Park," instead of "a tour of the Park," should be the norm and the YPA supported this new attitude by lowering the daily room rate from \$4 to \$3 after a six day stay.

In an interior change in 1895, two rooms were converted to a liquor storage and bartender's preparation room and the other to a room in which the visitors were served their drinks. A connecting door between the two rooms allowed the waiters to not have to carry drinks into the main hall. A leaking roof led to the roof being replaced with a cedar shingle roof in 1896.

The hotel was only opened for three years when the YPA realized that the elimination of rooms at the time of construction had been a mistake. The increase of guests at Lake prompted the YPA to get an estimate for a 108 ft. x 43 ft. addition, but financial troubles plagued the YPA. With the assistance of the Northern Pacific Railroad, Harry Child, a Montanan banker, Silas Huntley, and Child's brother-in-law, Edmund Bach purchased the company. Child already was well on his way to having most of the concession operations in the Park, as he already had major interest in the transportation company. Eventually, Mr. Child would own most of the stock in both companies, some of which was financed by a loan from a Northern Pacific holding company.

Because of financial problems and ownership unrest, nothing was done to the hotel until 1903 - 1904. By that time, Harry Child had hired architect, Robert C. Reamer to design the Old Faithful Inn and take over the design for the addition and changes to Lake Hotel. The changes to Lake Hotel, which cost \$79,201.96, included an extension of an east end and an ell at the rear of the building. The more plain barrack's style was changed to take on a Colonial Revival appearance with the addition of fifty-foot Ionic columns fronting the pavilions, architrave window trim, small balcony projections, balustrades, semicircular openings, sidelights and doorways. There was even the suggestion that the hotel name be changed to "Lake Colonial Hotel."

In 1910, another one-story addition was made on the dining room at the west end of the hotel. While the Northern Pacific no longer had heavy investments in the concession company, their promotional literature boasted of the fine services that could be found in the Park. The Lake Hotel was described as ". . . a place where one feels wonderfully at home from the start. . . ."9

Prior to the entrance of automobiles in 1915, the park concessioners catered to tourists who arrived by rail and stage and a few people from nearby states who came by wagon. Their park experience on the most part was regulated by organized tours, with stops at different locations each night. Visitors now had more choice of staying at the hotels

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

---

or could find accommodations at the automobile camps found throughout the Park, however group tours were and are still a very popular way to see the Park. The following year, the National Park Service was created and the effects of World War I were being felt in the park attendance. Because of the lack of tourists and shortages of funds and labor, Lake Hotel was closed for the 1918 and 1919 seasons. However, relaxed war tensions and the popularity of automobile touring caused people to flock to Yellowstone in 1919. Soon afterwards, plans were made for more refinement to the hotel. The new superintendent, Horace Albright called for ". . . improvements that will be the most noteworthy will include a porte-cochere in front of the central entrance . . . . The old porch will be replaced by concrete walks." These improvements were completed in 1920.<sup>10</sup>

During 1923 - 1924, extensive remodeling was done at Lake Hotel. Again, architect, Robert C. Reamer directed many of the changes. More rooms were needed to meet the demands of the post-war tourists. In 1922, the National Park Service requested that the YPA build an extension to accommodate the growing clientele at the popular location. Link and Haire, an Helena, Montana, architectural firm, completed a four-story wing on the east wing. A two-story addition replaced the earlier 1910 dining room addition and an extension on the west side of the kitchen were completed for a cost of \$52,175.11. Each guest room also had hot and cold water taps added for a cost of \$6,931.74.<sup>11</sup>

At this time, many changes were made to the interior and supervised by Robert C. Reamer, Child's architect. Among the more important changes still found in the hotel were the addition to the lobby wall of a tiled fireplace and surround, sand jar and drinking fountain designed by Reamer. The motifs were designed to reflect the Yellowstone environment--pine cone spray, elk, and forest scenes.

In 1928, the last major remodeling was done to the hotel until the 1984 project. Robert Reamer designed a new porte-cochere and the lobby area was enlarged. The bar and bartender's liquor and storage rooms were removed, the photo shop and newsstand relocated and part of the original porte cochere enclosed. In addition to designing the art glass light fixtures, he had the Victorian stairway between the 1st and 2nd floors replaced with Colonial Revival style balusters and newel posts. With these changes, the ambiance of a resort hotel was complete.

