The Northern Backcountry Patrol Cabins of Grand Teton National Park

Figure 1. Location of North District Backcountry Patrol Cabins. Courtesy Grand Teton National Park.

James A. Pritchard
Dept. of Natural Resource Ecology & Management
Dept. of Landscape Architecture
Iowa State University

August 19, 2008
Revised 6-18-09
Berry Creek

Berry Creek provided an early route over the north end of the Teton Range for prehistoric people traveling between (present day) Idaho and Jackson Hole. During and since the era of the fur trappers, Conant Pass was utilized as a way over into Idaho’s Teton Basin.¹

The historical Conant Trail crossed the Snake River not far north of the mouth of Berry Creek, passed north of Elk Ridge, up Berry Creek south of Survey Peak, and over what is called today Jackass Pass. In 1996, USGS geologist J.D. Love pointed out the discrepancy by which the historic Conant Pass became today’s Jackass Pass, and the name Conant Pass misapplied to a pass not far south near Carrot Knoll.²

Berry Creek was named for A.J. Berry, who was living at the mouth of the creek around 1900. “Berry Creek” is indicated on the 1899 Grand Teton quad. Conant Pass, basin, creek and trail were named for Al Conant, a homesteader living west of the Tetons. Beaver Dick Leigh claimed that in 1865, Conant came close to drowning in the creek named after him.³

Administration & Boundaries

The lands south of Yellowstone NP and west of the Snake River were withdrawn from entry by Executive Order 2905 July 8, 1918, and E.O. No. 3394 Jan. 28, 1921.⁴ The Teton National Forest was established in 1897 by President Grover Cleveland.⁵ Public lands south of Yellowstone National Park were administered by the Teton National Forest. Selected parcels around Jackson Lake were administered by the Bureau of Reclamation for a time during the construction of the Jackson Lake dam, or about 1906-1914.

In 1929, Congress established Grand Teton National Park. Berry Creek and Moose Basin remained north of park boundaries in 1930, and the western shore of Jackson Lake was not part of Grand Teton National Park. According to a 1930 forest map, the park extended only as far north as Moran and Snowshoe Creek watersheds, with the boundary line just south of Moose Basin. This 1930 map also depicts a proposed addition to the park, from Moose Basin north to the border of Yellowstone, with the western edge along the crest of the Teton Range. A series of maps with an associated economic argument
against expanding the park during the 1930s indicates that the area northwest of Jackson Lake was not open to hunting. Only by traveling east as far as Bobcat Ridge and on into the Thorofare Creek country would a hunter find open hunting areas. Although an old asbestos mine is indicated on these maps to the northwest of the 1930 Grand Teton National Park, the main economic benefit seen in the lands surrounding Moose, Owl, and Berry Creeks was its potential for timber harvest. This area was not perceived as producing large numbers of elk.

The 1938 proposed addition to Grand Teton National Park extended north towards Yellowstone’s border to include Webb, Owl, and Berry Creek drainages. The expansion of Grand Teton NP was debated for some time. W.B. Greeley (US Forest Service) wrote Steven Mather in 1924, arguing that “Excluding the Grand Tetons, the portion of this area which drains into the South Fork of Snake River does not, in my judgment, possess National Park qualifications.” In 1943, the Jackson Hole National monument was established, extending eastward across the valley floor and north toward the border of Yellowstone National Park, but importantly including Owl and Berry Creeks. In 1949, John D. Rockefeller conveyed 32,117 acres to the government, which today is known as the John D. Rockefeller Memorial Parkway. Park and Monument lands were combined in 1950.

GTNP, its Trail System, and Need for Cabins
In 1929, when Grand Teton National park was established, many of its geographic features remained unnamed. Fritiof M. Fryxell and Phil Smith had been climbing peaks in the Teton Range since 1926, and for convenience started to name the peaks they
climbed. Fryxell, a geologist, became the park’s first ranger-naturalist, and homesteader Smith became a ranger. At the request of Superintendent Samuel Woodring, Fryxell submitted a list of proposed names for many features in GTNP, and these were approved by the United States Board on Geographic Names in 1931.9 Ranger Peak, for example, was named to honor the park rangers of that era.

The backcountry trail system was originally proposed by Fryxell in 1929 as an integral part of the interpretation plan for the new park. In his December 7, 1929 “Report on an Educational Program, etc., for the Grand Teton National Park,” Fryxell proposed a trail system organized into five major parts.10 Cabins would be constructed to support trail construction crews, for wildlife protective patrols, and to place fire control people in more remote areas. Additionally, the Teton Range attracted mountaineers, and the early park administration recognized mountain climbing as a legitimate and desirable activity for this park. Pressure built for one or more huts, similar to what climbers used in Europe.11 This idea surfaced in 1938 and again in the 1950s, especially in 1954 with the proposal to put up a hut at the lower saddle in memory of Art Gilkey, who died while climbing Mount Goodwin-Austin in the Himalaya.

The Park Service constructed the Leigh Lake Patrol Cabin between 1930 and 1932. This was one of the earliest NPS cabins constructed in the park. Historian John Dougherty suggests that logs from Stephen Leek’s “clubhouse” at the north end of Leigh Lake may have been utilized.12 Leek also built a substantial cabin at today’s Leeks Marina site on the east side of Jackson Lake.
By 1938, almost 85 miles of trails had been constructed in Grand Teton National Park. The park superintendent notified the regional director that housing trail crews in tents was ineffective in “a Park of this nature, which is subject to very heavy snowfall, periods of heavy rain” and a short tourist season. The superintendent advocated patrol cabins to house the trail crews, allowing more time on the trail and greater convenience of access for the crews. Secondly, cabins were seen as an absolute necessity to carry out patrols aimed at preventing poaching of wildlife in the park. During the 1930s hunters pursued sheep near the west boundary, and trappers sought marten and beaver in Granite Creek and elsewhere. The superintendent wrote that the park was easily accessible to trappers from the west side, and “if the area cannot be reached from the east side by the protection force trapping continues the entire winter.” Trail maintenance cabins for the summer season doubled as patrol cabins in the winter.

Trails are living things, created by human hand. The image held by some hikers or horseback riders that the trail they travel on is merely a smoothed path created simply by the passage of feet, is an illusion. Trails require a great deal of labor to construct, and constant maintenance thereafter. Some of the ongoing issues include erosion, washouts, and slides obliterating existing trail. Water-initiated erosion can be controlled to some extent by the installation of water bars, but this issue has always represented a significant challenge in trail routing, construction and maintenance. The unseen hard work of clearing fallen trees off the trail, and cutting brush intruding on the path of travel, is merely the last phase of work involved in creating the illusion of easy travel through a wild place (see Figure 5).

Master Plans
The first versions of park master plans were referred to as Development Plans in 1929, and Grand Teton produced Master Plans in 1933 and 1936. All the national parks began creating master plans during the early 1930s, organized by Thomas Chalmers Vint and others in the Landscape Division [also referred to as Division of Plans and Design] at NPS Field Headquarters in San Francisco.

