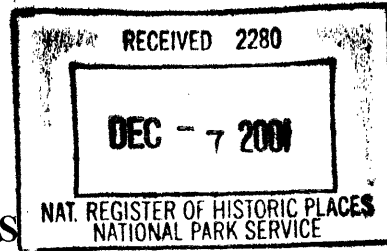


(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1525

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library

other names/site number The Bondurant Protestant Episcopal Church (48SU2673)

## 2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 191/189 not for publication  
city or town Bondurant vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Wyoming code Wy county Sublette zip code 82922

035

## 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.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official

Dec. 4, 2001  
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, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ 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 1/24/02  
Edson A. Beall

**5. Classification**

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

2

2

4

Noncontributing

       buildings

       sites

1 structures

       objects

1 Total

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: Meeting Hall

Religious Church

Education Library

Health Care Clinic

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: Meeting Hall

Religious Church

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Folk Log Construction with Saddle Notches

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete/concrete block

roof Metal (Church), rolled asphalt (library)

walls Log

other \_\_\_\_\_

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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)

Religion  
Education  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance 1940-1951 Significant Dates 1940, 1941 and 1943

Significant Person  
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation Euro-American  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder The Community of Bondurant  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Narrative Statement of Significance

The Bondurant Protestant Episcopal Church is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. The church not only serves as a religious facility but also functions as a community center and the associated library functioned as a library and school.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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“Bondurant Library Building.” MS, Eileen Dockham Collection, Bondurant, Wyoming.

Dockham, Eileen Fronk. Telephone interview with Kevin O’Dell, 25 August 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. Interview with Kevin O’Dell, Bondurant, Wyoming, 21 February 2001.

\_\_\_\_\_. “The History of St. Hubert the Hunter, Bondurant, Wyoming, 1980.” MS, Eileen Dockham Collection, Bondurant, Wyoming.

Myres, Sandra L. *Westering Women and the Frontier Experience, 1800-1915*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1982.

O’Dell, Kevin C. *Documentation and NRHP Evaluation of Segments of the New Fork Wagon Road (48SU1408), and an Historic Automobile Road (48SU3508), Sublette County, Wyoming*. ACRC Report No. 23. Sheridan, Wyoming: ACR Consultants, Inc., 2001.

*Pinedale Roundup*, 21 May 1942.

Rosenberg, Robert G.. *Wyoming’s Last Frontier: Sublette County, Wyoming*. Glendo, Wyoming: High Plains Press, 1990.

Teton National Forest. “Special Use Permit [Church of St. Hubert the Hunter], 1940.” MS, USDA, Forest Service, Teton National Forest, Jackson, Wyoming.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1 acre

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>548260</u>	<u>4783150</u>	3
2	_____	_____	4	_____

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

Verbal Boundary Description One acre NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 4, T37N, R113W

Boundary Justification The property boundaries are those issued by the U.S. Forest Service to the trustees of the Bondurant Church on February 19, 1940

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kevin O'Dell/Principal Investigator

organization ACR Consultants, Inc.

date June 2001

street & number 806 Avoca, Suite 2

telephone 307-673-5966

city or town Sheridan

state WY

zip code 82801

**Additional Documentation**

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.

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**Property Owner**

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Land Owner

name USDA, Forest Service: Administered by the Bridger-Teton National Forest

street & number 340 North Cache

telephone 307-739-5500

city or town Jackson

state WY

zip code 83001

Buildings Owner

name Episcopal Church Diocese of Wyoming

street & number 104 South 4<sup>th</sup> Street

telephone 307-742-6606

city or town Laramie

state WY

zip code 82070

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library

Sublette County, Wyoming

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### Narrative Description

The Bondurant Protestant Episcopal Church property consists of the church, library, two outhouses, and picnic shelter. The property lies within the small ranching community of Bondurant, which is located in Hoback Basin, 35 miles southeast of Jackson. U.S. Highway 189/191, a main thorough fare across western Wyoming passes through the community. Hoback River flows immediately east of the church. Numerous ranches dot the valley, which is flanked by the Gros Ventre Mountains on the east and the Wyoming Mountains to the west.

The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter is a one story log structure built in 1940 and 1941. The library was completed in 1943. Local ranchers built the structures using native lodgepole pine that is abundant in the nearby mountains. Originally, the church consisted of two buildings, the church and a detached coal shed located off the rear (east) elevation. Overall measurements of the original church are 64 feet by 32 feet. Log piers originally supported the church. Church members poured a concrete foundation under the building in ca. 1970. Exterior walls are comprised of peeled logs with saddle notches and sawn ends. A green metal roof, installed in ca. 1996, covers the original rolled asphalt roofing. A short bell tower, capped by a pyramid-shaped roof, extends up on the west end of the church.

In 1980 the coal shed and church were connected by a log addition. Today, the overall dimensions of the building are approximately 88 feet by 32 feet. The addition blends in well with original buildings, as it consists of logs resting on a concrete foundation.

The front entrance is located on the west elevation. It consists of an enclosed projecting gable vestibule with a centered vertical half-log plank door. A six-light interior swinging awning window is located on the north and south elevations of the vestibule. Fenestration on the north and south elevations of the church proper are identical. They feature three sets of two six by six sliding sash windows.

In layout, the church follows a simple basilica plan. That is, it features a front vestibule, an open congregation area, and a centered pulpit, flanked on either side by small rooms. A sign above the set of two plywood doors leading from the vestibule into the church reads: "The Church of St. Hubert built by the gift of Mrs. Markol is consecrated in memory of her son James Markol—A.D. 1941". Native pine covers the floor. Walls consists of peeled logs while the ceiling remains open with exposed log rafters. Four benches, each comprised of log slabs line the walls. The pulpit is located at the east end of the church. A large plywood door, configured like an awning, separates the pulpit from the church. Two local ranching brothers built the altar from pine saplings in 1941. A stained glass window, featuring a buck deer, is located in the eastern wall behind the altar. The pulpit is flanked on either side by a small room. Vertical wood plank doors permit access to each room. The left (northeast) room is used for storage; while the (right) southeast room was originally used as a kitchen. Today, this room is used as a prep kitchen and leads into the kitchen added in 1980.

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## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library

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The library lies approximately 30 feet south of the church. It is a one-story side gable building measuring 32 feet long by 16 feet wide with a gabled ell measuring 14 feet by 14 feet. Structurally, the buildings consists of concrete block foundation, log walls, and a rolled asphalt roof. Like the church, the walls are peeled logs with saddle notches. The main entrance is located on the west elevation. The two-step wood stoop, protected by a projecting gable, leads to the front door. It is comprised of vertical planks. A six-light fixed sash window flanks the door on the right, while a sliding casement window flanks the door on the left. A set of two six-light sliding sashes are located on the south elevation. The north elevation features a fixed six-light sash window. Fenestration on the ell consists of a fixed six-light sash window on the south elevation and a two panel wood pedestrian door on the east elevation.

The interior of the library consists of two rooms. Interior walls are clad with wood fiber paneling and are lined with library book shelves. The building is currently used for storage.

A large shed roof picnic shelter extends along the rear of the library. It measures 60 feet long by 12 feet wide. It is supported by round poles. Two privies, one shed roof the other gabled, are located northeast of the church.

### **Integrity**

The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and library retain integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. These buildings are set in a rural landscape consisting of Bondurant is a small community consisting of rustic log buildings and frame houses. Despite modifications to the church, including the installation of a concrete foundation and metal roof and a kitchen addition, the design, materials, and workmanship are retained. The foundation and roofing are measures used to preserve the physical integrity of the building. They do not compromise the design and configuration of the church. Saddle notched peeled logs, similar to those used in the original church, were used in the 1980 kitchen addition.



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The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library

Sublette County, Wyoming

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### Historical Significance

Bondurant is a small ranching community of approximately 100 people, located in northwestern Hoback Basin, 35 miles southeast of Jackson, Wyoming. In 1811, the Astorian party passed through the region and the nearby Hoback Canyon on their way to Oregon. However, settlement within the basin did not begin in earnest until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Hoback Basin afforded excellent grass for livestock and was abundant in wild game, including antelope, elk, and other animals. In 1890, the first known cabin was built within the Basin. Two years later, the Vint Faler family arrived in the country and established a trading post catering to Native Americans in the region (Rosenberg 1990:109). By 1900, several ranches were in operation across the Basin, including one owned by Benjamin F. Bondurant. Born in Missouri, Bondurant arrived in the basin from Kemmerer. He later established a store, post office, and dude ranch. Over the next two decades, Bondurant guided hunting and pack trips into the nearby mountains. His wife, Ella, served as postmaster at the post office bearing their name. Other dude ranches followed including the Triangle F Ranch, the V-V Ranch, and the Noah Booker Ranch (Rosenberg 1990:126-127).

The small community of Bondurant is located on one of the main thoroughfares across western Wyoming: U.S. Highway 89 (Hoback Basin Road). One of the biggest factors leading to the construction and maintenance of roads in Sublette County was to draw tourists into the area. Sublette County contains spectacular vistas, numerous lakes full of trout and recreation potential, as well as excellent hunting areas. The area was also a prime access route to the nation's first national park, Yellowstone. Automobiles were permitted to traverse the park in 1912. By 1921, a good graded and oiled road existed between Rock Springs, Pinedale, and the Yellowstone National Park (O'Dell 2001).

Although the Hoback Basin Road was a major thoroughfare, it was often closed due to blizzards. Numerous travelers were often stranded along the route in Hoback Basin. The founding of the church is the result of such an incident. During the winter of 1937 Wyoming's Episcopalian Bishop, Winford H. Ziegler, passed through the Hoback Basin on his way to Jackson. A blizzard forced him stop near Bondurant and seek refuge at nearby ranches. Months later, while in Philadelphia, Bishop Ziegler had a conversation with the Bishop Perry, the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, regarding a diamond donated by Mrs. John Markoe. According to the story, Mrs. Markoe stipulated that the diamond was to be sold for cash to finance a memorial church. Some versions of the story suggest the deal was to build a church in the most remote place in the U.S. Upon hearing this story, Bishop Ziegler recalled the hospitality afforded him by the residents of Bondurant. He suggested that the gem be sold to build a church at Bondurant. The Presiding Bishop agreed and sold the diamond for \$1,400.00 (Dockham 1980).

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The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library

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Bishop Ziegler returned to Bondurant in the early spring of 1939 to solicit volunteers to erect the new church. The Teton National Forest issued a special use permit for a one acre parcel within Bondurant in which the church was built (Teton National Forest 1940). Twenty eight men, including 25 local ranchers, the bishop and two other priests, began the task of cutting logs and hauling them to the building site. By the fall of 1940, five courses of logs were in place. This was enough to house the first religious ceremony in the church, a wedding. Snow and ranching duties curtailed construction until the following spring. The church was completed in the summer of 1941. Bishop Zeigler, the Governor of Wyoming, and over 500 visitors attended the consecration service of the Church of St. Hubert the Hunter on August 3, 1941. During the service, Bishop Zeigler presented an axe to each man who helped build the church. Saint Hubert is the patron saint of hunters, an appropriate name for a community which lies in the heart of elk country and home to hundreds of hunters yearly.

The following year, Albert Miller, a local homesteader, constructed the Bondurant Church parish center, later called the library building. Like the church, this building consisted of local logs. Proceeds for the building materials came from Mrs. Dunn of Philadelphia in the memory of her father, John Buffington (*Pinedale Roundup*, 21 May 1942, page 1). When completed, the building consisted of three rooms housing a dispensary, an emergency room, and a library. The road through Hoback Basin was especially treacherous during the winter months. Blizzards often stranded travelers along the road. The parish center became a wayside station to shelter travelers. It housed a first aid kit, non-perishable food, and a stretcher. All of which were donated to the community (Dockham, personal communication, 25 August 2001).

Over 500 books were stored in the front room of the library building. The Bondurant Ladies Guild paid for book shelves, a set of encyclopedias, and provided a stipend for the librarian. The library was used until 1998, when the books were moved to the town school ("Bondurant Library Building").

School classes were held within the library building between 1945 and 1952. The Bondurant school became Sublette County School District Number 5 and replaced several rural schools (Dockham, personal communication, 25 August 2001). The teacher lived in the rear two rooms and taught in the library portion of the building. Six pupils comprised the first school class. It continued to be used as a school until 1952, when a new school building was completed in Bondurant. However, the building continued to be utilized as a library and Sunday school classroom. Bondurant lacked a formal community meeting hall like several other small ranching communities in Sublette County such as Daniel and Boulder. The library building also became the meeting hall for the school board, library board, and other community organizations.

Current residents of the Hoback Basin are familiar with the annual Bondurant barbeque. The tradition started with the dedication of the library in 1942. It has been held nearly every year since then. Members of the Bondurant Ladies Guild and the surrounding ranches donated or purchased the beef for the event. The Guild

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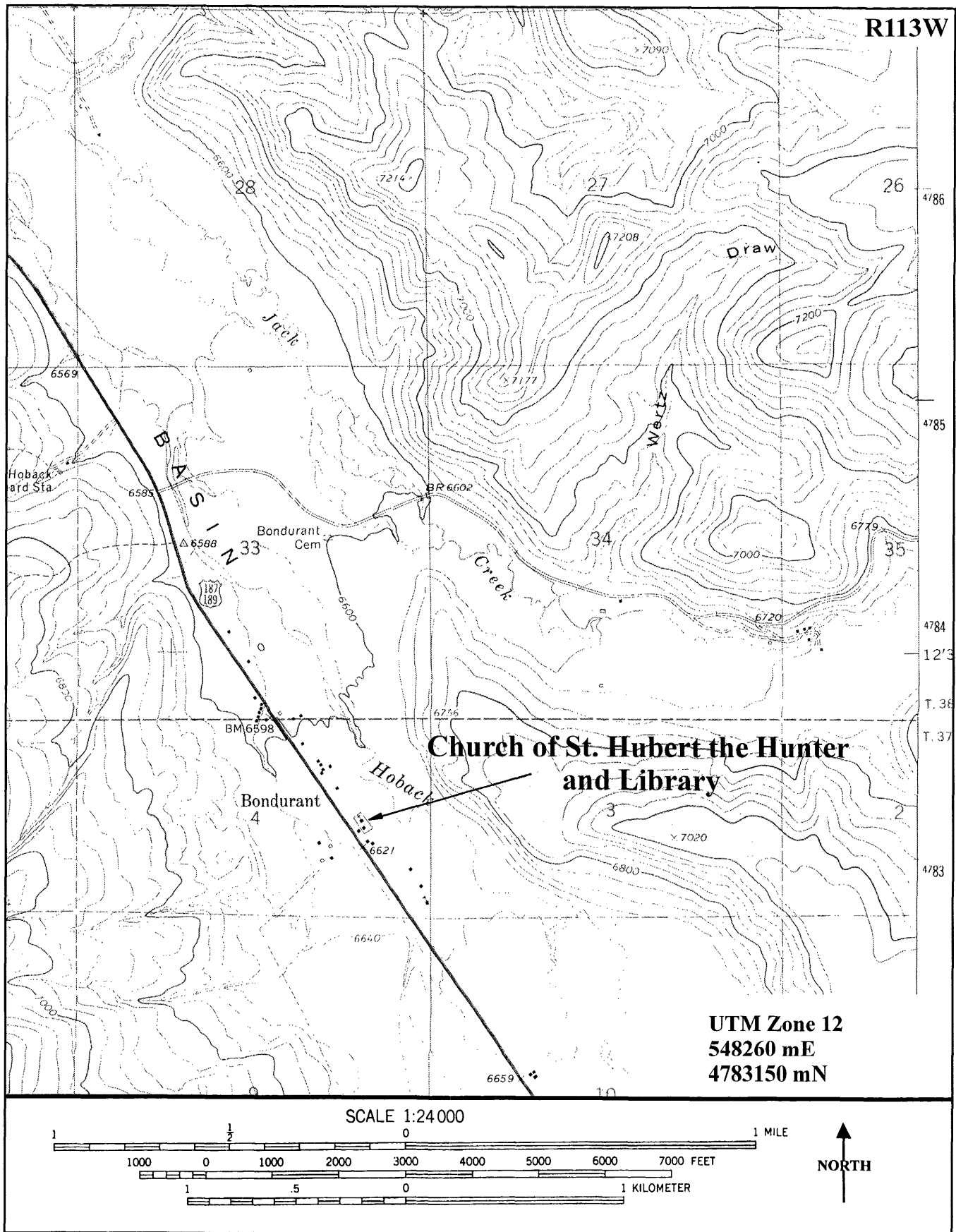
Sublette County, Wyoming