It was just a few short years before the country was in the depths of the depression and once again Lake Hotel was closed in 1933, but by 1936, travel to the Park increased so efforts were made to get the hotel ready for a 1937 season opening. The roof was reshingled and the exterior received another coat of yellow paint. The steam boilers were converted to the use of oil.

Just before World War II, Huntley Child Jr. of the Yellowstone Park Company, as it was now called, commented on the changing tourist patterns, "Before the War, we persuaded ourselves that what we wanted . . . was a comparatively modest hotel and cottages, . .



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

---

and in a spirit of *joie de vivre*, we gaily tore down the wing we built in 1903, thereby destroying some fifty or sixty perfectly good rooms. . . . The cottages back of the hotel were started in 1941, then the War came. . . ."12

Once again the hotel closed and remained closed for the 1942 through 1946 seasons. During July and August of 1947, only sleeping facilities were offered at Lake Hotel. After the war, tourist travel increased, but the lack of funds, materials, and labor made it difficult for the concessioners to build new needed facilities or even to make improvements to the existing facilities.

During the early 1950s, the kitchen was remodeled a small storage space and entrance were added to the east side. During this time ". . . serious thought was given to cutting through the hotel east of the center porte cochere . . ." to provide a drive-through.<sup>13</sup> Some discussion was given to demolishing Lake Hotel and consolidating the services at the nearby Lake Lodge, however the concessioner decided to remodel rooms in the east wing and change the first floor interior spaces to reflect a more stark 1950s appearance with the addition of birch veneer. The 1920s resort atmosphere was removed.<sup>14</sup>

In 1965, the Yellowstone Park Company was sold to Goldfield Enterprises which was soon sold to General Baking Company. In 1967, General Baking Company changed its name to General Host, Inc. In 1979, the United States government purchased the assets of the former Yellowstone Park Company from General Host, Inc. As a result of the government buyout, a thorough analysis of the period in which General Host, Inc. operated the facilities in the Park stated

Most facilities throughout the park show extensive signs of advanced age and improper maintenance. Roofs are given little attention until severe leaking occurs; painting is not done often enough; windows and screens are left cracked, broken, and torn; draperies, shades, and blinds are frayed and broken; floor coverings are characterized by warped and broken tiles and worn, stained, and frayed rugs; and hand-lettered signs are the rule rather than the exception. Maintenance is not planned, but exists as a crisis-by-crisis effort of fixing and patching.<sup>15</sup>

As part of a new contract with the National Park Service, TW Recreation Services, Inc., now TW Recreation Services, who took over the major concession operations in the Park, agreed to obligate 22 percent of the gross revenue and all pretax profits in excess of 5 percent toward the repair, maintenance and capital improvements to the government owned concession facilities.

Soon after TW Recreation Services assumed the responsibility for the concession operations in the Park, Lake Hotel began to receive much needed attention. The condition of Lake

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

---

Soon after TW Recreation Services assumed the responsibility for the concession operations in the Park, Lake Hotel began to receive much needed attention. The condition of Lake Hotel had been described in 1972 as

. . . tours buses deposited visitors at the building's back door, where a makeshift canopy gave way to a dingy interior with faded hall runners and lackluster guest rooms. Framed maps and posters disappeared from lounge walls, and the furniture was mismatched and threadbare. the hotel's kitchen and dining room slipped well below code requirements, and employee morale plummeted.<sup>16</sup>

(Details of the rehabilitation can be found in Section 7.) The joint commitment of the TW Recreation Services and the National Park Service in restoring the Lake Hotel to its former resort hotel ambiance has been proved successful by the praise it receives from the hotel guests and others who visit it. The sought after reservations at this hotel reflects the interest that the late 20th century visitors have in staying in a restored hotel facility.

