

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0682268

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 16 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 1 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

St. John's Episcopal Church and Rectory

AND/OR COMMON

St. John's Episcopal Church

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

132 North Glenwood

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Teton

CODE

039

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

St. John's Episcopal Church

STREET & NUMBER

117 North Glenwood

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 83001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Teton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

181 King Street

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Wyoming 83001

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

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

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

\_\_\_ FEDERAL  STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in Jackson on a city block which provides critical open space in downtown Jackson is St. John's Church, a one-story log structure completed in 1916. Of typical turn-of-the-century style and detailing, the church has log gable ends and a sharply pitched, trussed roof covered with composition shingles. Attached to the south side of the main building is a log sacristy, 14' x 14' in size, and capped by a beautiful bell tower with a cross that reaches to a point 35' above the ground. In 1935 the main church entrance was moved from the west to the east face in order to match the church rectory and nearby hospital. The latter, which was also of log construction, was moved from the site.

The main sanctuary, including vestibule, choir loft, organ and altar areas, is rectangular in shape and approximately 60' x 24'. Several, exposed, horizontal logs span the walls and are used as lateral braces. The ceiling is partially pitched and partially flat, and covered with pressed board panels and one-by-three, pressed board trim pieces. The church displays three, beautiful, stained glass windows. Other windows contain individual diamond-shaped panes within each window sash.

The church needs exterior repairs. The logs are extremely dry and need restoration. All of the windows do not fit properly and need repair and adjustment. All of the trim needs to be repainted and the two exterior doors need weatherstripping, plus there is a need to use fiberglass and caulking to tighten up the building because of the loss of extreme amounts of heat. On the interior, the ceiling needs restoration. An old duct from an abandoned heating system needs to be removed. Various old holes from moved light fixtures and peeling paint need filling and restoration. All of the restoration and maintenance work is needed in order to bring the building back to its original condition.

Located just south of, and twenty-five feet from St. John's Church, in the same park-like setting, is St. John's Rectory. Constructed in 1911, the rectory is one of the largest and most significant log structures in all of Jackson Hole. It is an L-shaped building two stories in height with a partial basement, and its dimensions are approximately 60' x 25' for the building proper and 26' x 24' for the leg. The gable ends are log and the trussed roof is steeply pitched and covered with asphalt and cedar shingles. There is a large, covered front porch on the east side and a smaller, covered porch on the west side. Each of the double-hung windows has twelve lighted sashes. Although the building's log work and trim are typical of that done at the turn of the century, the second story has a series of dormer windows which gives the rectory a very significant style all its own, and which was undoubtedly the work of a very creative and ambitious craftsman.

The interior of the rectory has been altered many times over the years, but with an eye to maintenance of the character, detailing and atmosphere of the original building. Most of the interior walls are plaster over wood lath.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES Rectory-1911  
Church-1916

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Local Craftsmen

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

St. John's Episcopal Church was an outgrowth of the mission work carried on in Jackson from 1908 to 1915. George and Clarence Blain brought out the logs and peeled them during the winter of 1915-1916. The following spring plans were drawn up and work was started in July by Butch and Ed Robinson who, with some supplies from Billy Mercill, put up the log structure. The lumber for the roof was contracted from Charles Fox's sawmill. Some of the interior finish work and the altar were done by Paul A. Imeson, a master carpenter. The church was consecrated on September 10, 1916 by the Rt. Rev. Nathaniel S. Thomas with the Rev. Royal Balcom serving as priest in charge.

The role of the Episcopal Church in Jackson has always been a distinctive one. Services, church school, library facilities and Christian social gatherings added a great deal to the limited activities in town. The religious leadership of early Episcopal priests was very important because until their arrival the community was predominantly Mormon. The priests traveled through the valley conducting services in the outlying areas as well. After instigating the construction of the county's only hospital, the priests and those serving on the Bishop's Committee served on the hospital board and also served as hospital superintendents.

Our architectural heritage is log buildings and although the simple, chapel style of St. John's Episcopal Church is typical of many early churches in this country, it is a beautiful structure of strong and significant historical importance and feeling. It has served as an Episcopal Church to the residents of Jackson Hole since 1916, and is also distinctive in the field of music since it houses the only pipe organ in the county.