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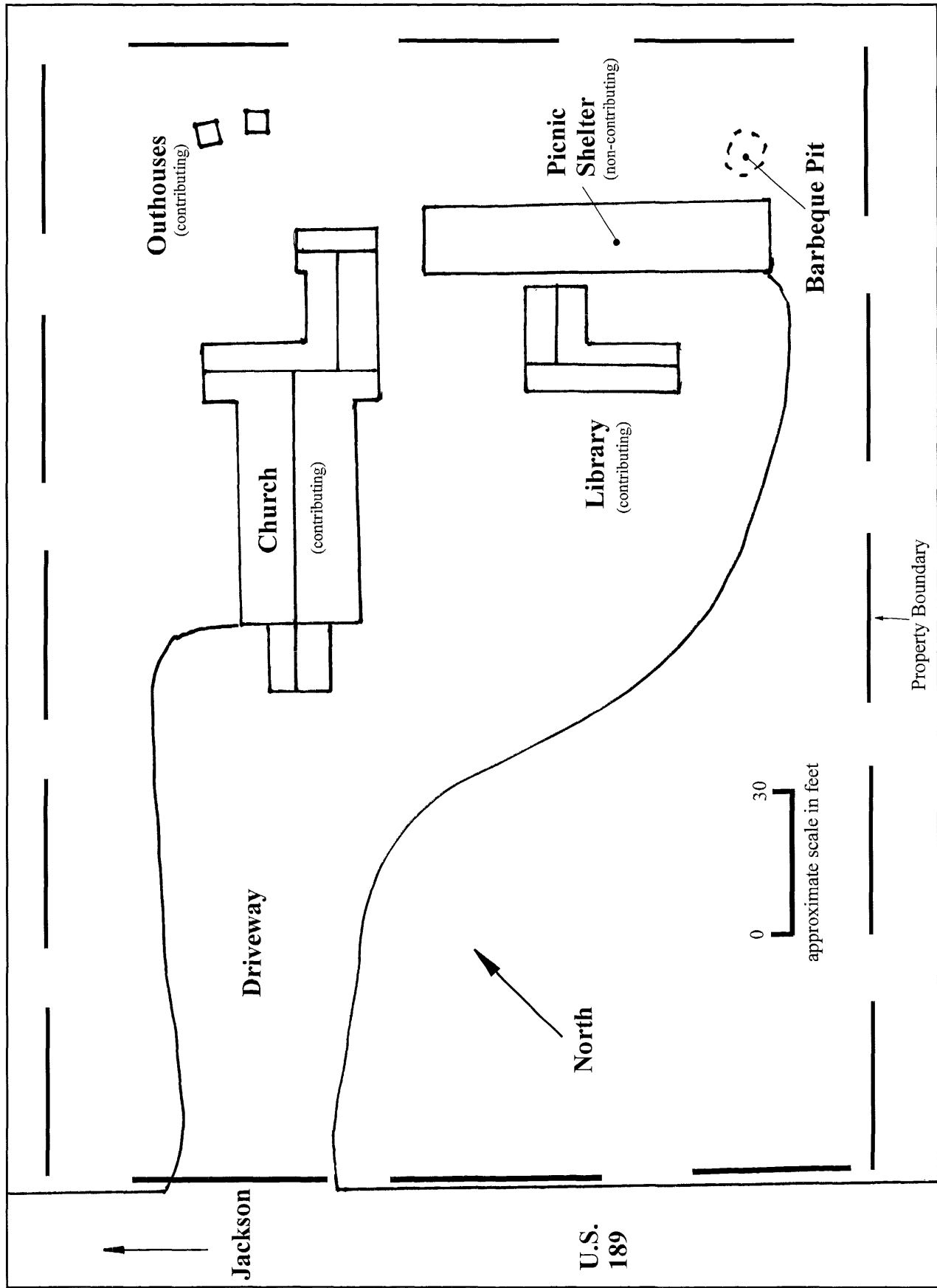
prepared and served all the food. Attendance at the barbeque has grown over the last 50 years. Participants include Sublette County residents, residents across Wyoming, the United States and the world. The event is held on the last Sunday in June. Because of this, it draws a number of tourists traveling on the Hoback Road into Jackson. Approximately 1200 people, for example, attended the 2000 barbeque (Dockham, personal communication, 21 February 2001).

The construction, utilization, and operation of the Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library epitomize the community spirit shown by the residents of Bondurant. In 1931, the Crazy Calico Club, a woman's organization, was founded within the community. Upon completion of the church, the organization changed its name to the Ladies Guild of Bondurant. This organization maintained the church property and raised money through various fund raising activities. These included bake sales, raffles for donated items, and the annual barbeque (Dockham 1980:2).