The Landscape Division was established during the 1920s, as historian Linda Flint McClelland writes, expanding the landscape program “into a single, fully orchestrated process of park planning and development . . . .” The Landscape Division created collections of standardized plans that were used not only by national parks but also by state parks for construction of structures all over the nation.
A six-year development plan for GTNP included trail maintenance cabins in Cascade and Death Canyons. The park received plans for development in 1935. By the fall of 1938, logs were cut and the foundations established for the cabins, and barns already constructed. This plan called for a fire trail up Moran Canyon (the Director disapproved it), and the Master Plan for 1937 proposed a trail from Moran Bay to Berry Creek along the western shore of Jackson Lake, for fire protection and game patrols during the early winter and late spring.

Park officials were generally ambitious in their ideas for the development of backcountry cabins, barns and corrals. The regional landscape architect opposed some of the proposals by park officials. For example, the architect thought it unnecessary to build a barn at the Hot Springs location “since the snow shoe cabin is used only for administrative patrol.” The office felt there was little justification for the expense of a barn for horses “in locations where they will be used only three or four times a year.” Similarly, the regional architect’s office recommended against the construction of a barn in Granite Canyon or in Death Canyon. The architect’s office argued against a barn in Indian Paint Brush Canyon until a patrol cabin was approved, and opposed a barn in Moran Canyon “for it will serve only a snow shoe cabin . . .”

The CCC in Grand Teton NP

In 1933, Congress passed the Federal Unemployment Relief Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and began projects carried out under the rubric of Emergency Conservation Work (ECW). The National Park Service quickly organized 63 camps capable of enrolling 12,600 men. Conservation work was organized as ECW until June 1937, when the program name was changed to Civilian Conservation Corps, and after this time in park documents projects were identified as CCC work.

Grand Teton National Park hosted two CCC camps, each with 200 men. One of the larger projects involved clearing dead trees from the enlarged Jackson Lake, after the first permanent dam was finished in 1914. One of the camps cut up 16,300 cords of wood in the 1934 season. More than three years of work was involved. Spraying pine trees with insecticide comprised a second time-consuming project. Over the years, rangers have found a few left-over barrels or containers for the spray out in the mountains.

ECW projects in GTNP did budget some portion of funding for trail development, enough in 1934 to field two crews of 20 men to work on trails, particularly that year to
connect the Cascade and Death Canyon trails. While some CCC participation in trail projects is clear from administrative reports, sometimes it is more difficult to discern exactly what projects the CCC participated in, or where the project was located. For example, during the 9th enrollment of CCC volunteers during the 1937 season we know the Indian Paintbrush Trail project was completed. Grand Teton NP now had 77 miles of trails for hiking and horseback riding. The administrative reports are very general, however, noting the CCC was involved with construction of “two trail maintenance cabins, two trail maintenance barns, . . . [and general] trail construction and maintenance . . . .”\textsuperscript{23}

In 1941, several barn projects and at least one cabin project were cancelled by Acting Associate Director Hillory A. Tolson. Barns in Alaska Basin and in Moran Canyon, a snowshoe cabin in Alaska Basin, a maintenance cabin in Paint Brush Canyon, and a ski shelter hut in Paint Brush Canyon were all cancelled in a communication from Tolson to National Resources Planning Board chairman Frederic A. Delano, seeming to indicate the NRPB as a funding source.

**Cabins and Uses of Cabins**

Historically, more than one or two cabins were constructed for various purposes in and around Berry Creek. Several cabins were constructed up Webb Canyon, as well as Owl and Berry Creeks, although it is not clear who built them. A miner, a hunter, or a tusker would have use for a cabin in this remote section of country in the early part of the twentieth century. Tuskers were hunters who focused on seizing the “eye teeth” of elk for jewelry. A 1949 USGS map shows two cabins or structures up Webb Canyon. One of those might have been John Graul’s mine. Slim Lawrence took supplies up the canyon to Graul from 1925 to 1931. Graul died in a Colorado mine shaft in 1937. The cabin burned down in 1970.\textsuperscript{24}

Just over the Yellowstone border to the north, lies the site of a historical snowshoe cabin. In November of 1988, GTNP ranger Jeff Rader reported finding an old broken down cabin about one mile north of the Grand Teton Park boundary, about a quarter mile northwest of the Glade Creek Trail. In 2008, a team of University of Wyoming geologists stumbled upon a small dilapidated cabin not far up an unnamed canyon on the
western shore of Jackson Lake (between Waterfalls Canyon and Colter Canyon). Older maps indicate two cabins or structures up this canyon.

It is entirely possible that a trapper might have built the first cabin on Berry Creek. A.J. Berry lived at the mouth of Berry Creek around 1900. His cabin may be the same referred to by John Sargent, who in 1903 stayed overnight at a cabin at Berry Creek. In the spring of 1903, John Sargent was returning to Marymere (today’s UW-NPS Research Station) after spending the winter out of the valley. On his way in from the Idaho side, he spent a night at the “Forest Ranger Cabin on Squirrel Creek Meadows,” came over Conant Pass, then came down the “Canon of Berry Creek,” and after a “five mile run down Berry Creek valley . . . arrived at the SnowShoe Cabin hid in the timber and buried under six feet of snow.” Sargent writes about continuing “our ski down the valley in a soft snow storm and by noon were on the banks of the Snake River four miles above Jackson lake inlet.” Traveling five miles down Berry Creek would have put Sargent just northwest of Elk Ridge, quite short of Berry’s cabin, and hence probably at a cabin that remains undocumented.

Three small cabins were used in patrolling the east side of the original park during the 1930s, when the park centered on the mountain peaks of the Teton Range. In a majority of reports, these cabins were referred to as “snowshoe cabins.” The idea seems to imply a smaller shelter cabin for protective patrols during the winter months. Yet the term “snowshoe” at one time seemed to interchange freely with the word “ski.” Historian John Daugherty discussed early protective patrols in southern Yellowstone National Park.
during the days of U.S. Army administration, and their use of skis, which they referred to as “snowshoes.” Between 1895 and 1899, nine snowshoe cabins were built in the south half of the park, three of them along the southwest border. Thus “snowshoe cabin” can be translated into modern sensibilities as “ski cabin.” Of course, rangers in 1900 also used equipment that we think of as snowshoes, so we return to our notion of a cabin that comes in mighty handy during cold and inclement weather for rangers going into the backcountry.

The 1949 GTNP Building Survey still used the term “snowshoe cabin,” applying it to the cabins at Leigh Lake (No. 45, built 1934), and Moran Bay (No. 46, 1930). A third cabin was also identified as a snowshoe cabin, this one named “Hot Springs Patrol Cabin,” (No. 47, 1935) located on Jackson Lake, west shore.

Not all patrol cabins were identified as snowshoe cabins, for the Cascade Canyon (No. 50, 1936), White grass (No. 53, 1930), and Granite Canyon (No. 55, 1935) cabins were listed as “patrol cabin,” without any mention of “snowshoe.” Hence it was not the case that cabins built earlier were all called showshoe cabins, and later cabins named patrol cabins. The three cabins at Leigh Lake, Moran Bay, and the Hot Springs cabins would be convenient for any patrol on the west shore of the lake.

