

PH 0664863

## DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED MAR 15 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 15 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Welty's General Store

AND/OR COMMON

E. A. Welty, General Merchandise or Welty's Cash Store

Welty's Store or Welty's General Store or Welty's

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

220 Ramshorn St.

CITY, TOWN

Dubois

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Fremont

CODE

013

**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:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Frank A. Welty, Jr. and Alta K. Welty

STREET &amp; NUMBER

220 Ramshorn

CITY, TOWN

Dubois

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82513

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fremont County Clerk

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box CC

CITY, TOWN

Lander,

STATE

Wyoming 82520

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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

DATE

1967 (revised, 1973)

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED                      DATE 1898

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Welty's General Store was first established in 1889, on the east side of Horse Creek just across from what today is Hawley Acres. This location was due north of what is now the town of Dubois. The store was actually built by Frank A. Welty, I, to adjoin the homestead cabin of his father, Dr. Francis Welty. Constructed on the west end of Dr. Francis Welty's home, the original store had a rectangular floor plan, measuring 42 feet by 18 feet. Both Frank's business and Francis' homestead cabin were log buildings, having dirt roofs.

In 1897, George Hays and Huey Yeomans formed a partnership and built a store in the town of Dubois, just north of the junction of Horse Creek and Wind River. Soon this was to be the new site of Welty's General Store. The Hays-Yeomans store was constructed on property belonging to George Lovering. One year later, in 1898, Frank A. Welty, I, purchased the Hays-Yeomans business as well as the Lovering land on which it sat. At that time, Frank A. Welty, I, dismantled the original Welty's General Store, still located further north along Horse Creek, and reconstructed it as a rear addition to the Hays-Yeomans building. When the joining of the two buildings was completed, Frank A. Welty, I, took a pencil and wrote both his name and the date on the ridge log of the store. This is still visible today.

As can be seen from Exhibit 1, the Hays-Yeomans building was also of log with a dirt roof. It had a center, lengthwise room running north-south and was flanked by two log "lean-to" additions. The building has a central entry with double windows on each side. It sat slightly lower than the street and, to enter the store, customers had to walk down exterior steps.

In 1915, a new, street-level front was added which projected out toward the north, allowing not only for more interior floor space but also additional window display space. This new construction retained the central entrance, though now it became an indented doorway as can be seen from Exhibit 2.

In 1922, Frank A. Welty, I, further improved his place of business by adding more frontage to the central portion of the store. The new, longer storefront was of log with projecting log roof beams and a log portico running the entire length of the building. The central indented double door with its flanking display windows was retained. Exhibit 3 clearly demonstrates the storefront of the early 1920's. At that time, a gasoline pump had been installed on the portico. Later, a separate gasoline station was to be built, located to the immediate west of the store. This can be seen in Exhibit 4.

Beginning in late 1949 and continuing into the early 1950's, Welty's General Store was enlarged by Frank A. Welty, Jr., and his wife, Alta K. Welty. By increasing the floor space of the two wings which had always flanked the central portion of the building, Welty's General Store was able to expand its sporting goods-hardware departments, which had always been housed in the east wing, and its clothing-giftware departments, which had always occupied the west wing.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) banking, medicine, weather station.
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1889-present BUILDER/ARCHITECT Frank A. Welty, I; Frank A. Welty, II; Pat Jenkins; Dave Carson; Bill Moriarity; Noel Poole.

