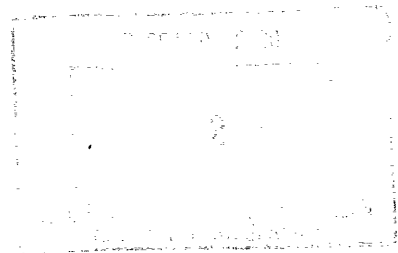


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name \_ George Washington Memorial Park \_

other names/site number \_\_\_ Jackson Town Square \_\_\_

2. Location

street & number \_\_ between Cache, Center, Broadway, and Deloney \_ not for publication \_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_ Jackson \_\_\_ vicinity \_\_\_

state \_ Wyoming \_\_\_ code \_ WY \_\_\_ county \_ Teton \_\_\_ code \_ 039 \_\_\_

zip code \_ 83001 \_\_\_

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Richard Christ*      10/16/03  
Signature of certifying official      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official      Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, Edson Beall, hereby certify that this property is  
 entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall      12/5/03  
    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): \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]*      \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper      Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> 1	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> 2	<input type="checkbox"/> 4 objects
<input type="checkbox"/> 3	<input type="checkbox"/> 5 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: plaza

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: LANDSCAPE Sub: plaza

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

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Period of Significance  1934-1953

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Significant Dates \_ 1934, 1939, 1953 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

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

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_ N/A \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_ Harold L. Curtiss \_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

x  Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_ Jackson Hole Historical Society \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property \_ less than one acre \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	12	519278	3		
2			4		

\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

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name/title \_\_\_ Michael Cassity \_\_\_\_\_

organization \_\_\_ Michael Cassity Historical Research and Photography \_\_\_ date \_\_\_ February 19, 2003 \_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_ 304 West Albuquerque \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_ 918 451-8378 \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_ Broken Arrow \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_ OK \_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_ 74011 \_\_\_\_\_

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_ Town of Jackson \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_ 150 E. Pearl Avenue \_ / P. O. Box \_ 1687 \_ telephone \_\_ 307-733- 3932 \_

city or town \_ Jackson \_\_\_\_\_ state \_ WY \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_ 83001 \_\_\_\_\_

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George Washington Memorial Park

Teton County, Wyoming

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Description

**Summary**

The Jackson, Wyoming, Town Square, or George Washington Memorial Park, is a site that includes, in addition to its obvious landscape features, two objects that are contributing (an elk antler arch and a stone monument to John Colter), four objects that are non-contributing (three elk antler arches and a monument in the center of the park), and one building (the "Stage Stop") that is non-contributing. In addition there are smaller, incidental and utilitarian features such as benches, litter receptacles, a drinking fountain, and a utility shed that are not inventoried because of their size and scale and also sometimes their impermanence. Although the number of non-contributing resources may appear disproportionate to the contributing resources, one contributing resource, the site, is the park itself, a feature that occupies a full city block, and each of the non-contributing resources are non-contributing only because of their age, not because they represent intrusions or compromise the integrity of the park.

To describe George Washington Memorial Park is to describe an evolving entity from the very beginning of the town. For years that evolution came as a consequence of other activities surrounding it, but became more purposeful and designed in 1934 when the park was landscaped. The basic configuration of the park has remained the same, a rectangle approximately one hundred eighty feet on the east and two hundred twenty-five feet on the north, with diagonal crosswalks intersecting in the middle, and with a post and rail fence around the perimeter of the park. The park occupies a full city block in the heart of Jackson, Wyoming and is dominated by trees and shrubbery, but also holds two stone monuments, a flagpole, assorted benches, and four large arches made of elk antlers. In addition, one non-contributing building is used for tourist stage rides and one non-contributing utility building is located on the grounds. Despite enduring a gradual social evolution in addition to the natural maturation of the flora of the park, two processes which have caused the park to change appearance somewhat over the years, the George Washington Memorial Park possesses a high degree of integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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The general design of the park includes a wooden board sidewalk that completely defines the periphery of the square, separating the post and rail fence from the curb and street. At each corner a massive elk antler arch rises above a walkway that leads diagonally to the center of the park where a stone monument rises; in this way, the walks create four distinct quadrants that surround a smaller central area. The walkways were originally dirt or gravel and at an unknown point were paved with asphalt; the asphalt was replaced in 1976 with the wooden boardwalks currently in use.

The landscaping of the park generally consists of a grassy lawn punctuated by pine, spruce, and cottonwood trees, and includes a variety of flowering shrubbery. While early photographs reveal the symmetry of the plantings, subsequent growth of the foliage generally obscures the precise patterns except for the linear arrangements of trees along the perimeter of the park. In some instances, older trees that have been injured by weather or pests have been replaced with new growth so that the park contains a mix of ages and sizes of trees. Both shrubbery and trees are trimmed and pruned regularly. Park benches and litter receptacles are positioned throughout the park in fixed, but not permanent, installations; those features are generally made of dark wood and metal to blend with the environment.

At the entrances to the park on each corner, distinctive elk antler arches cover the walkways. These arches are each about twenty-five feet wide and sixteen feet high. They are made by weaving together the annually discarded antlers of bull elk in the area. The first arch, at Broadway and Cache, on the southwest corner was constructed in 1953, and subsequent arches at each of the other corners were added, one at a time, in 1966, 1967, and 1969. The stone facing to the bases of the arches was added in 1976. The first arch is contributing, but the remaining three are not, solely because of age.

### **West Quadrant**

The west quadrant, a triangular section along the west edge of the park adjacent to Cache Drive, includes a variety of shrubbery and trees dating from the original landscaping in 1934. In addition, however, it also includes a stone monument

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George Washington Memorial Park

Teton County, Wyoming

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commemorating the arrival of mountain man John Colter in the valley in 1808 as the first white person to visit the area. This monument, and the piece of land twenty-five feet square around it, centered on the west edge, belongs to the state of Wyoming, and the monument was added in 1939. The stone monument is rose granite with heavy, dark veins and irregular configuration; the west side of the monument bears a metal tablet commemorating John Colter. The south side of the monument bears another, smaller, tablet added in 1976 bearing the name of the park: "George Washington Memorial Park." This monument is a contributing feature. Between the Colter monument and the center of the park is a flagpole. Originally the flagpole was situated in the center, where the crosswalks intersected, but when the War Memorial was added in 1976 the flagpole appears to have been moved west to its current location. On the west periphery of the quadrant, the fence is interrupted by an inset panel mounted on vertical logs and covered with a shake shingle roof; the panel contains a map of the area. Although added as part of fence maintenance at an unknown date since the period of significance, and is thereby non-contributing, this minor feature is unobtrusive, blends with the fence, and does not compromise the integrity of the landscaping or the built features of the park.