The cabin at Moran Bay, constructed in 1932, was particularly useful for teams departing or arriving (whether late or early) on the west shore of Jackson Lake, and for patrols north of Mount Moran and south of Moose Basin. The Moran Bay cabin was judged ineligible for listing on the National Register in 1989, declared in need of substantial maintenance in 1991, enjoyed a 1995 reconstruction of the front porch, was re-evaluated in 1998 and listed on the National Register. Further reconstruction was accomplished from 1996-1999, yet unfortunately the cabin was destroyed in 2000 during a large-scale fire on the west side of Jackson Lake.

In 1991, a backcountry cabin management policy was developed by staff including Douglas A. Barnard, and approved by Superintendent Jack Stark on May 6th, 1991. Interesting is the addition of a new reason for winter patrols in the remote backcountry of the northwest part of GTNP, “the snowmobile intrusion problem.” This area of the park amounts to about 64,000 acres that sees “a fair amount of uncontrolled ‘visitation’” coming in from the west side. Moran Bay, Berry, Upper Berry, and Moose Basin cabins are noted as “the ‘home’ of the seasonal backcountry Rangers assigned to patrol” this remote area, working 10 days on and four days off (see Figure 1, map courtesy Grand Teton National Park). The cabins offered crews secure food storage in Situation I grizzly bear habitat, and “enhance the morale and productivity” of crews during periods of severe weather. The Ranger Division manages the cabins in the northern part of the park, with the Colter Bay Subdistrict Ranger in charge. By 1993, staff recognized a need to rehabilitate the backcountry cabins, proposing Project GRTE-N-643-300, Rehabilitation & Maintenance of Backcountry Cabins.
The Teton National Forest
During the 1920s, land in the Berry Creek and Owl Creek drainages on the west side of Jackson Lake was still part of the Teton National Forest. Forest Service guard stations were constructed during the 1920s in the Teton National Forest, at the same time the Forest Service built similar cabins in many western forests. During the 1920s the Forest Service organized standard plans for facility construction.

A 1928 map of Teton National Forest depicts a "FS Patrol Cabin" in T47N, R116W, S36 along Berry Creek (see Figure 10, a 1928 map, showing original 1929 Park, proposed extension, and cabin location). Previous maps drawn in 1912, 1921 and 1925 do not show a cabin, but that is not clear proof it did not exist during that time period.27 A cabin could have been built between 1925 and 1928. Another possibility is that the Forest Service designated an existing cabin as a Guard Station, and thus worthy of putting on the map. Finally, map makers may have finally noticed the cabin, or had a reason to show the cabin on the map, namely that it was now an “official” cabin. After all, maps are created to convey information. A map maker is under no obligation to show everything on the ground. Interestingly, on some forest maps drawn up after this portion of the Teton NF became the Jackson Hole National Monument (1943), a cabin is no longer portrayed.

Esther Allen’s account of the history of the Teton National Forest offers another clue regarding the patrol cabin at Berry Creek. Married to the Teton Forest’s chief ranger, Esther Allen was well-acquainted with the area. Before 1943, Allen traveled with a party over Conant Pass with the destination of the Berry Creek Patrol Station in mind.28

Administration of the Property
A 1959 Fixed Property Record describes the Berry Creek cabin, and notes “Acquired by transfer in 1929.” One presumes this refers to the property as well as the cabin. However, this date of transfer from the USFS to the NPS does present a small mystery.

Congress established Grand Teton National Park in February 1929.29 At that time, however, the park boundaries did not extend as far north as Owl Creek or Berry...
Creek drainages. Also, a narrow strip along the west shoreline of Jackson Lake was not included in the national park. It would be reasonable to assume that the USFS administered the area around Berry Creek from about 1905 to 1943. A 1938 memo from the park superintendent notes “One other cabin at the north end of the Park belonging to the Forest Service is used by the Park during the winter.”

Yet there is another complexity. The US Bureau of Reclamation built a dam on the southeast end of Jackson Lake, where the Snake River flows out of the original lake. The Jackson Lake Enlargement Project was the primary water storage facility for the Minidoka Irrigation Project, designed to irrigate agricultural land on both sides of the Snake River downstream near Rupert and Burley, Idaho. Construction of the first temporary dam began in the summer of 1906. It was three log crib and frame sections. On July 5, 1910, the temporary dam failed. In 1910, the Bureau initiated construction of a second dam, finishing it in 1914. In the summer of 1910 a road was built from Moran to Ashton, Idaho, to haul freight, and a phone line was

installed alongside it. Just as construction of the temporary dam required large quantities of logs, the permanent structure also required timber for the construction of forms used to pour cement. Areas of timber on the northwest shore of Jackson Lake were utilized to provide timber, and the logs were floated across as rafts towed by a paddle-wheeled vessel dubbed the “Titanic.”

A series of maps drawn up by the NPS Land Resources Division seemingly emphasizing boundary changes in 1950 [establishment of the JD Rockefeller Parkway] shows the area at the mouth of Berry Creek (parcel 11-114) as Bureau of Reclamation property (see Figures 11 and 12). The Bureau of Reclamation withdrew a parcel at the mouth of Berry Creek on July 10, 1903. This withdrawal
predates the establishment of the U.S. Forest Service. The withdrawal was revoked at some later time, perhaps with other major events in the establishment of Grand Teton National Park in 1929, 1943, or 1950.

During the 1930s, an extension of Teton National Park was proposed, which met significant opposition. On March 15, 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 2578, establishing the Jackson Hole National Monument. Among other things, this action transferred 99,345 acres from Teton National Forest, including the general area around the Berry Creek cabin. [E.O. No. 2578 contained some fine print that amended previous withdrawals, transferring administrative control of the lands and improvements to the Park Service.]

To sum up, it is reasonable to suppose that the transfer of the Berry Creek Cabin to the NPS probably did not occur until 1943. In 1950, Jackson Hole National Monument was incorporated into Grand Teton National Park.

**Berry Creek Patrol Cabin & Architectural Clues**

The 1949 GTNP Building Survey identifies Building No. 61 as the Berry Creek Patrol Cabin. It is described as one room, one story measuring 8 x 20 feet, 144 square feet. The survey claims the cabin was built in 1910, and remodeled in 1938. There are two folders for most properties in the 1949 survey, both Form No. 10-768, a reporting file folder for NPS structures, one hand written, and the other typed. The typed form appears to revise the earlier handwritten form because the listed property values are higher.

The Teton Forest was established in 1897. It is not clear if this was the cabin occupied by A.J. Berry, who lived near the mouth of Berry Creek in 1903. If the date of construction is accurate, Berry had a different cabin that was destroyed at an unknown date.

Evidence points to the construction of a patrol cabin by the U.S. Forest Service in 1910 near the mouth of Berry Creek. The 1949 GTNP Building Survey identifies the (first) Berry Creek Patrol Cabin as Building No. 61. It is described as one room, one story, measuring 8 x 20 feet, 144 square feet (perhaps they did not count the porch, which in some photographs is fitted with screening material). The building survey claims the cabin was built in 1910, and remodeled in 1938.