Since 1889, Welty's General Store has provided vital and varied services to homesteaders, ranchers, tie hacks and other settlers of the Upper Wind River Valley. Having truly been a "general store" since its founding 90 years ago, Welty's has always been the hub of commercial activity in the area. In keeping with the fact that the store was an outgrowth of the personal agricultural needs of Frank A. Welty, I, Welty's has, since its beginning, supplied a full line of agricultural equipment; essential fuels; construction materials and hardware; groceries, other foodstuffs and sundries; and carried a complete line of dry goods--all in a venerable log building whose construction reflects the traditional carpentry skills of the region. Furthermore, for many years, Welty's provided the inhabitants of the Upper Wind River Valley with fundamental banking, transportation and postal services--the latter because Mrs. Francis Welty was the first postmistress in the region and carried out her duties in Welty's General Store. In addition, medical services were available as Dr. Francis Welty maintained his offices and treated patients in the store. Weather reporting and record keeping figured as just another of the many service activities in which Welty's was involved. Finally, Frank A. Welty, I, the founder and first proprietor of Welty's General Store was indeed the Upper Wind River Valley's pioneer in solving the region's economic problems of supply and demand; and through the expansive and varied services he sought to provide as well as the industry he helped to establish, he created employment and opportunity for many in the area.

Here begins an elaboration of the areas of significance checked above:

Agriculture: Frank A. Welty, I, the founder and first proprietor of Welty's General Store, was essentially a cattle rancher whose expanding ranching requirements caused him to solve problems of supply, initially for his own five ranches and later, by 1889, for other ranchers and settlers in the area. Not only were basic agricultural materials always supplied but also a full line of farm implements was standard stock at Welty's. For example, Welty's was the first John Deere dealership in the area.

Architecture: Welty's General Store reflects the traditional log construction of the Upper Wind River Valley. The original dirt (sod) roof remains today as an integral part of the original buildings which go to make up the present Welty's General Store. As was outlined in Section 7, Description, Welty's has been

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Old account and ledger books of Welty's General Store.
2. Interviews with Frank A. Welty, II; Frankie and Bill Moriarity; and Lilly Underwood.
3. County Records of Deeds; Fremont County Court House; Lander, Wyoming 82520.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,2	6,1,0	4,6,0	4,8	2,0	7,6,0	B						
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING							
C							D						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The store is located in Welty's first addition to the town of Dubois beginning 8 feet west of the northeast corner of Lot 1 in Block 4; thence east 120 feet; thence south 140 feet; thence west 120 feet; thence north 140 feet to the point of beginning.

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

Johanna P. Welty, Director

ORGANIZATION

Historic Neversweat, Inc.

DATE

July 29, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 205

TELEPHONE

none

CITY OR TOWN

Dubois

STATE

Wyoming 82513

## 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

*Jon L. Wilson*

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 14, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Carol D. Shull*

DATE

11-15-79

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

*William H. Abraham*

DATE

11.13.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The construction work of the 1950's respected the traditional floor plan of Welty's General Store with the central entrance remaining. However, the roof on the front part of the store was altered, becoming now steeply gabled while it enclosed a storage attic. All construction in the 1950's was done in log and by Pat Jenkins, Dave Carson, Bill Moriarity and Noel Poole. Exhibit 5 shows the completed Welty's General Store of the mid-1950's, and as it still appears today in the summer of 1979.

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expanded over its 88 years of operation. Nevertheless, the original building, which was the first Welty's remains today in its original form and adjoins later additions. Nothing has been destroyed by any addition, and, in fact, all subsequent additions serve well to document the development of log construction techniques in the region. Because no formal architect played a role in the construction of Welty's General Store, the building is truly a monument to regional folk architecture and traditional building methods.

Commerce: By its very nature, Welty's General Store has always been involved in the supply and exchange of goods and services. Since its start in 1889, Welty's has supplied a full line of farm implements and ranch requirements; essential fuels have always been a mainstay as have been construction materials and hardware; groceries, other foodstuffs and sundries as well as a complete line of dry goods have always been standard stock at Welty's. Because Welty's has always been a "general store" in the fullest sense of the term, it has figured as the hub of commercial activity in the Upper Wind River Valley.

Communications: Because Mrs. Francis Welty, the first postmistress serving the Upper Wind River Valley, carried out her duties in her son's store, Welty's was able to provide postal service to area inhabitants. Welty's also served as a general information-news center and was a central depot for and transmitter of messages of all kinds.

Economics: Fundamentally, through the vehicle of Welty's General Store, Frank A. Welty, I, was a true pioneer in anticipating demand and solving problems of supply in the Upper Wind River Valley. Because in the early days, Welty's served chiefly small ranchers living up and down the Wind River, ranching needs were those first met by Welty's. All merchandise was freighted in year round from Shoshoni, Wyoming-- Shoshoni being the end of the railroad. Since it took six weeks to make the round trip from Shoshoni, perishables were usually not hauled with much success. Welty's freighted by means of a "string team" of 16 horses; that is, the team would be run with a string line instead of by means of a set of lines that could be pulled. Thus, they would have only one line which ran through one side of the horse bit. The team then would be run with a man out beside it instead of a driver. This line was called a "jerk line" or a string line, and whips were used to further manage the team. Such a team was used to pull two or three wagons which were hitched together and which transported eight to nine tons of merchandise. All fruits and vegetables freighted into Dubois were canned and most, including other merchandise, were originally purchased out of Omaha, Nebraska, from a firm called Paxton and Gallagher.

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Exploration/Settlement: Frank A. Welty, I, originally came West from Baltimore, Maryland as a government surveyor. He was stationed in the Wind River Valley before Wyoming achieved statehood in order to prepare the land for homesteading. It was through his work as a surveyor that he became aware of the ranching potential of the Valley. Soon he himself chose land to homestead and, over the years, acquired enough land to make up five distinct cattle ranches. His father, Dr. Francis Welty, and numerous other family members homesteaded in the Valley also.

Industry: Welty's General Store has always been a varied service producing enterprise. The numerous services provided by Welty's since its founding 88 years ago have been listed and discussed previously. In addition, however, it should be noted that Frank A. Welty, I, in conjunction with Welty's General Store, was from the start interested in tourism. Because of this life-long interest, he was always actively involved in promoting the AYP (Atlantic Yellowstone Pacific Highway) and at one time was a member of the Wyoming Highway Commission.

Transportation: In solving problems of freighting in merchandise (see Economics), Welty's in effect was solving transportation problems. Not only did Welty's transport merchandise for the store by means of its "string team" (see Economics), but it would also haul others' belongings which arrived by rail at Shoshoni. Furthermore, as was mentioned earlier (see Industry), the active interest which Frank A. Welty, I, maintained over the years in highway construction and tourism enabled him to contribute substantially to the cause of transportation in the West.

Banking: Fundamental banking and financial services were provided by Frank A. Welty, I, through Welty's General Store from the start in 1889. Credit accounts were extended to numerous ranching clients, money was lent and barter and trade were common. It was not until 1914, that the Upper Wind River Valley had a formal bank--one which was founded by Frank A. Welty, I.

Medicine: Dr. Francis Welty, the father of Frank A. Welty, I, was the first of the Welyts to set foot in what was later to become the state of Wyoming. As an U. S. Army surgeon, he was stationed at Ft. Washakie and formed a life-long friendship with Chief Washakie himself. When Francis' son, Frank, later came out as a government surveyor and was stationed further up the Wind River, Francis decided to homestead just north of what today is the town of Dubois. It was in fact Francis' homestead that was the first site of Welty's General Store. "Old Doc Welty," as he was commonly known throughout the Valley, maintained his medical practice and drug depository in Welty's General Store until his death in the Great Flood of 1919.

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Brief History of Ownership of Welty's General Store: Welty's General Store was founded in 1889, by Frank A. Welty, I. With the exception of the period during World War II, the store has been in continual operation since its establishment. In October of 1945, Frank A. Welty, II, with his wife, Alta K. Welty, purchased the store from Frank A. Welty, I. It is still owned and operated by Frank A. Welty, II and his wife and continues to be run in the manner and spirit of its founder. Though established before the community of Dubois was formed or before Wyoming achieved statehood, Welty's General Store not only has served the inhabitants of the Upper Wind River Valley but also has consistently created opportunity and, therefore, economic growth for the region.