#### North Quadrant

The north quadrant, the triangular section adjacent to Deloney Avenue on the north edge of the park, contains only incidental features such as discrete park benches and litter receptacles, with the exception of a small utility shed inset from the fence at approximately the midpoint of the block. That shed, approximately three feet deep and six feet wide, with wooden shingle gabled roof, faces the center of the park, and is constructed of horizontal wooden planks stained but natural in color. This non-contributing feature, because of its small size, its inconspicuous location, and its rustic design does not compromise the integrity of the landscaping of the other built features of the park.

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### **East Quadrant**

The east quadrant is that section adjacent to Center Street on the east edge of the park. This section contains no built features and the landscaping dates to the creation of the park in 1934.

### **South Quadrant**

The south quadrant lies adjacent to Broadway on the south edge of the park. This section, almost wholly devoted to trees and shrubbery, contains one built feature, a small non-contributing building known as the "Stage Stop." The structure is located adjacent to the arch at the southwest corner of the park. Made of rough-hewn wooden planks, the rectangular building features a false front on the south, facing Broadway, that conceals a gabled roof behind; the roof is above a shallow, single-cell structure about ten feet wide and five feet deep. A sloping portico supported by two square posts at the corners covers a stoop that stretches across most of the front. A glass-paneled door in the center is flanked by double-hung single-light windows on each side. This building is obscured from the center of the park by foliage. In 1995 this building replaced and was designed to imitate an earlier structure that had been moved to this location in 1959 and which had deteriorated. It houses the business operation of horse-drawn stagecoach rides. Although conspicuous from Broadway, it is not noticeable from the interior of the park or from either side. It is a non-contributing feature but it does not compromise the integrity of the larger park.

### **Park Center**

The flagpole that originally marked the center of the park at the intersection of the diagonal walkways was moved, probably in 1976, into the west quadrant of the park. In that year a stone monument was placed in the center. This monument, a square tower about nine feet tall, is faced with native stone and mortar about three feet on each side. Each elevation of the monument bears a bronze plaque with the names of Jackson Hole

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Teton County, Wyoming

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veterans of World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam conflict, those plaques being installed with the original monument in 1976. In 1991 an additional plaque listing Operation Desert Storm (the 1991 Gulf War) veterans was added. The key feature of this memorial, however, is the bronze bucking horse statue at the top, created by sculptor Bud Boller, Jr. A familiar icon in Wyoming and Jackson Hole, the bucking horse and rider figure is featured throughout the state, but is especially reminiscent of photographs from rodeos and dude ranch activity in Jackson Hole.

A circular stone bench surrounding the base of the monument was added a year after the memorial itself, in 1977, and a flower garden separates the bench from the center monument. Dark metal posts connected by draping chains add a measure of solemnity to the memorial as they rise from the inner perimeter of the bench. While the center memorial and the surrounding bench are both non-contributing by reason of age, they will become fully contributing features of the park in due time. Indeed, the original plans for the park appear to have included the provision for the subsequent placement of a water fountain as the central focal point of the park, an idea that was never brought to completion until this memorial took its place, representing a final step in the completion of the park.

Immediately west of the center monument is a small water (drinking) fountain, a short structure with stone facing that matches the nearby veterans' memorial. This fountain is located on an apron of boards that radiates outward from the memorial and connects with the walkways. This small feature, too, is non-contributing by reason of age.

The development of George Washington Memorial Park was begun in 1934 in terms of the physical work on the ground and the emergence of a landscaped park, but its origins actually run deeper in the community than the act of planting trees and shrubs might indicate. Likewise, it would be a mistake to view the park as being complete once the first trees and bushes were planted that year. As a continuing work that has evolved both according to original design and in conjunction with changing community needs, the park, or town square, has remained true not only to its origins but to its purpose in the center of the community.

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Teton County, Wyoming

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Narrative Statement of Significance

**Summary**

George Washington Memorial Park, also known as the Town Square, in Jackson, Wyoming is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A because of its association with events important in the history of the nation. Prior to the creation of the George Washington park, the town square served as an informal, ill-defined, and widely-used open area around which the town's retail businesses began to locate. Although volunteer efforts, and some official community endorsement, sought to create an actual park in that area, those endeavors fell short of community aspirations. Ironically, it was only in the time of serious financial straits in Jackson that the park received the attention it needed. As a result of citizen volunteers, local officials, and federal work-relief assistance, the open space was converted into George Washington Memorial Park. That conversion in the years 1932 to 1934 reflected the commitment of the town and its citizens to civic improvement, and in the ensuing years of its historic significance, 1934-1953, the park became a defining feature and signature element of the town of Jackson. Because of the social, economic, and cultural origins of the park, because of the variety of resources that came together for its creation, and because of its prominence in the community, George Washington Memorial Park—the Jackson Town Square—has performed a central role in the community planning and development of Jackson and is therefore eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

**Historical Background**

White settlement of Jackson Hole, a sheltered valley nestled against the base of the Tetons to the west and stretching about twenty miles east where other mountains also rise, appeared late in the history of the nation and the West. It was only in the 1880s and 1890s that a small, and struggling, population of ranchers took hold in the valley. If that white settlement came late, however, so also did town life in the valley come even later.

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A harsh climate limited the economic attraction of the area and the population remained small, with concentrations here and there in the southern end of the valley and the earliest settlements were hardly more than scattered neighborhoods spread around the valley, and the neighborhoods themselves were such only in relative terms. The town of Jackson did not emerge until the final few years of the nineteenth-century and by the beginning of the twentieth century the town existed mainly on a plat, with but few stores and houses, and a post office, in the town. In 1897 Grace Miller purchased ten acres and had it platted and proceeded to sell lots in the town of Jackson. This would become the east side of the future downtown Jackson and, in fact, would be east of the future town square.

