
Survey Project Comments

Erica Duvic <erica.duvic@wyo.gov>
To: tetonpreservation@gmail.com
Cc: Betsy Engle <eoflint.engle@gmail.com>

Thu, Oct 19, 2017 at 8:55 AM

Dear TCHPB,

Please see below our comments on the eligibility of the sites surveyed as part of your 2016 survey project. I apologize for the delayed response but I was waiting to hear back from Fish & Wildlife about TE2006 before sending you our comments, but it may be a while before that happens. I am happy to discuss these with you further if you have questions or concerns.

TE1995 Robbins House, [35 E. Snow King Ave.](#) Not Eligible - Major integrity issues as well as a lack of significance.
TE1996 Moody House, [85 E. Snow King Ave.](#) Eligible under B - Lacks integrity for C.
TE1997 Glenwood Street Leather Shop, 145 N. Glenwood St. Not Eligible - Major integrity issues
TE1998 Gill House, 485 E. Teton Ave. Eligible
TE1999 Clissold House, 565 E. Glenwood St. Not Eligible - Lacks integrity
TE2000 Jensen House, [635 S. Cache St.](#) Not Eligible - Lacks significance
TE2001 Moran Tourist Cabinsm [690 E. Kelly Ave.](#) Eligible
TE2002 Germann House, J&L Motel Cottage, Contributing - Not individually eligible but is a contributing building for 48TE1901. Should not have received a new site number.
TE2003 Wort House, 1500 South Park Loop Road, Eligible - Some pretty big integrity issues make the C argument weak; even eligibility under A is a stretch.
TE2004 Leek Homestead - Porter Ranch, Unevaluated - Has significance but there are still too many remaining questions about integrity to make a firm determination of eligibility.
TE2005 Pratt Ward LDS Meetinghouse, Not Eligible - Too many changes have affected the integrity.
TE2006 National Elk Refuge Headquarters Area Historic District, Unevaluated - We are still waiting for a response from Fish & Wildlife before providing comments for this site.
TE2010 Shane Movie Cabin, Not Eligible
TE2011 Robertson-Huff House, Parkway Inn Cottage, Not Eligible - This shouldn't have received a new site number since it was already determined not eligible as part of TE1913.

Thank you all for your work on this project!

Erica Duvic

Historic Preservation Specialist
Community Preservation Coordinator

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

p 307-777-3418

f 307-777-6421

<http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us/>



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Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003

RECORD TYPE: First-recording, Full Re-record, Update, Condition Report, Site Lead

PROPERTY CATEGORY: Prehistoric Site, Historic Site, Building, Structure, Object, District, Landscape, Lithic Landscape, TCP

1. IDENTIFICATION/OWNERSHIP

Consultant Project Number _____ Agency Project Number(s) _____

Associated Project Name Teton County Intensive Level Surveys 2016 (Teton County Historic Preservation Board)

Site Name Wort, Charles & Luella, House Temporary Field Number _____

Other Common names: Gill, Robert & Patricia, House Agency Site Number _____

Other Site Number _____

Landowner (at time of this reporting, specify agency/district, if private give name and address): check here if site information is confidential

Private: ROBERT L. & PATRICIA D. GILL, TRUSTEES
2505 SHOOTIN IRON ROAD, JACKSON, WY 83001

2. LOCATION (repeat as needed on continuation sheets; check here if additional locational information is on continuation sheet)

Street address 1500 South Park Loop Road Town Jackson

Lot-Block: PT. NW¼ NW¼, SEC 6, TWP. 40, RNG. 116 Parcel 22-40-16-06-4-11-003 County Teton

USGS 7.5' Map Name, Date Jackson, WY 2012

Township 40.N Range 116.W Section 6 ¼'s NW ¼ NW ¼ Template: _____

Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ ¼'s _____ Template: _____

Township _____ Range _____ Section _____ ¼'s _____ Template: _____

Elevation (ft.): 6,100 UTM Coordinates (center point is required; bounding UTM(s) required for sites > 200m in any dimension)

UTM: Zone 12N E 515142 m N 4811682 m Datum used to calculate: NAD 27 NAD 83

Bounding UTM: (1) E _____ N _____ (2) E _____ N _____

(3) E _____ N _____ (4) E _____ N _____

UTM source: corrected GPS/rectified survey (<5m error), uncorrected GPS, map template, other: _____

GPS Model/Software: _____

Notes pertaining to access: Property is located at 1500 South Park Loop Road in Jackson, Teton County, Wyoming.

3. NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS (check all that apply in each category)

ENROLLED STATUS Landmark/Monument, Enrolled on NRHP

FACTORS AFFECTING INTEGRITY (check all that apply; indicate specific areas of disturbance and vandalism on a copy of the site map)

Disturbance/Vandalism: none, erosion, vandalism, collection, structural damage, manual excavation, mechanical excavation, vehicle traffic, structural decay, grazing, construction/development, defacement, imminent destruction, unknown

Percent of property badly disturbed as of this recording date, to nearest 10%): 10%

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE

Period(s) of significance: 1897-1942 Theme(s) Exploration/Settlement & Architecture

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS (check all applicable):

Recorder NRHP Evaluation: Eligible under criteria a, b, c, d; Not Eligible, Unevaluated

Contributing Components: Prehistoric, Historic Associated person for criterion b property _____

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance; discussion of contributing components (indicate spatial extents on maps); and integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined)*:

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003

The Charles and Luella Wort House, built 1897-1899, is eligible for the National Register of Historic places at the local level in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture. The house is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement as a rare example of a homestead cabin in Teton County that is still in its original location. The majority of documented cabins have been moved, primarily from original homesteads within the Grand Teton National Park. Among the few cabins still in the park, most have been allowed to ruin while the associated farmland has returned to a natural state. Although it is just outside of the Town of Jackson, the Wort House benefits from several neighboring properties that are agricultural and retains the open feel of the homestead period. The period of significance spans from the construction of the cabin by Charles Wort in 1897-1899 to the sale of the land by Luella Wort in 1942. The Wort House is significant in the area of Architecture as an unusual example of a 1½-story log cabin. Its height, early sawn logs, and squared crowns represent a much more finished look than the typical rustic homesteader's cabin of the period.

Today, the Wort House is located just outside of the southwest boundary of the Town of Jackson. The area north of the Wort House property is within the town limits and has some recent housing developments. Directly east is a new high school complex, however, there is approximately 2,500 feet of undeveloped land between the Wort House and the high school. The land to the south and west is outside of the town boundaries and currently green space and/or under agricultural use. The open space includes portions of the original Wort homestead claim and supports the integrity of the Wort House property in the qualities of location, setting, and association. The house has undergone a few remodels in its over-100-year history, particularly after periods of vacancy in the 1950s through the 1970s. The most substantial modifications occurred between 1979 and 1987 when the house was restored and then expanded and updated. Exterior modifications include replacement windows, an octagonal bay window, and a one-story addition. Despite these changes, the original log house is still discernible and the property has good integrity in the qualities of design, materials, and workmanship for the period of significance. The property includes a non-contributing frame shed built in 1985.

Agency Determination: Eligible under criteria a, b, c, d ; Not Eligible, Unevaluated Date/initials: _____

Justification:

SHPO Concurrence: Eligible under criteria a, b, c, d ; Not Eligible, Unevaluated Date/initials: _____

Justification:

4. INVESTIGATIVE HISTORY (Check all that apply, use property narrative for additional information as appropriate)

Recorded by: Korral Broschinsky Organization: Preservation Documentation Resource for the Teton County Historic Preservation Board

Field Dates: October 15, 2016

DISCOVERY METHOD (describe in site narrative description)

Exposed on surface, Exposed subsurface, Construction discovery, Documentary sources, Informant

WORK PERFORMED (as part of this recording ONLY; describe numbers and dimensions of sampling/excavation units in narrative section)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Surface recorded	<input type="checkbox"/> Tested with probe device	<input type="checkbox"/> Materials sourcing	<input type="checkbox"/> Lab analyses
<input type="checkbox"/> Shovel tested	<input type="checkbox"/> Controlled Trench/Blade	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote sensing	<input type="checkbox"/> Material sample program
<input type="checkbox"/> Formal test unit(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Geomorphology study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Photos/Sketches/Video	<input type="checkbox"/> C-14 dating
<input type="checkbox"/> Block excavation	<input type="checkbox"/> Paleo-environmental study	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collections research	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe in narrative)

MATERIALS COLLECTED AS PART OF THIS RECORDING? yes, no, unknown

Repository: U. W. Archaeological Repository (UWAR), Western Wyoming College, Other: _____

(For Selected Resources see attachment 8F below.)

5. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS

Length 119.298 m, Width 102.108 m, Area: 12,181.04 sq. m, (estimated measurement method: Teton County GIS data)

Boundary estimates based on:

feature/artifact distribution, modern features or disturbance, property boundaries, topography, other, unknown.

Property datum? yes, no (describe if yes): _____

RECORDS INVENTORY (check all appropriate attachments associated with this recording)

Date December 2016Smithsonian # 48TE2003**Required attachments*:**

(6) Prehistoric/Historic Archaeological Site Setting, Topography, Depositional Environment (*not required for urban and rural buildings, structures, objects, or historic districts)

(7) Site Narrative Description

(8) Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix

site map w/scale,orientation,key

location map (USGS 1:24,000 base)

photographs/images

Additional Attachments:

(One or more of the next 8 are required)

(8A) artifacts associated with prehistoric component

(8B) features associated with prehistoric component

(8C) artifacts associated with historic component

(8D) features associated with historic component

(8E) historic and/or prehistoric rock art/inscription component

(8F) historic architecture description

(8G) linear feature description

(8H) lithic landscape sample description

(8I) historic structure/object description

Optional Attachments:

(8J)TCP description

artifact illustrations

stratigraphic profile

field notes

artifact catalog

electronic data

other (describe):

6. PREHISTORIC/HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SETTING, TOPOGRAPHY, DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT*

*Section 6 is not required for urban and rural buildings, structures, objects, or historic districts)

7. SITE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

In addition to general description, the site narrative should address explicitly the kinds and amount of work done at a site, the site environment (setting, geomorphology, soils and sediments, vegetation), site condition and threats to the site. All other matters that demand more discussion than the other sections of the form allow should be discussed in a well-organized fashion here. Tables and other materials can be part of the site narrative, as appropriate. Dating and laboratory results should be cited here, with clear references to laboratory numbers and results.

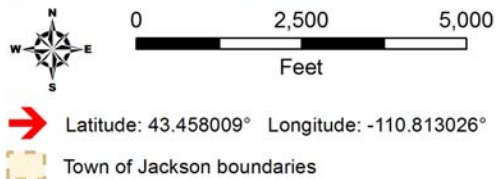
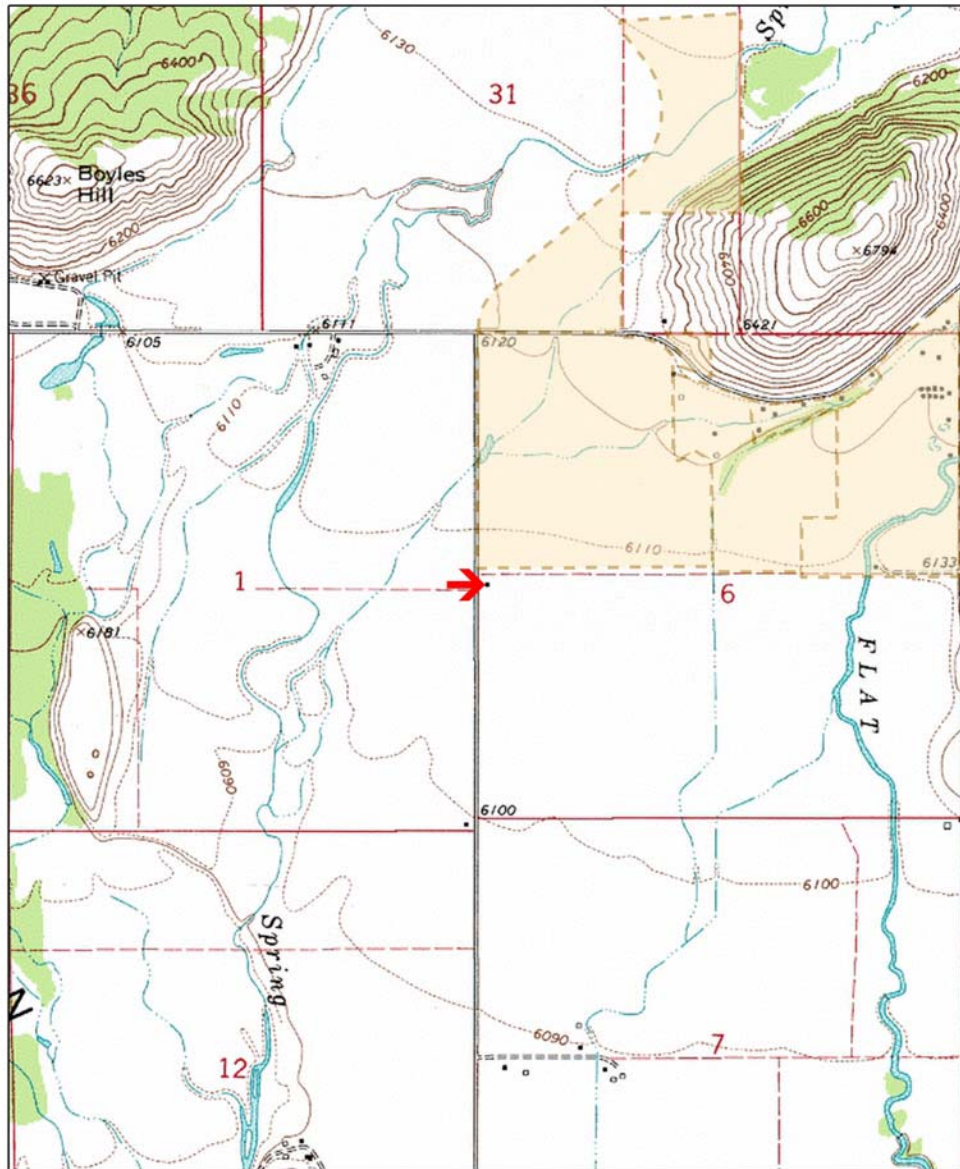
The Charles and Luella Wort House is located at 1500 South Park Loop Road, just outside of the southwest boundary of the Town of Jackson. The 3.01-acre parcel is on the southeast corner of the intersection of South Park Loop Road and High School Road. Both roads follow the area's original public land survey section lines. The current parcel is the only remnant of the approximately 485-acre Wort family homestead; however, 240 acres is undeveloped and used agriculturally. In addition, several neighboring properties are also undeveloped. The area north of the Wort House property is within the Jackson town limits and has some recent housing developments. Directly east is a new high school complex, however, there is approximately 2,500 feet of undeveloped land between the Wort House and the high school. The land to the south and west is outside of the town boundaries and currently green space and/or under agricultural use. The landscaping on one-third of the parcel is lawn surrounding the house, the rest is agricultural. There is a gravel driveway from South Park Loop Road to the southwest corner of the house. A boardwalk leads from the driveway to the front deck. The rear of the house also has a wood deck. The property includes a non-contributing frame shed built in 1985, which is located in the northwest corner of the property. There are mature trees and shrubs along the west property line. Shrubs also followed the north property line, as does a post and wire fence. There is a post and rail fence separating the landscaped yard from the agricultural land to the south and east. The Wort House was photographed on October 15, 2016. The interior of the house was not accessible.

(See Map 1, Location on USGS map, Map 2, Site plan overlay on aerial photograph, and Map 3, Location of original Wort homestead parcels).

(For architectural description and historic background on the Wort House, please see attachment 8F below.)

Date December 2016

Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Wort, Charles & Luella, House
1500 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, Teton Co., WY

MAP 1
Jackson, WY, 7.5' USGS quadrangle.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003

8. Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix (attach (8A) “Artifacts Associated with Prehistoric Component”, (8B) “Features Associated with Prehistoric Component”, (8C) “Artifacts Associated with Historic Component”, (8D) “Features Associated with Historic Component” as appropriate). Check boxes for “yes” as appropriate.

<u>COMPONENT</u>	<u>OCCURRENCE</u>		<u>CONTENTS</u>			Building(s)/ Structure(s)
	Surface	Subsurface	Artifacts	Features	Rock Art	
PREHISTORIC						
Unknown Prehistoric	___	___	___	___	___	
Paleoindian	___	___	___	___	___	
Early Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Middle Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Late Archaic	___	___	___	___	___	
Archaic (general)	___	___	___	___	___	
Late Prehistoric	___	___	___	___	___	
PREHISTORIC PHASES (optional)						
Great Divide	___	___	___	___	___	
Green River/Opal	___	___	___	___	___	
Pine Spring	___	___	___	___	___	
Deadman Wash	___	___	___	___	___	
Uinta	___	___	___	___	___	
Firehole	___	___	___	___	___	
PROTOHISTORIC						
HISTORIC						
Unknown Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Early Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Pre-territorial	___	___	___	___	___	___
Territorial	___	___	___	___	___	___
Expansion	___	___	___	___	___	<u>X</u>
Depression	___	___	___	___	___	<u>X</u>
WWII Era	___	___	___	___	___	<u>X</u>
Post WWII	___	___	___	___	___	___
Modern	___	___	___	___	___	___

Periods of Significance – Protohistoric (1720-1800); Early Historic (1801-1842); Pre-territorial (1843-1867); Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939); WWII-era (1940-1946); Post-WWII (1947-1955); Modern (1956-present)

* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date December 2016 **Smithsonian #** 48TE2003

8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION

Instructions: Complete this form for each primary standing building/structure as appropriate. If a site contains more than one building or structure, e.g. a ranch house and barn – complete an attachment for each structure. When using this form, structures should retain identifiable architectural elements. Generally, historic archeological sites should not be recorded on this form. Secondary structures such as corrals, fences, lean-to’s, and outbuildings without architectural interest, may be documented on attachment 8D. Attach a sketch map showing the building, associated features and other buildings and the building setting as appropriate (with a scale and north arrow). Attach color photographs or images sufficient to illustrate the general building form and condition. Attach photographs, images, or measured drawings of unique architectural elements. Additional records (e.g., blueprints) can be attached as appropriate. References for this section include: Architecture in the Cowboy State; Eileen F. Starr, 1992; "National Register Bulletin 15", USDI/ NPS, 1991; A Field Guide to American Houses, Virginia & Lee McAlester, 1984.

Common name: Gill, Robert & Patricia, House

Historic name: Wort, Charles & Luella, House

Type of building: Residence Number of associated resources 2

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable) _____

OWNERSHIP – Property owner and address:

Private: **ROBERT L. & PATRICIA D. GILL, TRUSTEES**
2505 SHOOTIN IRON ROAD, JACKSON, WY 83001

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period(s) of significance: Expansion to Depression (1897-1942) Theme(s) Exploration/Settlement & Agriculture

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building contributing or non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined):

The Charles and Luella Wort House, built 1897-1899, is eligible for the National Register of Historic places at the local level in the areas of Exploration/Settlement and Agriculture. The house is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement as a rare example of a homestead cabin in Teton County that is still in its original location. The majority of documented cabins have been moved, primarily from original homesteads within the Grand Teton National Park. Among the few cabins still in the park, most have been allowed to ruin while the associated farmland has returned to a natural state. Although it is just outside of the Town of Jackson, the Wort House benefits from several neighboring properties that are agricultural and retain the open space feel of the homestead period. The period of significance spans from the construction of the cabin by Charles Wort in 1897-1899 to the sale of the land by Luella Wort in 1942. The Wort House is significant in the area of Architecture as an unusual example of a 1½-story log cabin. Its height, early sawn logs, and squared crowns represent a much more finished look than the typical rustic homesteader’s cabin of the period.

Today, the Wort House is located just outside of the southwest boundary of the Town of Jackson. The area north of the Wort House property is within the town limits and has some recent housing developments. Directly east is a new high school complex, however, there is approximately 2,500 feet of undeveloped land between the Wort House and the high school. The land to the south and west is outside of the town boundaries and currently green space and/or under agricultural use. The open space includes portions of the original Wort homestead claim and supports the integrity of the Wort House property in the qualities of location, setting, and association. The house has undergone a few remodels in its over-100-year history, particularly after a period of vacancy in the 1950s and 1960s. The most substantial modifications occurred between 1979 and 1987 when the house was restored and then expanded and updated. Exterior modifications include replacement windows, an octagonal bay window, and a one-story addition. Despite these changes, the original log house is still discernible and the property has good integrity in the qualities of design, materials, and workmanship for the period of significance. The property includes a non-contributing frame shed built in 1985.

* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date December 2016 **Smithsonian #** 48TE2003

CONSTRUCTION HISTORY (use "unknown" as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<u>1897</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>Wort Family History</u>
<u>1902</u>	<u>y</u>	<u>Teton County assessors records</u>

Architect(s): Unknown

Builder(s): Unknown

Building moved? (yes/no/unknown) no, Date(s) moved: _____, Moved from: _____

Current use(s) DOMESTIC: Dwelling, Historic use(s) DOMESTIC: Dwelling

DESCRIPTION (see handbook for guidelines)

Style/Type Rustic / Hall-Parlor

Number of stories: 1, 1-1/2, 2, 2-1/2, multiple, don't know, other (describe):

Foundation (describe, i.e., stone, concrete, post and sill, etc.): The original foundation was likely post & sill. The current foundation is concrete block (circa 1980). [Photographs 4-8]

Roof (describe materials, i.e., asphalt, wood): The roof is a simple gable running with a ridgeline parallel to South Park Loop Road. The one-story addition is similar with a lower pitch. There is a small simple gable sheltering the front stoop and a steeply-pitched shed roof over the enclosed rear entry (circa 1950). The roof material is red seamed tin (circa 1990), a common modification for Jackson's heavy snowfall. [Photographs 1, 3, 5 & 7]

Structural system (i.e., wood frame, masonry): The structural system is square logs. Kerf marks on some of the logs suggest they were processed in an early mechanized sawmill. The notching is not visible due to the finished corners: vertical logs on the south end and corner boards on the north end. The fit suggests a full dovetail, or similar notching. The upper logs are stained a dark brown, but the lower logs have weathered to a light gray, possibly due to the sprinkling system. The addition, built in 1987, is frame. [Photographs 1-7]

Cladding (i.e., wood siding, asphalt): The log structure is visible to the eave line. The gable trim is clad in Victorian-style fish-scale shingles. The north shingles appear to be original. The shingles on the southern exposure have been replaced, but are compatible with the original shingles. The enclosed rear entry is clad in vertical rustic boards. The one-story addition is clad in cedar clapboard siding with corner boards. [Photographs 1-7]

Windows (describe number and types, i.e., double hung, casement, fixed etc.): The windows have been replaced twice (1979 and 1987). The original windows were two-over-two double-hung windows. There were two main level openings on the west elevation and a paired opening on the main and upper levels of the south elevation. Historic photographs do not show the other elevations, but the north elevation has one narrow opening in the gable trim and one opening on the main level. The east elevation has one opening that was a door later filled with log (moved from the enlarged opening in the enclosed entry) and one other window. By the 1970s, most of the windows were missing or broken. During the restoration in the early 1980s, the main level windows were replaced with six-over-six windows. An oriel bay window was installed in the main level of the south elevation. The upper opening in the south elevation was replaced with a picture window. New one-over-one vinyl windows were installed during a second remodeling in 1987. The bay window alterations included fish-scale shingles providing a base for the bay and on the roof. The south upper window was replaced with a tripartite window and the north upper window with a one-over-one window. A new sliding door and one narrow fixed window were installed in the rear entry. The modifications were made to match the windows in the new addition. [Photographs 1-7]

Porches: The front porch (west elevation) features a wood deck at the terminus of the boardwalk from the driveway. There are two doors to the deck: a three-light three-panel door (circa 1990) from the main house and a half-glass door (circa 1987) from the addition. The only part of the porch that is sheltered is the main door, which features a simple gable roof with fish-scale shingle trim supported on square posts. The rear elevation (east) has a similar wood deck for an uncovered patio, which is accessed from the entry rear entry. [Photographs 1-3, 7]

Chimneys: There is a red brick chimney located slightly off-center on the ridgeline. It appears to have been shortened (circa 1980).

Basement: No basement.

* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003

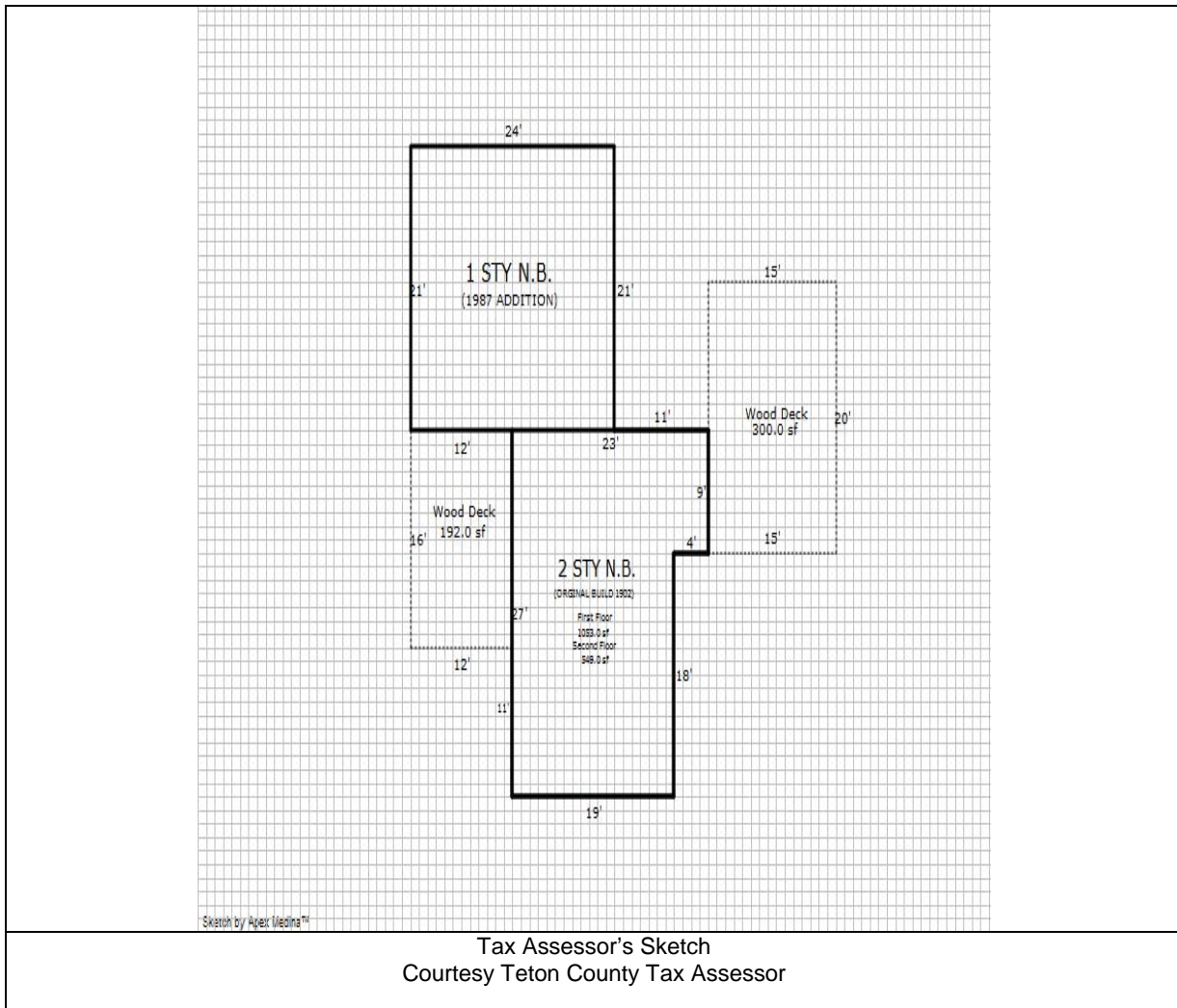
Modifications/Additions: A photograph taken in 1961 show the west elevation of the house with a one-story addition at the northeast corner and what may be a porch at the south end of the east elevation. The addition and porch were derelict and removed in the 1980s. The enclosed rear entry was probably added around 1980 and the current one-story addition was built in 1987. The window and door replacements are the most substantial modifications to the original house; however, the exposed logs preserved the original character of a 1½-story log cabin. [Photographs 1-4]

Distinctive landscaping elements: The landscape is mostly distinctive for its simplicity. The area around the house is lawn. Along the streets are mature trees and shrubs. The remnants of an irrigation ditch are along South Park Loop Road. A post-and-rail wood fence separates the lawn area from the adjacent farmland. There is a non-contributing 20 by 6-foot frame shed (circa 1985) near the west property line. [Photographs 1, 3-8]

ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS: RUSTIC, LOG CABIN, HALL-PARLOR

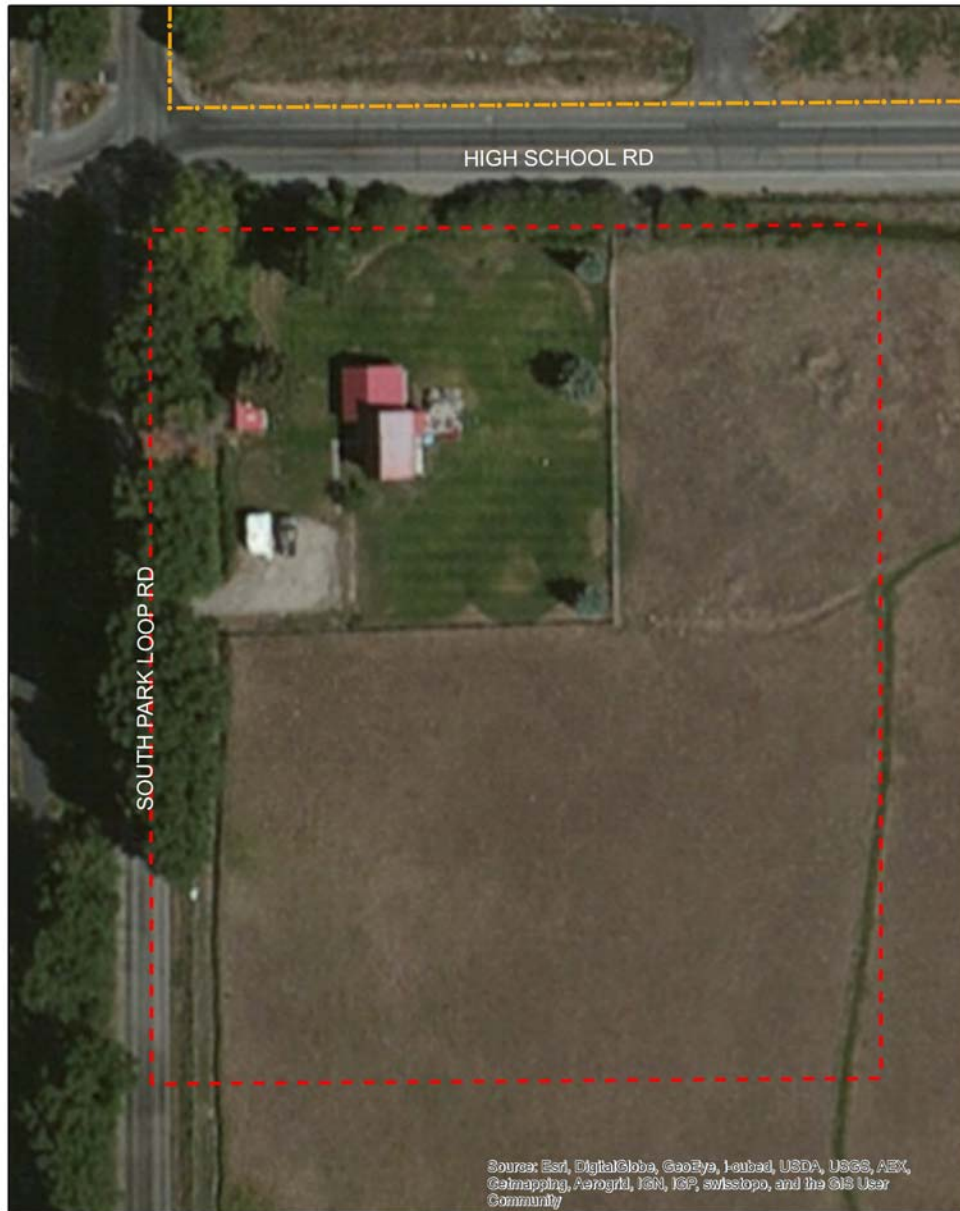
ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE (e.g., relationship of building to complex and/or district; other notes; interior description):

The placement of the chimney suggests that the floor plan of the original main floor was a hall parlor. The interior was updated between 1979 and 1982. A second interior modeling began with the 1987 addition and was completed in 1993. The 1987 addition enlarged the kitchen and added a den, bathroom, and mudroom. The addition helped to preserve the openness of the historic interior.

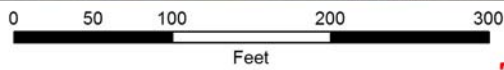


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Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aergrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



WORT, CHARLES & LUELLA, HOUSE

-  Current Parcel
-  Town of Jackson Boundary

MAP 2

Site plan of Wort property from aerial photograph.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, I-cubed, USDA, USGS, AEX, Getmapping, Aergrid, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

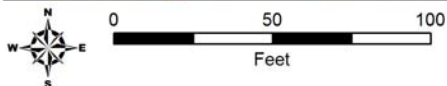


PHOTO KEY  Current Parcel 

Wort, Charles & Luella, House
1500 South Park Loop Road
Jackson, Teton Co., WY

MAP 3

Photograph key with site plan of Wort House from aerial photograph.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Photograph 1
West elevation of house, camera facing east.
(photographed October 2016)



Photograph 2
West elevation of house, façade detail, camera facing east.
(photographed October 2016)

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Photograph 3

West and south elevations of house, camera facing northeast.
(photographed October 2016)



Photograph 4

South elevation of house, camera facing north.
(photographed October 2016)

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Photograph 5
South and east elevations of house, camera facing northwest.
(photographed October 2016)



Photograph 6
Southeast corner detail, camera facing northwest.
(photographed October 2016)

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Photograph 7
East elevation of house and addition, camera facing west.
(photographed October 2016)



Photograph 8
North elevations of house and addition, camera facing south.
(photographed October 2016)

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



Photograph 9
North and west elevations of addition, camera facing southeast.
(photographed October 2016)



Photograph 10
East and south elevations of shed, camera facing northwest.
(photographed October 2016)

Date December 2016Smithsonian # 48TE2003**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The Charles and Luella Wort House is located at 1500 South Park Loop Road in its original location as part of the original Wort family homestead. The house faces west to South Park Loop Road at the corner of High School Road just south of the Town of Jackson municipal boundaries. The two roads follow the land survey section lines in the area. Charles J. Wort was one of the first homesteaders in Teton County. He came to Jackson Hole in 1893. The house was most likely completed in 1897 prior to his marriage to Luella Perkins in April 1899 because their first child was born in the cabin in May 1900. The Teton County Tax Assessor's records give a construction date of 1902, which corresponds to the year Charles J. Wort's land grant patent was issued. The house featured early additions for a kitchen and an icehouse, but did not have electricity or indoor plumbing until much later.

Charles "Charlie" James Wort was born on August 23, 1874, in Harvard, Illinois. Lottie Luella Perkins was born on October 5, 1876, in Belleview, Wisconsin. Both families moved to Buffalo County, Nebraska where Charles and Luella met as children. At the age of 19, Charles Wort came to Jackson Hole to visit his older brother Hamilton, and his half-brother, Stephen Leek, who were early homesteaders in South Park. Charles filed his own homestead claim and proceeded to improve his land. Charles returned to Nebraska to marry his childhood sweetheart, Luella Perkins, on June 18, 1899. Charles came back to Jackson Hole soon after the marriage, leaving Luella to make the journey to Idaho several weeks later. Charles met her in Victor, Idaho, and they crossed the Teton Pass together. The house was ready for her. Stephen Leek, who had the adjacent homestead, operated one of the first sawmills in the valley and it is possible that the logs were processed there. Charles continued to improve the homestead by digging irrigation ditches and raising hay for his cattle. Charles and Luella had three sons. John was born in 1900 in the log house. Jesse was born in 1903. The youngest, Russell, was born in 1911 and died of appendicitis in 1932. Luella was known as an excellent homemaker and horsewoman. Charles, later assisted by his sons, supplemented the ranch income by becoming an outfitter and a hunting-fishing guide.

In 1915, Charles bought four acres of land in downtown Jackson with the goal of building a luxury hotel. However, there were few tourists who could afford the luxury at the time and a livery stable was determined to be a more practical use of the site. Charles and Luella purchased the Jackson Hotel in 1917, which Luella helped to run for about a year before they sold the enterprise. In the late 1920s, the Worts operated a hunting camp in the Gros Ventre Mountains.¹ The Worts continued to operate the homestead ranch until 1929 when they purchased a house in Jackson across the street from the livery stable (demolished in 1962). The family was also involved in two successful tourist camps on Jenny Lake and Jackson Lake. Unfortunately, Charles James Wort died on September 3, 1933, before the camps reached the peak of success. In the late 1930s, the sale of the boat concession on Jenny Lake and the Wort Hunting Camp within the Grand Teton National Park provided funds for the brothers John and Jess to fulfill their father's dream of building the luxurious Wort Hotel in downtown Jackson. The Wort Hotel opened on September 5, 1941 and continues in operation today.² In May, 1942, Luella Wort sold the family homestead property to R. Bruce Porter. Luella Perkins Wort continued to live in Jackson until her death on October 5, 1961.

Bruce Porter came to Jackson as young man prior to World War I. After serving his country, Bruce returned to Jackson and purchased the Jackson Drug Store. In the late 1930s, Bruce Porter began purchasing former homestead properties in the South Park area. In 1938, he purchased a large section of the Leek homestead from Stephen Leek's heirs and in 1942, the former Wort homestead. Bruce Porter's ranch was officially organized as the Jackson Hole Hereford Ranch, but more commonly known as the Porter Ranch, which became one of the area's largest and most successful cattle ranches in Jackson Hole in the mid-twentieth century. Bruce, and his wife Ethel, built a house in 1922 at 185 E. Hansen Street in Jackson and did not live on the ranch. In addition to operating the drugstore, the Porters established the Teton Theater and several other businesses. The former Wort House was most likely used to house seasonal ranch hands who worked on the Porter Ranch.

¹ The Wort Hunting Cabin was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as the Gap Puche Cabin on June 18, 1990 (Smithsonian number: 48TE1023). It is primarily significant for its associated with John Wort.

² The Wort Hotel was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 9, 1999 (Smithsonian number: 48TE1216). It was listed for its architectural significance and as the first luxury hotel in Jackson. The Jenny Lake boat concession cabin has been allowed to deteriorate by the NPS and the tourist camp on Jackson Lake was replaced by the Signal Mountain Lodge complex.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003

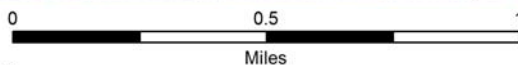
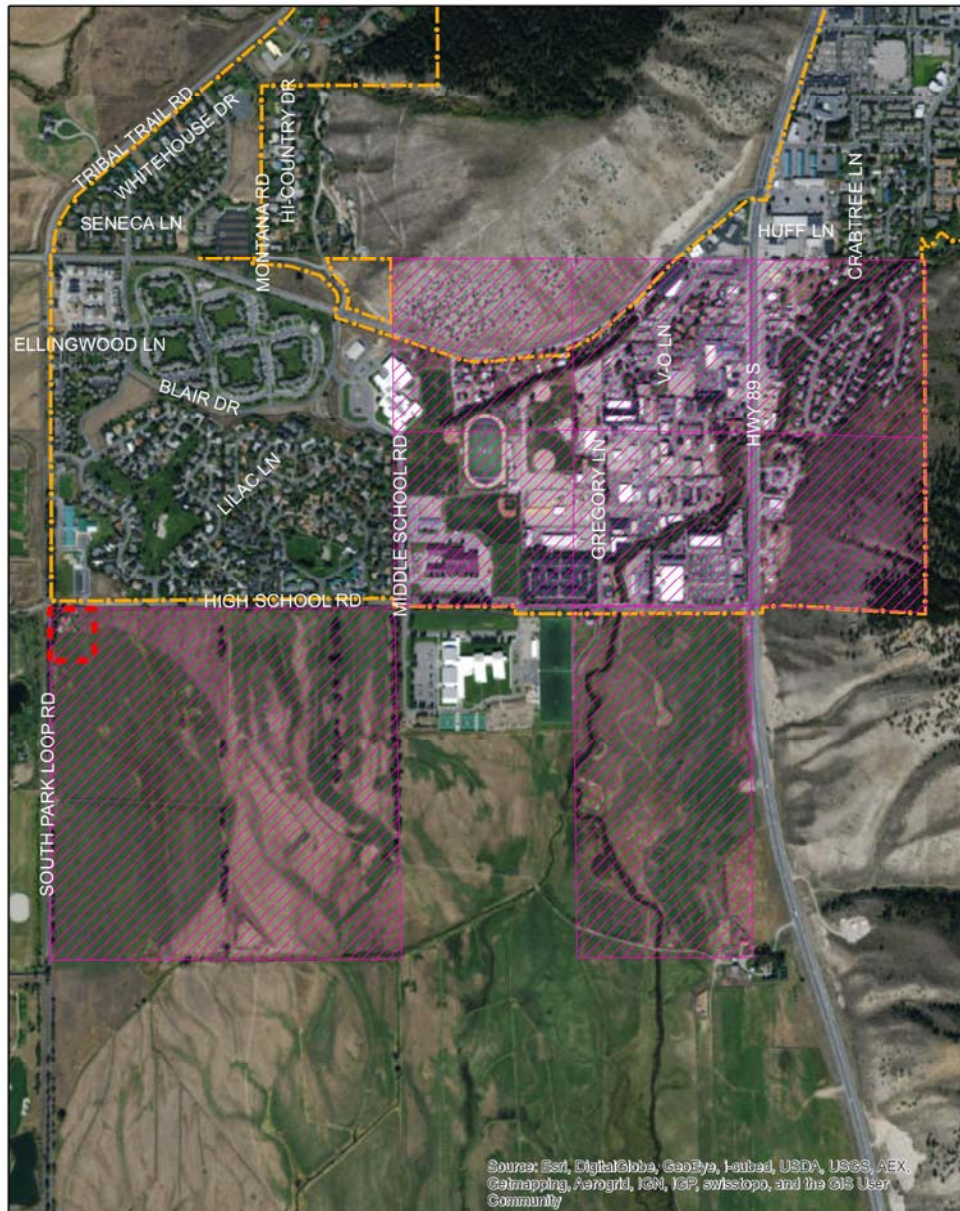
By the late 1950s, the house had been vacant for several years. The empty house had a reputation as “a party spot where many local teens enjoyed their first drink, smoke, and kiss.”³ There was at least one fire in the house that had to be put out by irrigation water. When Bruce Porter died in 1961, he divided his holdings between his four grandchildren. A photograph taken in 1961, shows there was electricity, but it still had a forlorn look. By the 1970s, the windows were missing, the lean-to additions had collapsed, and cattle roamed freely in and out of the house. In 1979, Robert Gill, the only grandson of Bruce Porter, began a restoration of the Wort House. Robert Gill lived there as a bachelor until his marriage to his wife Patricia. At this time, the house was expanded and upgraded. The growing family contemplated doubling the size of house in 1991, but eventually decided to build a new home in 1993. Since 1995, the Wort House has been maintained as a rental property.

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³ “The Wort Homestead from 1897 to 2016” by the Rancher’s Daughters, Jackson Hole Hereford Ranch website.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



WORT HOMESTEAD PATENTS
1892-1909

- Current Parcel
- Wort Land Patents
- Town of Jackson Boundary

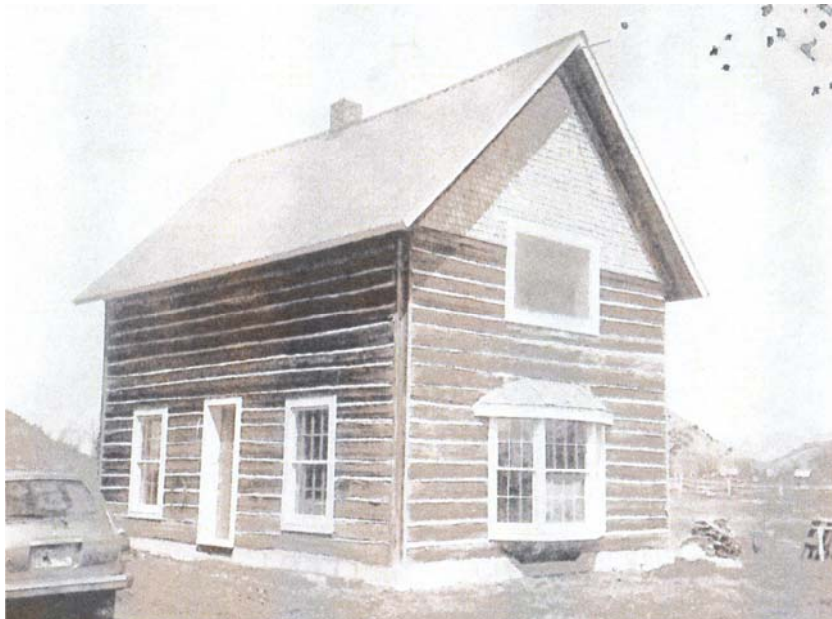
MAP 3

Wort House current parcel compared to original homestead patents.

Date December 2016 Smithsonian # 48TE2003



1500 South Park Loop Road, west and south elevations,
photographed by Phil Sultz in 1961
(courtesy Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum, with permission from Phil Sultz)



1500 South Park Loop Road, west and south elevations, circa 1980
(courtesy Teton County Assessor's Office)