1. Ferdinand Hayden, *Twelfth Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1883), 438.
2. Ray Mattison, "Report on Historical Structures of Yellowstone Park." Mimeographed. (Washington D.C.: National Park Service, 1960), 17.
3. Carrie Adelle Strahorn, *Fifteen Thousand Miles By Stage.* (New York: Putnam's Sons, 1911), 259.
4. *Livingston Enterprise.* May 25, 1885. *Livingston Enterprise.* June 13, 1885. *Livingston Enterprise.* June 20, 1885. George Anderson, "Report on Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park," in *Annual Report of the Secretary of the Interior.* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891) 643.
5. Senate Executive Document No. 51, 49th Congress, 1st Sess., Appendix C, p. 23.
6. Moses Harris, *Report of the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior, 1888.* (Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1888), 636.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

---

7. Barbara H. Dittl and Joanne Mallman, *Plain to Fancy. The Story of the Lake Hotel*, (Boulder, Colorado: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., Publishers, 1987), p. 7 Much of the information for this history will be taken from this publication. After "The History of Concessions for Yellowstone National Park, 1872 - 1979" is completed in 1992, this nomination form will be revised to supplement any new information or insights gained.

8. Dittl and Mallman, *Plain to Fancy. The Story of Lake Hotel*, p. 8.

9. Dittl and Mallman, p. 11.

10. Stephen Mather, *Report of the Director of the National Park Service To The Secretary of the Interior For The Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1920 and the Travel Season 1920*. (Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1920), 204.

11. Horace M. Albright to Harry Child, 21 September 1923. National Archives. RG 79, National Park Service Records, Central File 1907-1939. Yellowstone Park Hotel Company, Miscellaneous Correspondence, January 2, 1919 to October 24, 1929, File 900-05, Part 2. Yellowstone Park Hotel Company Report for Season 1924.

12. Dittl and Mallman, p. 20.

13. Dittl and Mallman, p. 20.

14. *Ibid.*, p. 20.

15. Richard Bartlett, *Yellowstone. A Wilderness Besieged*. (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985), p. 373. U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, "Yellowstone National Park Concessions Management Review of the Yellowstone Park Company," prepared by the Yellowstone Concessions Study Team for the Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park, Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region, Director, National Park Service. February - October, 1976. This is not a published report.