Growth was slow, and by the second decade of the twentieth century the only indication of change in this agrarian society was the establishment of a few ranches that catered more to bringing in dudes than to raising cattle—sometimes despite the original intentions of their owners otherwise—as the JY Ranch and then the Bar BC Ranch and then the White Grass Ranch on the west side of the Snake River brought in handfuls of well-to-do people for adventure and relaxation. This trend would expand and a growing number of outsiders looked to Jackson Hole as refuge from urban life. The town of Jackson, with its small number of merchants, catered to the needs of the ranchers but increasingly to the visitors to those ranches from outside. The creation of Grand Teton National Park in 1929, although but a small part of what it would ultimately become, contributed to the tourist potential of the area and the subsequent plan to expand the park through the purchase of private holdings for future transfer to the park, and increased the shift from agriculture to tourism in the economy and social structure of Jackson Hole.

The pattern of social growth in the community tended to be that of informal beginnings with subsequent institutionalization and public support. Characteristically, at each step, even beyond the maturing of the institution into a permanent operation and facility, these organizations demonstrated more than casual dependence on the contributions—labor, money, leadership, and good will—of the wider public in the community. This is what happened with the hospital in Jackson, this is what happened with the county library, and this is what happened with the town square—George Washington Memorial Park.

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Teton County, Wyoming

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### **Origins of the Town Square**

The early photographs of Jackson's business center usually reveal an open area of land in the center of the business section, sometimes with a trail across it, sometimes with livestock grazing or tied, sometimes with people walking across it, and one with what even appears to be an impromptu rodeo in the open, the landmark Clubhouse building standing in the background. For a good while elk were said to have migrated through town, using the area that would become the square as a thoroughfare. The earliest photographs show a place that is generally a rough extension of the dirt streets bordering it, growing some sagebrush, and with a marked diagonal path across it; aside from the path cutting through the area, the main semblance of geometry came from the line of stores facing it.

Indeed, in its origins the area that became the town square was an empty piece of land, but there were many such unfilled blocks in the sparsely settled village. It is unclear whether the square emerged as part of a coherent plan or as an accident. A distinctive feature of Mormon communities southwestward into Idaho and Utah, where the town square represented a commons to be used by the community for livestock branding and other public purposes, the town square in Wyoming is an unusual phenomenon. Today it can be seen most pointedly in Wyoming only in the small towns of Kemmerer (where it is actually a triangle) and Pine Bluffs. In Jackson, buildings emerged on the four sides of this block.

Ultimately, in 1917, Mayor Winger caused the street around the square to be graded (thus also producing the noticeable steps up to the Clubhouse afterwards), and the town received from William P. Redmond, J. Pierce Cunningham, and T.W. and Susie Lloyd, title to the lots that they had owned on the square. The earth gained from grading the street was then used to fill the depression in the middle of the square. The square had thus began to take shape. Even at that, however, the lodge of Woodmen of the World, a national fraternal order that offered insurance and death benefits to its members, owned a lot and constructed its lodge building on the southwest corner of the block; the building, a two-story frame structure, faced west. At least for a while a saloon operated by Mort Ely



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did business in the building, and in 1919 that building became the home of the IOOF. This building notwithstanding, the remainder of the block became a *de facto* commons without private construction. Donald Hough, who wrote popularly about the town of Jackson and who made his first visit to the town in 1924, recalled the square in these words:

The park is a relatively new thing. It began life as a gully, or depression, which was a part of the main north-south game trail through the valley, . . . . The first buildings were put up on either side of this, and it was used as a kind of town dump. Later this was filled in with earth. As the places around it increased in number and the square began to take shape, a few hitching rails were put up and finally these became a single rail fence, forming an enclosure, or nearly one. This was used as a corral or resting place for transient horses or cattle being driven through, and as a very dusty or very muddy town common, as New Englanders would call it, from which small boys came home in deplorable condition after a game of one-old-cat.<sup>1</sup>

It is clear that in the early 1920s a fence appeared around the square, that some trees were planted there, and that some of the rocks were removed from it. In 1924 the mayor called a "mass meeting," to improve "the little park in the center of town," and thirty people showed up. They appointed two committees, one for grading (Fred Koerner, C. R. Van Vleck, and Dr. C. W. Huff) and dirt-hauling (George Lamb, Jack Blair, and W. L. Lloyd), and proceeded to work on leveling the grounds and bringing wagons loaded with earth from the hill west of town for topsoil for the park.<sup>2</sup> This was a significant effort, this required about twenty teams to haul the wagons, and it made its mark, but the project lacked funds and sustained attention and even the watering of the trees was left to volunteers who took it upon themselves to assist.

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<sup>1</sup>Donald Hough, *The Cocktail Hour in Jackson Hole* (Worland, Wyoming: High Plains Publishing Company, Inc., n.d.; originally published, 1956), 217.

<sup>2</sup>"Real Start Made Toward Civic Improvement," *Jackson's Hole Courier*, April 17, 1924.

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George Washington Memorial Park

Teton County, Wyoming

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Another newcomer to Jackson recalled the town square in these early days from many years later. Olaus J. Murie and his wife Margaret Murie came to Jackson in 1927, and Olaus, about 1961, wrote "No one seems to remember why Jackson was laid out this way, with a Town Square in the middle. When we came here it was an empty, weed-grown space, but there were some good-sized cottonwoods around the edge, planted years ago, so we were told, during an upsurge of feminine power in the town, when for a year Jackson had an all-female town council and a woman mayor."<sup>3</sup> Mildred Buchenroth recalled later that about 1922 "a fence was built around the Park, a few trees planted, and some of the rocks removed. As there was no water, watering the trees was voluntary."<sup>4</sup>

There was another development that figured into the circumstances enabling the creation of a park on the town square. In 1929 the town began to discuss the extension of the municipal waterworks to provide water for fire fighting and supply water for domestic and commercial use. In February 1930, the town council approved an ordinance calling for a special election on a bond issue to extend the water system. The voting, to be done in April 1930, would, of course, be done "at the I.O.O.F. Hall in said Town of Jackson."<sup>5</sup> Thus at that election, when townspeople visited the IOOF hall on the town square, they approved a measure that would make it possible for the town square to be completely changed.

