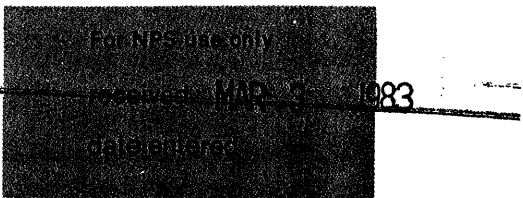


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



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 West Yellowstone, MRA

and/or common

2. Location

street & number The incorporation limits of West Yellowstone n/a not for publication

city, town West Yellowstone n/a vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Montana code 030 county Gallatin code 031

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see continuation sheet)

street & number

city, town West Yellowstone n/a vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Gallatin County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Bozeman state Montana 59715

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

West title Yellowstone Historic Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana Historic Preservation Office

city, town 225 North Roberts Helena state Montana

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The town of West Yellowstone, Montana is located adjacent to the west entrance of Yellowstone National Park and is bounded by the Gallatin National Forest on the other three sides. The tall pines of the surrounding forest clearly delineate the city limits and lend an impression that this community has, indeed, been carved from the forest. The town plat is of particular interest in that the center of each block was reserved as a small park with access to these interior courts provided by alleyways running east and west.

West Yellowstone's main commercial street historically had been Yellowstone Ave., running parallel to the railroad right-of-way and fronting upon the West Yellowstone Railroad Terminus Historic District at the southernmost edge of town. As numerous fires decimated individual buildings and sometimes entire blocks of the commercial area, shop and hotel owners rebuilt, oftentimes relocating, and consistently abandoning the practice of constructing shared fire walls. The original building setbacks along Yellowstone Street have been maintained through the years, although only two buildings constructed during the period of early commercial development in West Yellowstone still exist. As automobile transportation superceded the railroad in importance, the orientation of West Yellowstone's commercial development shifted from Yellowstone Street toward US Highway 191, and new shops, hotels, and service stations sprang up along Canyon Street.

A "rustic" style of architecture, in conscious imitation of that being constructed by the National Park Service in the Park at the time, was employed in the construction of many of the early commercial, residential and railroad related buildings in West Yellowstone. Random field stone coursing, exposed log structural members, large stone fireplaces, and multipaned casement and double hung windows are common traits of this rustic style. The Kennedy Building, the Madison Hotel, and a number of the railroad related buildings within the historic district are representative examples of the rustic style.

A comprehensive inventory of all buildings and structures in West Yellowstone was conducted by Rick Mayfield and Associates, Planning Consultants, from Bozeman, Montana, from 1980-1981. It was found that the vast majority of buildings in the community were constructed within the past 35 years. Numerous fires, long harsh winters, and the pressure to expand tourist accommodations within a finite land area have resulted in the loss of much of the town's historic fabric. The West Yellowstone Oregon Shortline Terminus Historic District and the two individual resources presented in this multiple resource nomination represent the remaining historic structures which have retained a high degree of historic integrity and serve as reminders of the founding and development of the transportation and tourist industry of this small Montana community.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input checked="" 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 1908-1927 **Builder/Architect** Stanly Gilbert Underwood and others

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

With the increasing popularity of Yellowstone National Park, Union Pacific Railroad officials decided to put a branch line through to the west side of the Park from Ashton, Idaho. Work on this line commenced in 1905 and was completed by 1907. Stage coaches would service the tourists travelling to and from the Park from this new rail connection, called the Oregon Shortline Terminus. The passenger depot, baggage building, dining hall, dormitories, and the number of other structures which were built between 1907 and 1927 by the Union Pacific Railroad provide the focus for this multiple resource nomination and are significant because they constitute the basis for the origin and development of the town of West Yellowstone, Montana.