16. Dittl and Mallman, p. 23.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service




National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

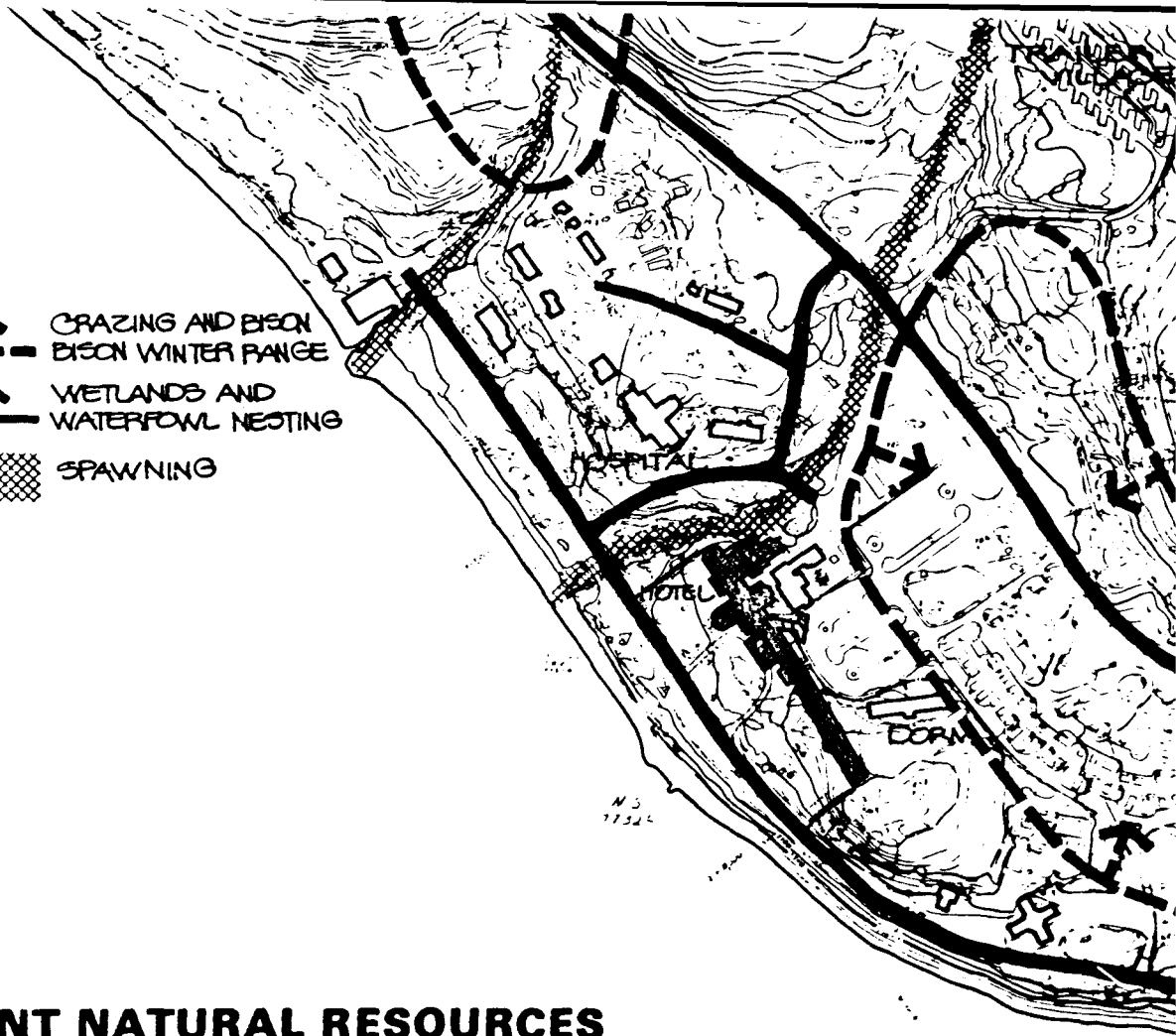
Section number   9   Page   2  

---

9. Major Bibliographical References

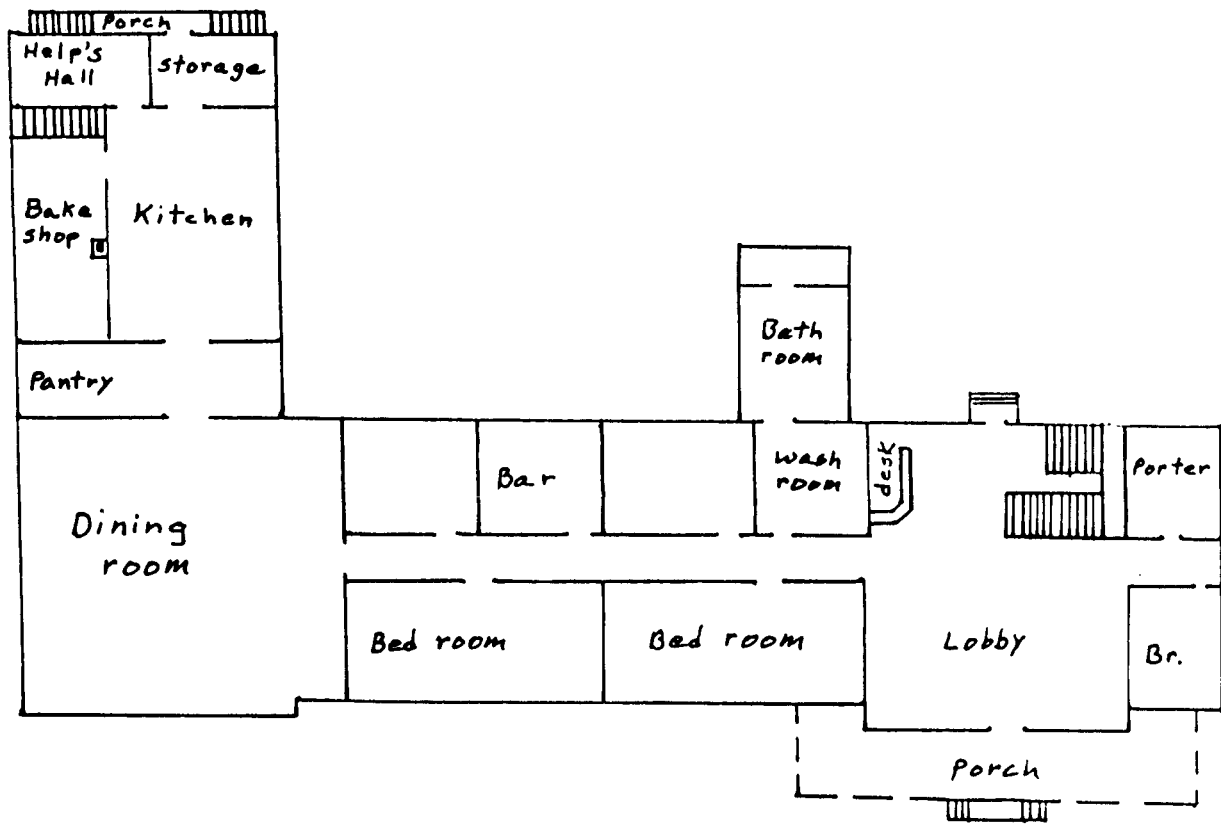
- Bartlett, Richard. *Yellowstone. A Wilderness Besieged*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1985.
- Dittl, Barbara and Mallman, Joanne. *Plain to Fancy. The Story of the Lake Hotel*. Boulder, Colorado: Roberts Rinehart, Inc., Publishers, 1987.
- Harris, Moses. *Report of the Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior, 1888*. Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1888.
- Hayden, Ferdinand. *Twelfth Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories*. Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1883.
- Mather, Stephen. *Report of the Director of the National Park Service to the Secretary of the Interior for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1920 and the Travel Season 1920*. Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1920.
- Mattison, Ray. "Report on Historical Structures of Yellowstone National Park." Washington D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1960.
- Strahorn, Carrie Adelle. *Fifteen Thousand Miles By Stage*. New York: Putnam's Sons, 1911.