Beginning around 1910, both the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Forest Service began to string phone lines in the area. A telephone line was installed connecting up Berry Creek to another cabin further up the drainage, and perhaps the fire lookout.
station at “Point A.” This phone line also may have extended from Berry Creek Cabin eastward across the Snake River to the highway. Control of fires was a top priority in forest management, with the prevention of timber trespass closely following. The Berry Creek Cabin, listed in some documents as a “fireguard cabin,” facilitated those functions in the northwest portion of Teton National Forest (See Figures 3 & 10). By way of comparison, the Teton Forest built and maintained several cabins in the Blackrock District, to the east of the Snake River.

Several photographs are shown here. Figure 13 is an unidentified photo from GTNP archives (GRTE Acc. #430, Box 1; Photo 47-175). Figure 14 is the photo from the 1949 Building Survey, identified as Building #61, Berry Creek Cabin. In the second figure, note the tall smokestack, the square-notched log corners, and the 4 x 4 pane window. It was described as log construction on a log foundation, was protected by a tarpaper roof, had board floors, and a “rough” finish to the interior. At some point a phone (!) was provided to the cabin, perhaps in the 1938 remodel.

A 1959 NPS fixed property record identifies this cabin as “Berry Creek,” Building No. 61. The UTM for the cabin is: 12/523260/ 4871500. This one room log cabin measured 144 square feet. The property record notes “log construction on log foundation.”

This evidence indicates that a cabin was constructed in 1910 at or very near the site of today’s Berry Creek cabin. Yet this is not the cabin we see today at the site. What happened?
The existing cabin differs from other cabins in the area, most particularly in the porch construction, and the relative width and depth overall. The Moran Bay Patrol Cabin was thought to have been constructed according to standard USFS plans, according to the information included in its National Historic Register listing. Note the porch, and the purlins (log beams holding up the roof; see Figure 17).

The cabin at Moran Bay was located in the area administered by the US Forest Service from 1906 until 1943. The cabin was built in 1932 and was evidently used by several federal agencies. In 1943 this area was included in the Jackson Hole National Monument, and at that time the NPS assumed administrative control.
The Leigh Lake Patrol Cabin (listed on the National Register in 1990) was built during the 1920s using standardized USFS plans for the use of horse patrols. The White Grass Ranger Station (see Figure 18) was listed in the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1990. The cabin shows the same sort of elements of the Moran Bay cabin. It was built in 1930 using standardized NPS plans as a backcountry patrol base. The plans would have come from the Landscape Division offices.

Compare a photograph of the existing Berry Creek Cabin (see Figure 19). The area under the front overhang appears somewhat different. It is perhaps more shallow, and there is only a small wood flooring under the front door, instead of a cabin-wide area making up what we think of as a “porch.” Additionally, the distinctive log purlins seen in the Moran Bay or White Grass cabins are obscured by elements of the roof. The cabin also appears a bit wider relative to its overall length compared to its rustic brothers, but it is relatively spacious. While the saddle notched logs were well executed, the overall appearance of the structure does not exactly fit into the rustic style used in some park architecture of the 1930s. However, the cabin exemplifies very well essential elements of vernacular architecture, in particular the Rocky Mountain cabin style.39

In examining a photo of today’s existing cabin, it does not seem to follow standard Forest Service plans of the 1920s. The form does seem consistent with structures built before the New Deal era. It is in very good condition, suggesting it has been maintained and perhaps restored. Restoration is also suggested by the foundation and condition of the log crowns. One of the walls has 6-pane windows, also known as “barn-sash,” which were common on USFS buildings. Another side of the cabin exhibits 9-pane windows, which were not common on USFS structures.40
Berry Creek Cabin, 1950s-1960s

Local legend has it that the Berry Creek Cabin was moved from the Feuz Ranch on Spread Creek. It is possible to move cabins, an operation that has been performed using trucks. The Forest Service as well as the Park Service moved cabins on occasion in the Jackson area. For example, we have evidence that in 1953 the University of Wyoming planned to move a cabin from “the Hogan place” to the NPS/UW Research Station (aka AMK Ranch).\(^4^1\) There was actually competition for this cabin. NPS Director Conrad Wirth evidently thought the cabin might be used by the (short lived) Wildlife Park, but the board of the New York Zoological Society felt that the University of Wyoming had a prior claim on the cabin, given discussions and prior understandings. The New York Zoological Society was financially supporting both the Research Station and the Wildlife Park from 1947 to at least 1953.\(^4^2\)

Other examples of cabins purchased and moved to desirable locations in the area and in Grand Teton NP exist. One example is the old Moulton cabin, moved to the Twin Creek area.\(^4^3\) In October 1953, Acting Superintendent Paul Judge noted that “A small log building was moved from the Jenny Lake CCC Camp area to a location near the Carmichael residence.”\(^4^4\) In March 1955, “The barn constructed of logs was moved from the Gros Ventre Ranger Station to headquarters, by use of skids on the snowpack.
Inasmuch as the building was too large to cross the Snake River Bridge it was successfully skidded across the river at the site of the proposed new bridge.”45 An accompanying picture of a D-8 caterpillar tractor towing this barn through the flowing Snake River impresses one with the ambition and engineering cleverness of park employees (see Figure 20, GTNP Archives). During November of 1954, a large metal shed was moved from the area of the new Jackson Lake Lodge south to park headquarters. The shed was separated into three sections, with the end pieces jacked up on sets of wheels and pulled by truck.46 In the mid-1950s, the entire town of Moran was moved to Colter Bay.47 In March 1955, a small barn was moved from the Gros Ventre Ranger Station to headquarters.

In 1956 we find an indication of construction activity at Berry Creek. In the monthly report for July, the Superintendent’s Report notes “A log cabin was erected at the Berry Creek Ranger Station. Window screens were constructed at the Johnson residence.” This rather brief mention is included under the category of maintenance/trails, not plans and construction. No further details were found in attached budgets and work program listings, or in separate reports of design and construction filed with monthly reports. The “Johnson residence” may have referred to the site of today’s UW-NPS Research Station (AMK Ranch) near Sargents Bay (on the east side of Jackson Lake), where the Johnson family had maintained a summer home until 1937 when Alfred and
Madeline Berolzheimer bought the property. Today that 2-story log cabin and breezeway connecting to a barn are still referred to as the Johnson Lodge (See Figure 21).

The legend that the Berry Creek Cabin was moved from the Feuz Ranch on Spread Creek has some substance. Gottfried (“Fred”) Feuz left Switzerland after he was caught poaching a deer. The penalty was 500 francs, a year in prison, or a promise to permanently emigrate. After a brief sojourn in Idaho, Fred brought his wife Caroline and two young daughters over Teton Pass into Jackson Hole, where he staked a claim on Spread Creek. The family built a successful cattle ranch from 1914 to 1953.

Fred was an excellent hunter, and even during the Depression the family had enough to eat. He worked on and off with the Forest Service, and started guiding hunting clients around Mt. Leidy. The family was not interested in the offers of the Snake River Land Company to purchase their property. In 1943 the Jackson Hole National Monument was created by Executive Order. At this time, the family still refused to sell. In the family history, Caroline Feuz remembered that “[finally] we were given a choice of either our property being confiscated, or trading for other land. The land they had in mind was bordering the edge of the park near our son Walt’s ranch. So we accepted this offer. The Park Service eventually had all our buildings and fences removed and burned.”