### The Creation of George Washington Memorial Park

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<sup>3</sup> Murie, Margaret and Olaus, *Wapiti Wilderness* (Niwot, Colorado: University Press of Colorado, 1985), 213.

<sup>4</sup> Mildred L. Buchenroth, "George Washington Memorial Park: 'Town Square' Is only an Alias," Jackson Hole *Guide*, June 12, 1975.

<sup>5</sup> Jackson Town Council Minutes, February 28, 1930, Jackson, Wyoming, Town Administrative Offices.

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George Washington Memorial Park

Teton County, Wyoming

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Despite the piecemeal and happenstance development of the square over three decades, the event that moved the park to something more than an informal commons had its origins, like so many other aspects of change in the valley, in the distant halls of power in the nation. As the two hundred-year anniversary of the 1732 birth of George Washington approached, Congress established a program to commemorate the bicentennial, each state then developing plans to assure observance in the nation's towns and cities. In Wyoming the state plan was for the creation in virtually every community of a living memorial to Washington by the creation of George Washington Memorial Parks. In 1931 the state bicentennial committee appointed a landscape architect to work with the communities and the University of Wyoming Agricultural Extension provided nursery stock for the parks with reimbursement at cost.

Acting Governor Alonzo M. Clark appointed Mildred Buchenroth the chair of Bicentennial Commission of Teton County in April 1931, and Buchenroth in turn appointed members of the committee including Dr. Charles Huff, mayor and physician, Essie Dale, county superintendent of Schools, Olaus Murie, Commander of American Legion Post No. 43, Loletta Nelson, school board member, and Roy Van Vleck, businessman.<sup>6</sup>

The committee worked diligently, but progress was slow. Although the general standard for the park was two and a half acres, the committee urged, and prevailed, the acceptance of the town square (not even a full acre) as the new Washington Park, given its location, its municipal ownership, and the fact that since 1930 or 1931 the town had a waterworks that would make watering possible there. In the autumn of 1931, Harold L. Curtiss, the landscape architect at the University of Wyoming, appointed by the state committee "to be the landscape architect in charge of the building of the Memorial Parks throughout the State," visited Jackson and inspected the site and found the location, according to the local press, to be "an enviable one for a Memorial Park." Curtiss was in

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<sup>6</sup> Buchenroth, "George Washington Memorial Park."

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the process of preparing the landscape plans for each town at no cost.<sup>7</sup> Indeed, as Ms. Buchenroth recalled, “Mr. Curtiss was most enthusiastic and drew up ideal plans as to walks, planning, etc.”<sup>8</sup> The town council approved the designation of the square as George Washington Memorial Park in April 1932.<sup>9</sup>

There was still work to be done. The state and the university made available to the communities establishing these parks what were known as “nursery units”—a certain number of trees and shrubs to be purchased by the communities. Those “nursery units,” however, had to be grown in a community nursery until they had reached a stage where they could be transplanted to the park. The town of Jackson, as economically depressed as other towns in 1931 and 1932, however, did not have the \$150 necessary to purchase the “nursery units” for its park. So, the same path was taken as in many other projects in the community: “The money was raised by public donations.”<sup>10</sup> A month before the actual bicentennial of Washington’s birthday, the public had been sufficiently responsive that the committee could order the nursery unit from the state. Olaus Murie thanked the public at that time for its support, even though, as he said, “only a portion of the town of Jackson has been canvassed so far.”<sup>11</sup> They also scheduled a celebration for Washington’s birthday with a parade and festivities involving individuals and organizations from throughout the county. That celebration attracted a substantial crowd and featured the parade led by American Legion veterans of World War I, and then

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<sup>7</sup> “Jackson Will Build Washington Memorial Park, Plans Now Under Way,” Jackson’s Hole *Courier*, October 22, 1931.

<sup>8</sup> Buchenroth, “George Washington Memorial Park.”

<sup>9</sup> “Minutes of the City Council Proceedings,” for April 8, 1932, in Jackson’s Hole *Courier*, April 14, 1932.

<sup>10</sup> Buchenroth, “George Washington Memorial Park.”

<sup>11</sup> Jackson’s Hole *Courier*, January 21, 1932.

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veterans of the Spanish – American War, other veterans, and then the school children. Attorney Wilford W. Neilson delivered the address and Dr. Charles Huff served as Master of Ceremonies.<sup>12</sup> After the celebration, however, the block of land appeared hardly any closer to becoming a park than it had a year or two earlier. Funds had been raised, proclamations had been made, the spirit of George Washington had been both invoked and praised, and the future envisioned, but the land was still bare, the IOOF building still stood on the corner, and the foliage and trees were yet to take root in the soil of this square of fenced land.

When the plantings arrived, they were planted in a temporary nursery on land loaned by Bruce Porter and Roy Van Vleck—prominent businessmen in Jackson. Dr. Huff and Olaus Murie supervised the planting in this temporary location and then the town marshal maintained the nursery until the plants were ready to be transferred to the park.<sup>13</sup> The project then waited on the plants to mature sufficiently, but in the fall of 1933 efforts to actually build the park shifted into a new phase. A special meeting of the city council on October 23, 1933 heard the proposal of Harold Curtiss and the local committee—Mildred Buchenroth, Olaus Murie, and C. R. Van Vleck. Curtiss agreed to personally supervise the engineering of the park, staking it out and supervising all plants and shrubbery. When the question arose as to who would do the labor, because of the financial straits of the city, Mayor Huff indicated that the city could not afford it, “but means would be devised thru sub-committees to get the movement under way.”<sup>14</sup> One proposal for a source of labor was to use delinquent water users to perform the work and in that way work off their debts. Thus the municipal water system could benefit the Washington Park in a way that went beyond the watering of the vegetation there.

It is not known what became of that suggestion, but it is clear that labor was a

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<sup>12</sup> “Bicentennial Celebration Held Here, February 22<sup>nd</sup>,” Jackson’s Hole *Courier*, February 25, 1932.

<sup>13</sup> Buchenroth, “George Washington Memorial Park.”

<sup>14</sup> Minutes of City Council Meeting, October 23, 1933. City hall.