-  CRAZING AND BISON  
BISON WINTER RANGE
-  WETLANDS AND  
WATERFOWL NESTING
-  SPAWNING



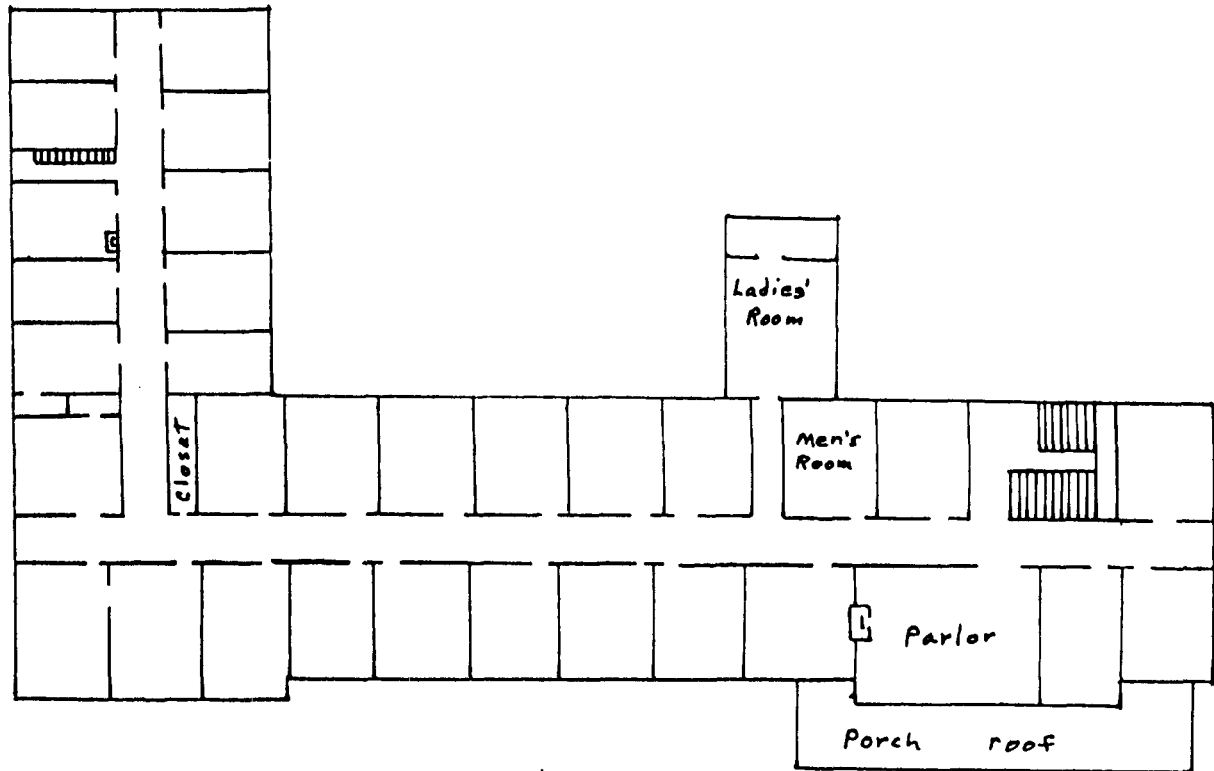
**LAKE  
SIGNIFICANT NATURAL RESOURCES  
FISHING BRIDGE / LAKE / BRIDGE BAY DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT PLAN  
YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK WYOMING-MONTANA-IDAHO  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

