

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	
DATE ENTERED	

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

**1 NAME** Yellowstone National Park Multiple Resource Area

HISTORIC

Historic Resources of Yellowstone National Park: Partial Inventory Madison Museum  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Yellowstone National Park

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

N/A Madison Junction N/A VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

At Large

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

056

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

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet

CITY, TOWN

Denver N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Yellowstone National Park

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Yellowstone National Park

STATE

Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures

DATE

June, 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Madison Museum nomination is a portion of the Multiple Resource Nomination for Yellowstone National Park.

The Madison Museum is located near the junction of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers which form the Madison River and at the junction of the Grand Loop Road and the West Entrance Road in the western part of Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. The museum, situated on a gentle slope among lodgepole pines, overlooks the historic campsite of the Washburn, Langford, Doan Expedition of 1870. The rustic style building is sympathetic to the natural setting. Built in 1930, the T-plan building is approximately 41' in length with the former ranger-naturalist area being 13' in width and the wing (the exhibit room) being 21'-10" in width. The one-room building, on a native rubblestone (ryolite) foundation, is of frame construction, and is one story. The buttressed stone foundation extends approximately 1/3 of the way up the exterior wall; a transition member, a large log, joins the foundation to the cedar shingled frame wall. The 8 inch cedar shingles alternate horizontally with 2 inch cedar shingles to form a strong horizontal pattern. The upper gable ends are sheathed in vertical boards with alternating designs of diamonds and fir tree cut outs. Large log brackets extend from the masonry foundation to support the heavy log framed cedar shingled roof. The rafters and purlins have been sheared. At an earlier time the configuration of the log brackets was altered and the brackets were enlarged and the former two-room building was opened up to form one exhibit space. These changes have not lessened the integrity of the building. Most windows are multi-pane casement. Large plate glass windows are used in the exhibit area. During renovation for Yellowstone's centennial celebration in 1971, the building was converted to a single room. The building has a terrace with stone slab floor, buttressed retaining walls, and wood slab benches.

The survey of the Madison Museum, Yellowstone National Park was completed by Lance Olivieri, a consultant on historic properties, and under the supervision of Supervisory Historical Architect Rodd L. Wheaton during June 1976. Mr. Olivieri used the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places for his evaluations and the structure was entered on the Rocky Mountain Region's List of Classified Structures Inventory.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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 1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Herbert Maier, Architect

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Madison Museum is nationally significant for both its architecture and its role in education in the National Park System. This small, but impressive museum exemplifies the National Park Service ideal of blending the structure into the natural setting. The vision and skill of the museum's architect, Herbert Maier, made it a part of, not an addition to, the landscape.<sup>1</sup> The rustic style of the museum was used for many decades by the National Park Service.

The building of the Madison Museum as well as the other museums in Yellowstone National Park was the result of a new objective of the National Park Service of "equating education with recreation."<sup>2</sup> In 1925, this new objective established National Park Service activities at Berkeley, California and in Yosemite National Park. By 1927, the enrichment of the spirit and education were primary objectives of park management. In 1928, with encouragement from Superintendent Horace Albright, the American Museum Association planned a series of Trailside museums for Yellowstone National Park. The plan was funded by a \$118,000 grant from the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial "for the development of educational activities in Yellowstone National Park." Of the four museums built, Madison Museum focused on the history of Yellowstone National Park. Not only did the structure provide exhibit space to tell the history story, but other activities centered in the area, campfire talks, nature walks, etc. The other three museums built at Yellowstone were Norris Museum, Fishing Bridge Museum and the Old Faithful Museum. The Old Faithful Museum which was associated with thermal geology has been demolished. Norris Museum, focusing on thermal geology and Fishing Bridge Museum, focusing on ecology of the Yellowstone Lake area, will be nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Stewart. "Yellowstone's Madison Museum."
2. Haines. The Yellowstone Story.

APR 1982  
100 107 10000

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

- Building Maintenance Files, National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Regional Office, Denver, Colorado. 1949.
- Good, Albert. Park and Recreation Structures. Part I. Administration and Basic Service Facilities. National Park Service, 1938.
- Haines, Aubrey. The Yellowstone Story. Vol. II. Boulder, Colorado: Colorado University Associated Press, 1977.