The best source supporting this narrative came from the person who organized the dismantling and reassembly of the cabin, log by log. When Historic Research Associates (HRA) was working on the National Register multiple property submission for Grand Teton Park in 1995, they interviewed Doug McLaren, former ranger in the North District. Doug McLaren related how he and other park employees (most probably from the ranger and the trail crews) disassembled a cabin from the Feuz Ranch near Spread
Creek. They floated the logs across Jackson Lake and moved them onto or near the site of the existing cabin. This crew also tore down the existing cabin, which may have been built in 1910. McClaren and his team reassembled the logs into the structure we see today. McClaren’s recollection was that this occurred around 1950. This fits relatively well with the comment in the 1956 Superintendent’s report regarding construction of a cabin at lower Berry Creek. GTNP archives contains a photograph of the Berry Creek Cabin after construction. To the side lie several concrete blocks closely resembling foundation piers found on site today.

This story rings true, and is based on the best available information. This episode might have disappeared from collective memory, had not HRA conducted that telephone interview with Doug McClaren. We encourage rangers and trail crew to write up their stories and place them in the park archives! The other individuals who participated in the cabin construction project are not known by name.

Among historians working with oral history projects, it is known that not all memories prove out to be correct in all details. It is possible that McClaren’s memory of the event may have been in error (but we doubt it). In our research during the summer of 2008, suggestions arose that the cabin did not originate from the Feuz Ranch. Backcountry Ranger Jim Carr recalled hearing a conversation claiming that the cabin had not come from the Feuz Ranch. Chris Feuz Young, a granddaughter of Caroline and Fred Feuz, contacted her cousin Larry Feuz, who has some doubts about the cabin’s origins. Mr. Feuz has guided many scientists into the mountains of the region. Once again, we are into the realm of undocumented oral history and family memory. On the basis of the best available evidence, we presume McClaren’s account is accurate.
Berry Creek Cabin since 1956
We know that in 1958, the Berry Creek Cabin housed (according to staff housing plans) a ranger and a fire control aide. Either no logbook was kept on the cabin site, or we have not found them yet. A Fixed Property Record dated 9-17-59 describes Building No. 61, the Patrol Cabin at Berry Creek, as “one story, one room log cabin. Log construction on log foundation. Interior and exterior walls constructed of natural log, wood floor and tarpaper roof.” This description matches well with the physical appearance of the cabin today, with the exception of the foundation arrangement.

In a tragic bit of history, Park Ranger John C. Fonda (28) and District Ranger Gale Wilcox (48) died on Wednesday March 6, 1960, as legend has it while traveling to Berry Creek Cabin. They were crossing the Snake River on cross-country skis, when the ice broke under them. The Assistant Chief Ranger also fell in the water, dragged Ranger Wilcox from the river, went to seek assistance, but when help arrived Wilcox had already expired. The Former Lizard Point on the east side of Jackson Lake nearby was renamed Fonda Point, and on the west side of the lake the point of land on the lake just south of Webb and Berry Creeks was named Wilcox Point.

Beginning in 1978, a logbook was kept in Berry Cabin, and in Moose Basin Cabin (these are the ones we looked at—other cabins might also have logbooks). Jim Bell, self proclaimed “Berry Creek technician,” seems to be the person who installed the first logbooks in 1978. Reading these accounts of 30 years of people coming and going to and from the cabins gives one the sense that a cabin is not simply constructed in a particular year, to solidly endure unchanged for decades. A backcountry patrol cabin more closely resembles an old house, where the only thing that works is the owner! Very much like a trail, a cabin requires continual care and maintenance, and prospers only by the actions of the human hand.

It is unclear what condition the cabins were in when Jim Bell started noting his activities in the logbooks he placed in the cabins. It is clear that both the Berry Creek and the Moose Basin cabins existed in 1978, and that they both needed some care. Jim Bell, or as he signed his entries, JB, was persistently dedicated to making the cabins “shipshape” for four years. When he wasn’t working on the cabins, Bell was clearing trails of fallen trees by the dozen.

Bell was more than a “technician” as he claimed, an integral player although he never gave a ranger number as many other journal writers did. He was plainly skilled in
rebuilding door and window frames, stove installation and maintenance, roofing and installing sheet metal in efforts to keep animals out of the cabins. Rangers and other visitors who used the cabins during the early 1980s regularly thanked Bell for the cabin enhancements when they wrote in the logbooks, demonstrating that his improvements were noticeable and substantial. On November 18, 1981, with no explanation or fanfare, Bell wrote his last entry: “Goodbye Berry Creek. I hope to see you again someday.”

The Ranger Division in GTNP continued its keen interest in maintaining the cabins during the 1980s and 1990s. In 1987, propane lights and burners were installed at the (Lower) Berry Creek Cabin. Staff wondered if all the cabins might be outfitted this way. Propane was a significant improvement over the old white gas stoves, which smelled due to the relatively high volatility of the gas. In late August of 1989, T. Lambert (“TML”) and T. Stewart reconstructed the corral. In October of 1990, Mr. Nelson reported finishing “setting up stove flown down from Upper Berry.” In July 1992, Student Conservation Association interns Lisa and Toni oiled the outside logs of Lower Berry Cabin with linseed oil and painted the shutters.

In 1991, a Backcountry Cabin Management Plan proposed renovations to several of the park’s backcountry patrol cabins. Three groups of people at Grand Teton (Trails, Rangers, and Resources Management) put their heads together on the rehabilitation plan. The Chief of Science and Resource Management wrote to the Superintendent on March 22, 1995, recommending “that Al Williams from the Maintenance Division be the crew Leader on this as he is experienced in log work.” Construction should be accomplished “by in-house personnel, it is cheaper, faster and more controllable this way.” Cascade Canyon cabin and Moran Bay cabins were judged the highest priorities, each requiring about 2 weeks of work. The cabin at Leigh Lake was thought a lower priority. About $12,000 in materials were budgeted for the three cabins.

A sheet metal roof was added to the Lower Berry Cabin, most probably around 2005, when the Upper Berry cabin was renovated. Sheet metal is a very durable material requiring low maintenance. The primary incentive to add a metal roof, however, undoubtedly had to do with fire prevention. From the 1930s, we see a conscious effort to inventory fire fighting equipment in all park structures, and an investment in keeping them up to date. In 2000, a forest fire on the west side of Jackson Lake destroyed the Moran Bay Cabin. Metal roofs make buildings easier to defend during a fire event.

The Berry Creek cabin was identified on maps distributed to the public during the 1970s as a ranger station. This implies a function, the availability of a ranger to those seeking assistance or information. It’s unclear that map makers were cognizant of staffing levels for all the patrol cabins, for the Berry Creek cabin (at least in the 1950s) was staffed only by a fire technician and a ranger.

**Moose Basin Cabin**

In addition to the (lower) Berry Creek patrol cabin, two other cabins were constructed in the North District, one at Moose Basin, the other in the upper portion of Berry Creek.
While the cabins have been used primarily for the patrol duties of the North District rangers, the cabins also have been utilized by teams carrying out wildlife surveys or other science projects (see Figure 26), and occasionally by other park staff on a brief escape from the busy South District.