# Lake Hotel



Original 1<sup>st</sup> floor plan  
completed 1891

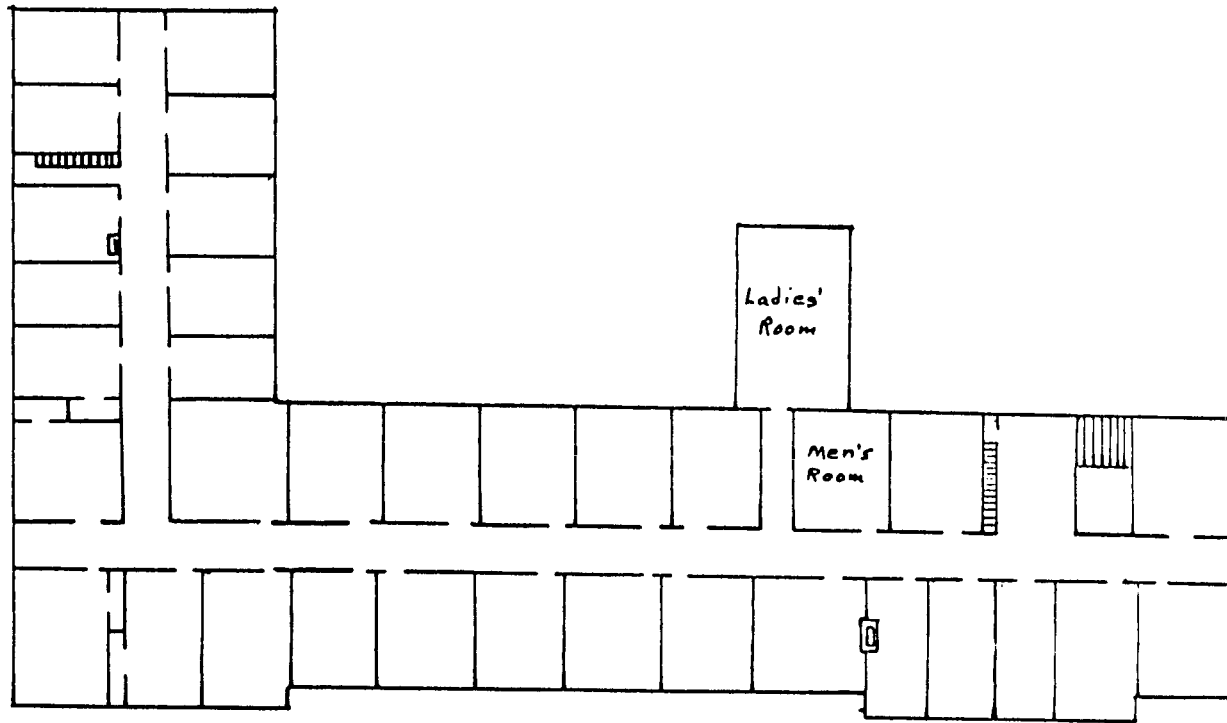
# Lake Hotel



original 2<sup>nd</sup> floor plan

Completed 1891

# Lake Hotel

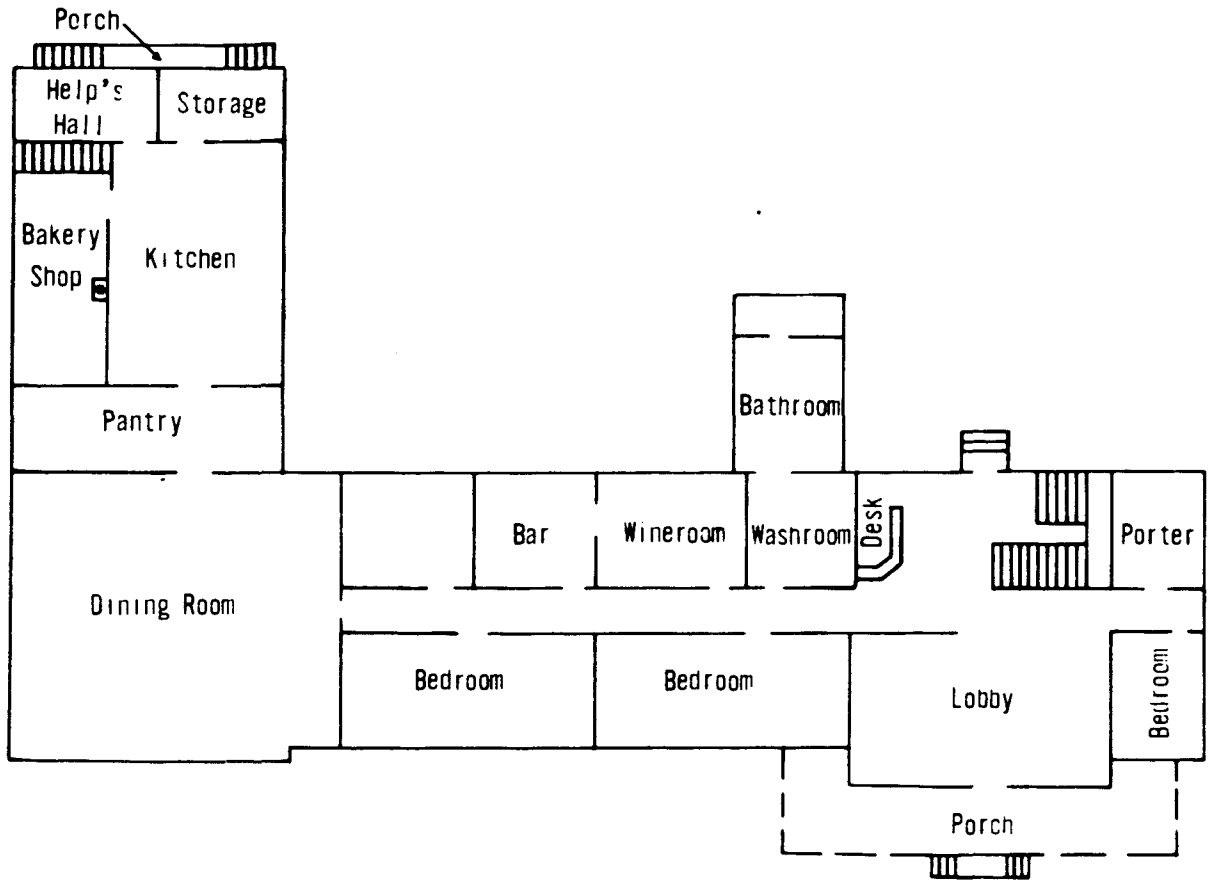


original 3<sup>rd</sup> floor plan