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problem. In fact, the plan for the park was an ambitious project. It required more, considerably more, than receiving some plants and trees to nurture in a nursery until they could be moved to the park and then having water to nourish them. Labor was a major obstacle since earth would have to be moved and replaced with topsoil that could bear productive vegetation. Plus, there remained the two-story building standing at the southwest corner of the future park. That would have to be addressed too.

At the moment that Harold Curtiss, Mildred Buchenroth, and Olaus Murie told the city council that work needed to proceed on the park, and Curtiss moved ahead to physically layout the design of the park, it is clear that they had an idea about how to make it all come together. The plan was complex and it involved the use of funds from the federal government, fighting unemployment in the county, and developing an arrangement with the IOOF.

In 1933, the nation's economy was at its lowest point in the depression, having declined steadily for the four years since the stock market crash of 1929. Indeed, in Wyoming the agricultural depression of the 1920s meant that the post-1929 decline only intensified an already worsening situation, and Teton County, was, like the rest of Wyoming, overwhelmingly agricultural in its economy, although some of that ranching was devoted to wrangling dudes rather than Herefords. Even if Teton County suffered less than other parts of the state, the county and the community were prepared to take advantage of work-relief programs established by the Franklin Roosevelt administration to address the problem of mass unemployment. Coming into office in March 1933, the New Deal had proposed a variety of measures to make work to get people productive and earning incomes again. The Public Works Administration, the chief of these agencies, proved ponderous and expensive; it was designed to build vast projects like dams. Such projects, of course, required immense planning, large administrative structures, and considerable time before they could come to fruition. By the fall of that year, it was obvious that more needed to be done. Hurriedly, Roosevelt and his advisors devised an alternate scheme. In late October, the administration developed the idea of an alternate agency to be headed by relief director Harry Hopkins, one which would put people to work on relatively smaller jobs, one that required skills that many people already knew or could learn quickly, and one that would mobilize quickly. In the middle of November

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Hopkins announced the creation of the Civil Works Administration and set forth a goal of putting four million unemployed people to work within a month—an impressive objective that was often dismissed as naïve. Actually Hopkins did not achieve his goal; by November 15, he had put to work 2.61 million people. By the end of the second month of the program, however, he was well over the four million target.<sup>15</sup>

As soon as the new program was announced, Teton County made its application for CWA funds to support several projects just the right size: the building of a water trench and cesspool at the school in Alta, the addition of a back porch to the court house in Jackson, the construction of a fish hatchery on the Snake River on the Lower Bar BC Ranch (then owned by the Snake River Land Company), the cutting of timber for a bridge on Teton Creek, and also the conversion of the town square to George Washington Memorial Park. Approval of the park project by the state CWA director came immediately, indeed, on the same day the application was submitted. The local director of Civil Works Administration—the County Chairman for the CWA—was Dr. Charles Huff, mayor of Jackson. The plans and specifications attached to the application for the park project were prepared by Dr. Charles W. Huff. And the project supervisor was listed as Dr. Charles W. Huff. The CWA funds requested in the initial application amounted to \$3092, with local contributions of \$1642, although those amounts would grow with the project. Those expenses would put eleven people to work, including one common laborer, one truck with owner, six carpenters, one plumber, one painter, and one foreman and they would be spent on supplies like lumber, nails, cement, “fixtures, doors, windows, etc.” and paint, and those numbers of workers and supplies would also grow with the project—altogether an odd combination for landscaping the park.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Schlesinger, Arthur M., Jr., *The Age of Roosevelt: The Coming of the New Deal* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1958), 269-271.

<sup>16</sup> Civil Works Administration, Application for Approval of Civil Works Project, Teton County, Wyoming, Project No. 146, December 11, 1933, file located in National Archives and Records Administration, RG-69, Civil Works Administration, National Archives and Records Administration.

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The reason for the carpentry supplies and skills derived from the other part of the problem facing the park developers—the IOOF building located on the corner. The solution to that problem had been arrived at by the time the application was submitted but was legally formulated ten days later. On December 21, 1933, the Town Council of Jackson convened in a special meeting and acted on two separate business matters. The first was to eliminate the alley in Block 2 of the Clubhouse Addition, the block directly north of the town square. Previously the alley ran north and south so that it divided the buildings along the street facing the square from the north side; now that alley would be diverted and a building could be placed where previously it had bisected the block. The second measure was a contract with Jackson Lodge No. 8, IOOF, to transfer to the town of Jackson the lot on which the IOOF lodge then lay—the southwest corner of the town square—and to transfer to the lodge the vacated alley north of the square and parts of lots and lands in that block, plus, the town “agreed to erect upon said last described premises, a certain building . . . .” The town of Jackson and the Odd Fellows had arrived at an agreement to swap property so that the town would be able to convert the town square to a formal park and the lodge would have a new building facing the square from the north where the alley had been. The actual obligation for constructing the building, however, was not assumed by the town; that construction, instead, “is supposed to be carried out through the Civil Works Administration Funds and allocation of men and otherwise.”<sup>17</sup> The CWA project had provided the key to finally clearing the block of ground on which the town square lay and allowed for it to be developed.

With the swap between the IOOF and the town and with the approval of the CWA application, progress on the conversion of the square to the park came quickly and smoothly. Mayor Huff amended the application several times as the project moved along, seeking supplemental funds in applications that indicate the nature of the work being performed. In early January the mayor filed a supplemental application for nearly a thousand dollars to move earth excavated from the site of the park and replace it with loam as a seeding bed for grass and shrubs. A minor supplement to the project in February sought funds to rent a truck to continue that work. Late in February another

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<sup>17</sup> Minutes of Special Meeting, Town Council, December 21, 1933, Ordinance #29.



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supplemental request sought the skilled workers and finishing materials to bring the project to a conclusion. Finally, on April 14, 1934, a report of completion for the project announced its conclusion with over seven hundred dollars in local contributions and more than six thousand dollars in federal CWA funds.<sup>18</sup>

The smooth operation, the rapid success, and the significant accomplishment of the CWA work on the square actually belied a strong undercurrent of controversy surrounding the agency nationally and perhaps locally as well. On the national front, many people expressed grave concerns about such projects because they believed the government should reduce expenditures instead of increase them. Many business interests opposed the CWA because it represented, philosophically, something akin to socialism in that the government was directly hiring people for public work and, in practice, because the government sometimes intruded in their specific areas of operation. It also received criticism from labor unions for some of the same reasons, plus the fact that the people employed by the CWA and other agencies were not union workers nor were they always working for union wages.