A 1991 backcountry cabin management plan suggests that a 10’ by 10’ prefabricated plywood structure was erected in Moose Basin about the same time as the original Upper Berry Creek Cabin was built, “also originally erected for the long term elk study that was conducted in the early 1960s.” The 1948 topographical map of the area did not indicate a structure in Moose Basin. A Real Property Record dated 4/30/77 indicates Building No. 63 existed in Moose Basin. This structure measured 152 sq. ft., and was described as a “frame building, rolled roof,” with accumulated costs of $400.00. In 1971 or 1972, reports backcountry and climbing ranger John Carr, small cabins existed in Moose Basin and Upper Berry Creek when he started work in that region.

A suggestion still in circulation (2008) is the notion that the small plywood cabins at Moose Basin and Upper Berry Creek were brought in by helicopter. This is not a far fetched idea, if one thinks of the materials being flown in, and then assembled on site. Logbooks kept at Moose Basin cabin confirm that materials for improving the cabin were flown in on September 18, 1980, when Jim Bell reported “a glorious day for Moose Basin. The Army in a Chinook helicopter flew in the materials to insulate, panel and put in a new floor.” Thus when we hear of cabins being flown into a remote location, it is likely that materials were transported, not the entire cabin.

People breaking into the cabins was a problem Jim Bell sought to address. In August of
1980, rangers arriving at the Moose Basin Cabin noticed “obvious destruction around the door locks . . . . Walt and Fred drew their pistols and walked in on the Christy party,” which had spent hours trying to chop their way in, gaining access by tearing out the south window. From 1978 to 1980, Bell added sheet metal, steel plates and angle iron supports to the door of the Moose Basin Cabin. He repaired hasps broken off by people trying to get in, and installed a cylinder lock, “something for those who worry.”

Historically, public use of the north country of Grand Teton National Park was “light with the primary value of the cabin being for Ranger patrol housing and equipment and supply storage.” The 1991 Backcountry Cabin Management Plan called for replacement of the small cabin in Moose Basin with “a larger, log structure and that the present cabin be kept as a tack and tool storage building.” The larger cabin would be useful both winter and summer. In terms of priority, it followed the other north district cabins, perhaps partly due to the projected cost of $25,000. To date, a larger cabin has not been built at Moose Basin.

**Did Olaus Murie build the small cabins?**

The 1991 cabin policy mentions a proposal for new construction at Moose Basin. The cabin existing in 1991 is described as a 10’ by 10’ “prefabricated plywood structure.” This small cabin was erected about the same time as the Upper Berry Creek Cabin, originally built during the “early 1960s as part of an elk study.” Local legend has it that Olaus Murie was involved with the construction of these small shelter cabins at Moose Basin and Upper Berry Creek. His main work on elk, however, predated their construction (assuming construction during the early 1960s).

Olaus Murie worked as a field biologist for the Bureau of Biological Survey and its successor the Fish and Wildlife Service from 1920 until 1946. Olaus and Margaret Murie came to Jackson’s Hole in 1927 when Olaus was assigned a study of the elk herds of the region (south of Yellowstone NP). The camping and research trips described in Margaret Murie’s book *Wapiti Wilderness* all took place east of Jackson Lake towards the Thorofare country near the southeast corner of Yellowstone National Park. Born in 1889, Olaus would have been 74 years of age by 1962, and his home in nearby Moose would have been well established. In fact, Olaus Murie died in 1963. It seems doubtful he would have been constructing shelters in the backcountry, much less using prefabricated materials, given his clearly expressed opposition to overt and unnecessary manipulations within the national parks. Additionally, he had spent years studying elk using the accoutrements of the golden days of horse packing. It seems unlikely he would have built these small cabins.
Who else was involved with elk studies? Science in the parks grew out of the activities of the ranger-naturalists and what we think of today as the interpretive branch. Howard Stagner was park naturalist from 1935 to at least 1938. Stagner is interesting because he went on to higher levels of NPS administration to organize science for the parks. Systematic investigations of elk migration routes started in 1945, a collaborative project involving the Wyoming Game and Fish Department and the National Park Service. Attention was mainly directed at valley routes of elk migrating south to the elk feeding ground just north of Jackson. Carl E. Jepson served as park naturalist from 1941 through at least 1953, and he organized and reported on these elk surveys.

In 1951, James E. Grasse of Wyoming Fish and Game, along with Jepson, spent four days on the elk survey west of Jackson Lake, making trips into Colter, Webb and Owl Canyons. Jepson noted the area had been “well covered in search for evidence of elk. . . . [they saw only 15 elk] but evidence of elk, moose and deer occupying the areas visited was very plentiful and indicates that probably from 200 to 300 elk may occupy this portion of the park to the west of Jackson Lake.” Most of the elk migration studies, however, focused on areas to the east of Jackson Lake. Jepson set up twelve transects where elk were counted. Only one of these, the Burnt Ridge route, counted elk coming out of the southwest shore of Jackson Lake. This might be no surprise, as two major concerns drove the cooperative elk studies: movement of elk to the feeding ground just north of Jackson, and management of the Jackson Elk Herd numbers by hunting, provided for in the legislation incorporating the Jackson Hole National Monument into Grand Teton National Park in 1950.
During the 1950s, Adolph Murie served as Grand Teton National Park’s biologist, among other things working on elk migration studies from 1951 to 1953. These studies geared up in the fall and during the spring, when the migration routes could be tracked in the snow, and the elk could be counted. In October 1953, for example, Murie “devoted most of the month to field work” with the migration study. Murie himself, the park’s chief naturalist, park rangers, and occasionally others were involved with these field activities, diligently noted in the Superintendent’s monthly narrative reports. One gets the impression that much of the elk travel was monitored in relatively low-lying valley locations. Two transects they used in the north side of the park were located from Lizard Point to the Yellowstone National Park boundary, and from Flagg Ranch to Grassy Lake along the reclamation road.

The minutes of the Jackson Hole Cooperative [elk] Studies for July 15, 1958 notes that “Mr. Adolph Murie of the Grand Teton National Park . . . indicated that particular interest was being applied to the Berry Creek area and that they hoped to do some plot work in that drainage within the next two or three years. The policy of the Park Service relative to application of artificial measures was brought out by Mr. Murie. He pointed out that the management of Park Service lands differed from those areas outside of the park by the fact that it was the policy to attempt to retain lands in their natural conditions without artificial applications or treatments. In other words it would be against Park Service policies to establish salting, fencing, or reseeding.” Nonetheless, by 1959, an exclosure had been built in the Berry Creek drainage.

Another researchers working on elk included biologist Jim Cole, who arrived from Region 2 to help with elk migration studies in October of 1952. In 1959, Neil G. Guse summarized work on elk migration in a report titled “Range and Elk Relationships in the Berry Creek Area of Jackson Hole, Wyoming.” Guse described his own two year study of elk in the Berry Creek area, but also provided enough other information to make his report of interest. Guse did not mention any cabins in the high country used in elk migration studies, and did not make a point of listing any high country patrol cabin used during the elk studies. He utilized the 1948 topographical map of GTNP.