During the year in which the final segments of tracks were laid, Samuel P. Eagle, then a Park employee, wrote to the Forest Service to inquire if it was possible to secure commercial leases on the land adjacent to the Union Pacific line. The town of West Yellowstone had its beginnings in June of 1908 when the Forest Service surveyed and platted a six block townsite within the Gallatin National Forest adjoining the west boundary of Yellowstone National Park. The Forest Service had anticipated a few roadside businesses, but not a town at this location. S.P. Eagle and Alex Stuart, in a partnership, built and operated the first general store, L. A. Murray built the Yellowstone Hotel (1909) and Charles Arnet opened the Yellowstone Store and the first post office. Businesses prospered and West Yellowstone soon became a permanent year-round settlement.

The early commercial architecture in West Yellowstone very clearly reflects rustic stylistic influences--the style chosen by the National Park Service in the western region and widely used in Yellowstone National Park at the time. The commercial buildings along Yellowstone Avenue were originally of log construction or of frame construction with logs used for roof supports, brackets, and beams.

Through the years, major fires, severe winters and the continual moving and rebuilding of structures to accommodate the ever increasing numbers of tourists have reduced the number of historic buildings in the community to a handful along Yellowstone Avenue. The West Yellowstone Oregon Shortline Terminus Historic District is comprised of the Union Pacific depot and associated railroad structures and tourist accommodations located at the southern edge of town. This complex together with the Kennedy Building and the Madison Hotel and Cafe are the only remaining early historic structures which serve as a link with the past and as a reminder of the early development of West Yellowstone.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property see accompanying documentation

Quadrangle name West Yellowstone, MT

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| A | <u>1,2</u> | <u>4,9,10,6,0</u> | <u>4,9,4,5,5,7,15</u> | B | <u>1,12</u> | <u>4,9,12,3,5,10</u> | <u>4,9,4,5,5,7,15</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| C | <u>1,2</u> | <u>4,9,2,3,5,0</u> | <u>4,9,4,4,7,5,0</u> | D | <u>1,2</u> | <u>4,9,10,6,0</u> | <u>4,9,4,4,7,5,0</u> |
| E | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | F | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| G | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | H | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the West Yellowstone MRA is the incorporated city limits of West Yellowstone, MT 1980, bounded by Iris Street to West, Obsidian Ave. to South, Boundary Street to the East, and the alley north of Gibbon Avenue to the North

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

| | | | | |
|-------|------------|------|--------|------|
| state | <u>N/A</u> | code | county | code |
| state | | code | county | code |

11. Form Prepared By

| | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|------------------------|
| name/title | <u>Rick Mayfield Associates, Inc.</u> | | |
| organization | <u>West Yellowstone Chamber of Commerce</u> | date | <u>August 25, 1981</u> |
| street & number | <u>Box 1386</u> | telephone | <u>(406) 587-0443</u> |
| city or town | <u>West Yellowstone</u> | state | <u>MT 59758</u> |

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

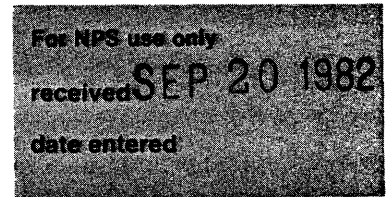
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Marcella Steffy
 title Deputy SHPO date 2-24-83

For NPS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 by Linda McClelland date 4-18-83
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: [Signature] date
 Chief of Registration [Signature]

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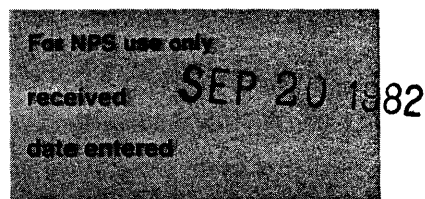
The nationally prominent architect, Gilbert Stanley Underwood designed all of the major railroad buildings within the West Yellowstone Historic District as well as the Dining Hall and Dormitories.

Underwood studied architecture in the State Universities of Illinois and Michigan and held a BS degree in Architecture from Yale University and a Masters degree from Harvard University. After graduation, Underwood settled on the West Coast and established his own firm in Los Angeles, California. He rapidly became known for his design of office buildings and for civic structures in Los Angeles. As Consulting Architect to the Union Pacific Railroad, he designed many railway stations throughout the west, including the outstanding Union Terminal in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1934, Underwood went to Washington, D.C. as Consulting Architect to the Public Buildings Branch of the Procurement Division of the Treasury Department. Later, under the Federal Works Agency and the General Services Administration he was Supervising Architect, serving under three Presidents. He was responsible for the design of several hundred federal buildings including the first unit of the State Department Building, the General Accounting Institutes of Health in Washington, the Federal Court House in Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Mint.