In Jackson Hole and Teton County there may have been such concerns about the CWA efforts, but the opponents avoided direct criticism of the local projects. In February 1934 county CWA administrator Huff was joined by Albert Park, engineer in charge of CWA work in Wyoming, and Paul W. Banks, district engineer for the four western counties of Wyoming, in a meeting at the American Legion building in Jackson. Sponsored by the Lions Club, the point of the meeting was to explain the work projects being undertaken and to address any concerns citizens might have. Huff described the various projects in the county and suggested mainly that "every effort was made to give each community in the county some approved project upon which employment could take place," hinting thereby at a vulnerability of such projects universally to being

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<sup>18</sup> Application for Approval of Civil Works Project, M-146 (December 11, 1933); M-146A (January 8, 1934); M-146B (February 1, 1934); M-146C (February 23, 1934); and Report of Completed Project for Project M146, M146A, M146B, M146C (April 14, 1934) in National Archives and Records Administration, RG-69, Civil Works Administration, National Archives and Records Administration.

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opposed by areas that did not receive assistance. Engineer Park, in his comments, congratulated the county on its efficiency, noting that "Teton County was the best represented county in the state, that its projects were first secured and carried forward while other counties in the states were hesitating as to what they wanted done." After each speaker made a presentation, the press account reported that "No inquiries were made by any of those present as to the numerous alleged complaints in connection with the CWA program in the county."<sup>19</sup> Perhaps most revealing was that the editor of the local newspaper that published this account approving the CWA activity in Teton County, *The Grand Teton*, was himself perhaps the most articulate opponent of increased activity of the federal government in the valley because it destroyed the liberty of individuals.

The completion of the project came just in time, for the entire Civil Works Administration shut down its operation in the United States in the spring of 1934, just a few months after it had been created. Roosevelt was trying to reign in his budget, and this was an expensive program, but the CWA was also weakened by its susceptibility to abuse in a few well-publicized cases. In Jackson, Wyoming, however, the project was completed and the town was grateful; without the federal infusion of funds the work would not have been performed and the workers would not have been earning a living.

The old IOOF building on the square was still standing in early May 1934, but it was about to be disposed of, thanks to Dr. Huff's personal intervention. No public funds appear to have been available for its removal. At the same time, the local press announced "The park is in a square and will be planted to shrubery [sic] and trees this spring, these already having been procured and are growing in the town."<sup>20</sup> Spring comes late in Jackson Hole, and it appears that the plantings took place in June 1934. George Washington Memorial Park was now a reality.

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<sup>19</sup> "Resume of CWA Work by Officials Shows Good Condition of County," *The Grand Teton*, Jackson, Wyoming, February 13, 1934.

<sup>20</sup> "Community Market to New Quarters," *The Grand Teton*, May 8, 1934.

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**George Washington Memorial Park, 1934-1953**

The subsequent evolution of George Washington Memorial Park is revealed in scattered commentaries by observers and occasional images made by visitors to the park. In fact, a reasonably complete photograph record of the changes in George Washington Memorial Park can be assembled from archival and commercial sources except that in the preponderance of cases, those images cannot be independently dated. The amorphous "about 1930" is a recurring and favorite caption for images that clearly date from a period ten years before and after that date. One copyrighted photograph by the Sanborn postcard company clearly appears to have been made immediately after the planting of the shrubbery and trees so that the symmetry of design is clear. At least one home-movie film shows the park not long after its creation. In the summer of 1938 Ralph Cassity stood at the northwest corner of the park and panned his movie camera in a nearly full circle to capture the park and the surrounding buildings, the resulting brief segment showing a surprisingly full amount of foliage in the park.

Of the foliage, Donald Hough observed:

Oddly enough, the trees and shrubs that were specified by the state expert, and subsequently were bought, did not include a single species native to the region, which, of course, is lousy with foliage. There were tall Russian and Canadian poplar, Colorado blue spruce and laurel willow for shade and stateliness, and honeysuckle, lilac, Cotoneaster, wild black currant and crabapple for arrangement in the middle and the corners. Plus the hedge, which remains unidentified. However, looked at in perspective, there is nothing especially paradoxical about this circumstance. Nothing really is native to Jackson but Jackson itself.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Hough, *Cocktail Hour in Jackson Hole*, 218.

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The changes to the park had to do, first of all, with the maturing of the trees and shrubs already planted, and, secondly, with the fence surrounding the park. A series of fences surrounded the park with replacements to accommodate parked automobile protrusions coming in 1938, 1941, and 1950. What had begun as a railed fence with diagonal braces for support between the posts soon acquired an additional, parallel rail on the outside to protect the inner fence, making a walkway between the two, and subsequently heavy logs were positioned outside that second rail for additional protection from automobiles.

The evolution of the historic significance of the park, however, equaled the physical maturing of the botanic qualities it possessed. The park, known commonly as the Town Square, came to be the center of the town in a social as well as physical sense. In part that could be seen in the emergence of more businesses facing the park and the phrase "on the town square" became both a standard reference point and a sign of success and prestige. For many years a community Christmas tree was placed in the center of the park and the annual Snow Queen had her throne there. Parades sometimes circled the park and it hosted a variety of community activities. In 1937 Mayor Huff died and an effort began to erect a memorial to Huff in the center of the park, but those energies soon shifted to the proposal to build a library to be named the Huff Memorial Library. There was some force and logic to the effort to place the memorial in the center, however, since the original plans evidently allowed for the eventual placement of a fountain in the middle of the park.

Because of its central location—literally and figuratively—in the life of the town, the square, or park, came to be the preferred location for public commemoration. While the memorial to Dr. Charles Huff was not placed in the park, another memorial was. In 1939 the Wyoming Landmarks Commission chose to recognize John Colter, the mountain man who departed the returning Lewis and Clark Expedition and remained in the West and who subsequently explored areas south of the Yellowstone River. By some accounts, in 1808 he ventured into the valley that would become known as Jackson Hole and in so doing became the first white person to enter the area. The Commission sought to honor Colter, and worked out an arrangement with the town council such that the town deeded to the Commission a piece of land on the west side of the park twenty-five feet

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purpose of erecting a monument. That stone monument was thus erected and became a permanent addition to the park.<sup>22</sup>

The trees, the shrubs, the lawns, and the space—these, however, required attention. The care of all could no longer be left to the unpredictable skill and schedule of the volunteer, and the park acquired its own caretaker. Donald Hough summed up this point as well as anyone: “Under the expert and loving care of Stewart Reynolds, whose fingers are all green thumbs, in charge of it since 1936 and still there today, in 1955, the park grew up, and after these years it is a splendid thing.”<sup>23</sup>

At the end of its period of historic significance, one other change was made to the park, again reflecting the social significance of the square in the life of the community. One of the signature elements of George Washington Memorial Park appeared in 1953 when the Rotary Club constructed an arch of elk antlers at the southwest corner of the park. The elk antlers, collected by Boy Scouts each year, were taken in that year to produce the magnificent arch over the entrance that leads diagonally across the park.

### **George Washington Memorial Park since 1953**

The importance of George Washington Memorial Park has often been the subject of reflection in the community. A vast range of perspectives of people, for a variety of reasons, see the park, or, as it is also known still, the town square, as something special. Wilderness advocate Olaus Murie, near the end of his life in the early 1960s, wrote of coming out of the post office, opposite the square to the north, and gazing at the park.

Today as I stood there just looking I remembered another snowy afternoon when Mildred Buchenroth and I had gone about as a George

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<sup>22</sup> Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Mayor and Town Council, May 8, 1939.

<sup>23</sup> Hough, *Cocktail Hour in Jackson Hole*, 218.

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Washington Bicentennial Committee to solicit funds to plant and landscape the Square. Now this has been accomplished. The Square is bordered with shrubbery, green with lawn in summer and with a large natural stone in one corner, a memorial to John Colter, first white man to see the valley. This fall the final pieces were added: four tall spruce dug from the frozen ground; they will not know they have been moved until the ground thaws and they come to new life in the spring. One of them is now the town Christmas tree, its many-colored lights gleaming on the snow . . . . .

Lights from all the good neighbors' houses shone on the snowy street as I tramped home thinking of how the Square had looked, of how glad I am that it got planted, of how we live in a town that looks like an old-fashioned Christmas card.<sup>24</sup>

Another perspective rings the same note, although the observer this time is the sometimes misanthropic Donald Hough in 1955:

In winter, as we have seen, it is a lively place. The community Christmas tree rises from its middle, and there the chill throne of the Queen was built. The departing and returning warriors of the Cavalcade paraded around it, and it served as a background for the great snow-statue contest.

In summer it is a cool green haven for persons in love, or nearly in love—just as the little doe nestled there in the snow night after night to drink in the beauty of the great buck deer—and it serves people who are sleepy and have no place to go, for cowboys down on their luck, and for casual strollers, that vanishing race.

In a sense, of course, it is a hothouse plant, a foreign thing, but it's fun to watch it bloom.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Murie and Murie, *Wapiti Wilderness*, 212-213.

<sup>25</sup> Hough, *Cocktail Hour in Jackson Hole*, 219.

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In the years after the period of historic significance for the George Washington Memorial Park, other changes have been made. Some, like the trimming and replacement of foliage in the interior, have been consistent with the original designs, or have altered the scheme in discreet ways, still conforming to the general appearance and expectation of the park. Other changes, like the periodic revisions to the fence, have been part of normal maintenance and the fence, in its various iterations, has retained a general consistency with the simple post and pole fence that originally enclosed the grounds. The gravel walkways at some point were paved with asphalt; the asphalt, however, was removed in 1977 and the walkways were covered with boards as a boardwalk, again consistent with the general configuration of the park.

Three sets of additions, however, have been more substantial. One set includes the series of elk antler arches at the corners of the park. Following the construction of the elk antler arch at the southwest corner, additional arches at the other corners then followed in 1966, 1967, and 1969. Each of the three subsequent arches followed the design, materials, and methods of construction of the first, 1953, arch.

The second addition came with the placement of what became known as the Jackson "Stage Stop" on the south side of the square. In 1959 a building originally constructed by Charles Wort near the beginning of the century was moved onto the park surreptitiously—some say illegally—by three businessmen. The building had previously served as a law office, a bunkhouse, a schoolhouse, and a filling station; it was sawed in half and moved and became known as the Stage Stop. As one newspaper account reported ten years later, "there was quite an uproar and some even felt the Town Park had been desecrated, but the building and idea were there to stay."<sup>26</sup> Amidst some controversy that paralleled the heated discussion surrounding its arrival, since by that time the "Stage Stop" had acquired a certain nostalgic, if not historic, value, the deteriorating building was moved from its location in 1995.<sup>27</sup> The building that replaced

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<sup>26</sup> "Stagecoach Station Dedicated," Jackson Hole *Guide*, July 17, 1969.

<sup>27</sup> Jonathan Shikes, "Stage Stop Building Removed; New Structure Started," Jackson

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it was designed by local architect Bruce Hawtin to resemble its predecessor but was constructed of modern materials. This modern "stage stop" is not contributing; on the other hand, because the back of the building is obscured from view from within the park, because its design generally conforms to rustic architecture standards used in and around the park, it does not compromise the integrity of the rest of the park.

The third addition is the stone Veterans' Memorial placed in the center of the park, exactly where the diagonal walks intersect. That memorial, with a bucking horse statue on top, commemorates Jackson citizens who served in the armed forces during periods of conflict, and was added in 1976, with a plaque added to it in 1991. (Because this also recalls the original fountain proposed for the park, and the subsequent proposed memorial to Charles Huff in 1937, this feature is non-contributing only by reason of age.)