(see continuation sheet)

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre, approximately 62' x 42'

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 2	51, 10, 00	4, 9, 4, 3, 0, 0, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The Madison Museum is located approximately 800 feet west of the Grand Loop Road at a point approximately 16 miles from the Old Faithful area. The nominated property is approximately 62' x 42'.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mary Shivers Culpin, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

January 20, 1982

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet

TELEPHONE

(303) 234-2764

CITY OR TOWN

Denver

STATE

Colorado

**12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION**

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ NONE \_\_\_

*Signature is on Xeroxed copy*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*[Signature]*

TITLE

*Assoc. Dir., Cultural Resources*

DATE

*5/11/82*

**FOR NPS USE ONLY**

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

*[Signature]*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

*7-9-82*

ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE

*6-24-82*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

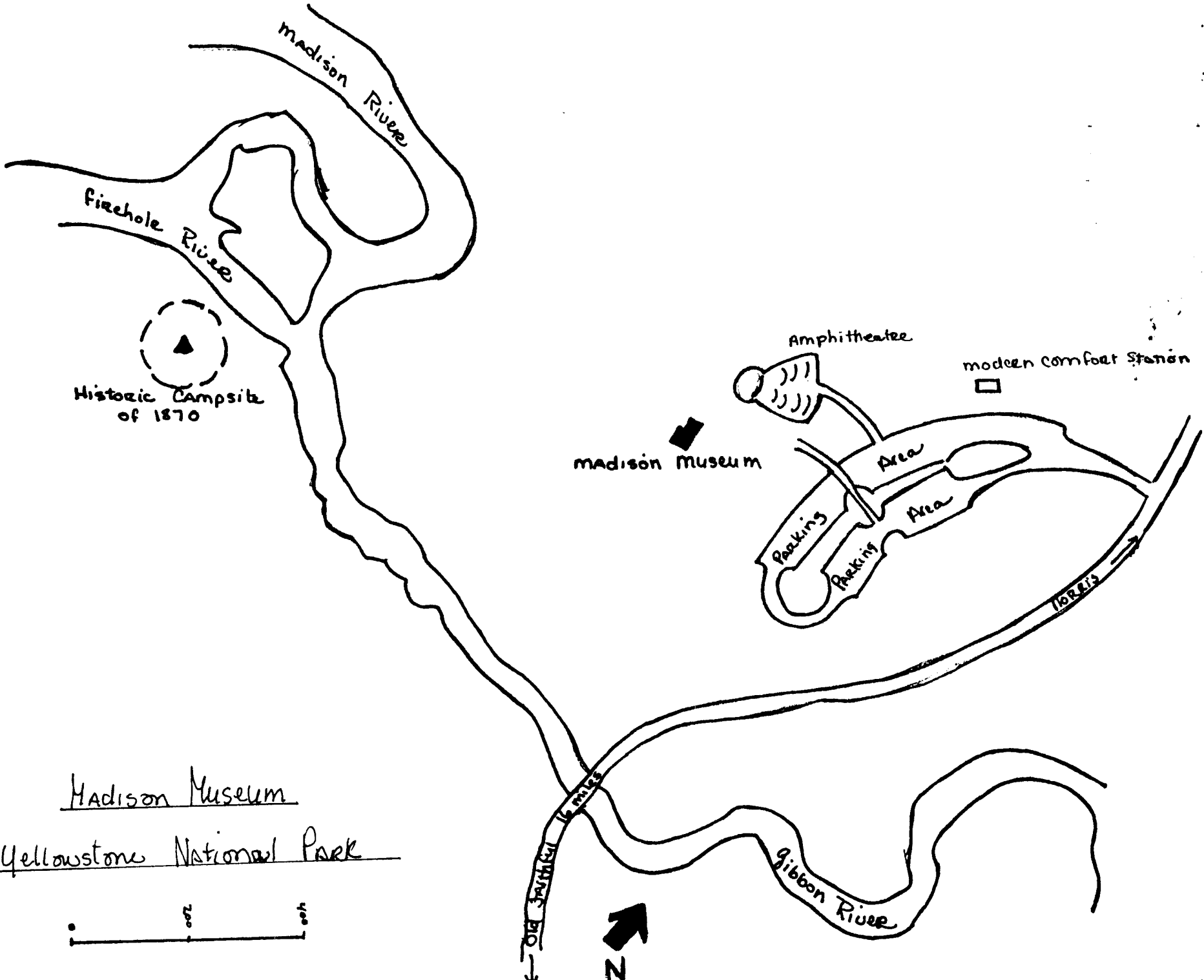
RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Major Bibliographical  
CONTINUATION SHEET References ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

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Stewart, Donald C. "Yellowstone's Madison Museum." Montana, The Magazine of Western History. Helena, Montana: Montana Historical Society, Summer, 1975.



Madison Museum

Yellowstone National Park