Glen F. Cole was associated with elk studies in GTNP during the early 1960s, and is a likely candidate for causing shelters to be built at Upper Berry and Moose Basin, if they were built for the purposes of sheltering personnel involved with elk studies. In 1955, Cole received a master’s degree in wildlife management from Montana State University.
From 1954 to 1962, he worked for the Montana Fish and Game Department. From 1962 until 1967, Cole served as a research biologist in Grand Teton National Park, studying elk ecology in an anomaly of the national park system, a park where regulated hunting was permitted. In 1967, when Teton NP Superintendent Jack K. Anderson was transferred to Yellowstone NP in the wake of Congressional hearings on the elk reductions (and the end of direct reductions), he took Cole along with him. In 1976, Cole moved on to Voyaguers National Park in Minnesota. In 1987 he published results suggesting that wildlife protection alone did not necessarily result in a more diverse ecosystem.\(^{60}\)

Other people who have studied elk in the region include Bill Barmore, who worked on elk during the 1960s and 1970s, but his work focused on Yellowstone National Park, where he was a staff biologist.\(^{61}\) Bruce L. Smith, who published in the 1990s and early 2000s, studied the population ecology of elk in Grand Teton, and served as biologist at the National Elk Refuge. Mark Boyce, Stanley H. Anderson, Thomas J. Stohlgren and Charles R. Anderson also have been involved with studies in the region, but these studies were conducted well after the early 1960s.\(^{62}\)

**Upper Berry Cabin**

A bit of mystery remains here, too, regarding the origins of the original Upper Berry cabin. In 1948/1949 a building survey was conducted in Grand Teton National Park. In the records for this survey, you can find a file folder dated December 3, 1959. It describes Building Number 279, used as a Ranger Patrol Cabin, at Survey Peak. The form indicates the builder was unknown, as was the date of construction. It looks like a rather substantial, though perhaps small, structure.
A 1949 USGS map, as well as a 1958 topographical map depict a structure corresponding to the Survey Peak Cabin. This structure is also indicated on a map associated with MISSION 66 improvements, dated January 1957. A structure survey report suggests that the Survey Peak Cabin was razed in 1962.

From the 1930s through the 1950s, the park was concerned about forest fires and insect damage to trees, just as the U.S. Forest Service was concerned about these things. In a listing of fire control personnel, Teton National Park listed the entire park staff, ranger-naturalists and all. As part of the fire control efforts, park staff established a temporary fire lookout at “Point A,” somewhere in the vicinity of Owl and Berry Creeks (see Figure 29).

What’s just as curious is that the 1949 map indicates a structure at the junction of the Jackass Pass trail and the trail south towards Forellen Peak. That structure could have been the “old” Upper Berry Cabin. Similar to the story about the Moose Basin Cabin, a small cabin is rumored to have been built in the early 1960s as part of an elk study. But the 1949 map puts this construction back in time at least a decade, into the 1940s. The UTM coordinates for the Upper Berry cabin listed on a 1949 map are: 12/513550/4876490.
It is possible that the small cabins at Upper Berry and at Moose Basin could have been constructed relatively early, in the 1930s or 1940s. One piece of evidence driving this thought is a comparison of these cabins to Building No. 49, the “Hot Springs” patrol cabin on the west shore of Jackson Lake, constructed in 1935, and still extant in 1949. These hot springs were more in evidence before the lake level rose with dam construction, but nonetheless the springs can be detected today by the (slightly) warmer lake water temperature above them. The similarity of the cabins’ board and batten style of the exterior walls is striking. Lacking other firm evidence of a construction date, the 1949 map depicting a structure at the Upper Berry site may be our best indicator.

Figure 33. Moose Basin patrol cabin, July 2008. Photo James Pritchard.

Figure 34. Building No. 47, Hot Springs patrol cabin, built in 1935. GTNP Archives.

Figure 35. Upper Berry, original cabin. Photo courtesy Katherine Longfield.
During the summer of 1987, the (old) Upper Berry Creek Cabin was converted to a storage unit, and a new larger cabin was constructed. Superintendent Jack Stark and Colter Bay Subdistrict Ranger Pete Cowan supported building a larger cabin in Upper Berry. Local rumor has it that Stark wanted to go fishing in Berry Creek.

On July 21, 1987, at the Lower Berry Cabin, Ranger Pete Cowan reported that Rick Watson [Trail Crew] had packed in the remainder of the SCA camp along with explosives to complete a reroute on the Jackass Pass trail. He went on to report how the day before at Upper Berry “they finished flying the new cabin in with the Yellowstone helicopter. Everything there now if Al [Williams] and the SCA crew can get it put together. He says it should be together in a couple of weeks.” The cabin was not flown in entire; the logs were flown in bundles of limited weight that a helicopter can handle, because helicopters have limited capacity for lifting weight, especially at altitude, and in the mountains pilots like to have a little leeway to deal with unpredictable air currents. Cowan further noted that Upper Berry was becoming crowded with about 25 people, including 14 folks from the SCA, two 4-man trail crews, “Rick [Watson], Andy, Charlie and Al [Williams] from the Trail Crew, Suzie, Ed Disnek and myself.” The Upper Berry Cabin was further renovated in 2005, with the Ranger Division taking the lead. The cabin was jacked up, and rotting sill logs were removed and replaced.

**Historic Designations for other Cabins in GTNP**

Whitegrass Ranger Station was nominated as a historic district in 1998. The Ranger Station was built in 1930, soon after the park was established in 1929. This was one of the first steps as Superintendent Sam Woodring (formerly chief ranger with Yellowstone National Park) acted with due diligence to begin a set of trails.

Leigh Lake Ranger Patrol Cabin was nominated in 1990. Historian Steven F. Mehls suggested the cabin was built around 1922 or during the early 1920s from a standard set of plans. This was one of the earliest cabins built in the backcountry, and when Congress established the national park in 1929 ownership was transferred to the NPS. Mehls argued the cabin was refurbished in 1934 by the Civilian Conservation Corps.
Death Canyon Barn/Patrol Cabin was built in 1935, and nominated in 1998. Cascade Canyon Barn (aka Patrol Cabin) was constructed c. 1935, modified in 1960, and nominated in 1998. Jenny Lake Ranger Station was originally constructed in 1925, nominated in 1990. In 1995, twelve parts of the park trail system were nominated, including Cascade Canyon Trail, and the Death Canyon Trail System.

Lower Berry Creek Patrol Cabin Suitability for the National Register
Historic Research Associates recommended that the Berry Cabin be reevaluated when it attained 50 years in service as a National Park Service administrative site. Since Berry Creek Cabin was re-constructed on site in 1956, it has functioned in its present place for 52 years, and therefore is eligible for inclusion on the National Register based on age, if it meets other thematic criteria. The likely period of significance might be limited to 1956 during post-war administration of the park.

Criteria A (association with Grand Teton National Park Administration and Development) has provided a fundamental rationale for listing other GTNP backcountry cabins on the National Register of Historic Places. The Berry Creek Cabin fits Criteria A very well, because a patrol cabin on this site has proved vital to administration of the northwest part of Teton National Forest and Grand Teton National Park. The site itself has a long period of function in park administration, since at least 1943 when the Jackson Hole Monument was created by Executive Order. Even before 1943, the Forest Service evidently allowed Park personnel to use the cabin at Berry Creek.