One other, and smaller, addition to the park came in 1976, and that addition detracted not an iota from the significance or the integrity of the park, and may even have enhanced both. In 1975 as local, state, and federal officials contemplated the observation of the nation's bicentennial, Mildred Buchenroth, the same Mildred Buchenroth who chaired the original George Washington Memorial Park county committee from 1931 to 1934, noted an omission in the park: "There is no plaque in the Park naming it the George Washington Memorial Park." She also had a suggestion for the 1976 bicentennial planners: "It would be my suggestion this would be a perfect time to do this."<sup>28</sup> So, in 1976, a bronze plaque was added to the stone monument honoring John Colter, quietly naming the park in which it stands, "George Washington Memorial Park."

In recent years the park has continued its function as a reference point for the community, in the heart of the town in more ways than one. Given the role of tourism in the community, however, it has served that interest too. In 1998 one reporter summed up the daily use of the park during the tourist season so:

Located dead center in town, with its four signature elk-antler

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*Hole Guide*, November 1, 1995.

<sup>28</sup> Buchenroth, "George Washington Memorial Park."



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arches, war memorials and inviting benches, the Town Square serves as a respite from the bustle of shopping and dodging downtown crowds. Trees provide shade and grass gives soft comfort to musicians, travelers sprawled on their backpacks and tourists writing postcards. At any given time, in every corner, somebody's posing under the arches.<sup>29</sup>

Whether called the Town Square or George Washington Memorial Park, this centrally located block of land possesses a history that symbolizes and reflects the planning and development of the community of Jackson in its subtle aspects as well as in its grandiose appearance. The product of the effort of private citizens seeking to improve their community, of an innovative town council and mayor seeking creative solutions to problems, of federal assistance to help communities make changes to their infrastructure that would otherwise have been impossible, and of local people out of work who found an opportunity to help their families and their community with the same labor, the Jackson Town Square, George Washington Memorial Park, has become a symbol of the town in ways that reach far deeper than is shown in the millions of photographs taken of tourists under the elk antler arches over the decades. As a reflection of the contours of social and economic forces at work to make Jackson, and Jackson Hole, what it is, George Washington Memorial Park lies squarely in the center of the history of the town. As a central feature in the planning and development of the community, the park is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

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<sup>29</sup> Jessica Kany, "Square in the Center," *Jackson Hole News*, July 22, 1998.

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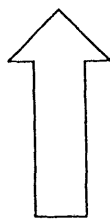
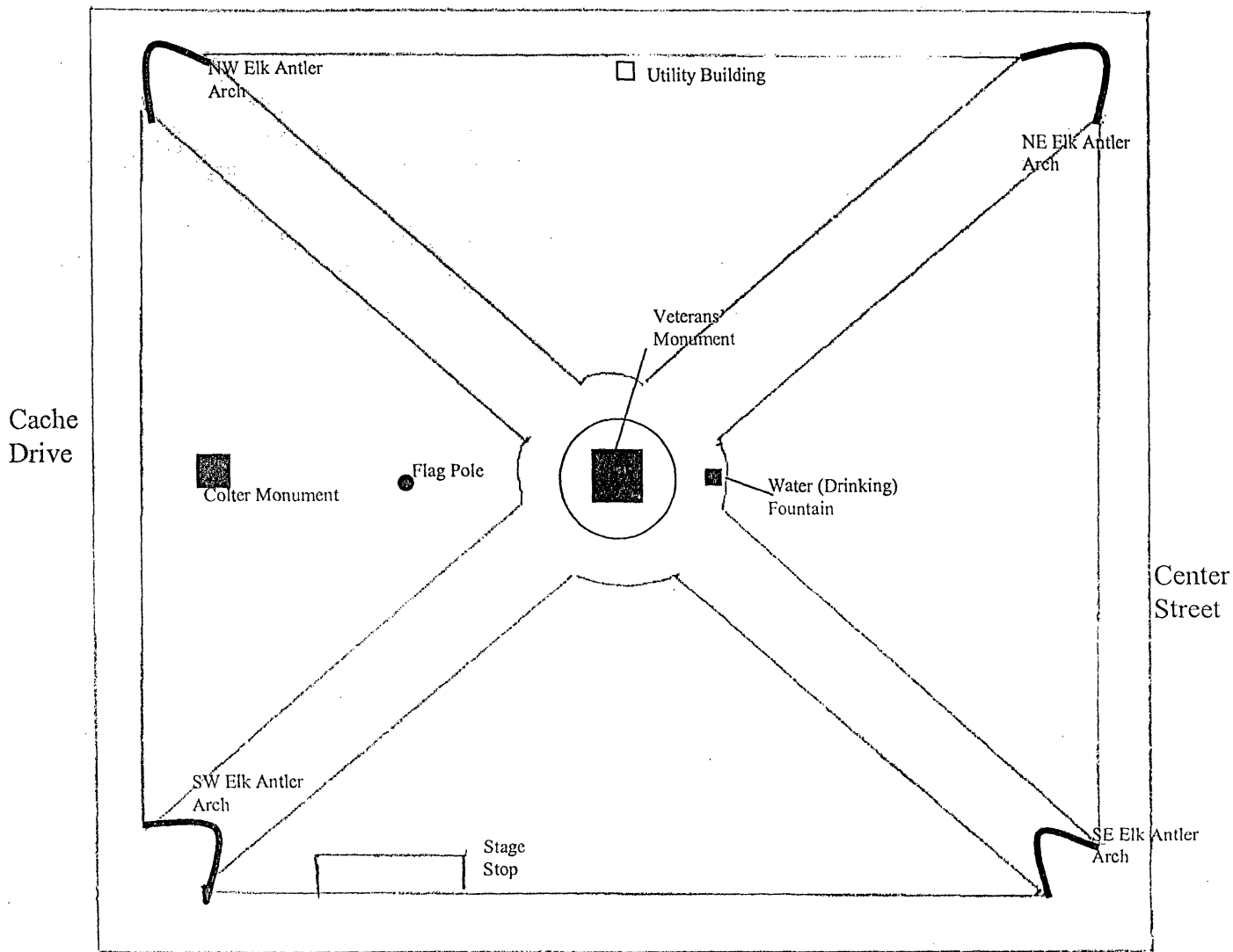
Verbal Boundary Description

All of Block 1 of the Club House Addition to the Town of Jackson, Wyoming.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with the Town Square / George Washington Memorial Park.

Deloney Avenue



North

**GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL  
PARK  
TETON COUNTY  
JACKSON, WYOMING**