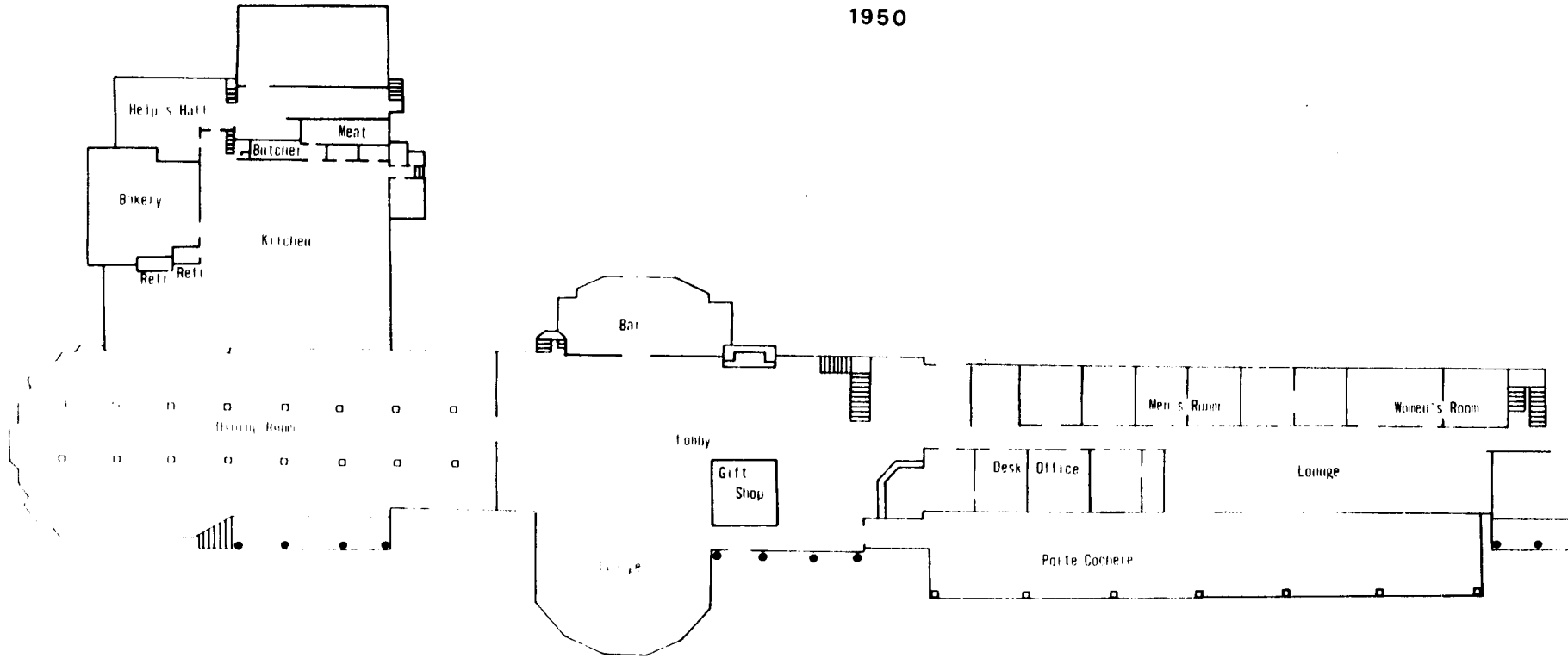
Completed 1891



# LAKE HOTEL FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1895



# LAKE HOTEL FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1950



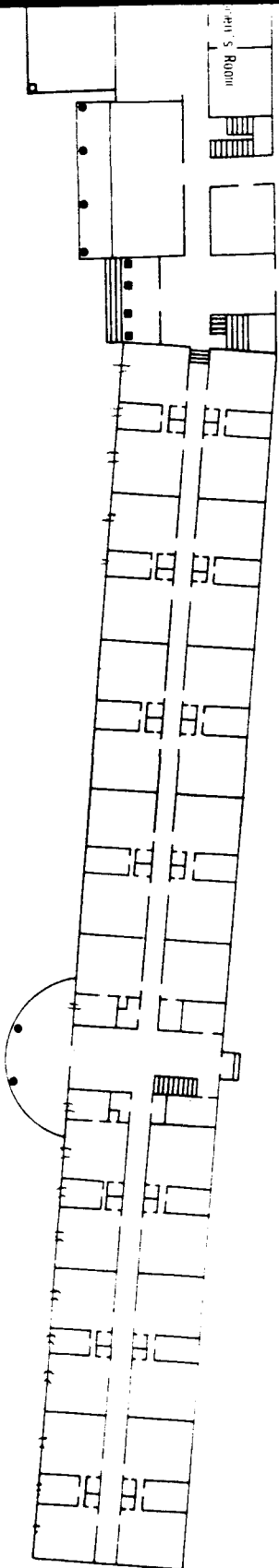


FIGURE 27

