

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Subsidiary Form 10-900

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 29 1985
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic WOODS LANDING DANCE HALL

and/or common SAME

2. Location

street & number 2731 STATE HIGHWAY 230 n/a not for publication

city, town WOODS LANDING vicinity of

state Wyoming code 056 county ALBANY code 001

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mayme Lestum

street & number Woods Landing

city, town Woods Landing vicinity of state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albany County Courthouse

street & number 5th and Grand Avenue

city, town Laramie state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Albany County Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>n/a</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Woods Landing dance hall bounded by Woods Creek to the south and State Highway 230 to the north, covered 3178 square feet at the time of its construction. The dimensions of the building are: 40 x 67.5 feet. Two years following construction of the dance hall, a kitchen addition was connected to the rear of the building. Several years later a cinder block and mortar room was added onto the kitchen for storage. Dimensions of the kitchen addition are: 12 x 34.5 square feet. Storage room: 8 x 8 square feet. It should be noted that neither of these two additions are visible from the front of the building.

The dance hall was constructed of handhewn logs layered in a tongue and groove fashion. There is no chinking between the logs as they were hewn to fit together tightly. The only metal supports on the building are those which connect the rafters to the walls, supporting the roof. The roof is of clipped gable design, the shingles being the only part of the main building which aren't original. The roof has a shed extension to cover the porch on the front of the dance hall, sheltering a massive wooden door off center in the front facade. The porch features a clipped gable over the entry supported by log columns. Log columns also support the porch extension and share a simple log balustrade. The porch covers three-fourths of the building front. Windows are large double hung with plain surrounds of six over six on the dance hall portion and smaller six light windows at the opposite end. Windows share double bays on the front and are irregularly spaced around the building. The doors and windows have log trimmed plain surrounds on both interior and exterior surfaces and doors are made of fitted planks.

A foundation of stone and cement supports the hall; the stones were gathered from the Laramie River. A large stone fireplace presides over the west wall of the original structure, inside what is now the cafe. The interior of this one story structure remains much the same way as at the time of construction in 1932. The wooden rafters aren't hidden by a ceiling. Varnished wooden benches, connected to the walls by bolts, line the hall. Approximately fifteen years following completion of the dance hall, a partition was built cutting off a fourth of the dance floor. On the eastern side of this partition booths were built of handhewn pine.

The most distinctive feature of the dance hall would have to be its dance floor. Beneath the oak inset patterned floor are 24 boxcar springs, giving it bounce and flexibility. This is the only one of its kind known to still exist. The floor is ideal for polkas and square dancing or folk dancing done in unison to a certain rhythm. It continues to be used for such dancing today. There is a stage with a log balustrade at one end. Handmade light fixtures made of stylized varnished tree roots and small logs light the interior of the dance hall.

The dance hall is a fine example of vernacular architecture specifically adapted for the area's needs. It remains almost exactly as it was fifty-two years ago, with neither the interior or exterior having been altered significantly. The dance hall is located at the foot of the Medicine Bow Range 27 miles southwest of Laramie. It sets in a heavily vegetated area along the creek and retains a high degree of integrity in the areas of setting, design, location, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1932 **Builder/Architect** Hokum Lestum

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Woods Landing Dance Hall constructed in 1932 is significant for its associations with a locally significant individual Mayme Lewellen Lestum, who has owned and operated the property since 1932. It is significant as a local gathering place not only for dances, but smorgasbord, blood drives, fund raisers, weddings and other important occasions; and is also a stopping place for tourists. It is associated with the "tie hack" industry which boomed in response to the railroad's need for lumber, and brought large numbers of Swedish immigrants into the area. These immigrants made significant contributions to the broad patterns of the area's social, cultural and architectural history. The Dance Hall also embodies distinctive characteristics of type, period, and method of construction which exemplify the unusual architectural contributions of the Swedish immigrants. The dance hall features a dance floor mounted on box car springs, the only one known of in the state, and also features log construction devoid of chinking because the logs were cut so as to fit tightly together. The property retains a high degree of integrity of setting, design, location, workmanship, materials, feeling and association and deserves enrollment on the National Register as a locally significant property.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

