

# MONTANA HISTORICAL\*ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1 Reference #	284	Date:	7/11/81
2 Photo #	Direction N NE E SE S SW W NW		
3 Historic Name:	Kennedy Building		
3a Common Name:	Menzel's Curio Shop		
4 Address:	127 Yellowstone Ave., West Yellowstone, MT		
5 Program Area:	Gallatin County	6 County Code	031 State Code 030
7 Legal Description:	Lot 11, Block 27, West Yellowtone Original Townsite		
8 Owner & Address:	Rose Eagle Menzel		
9	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	PO Box 27, West Yellowstone, MT 59758

10 Year Built: 1911	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factual	<input type="checkbox"/> Estimate	11 Location	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
12 Architect (if known):	n/a						
13 Builder/Original Owner (if known)	not known						
14 Exterior Materials:	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Log	<input type="checkbox"/> Terra-cotta	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete
	<input type="checkbox"/> Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Other Materials (specify):						
15 Condition:	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> In Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Exists	
16 Retention of Original Design:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Major	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered			
17 Present Use:	commercial			18 Original Use:	commercaill		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

19 Please describe the present general physical appearance of the structure and site. To the extent possible, please also describe changes that have occurred to the property over the years, noting the approximate dates at which they occurred.

Log building with structural log columns two feet in diameter which support an extended gable roofed projection over the entry and sidewalk. Original storefront glass has been replaced with aluminium sash, plate glass. Sawn, half-log vertical siding used decoratively on front facade. Interior features bead board siding, pressed metal ceiling, and crown moldings. Interior access to adjacent buildings to the east and west of the Kennedy building is provided. The three buildings function as one building on the interior while retaining sense of separation on the (cont.)

SIGNIFICANCE

20a Reason for significance:  Historical Associations  Architectural and Engineering design and appearance  Presence of historic or prehistoric information

20b Please justify the historical significance; noting important persons, events and/or historical patterns associated with structure, site and surrounding area.

Built in 1911, the Kennedy Building was originally used as a dance hall, entertaining tourists, railroad employees, and local residents. From 1913 to 1916, a summer restaurant was opened in this building. During the winters and from 1916 until 1919, the building stood vacant. During the summer of 1919, the building was used as a basketball court by local residents. In 1933, the Eagle family acquired full ownership of the property and opened the curio shop. Prior to the construction of the Union Pacific RR dining facilities 1911, summer tourists and railroad employees depended upon the local entrepreneurs of West Yellowstone to meet their dining, lodging, and entertainment needs. The Kennedy Building represents an early response to the opportunities for exploitation of the tourist business in this remote community.

20c Please justify how the location, design, details, materials, and/or workmanship contribute to the property's significance.

The heavy, almost exaggerated, rustic facade ornamentation on the Kennedy Building makes this a major component along the original main commercial street in West Yellowstone. Although the historic integrity of the building has been compromised to a degree by the alterations in fenestration, it remains an important historic structure, exhibiting primary "rustic" stylistic features.

20d Please note if the extant structure/site may demonstrate or yield information about its historic use or construction.

21 Neighborhood Context:  Unrelated  Compatible  Integral element  
 Major component of the neighborhood

21a If the structure/site contributes to the value of a larger grouping of structures and sites, please describe the visual or historic relationships that the individual structure/site has to that grouping.

Except for the Madison Hotel and the Kennedy Building, all of the buildings along Yellowstone Ave. are of recent (1960-1975) origin. Setbacks and sidewalk overhangs are consistent. Although functionally related to the adjacent buildings, the Kennedy Building reads as a separate structure on the exterior.

22 Environmental/Economic threats to survival:  Private Development  Zoning  
 Public Works Projects  Vandalism  Deterioration  Other (specify):

23 Recognition in existing historical surveys: West Yellowstone Hist. & Arch. Survey,

24 Sources of Documentation: see continuation sheet #9 1980

SIGNIFICANCE continued

25 Agency Prepared For: West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce

26 Name/Address Rick Mayfield and Associates, Inc.

Phone # 406-587-0443

Date: August, 1981

Organization:

PREPARED BY:

27 Staff Evaluator: Pat Bick Date: 11/30/81 Permission to Nominate  Yes  No

28 National Register Status:  Listed  Currently nominated  
Appears to meet NR Criteria  A  B  C  D  Does not appear to meet NR Criteria  
Eligible  Yes  No As part of a district  Yes  No Individually  Yes  No

29 UTM References: Zone 12 Easting 4921100 Northing 4944775

30 Please Return to: State Historic Preservation Office  
Montana Historical Society  
225 N. Roberts St.  
Helena, Montana 59601

31 SHPO Comments:

As one of the few remaining buildings in West Yellowstone dating back to the early years and as an interesting example of rustic architecture, the Kennedy Building is both historically and architecturally significant.