The system of backcountry patrol cabins has proved essential to park management. During the inception of Grand Teton NP, Superintendent Woodring placed the creation of a trail system at the top of his list. It is clear that the backcountry cabins have facilitated the operation of trail crews and rangers to construct and clear trails, patrol the boundaries against timber, hunting, grazing, and (later) motorized snowmobile trespass.

Regarding architectural styles, the Lower Berry cabin clearly exemplifies the “Rocky Mountain Cabin” style, a significant vernacular style born in practicality but today exuding western myth and imagination. As Jim Bailey pointed out in his wonderful study of architecture in the Bridger-Teton National Forest, the roots of the style actually came from Finnish immigrants building this sort of cabin on the Great Plains. Ann Hubber and Janene Caywood noted that vernacular architecture preceded Rustic style in Grand Teton National Park. The Rustic style was developed along with the growth of the dude ranching industry, and the arrival of hobby ranchers and people building vacation homes. They described pioneer vernacular as “a practical response to environmental and economic dictates while formal Rustic architecture represented the deliberate attempt—usually an architect’s deliberate attempt—to convey historical images and to meld man-made resources with their wilderness environment.”

The Rocky Mountain Cabin style, Bailey noted, “is distinguished by a square or rectangular single-cell floor plan, horizontal log construction with square-notched ends, a lack of decoration, a front-facing gable, a single door offset in the gable end, roof slopes
under 45 degrees, a preference for iron stoves over fireplaces, and the front gable end of
the roof extending an average of 50 percent beyond the cabin’s front gable elevation.”

In a separate document, Katherine Longfield (Western Center for Historic Preservation,
Grand Teton National Park) is creating a proposal to the Wyoming State Historic
Preservation Office to list the Lower Berry Creek Patrol Cabin on the National Register
of Historic Places.71

Acknowledgements
We are grateful to the many people who helped in this treasure hunt, including (in no
particular order of helpfulness): Katherine Longfield, (Western Center for Historic
Preservation, Grand Teton National Park, WCHP-GTNP), Lauren Clementino (WCHP-
GTNP), Al Williams (WCHP-GTNP), Alice Hart (SRM-GTNP), Alvie Sellmer (NPS
Denver TIC), Catherine Kisluk (NPS Denver TIC), Kara Hahn (Wyoming State
Historical Preservation Office), Richa Wilson (USFS Architectural Historian), Jamie
Schoen (Archaeologist, Bridger-Teton NF), Eric Bittner (NARA Denver), Joe Schwartz
(NARA College Park), Eugene Morris (NARA College Park), Lauren Finn (Yellowstone
NP Archives), Sayre Hutchison (NPS Architectural Historian), Linda F. McClelland
(NPS Architectural Historian), Rebecca Stephens (Jackson Hole Historical Society),
Celeste Havener (University of Wyoming), Steve Mehls (WCRM, Inc.), Rick Watson,
Dan Burgette, Scott Guenther (GTNP Rangers), Rick Guerrieri, Patrick Hattaway, and
Dan Kowalski (GTNP North District Rangers), Dennison Dugi (SRM-GTNP), Chris
Feuz Young (Buffalo Valley, Wyoming), Larry Feuz and Kathy Wipfler (Jackson Hole,
Wyoming), Steve Sutter (Wyoming SHPO Cultural Records Office, Laramie), and
Steven Wake (US Bureau of Reclamation).

Thanks also to the University of Wyoming—National Park Service Research Station, also
known as the AMK Ranch, for funding this research.

This study was written by James A. Pritchard, Adjunct Assistant Professor with the
Department of Natural Resource Ecology and Management, Iowa State University,
Ames, Iowa. He can be contacted at jpritch@iastate.edu, or 515-294-8830.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabin Coordinates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower Berry Cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upper Berry Cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moose Basin Cabin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 John Dougherty, *A Place Called Jackson Hole*, 22, 36-37.
4 See Box 293.
5 Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Listing Nomination, p. 43, see http://www.nr.nps.gov/multiples/64500738.pdf. See also
6 Map in box 150, for maps also see also 293, and 1063, Entry 10 RG 79, NARA College Park. The Cartographic Branch of the National Archives in College Park has a series of large format maps with an economic analysis arguing against additions to GTNP: “Maps and Report Relating to the Development of the Jackson Hole Region, Wyoming, 1933,” RG 95, Entry 160. Survey of Jackson Hole.
7 W.B. Greeley to Stephen T. Mather, Dec. 11, 1924, Box 293, Entry 10, RG 79, NARA College Park.
10 FM Fryxell, “Report on an Educational Program, etc., for the Grand Teton National Park,” December 7, 1929, Box 1049, RG 79, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland (hereafter NARA College Park).
14 Memo GTNP Superintendent to Regional Director, Oct. 18, 1938, Box 1053 Entry 10 RG 79, NARA College Park.
16 Memo GTNP Superintendent to Regional Director, Oct. 18, 1938, Box 1053 Entry 10 RG 79, NARA College Park.
18 Superintendent to Regional Director Oct. 18, 1938, Box 1053 RG 79.
19 Memo Regional Landscape Architect to Regional Director, November 5, 1938, Box 1053, NARA College Park.
21 McClelland, 342-343.
23 See Superintendent’s Annual Reports, Box 1049, RG 79, NARA College Park.

32

26 Kenneth and Lenore Diem, A Community of Scalawags, 73-75.

27 Richa Wilson, personal communication, April 7, 2008.


29 Righter, 40, map on 41.

30 Superintendent to Regional Director, 4 page memo, October 18, 1938, Box 1053 RG 79, NARA College Park.


34 Steven Wake (US Bureau of Reclamation, PN Region), personal communication, 11-18-08.


36 Robert Righter, 126, 139.

37 Grand Teton National Park Building Survey, 1949, File No. 61 (Berry Creek Patrol Cabin), Box “1949 GRTE Building Survey w/ Photos”, GTNP Archives.

38 Fixed Property Record, September-1959, GTNP records.

39 See note 64.


43 See http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/grte2/hrs18b.htm.


47 See http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/grte2/hrs15a.htm.

48 Daugherty, 264.

54 Jim Bell log entry, Moose Basin Cabin, September 18, 1980.
56 Jim Bell log entry, Moose Basin Cabin, September 1, 1980.
59 Minutes, Jackson Hole Cooperative [elk] Studies, July 15, 1958, Box 24 Naturalists Records, Grand Teton National Park Archives.
62 A recent work of interest, Bruce Smith, Eric Cole and David Dobkin, Imperfect Pasture: A Century of Change at the National Elk Refuge (US Fish and Wildlife Service and Grand Teton Natural History Association, 2004).
63 Personal Communication, Dan Burgette, July 18, 2008.
65 National Register nomination by Steven F. Mehls, PI, Western Historical Studies, Inc., Wyoming SHPO.
71 The National Register of Historic Places is administered by the National Park Service, and more information is available at www.nps.gov/nr/. Information regarding Wyoming’s historic places and the designation process can be found at http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us.