The St. John's Episcopal Rectory, or Hostel as it was originally called, was constructed in 1911 under the guidance of Bishop Nathaniel Thomas. Episcopal Church services were first held in Jackson in 1908, but with no regularity until the rectory was built. Afterwards, priests came there not only to conduct services, but also to live. In the early years the hostel, or "Rest House" as it was often called, served in many capacities. Jackson Hole is about the size of Delaware, but sparsely populated. Many ranchers and dudes of the early days were put up at the hostel because the ride to and from town was too long a trip for one day. Church services were held on the main floor, which also served as a community room or club room where the whole valley could find hospitality. The Men's Club which met there regularly was made up of many of the leading citizens of the town of Jackson. One of their main accomplishments was to build a much-needed hospital located just south

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum, Item 9

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. .5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Jackson

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 12 519183 4814130

B

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Lots 1 through 7, and Lots 14 through 20 of Block 7, Original Townsite, Jackson, Teton County, Wyoming and any and all improvements thereon and rights therein.

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Carolynn Elliott

ORGANIZATION

St. John's Episcopal Church

DATE

May 18, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1826

TELEPHONE

(307) 733-3362

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Wyoming 83001

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jan L. Wilson*

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

August 3, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12-1-78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*William H. Brauman* 11-27-78

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The rectory drastically needs immediate exterior restoration. The original mortar chinking has either fallen out or is on its way, and needs to be replaced. The logs are deteriorating due to lack of proper oiling and maintenance. The same goes for the windows, doors, and other trim on the exterior. The entire roof, which is covered with a combination of composition and cedar shingles, must be replaced. Replacement includes all the flashing in the many valleys and at the numerous dormer windows. The back, enclosed porch has leaked for several years and must have extensive repairs. There are several places in the attic where light shines through and, furthermore, the attic is not properly ventilated and lacks the proper amount of insulation. A fantastic amount of energy is consumed by the building, and insulation must be added, particularly in the ceiling of the second floor. All of the repairs on the exterior are intended to restore the building to its original condition, while the rest of the work is mainly to lessen the consumption of energy.

South of the log rectory is a wooden frame, one-story rectory belonging to the church. However, it was built in the late 1950's and should not presently be included in the National Register of Historic Places. Also built at approximately the same time, and thus not presently eligible for the National Register, is a frame, one-story parish hall located east of the log rectory.

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of the hostel. For years as the town grew the hostel was used by other groups such as the Boy Scouts, or by women's guilds whose members fixed many dinners there.

When the population in the valley began to grow the local schools became crowded so the hostel was used to accommodate primary classes. The main floor, which served as a gymnasium where as many as seventy or eighty children sometimes gathered, was of great value because of the long, severe, winters and limited activities for young people. For some time a churchwoman skilled in settlement work superintended the gymnasium classes and taught the children how to work and play. A large reading room was established upstairs and gradually a library of over a thousand volumes was accumulated. This was a very popular place for people of all ages since there was no local library.

The hostel has never been unused. After the church was constructed next door, it continued to serve as Guild meeting room, Sunday School, library, social center and as a home for the priest. It presently houses the church offices, coffee-hour room and kitchen, thrift shop, Sunday School, library, and a small apartment.

Although the original name, Hostel, is no longer appropriate, the community spirit that the hostel generated and the many ways it met the needs of the people endeared it to all. Our history was affected powerfully by its presence and members of every long-time Jackson Hole family have fond memories of activities held there. The value of the building has grown very substantially in character and in the hearts of St. John's members and friends. The preservation of the building exemplifies the preservation of a way of life so typical of this area.

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ADDENDUM: ITEM 9 BIBLIOGRAPHY.

JOURNALS, PERIODICALS:

Balcom, Reverend Royal H. "The Church's Mission in Jackson Hole." The Churchman, CXV, 1 (1917), 15, 16, 17.

Thomas, W. A. (no title available) Wyoming Churchman, XVIII, 2 (October, 1927).  
no page listed.

NEWSPAPERS:

Jackson Hole (Wyoming) Courier, 1916-1925.