9. Major Bibliographical References

LARAMIE COMMERCIAL CLUB, SUMMER RESORTS IN ALBANY COUNTY. LARAMIE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1941
MOORE, V. BIG VALLEY NEWS: A PAGE FROM THE PAST. LARAMIE DAILY BOOMERANG, SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 1972. PAGE 10.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property LESS THAN ONE

Quadrangle name WOODS LANDING

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	3	4	1	5	0	1	0	4	5	5	1	2	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Bernaski

organization U.W. Public History Clas

date 11-25-84

street & number 511 South 12th

telephone (307) 742-5157

city or town Laramie

state Wyoming

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 Robert W. Bush

title Director and State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/23/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong
for Keeper of the National Register

date 12/13/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Woods Landing Dance Hall Item number 8 Page 1

Colonel Samuel Wood, traveling from Iowa, arrived in the vicinity of what is now Woods Landing, Wyoming in 1883. It was there at the foot of the Medicine Bow Range that he decided to homestead. Wood, deciding he didn't have sufficient acreage to begin a ranch, chose instead to open a saloon. This saloon attracted the business of lumberjacks from the Fox Park timber camps. The Woods Landing saloon also became a regular stop for freighters and stage drivers, since it was at the intersection of three roadways: to Fox Park, Laramie, and Walden, Colorado. Upon Wood's death in 1901 his wife, Ellen Wood, leased the saloon to Jim Pollock who continued to operate it as such until 1915 when the land was sold to W.H. McComber. From that point on, the land had quite a succession of owners up until 1927 when it was sold to a couple from Indiana, Clarence and Mayme Lewellen. Upon purchasing the land, the couple opened a filling station and a sandwich stand. Mayme Lewellen then came up with the idea for a resort where people could stay and relax in the mountains. In 1932 the Lewellens hired a Norwegian by the name of Hokum Lestum to build a dance hall and a few cabins for vacationers. Clarence Lewellen died in 1936; two years later Mayme married Hokum Lestum. The Lestums continued to operate the dance hall and cafe for several years until Hokum's death in 1970. The cabins have since been torn down; all that remains are the dance hall and a bar, which are still in operation. Mayme Lestum at 87 years of age still owns both businesses. The dance hall has been the scene of hundreds of dances and other activities over the years. The number and the frequency of the dances has tapered off, yet the dance hall doesn't stand idle. Several other activities supplement the dance schedule. Smorgasbord is served inside the dancing room each Sunday. Blood drives and fund raisers such as auctions have been held there supporting such worthwhile organizations as the American Cancer Society. The hall has also been rented out for wedding receptions and other special occasions.

The dance hall's architectural design is quite noteworthy. Hokum Lestum designed it himself, and there are no blueprints. The immensity of the building, along with the fact that it was constructed of all handhewn pine, make it significant architecturally.

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Continuation sheet Woods Landing Dance Hall Item number 9

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An Interview with:

1. Dick Foster, 11-1-84
2. Conrad Hansen, 10-04-84
3. Mayme Lestum, 9-23-84
4. Lorraine Whickland, 9-23-84

Gress, Kathryn, " 'Mayme' Carries on at Woods Landing," Cheyenne Sunday Magazine, February 13, 1983. Pages 6,7,.

Homsher, Lola M., The History of Albany County, Wyoming, to 1914.
Publisher, not known.

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Continuation sheet Woods Landing Dance Hall Item number 10

Page 1

The boundary for the Woods Landing Dance Hall is defined by an arbitrary boundary located 20 feet from the sides and front of the building to Woods creek at the back. This boundary results from the fact that there are no natural or manmade boundaries at the sides or front to justify using them as a boundary without including excessive land area and other non-eligible structures. The creek runs behind the building and provides a logical natural boundary for the site, and additionally provides a meeting point for the arbitrary 20 foot boundary. For purposes of tax act certification this nomination includes only the original log structure and not the two additions located at the rear.