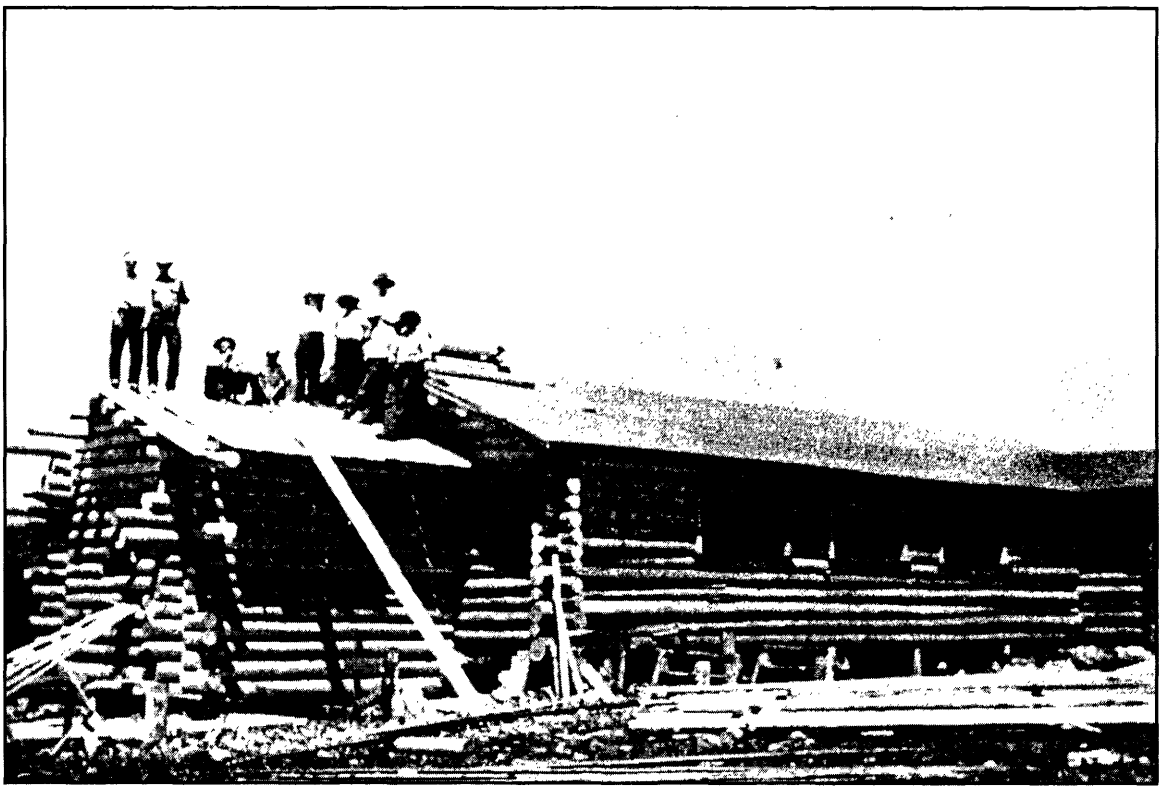
Bondurant is a small ranching community devoid of social and commercial buildings present in other towns. There are no fraternal halls, theaters, or stores. Residents within the area had to rely on each other. The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library not only provided religious, health and educational needs, they provided a strong social bond for the numerous widespread ranches that comprise the Bondurant community. In her book, *Westering Women and the Frontier Experience, 1800-1915*, Sandra Myres explains that churches and schools functioned as more than religious and educational institutions. Rather, the facilities allowed members of the surrounding community to come together. Church and school buildings allowed "...people the chance to get together and visit with friends...box suppers...and other socials designed to raise money for various school and church projects also provided opportunities for settlers to meet and enjoy themselves (205)." Bondurant is a physically isolated settlement delineated not by a traditional main street or downtown corridor consisting of commercial buildings, but by a post office, seasonal motels, a few houses, and a modern school. The true community lies in the surrounding ranches and the people who occasionally come together to socialize, arrange fund raisers. The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library is the community hall for Bondurant. Although their specific duties have changed over the years, the buildings still house monthly library board meetings, Forest Service meetings, and in the last couple of years summer reading classes for the children in Bondurant.



Location of the Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library. Adapted from the 7.5' USGS quadrangle entitled Bondurant, Wyoming (1967).



The Church of St. Hubert the Hunter and Library (The Bondurant Protestant Episcopal Church [48SU2673]); plan view.



St. Hubert the Hunter Church under construction, 1941; view to the northeast. Photo on file at Sublette County Library, Pinedale, Wyoming.



St. Hubert the Hunter Church dedication celebration, August 3, 1941; view to the east-northeast. Photo on file at Sublette County Library, Pinedale, Wyoming.



St. Hubert the Hunter Church, ca. 1942; view to the northeast. Photo on file at Sublette County Library, Pinedale, Wyoming.