STAFF USE ONLY

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet Kennedy Building

Item number

Page

Kennedy Building  
Continuation of Section #19

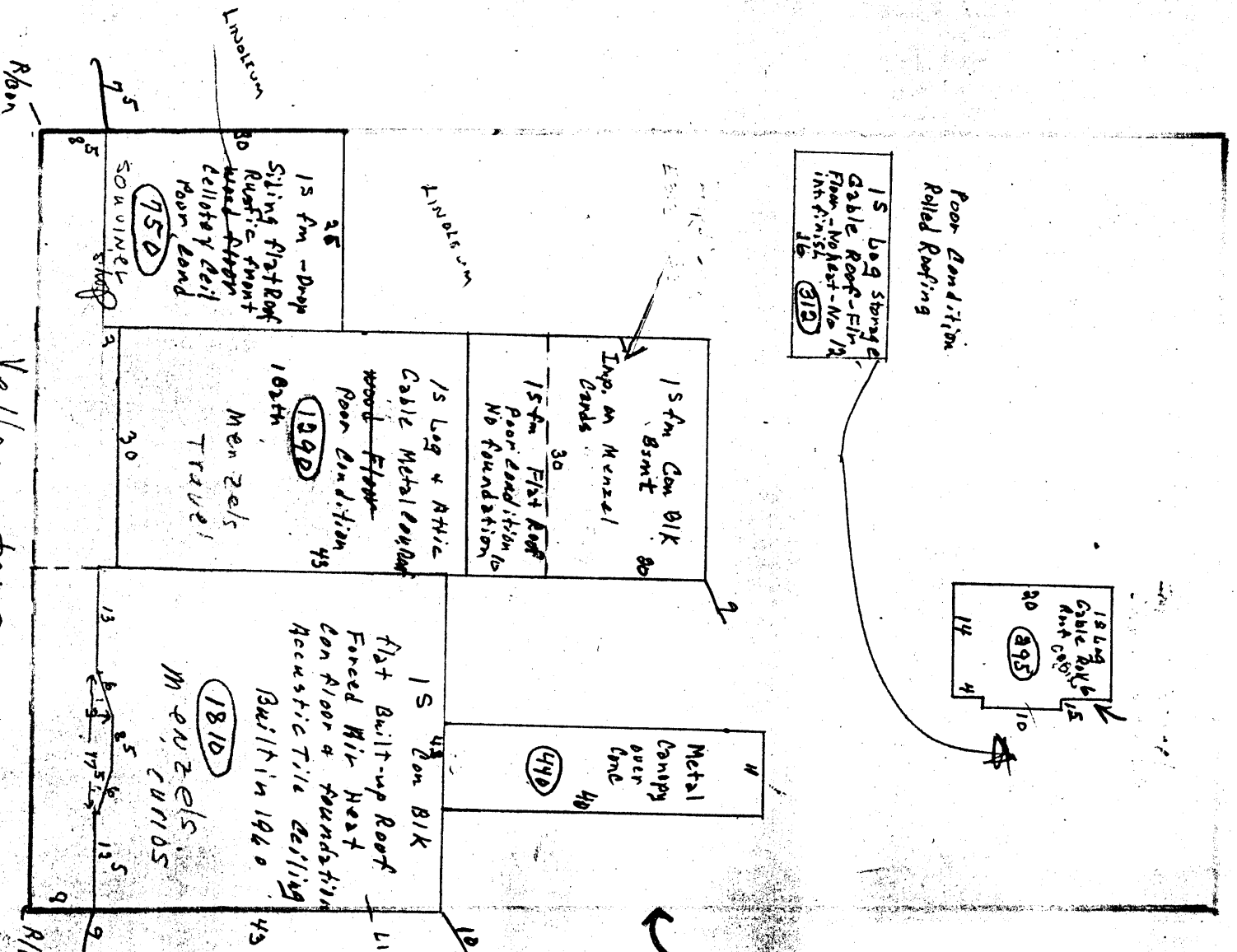
exterior. The building to the east was constructed ca. 1960, is a one story, concrete masonry unit structure with a stone veneer on the front facade. A sheet metal canopy extends across the sidewalk on the front and is supported by log columns and headers. The building to the west is of wood frame construction, and is approximately 25' in width. The front facade of this building is again veneered with stone and a metal canopy with log support columns extends over the sidewalk. The two buildings located on either side of the Kennedy building read on the exterior as separate structures. However, all three buildings are functionally related on the interior and the structures to the east and west of the historic Kennedy Building are included in this nomination as non-contributing additions.

Two detached, log, gable-roofed storage buildings are located to the rear of the Kennedy Building.

The Kennedy Building has retained primary architectural integrity although the fenestration has been altered. The heavy timbered, rustic storefront is quite an unusual treatment for an early commercial building in Montana. A concrete masonry unit addition has been constructed to the rear of the building, measuring approximately 32' x 20', and serving as the local Greyhound Bus depot.

Verbal Boundary Description: All of lot 11, Block 27 of the Original Townsite of West Yellowstone, Montana. Lot measures 100' x 150'.

Less than one acre.



Kennedy Building  
127 Yellowstone Ave.  
West Yellowstone, Montana  
County Assessor's plat of  
lot 11 of Block 27 of the  
Original Townsite of West  
Yellowstone  
Scale: 1"=20'

Boundary of the  
Nominated Property

lot 11

Area Total Area 895.5