Underwood added to the natural beauty of many of our national parks and vacation resorts through his imaginative designs for the Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, the Ahwahnee Hotel in Yosemite, Sun Valley in Idaho, Grand Teton Lodge in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, the "North Rim", Bryce and Zion Lodges of Grand Canyon National Park and the Williamsburg Lodge, Williamsburg, Virginia. In addition to the West Yellowstone Depot, Underwood designed more than a dozen Union Pacific passenger stations. Most incorporate some Beaux Art detailing during the earlier years. The West Yellowstone depot represents a slight departure from Underwood's previous depot designs. Here, he combines rustic stylistic features with basic irregular Richardsonian Romanesque massing. The expansive hipped roof of the depot contributes a bungalow-like quality to the building. When Underwood was later commissioned to design the Dining Hall dormitories at West Yellowstone, he chose to fully explore the possibilities of the naturalistic rustic style in this heavily wooded, remote setting.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

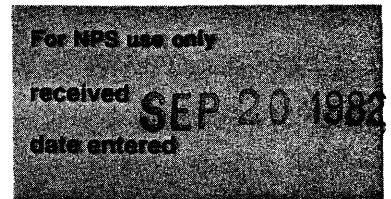
1. Sam and Ed Eagle, West Yellowstone's 70th Anniversary
(1908 - 1978)
Eagle Co. Inc., Box 280, West Yellowstone, MT 59758
2. Original drawings of Stanley Gilbert Underwood -
City Offices
3. Union Pacific Railroad correspondence

Personal Interviews:

Sam and Ed Eagle (sons of S. P. Eagle)
Walt Stuart (son of Alex Stuart)
Donna Spainhower (early resident and postmaster)
Herklas Righterhour (owner and operator of first sawmill)
Mrs. Hoadley (Owner, Madison Hotel)
Mrs. Betty (Eagle) Luther (daughter of S. P. Eagle)
Mrs. Peterson (early resident)
Jan Dunbar (Historical Society - West Yellowstone)
* Gallatin County Court House records
Chamber of Commerce records
Various property owners
Vertical file M.S.U. Library
John DeHaas - Architect

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of the West Yellowstone Historic District is shown on the accompanying map entitled West Yellowstone Historic District. Basically the boundary includes city owned property plus three additional privately owned parcels. The city owned property was a gift from the Union Pacific Railroad to the city and contains a complex of railroad buildings supportive of the railroad operation in West Yellowstone. The private parcels are immediately north and across Yellowstone Avenue from this city owned property and represent the last remaining commercial structures associated with the early history of West Yellowstone.

The boundary for the West Yellowstone Historic District is as follows:

Beginning at a point which is the southeast corner of the city limit line, west approximately 2400 feet; thence north approximately 350 feet to the south right-of-way line of Yellowstone Avenue; thence east along the south boundary of Yellowstone Avenue approximately 2400 feet to the west boundary of Yellowstone National Park; thence south along said west boundary of Yellowstone National Park approximately 300 feet to point of beginning.

See accompanying inventory for verbal boundary description for the individual properties included in the multiple resource submission.

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name West Yellowstone Multiple Resource Area
State Montana

Nomination/Type of Review

Substantive Review

Date/Signature

1. West Yellowstone Oregon
Shortline Terminus Hist. Dist.

Keeper

Laura McClelland 4.13.83

Attest

2. Kennedy Building

Substantive Review

Keeper

Laura McClelland 5.13.83

Attest

3. Madison Hotel and Cafe

Substantive Review

Keeper

Laura McClelland 5.13.83

Attest

4. Eagle's Store

Keeper

William B. Bushong 4/6/82

Attest

5.

Keeper

Attest

6.

Keeper

Attest

7.

Keeper

Attest

8.

Keeper

Attest

9.

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest