

Andy Chambers' Ranch House
.4 mile south of Antelope Flats Road on
the east side of Mormon Row Road
Kelly Vicinity
Teton County
Wyoming

HABS No. WYO-83

HABS.

WYO.

20-KELV,

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

ANDY CHAMBERS' RANCH HOUSE

HABS
WYO,
20-KEL.V

Location: .4 mile south of Antelope Flats Road on the east side of Mormon Row Road, Kelly Vicinity, Teton County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Moose Quadrangle Map) 12.527190.4833800.

Present Owner: National Park Service - Grand Teton National Park.

Present Occupant: None.

Present Use: None.

Statement of Significance: Mormon Row Road was an area originally settled by Mormon families. At one time there were fifteen homesteads, a one-room school house, a Mormon church and a post office. The 160-acre Andy Chambers ranch is located near the middle of "Mormon Row" in an area east of Blacktail Butte. The existing log ranch house was constructed by Chambers in 1917 just before his marriage to Ida Kneedy, the "Mormon Row" schoolteacher. From 1923 to 1935, Ida was the local postmaster and Andy had the contract to deliver mail in the valley.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Ca. 1917.
2. Architect: None known.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Andy Chambers purchased his 160-acre homestead on a ca. 1911 relinquishment. The ranch consists of the South half of the Northwest quarter and the Northwest half of the Southwest quarter of Section 28, Township 43, North Range 115, West of the 6th Principal Meridian Wyoming. The following references to this acreage are found in the Teton County Clerk's Office, Teton County Courthouse, Jackson, Wyoming:

1916 Homestead Certificate No. 7077, signed February 7, 1916, filed March 11, 1916, recorded in Book MR 2, p. 197. U. S. Land Office, Evanston,

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Wyoming to Andrew H. Chambers Lots 3 and 4, NW quarter and Lots 1 and 2 SW quarter of Section 28, Township 43, Range 115 for no consideration.

- 1916 Patent No. 22455, signed August 14, 1916, filed June 4, 1920, recorded in Book 1, p. 352. U.S.A. by Woodrow Wilson to Andrew H. Chambers Lots 3 and 4 of NW quarter and Lots 1 and 2 of SW quarter containing 160 acres for no consideration.
- 1948 Guardian's Deed, signed November 25, 1949, filed December 14, 1949, recorded in Book 9 D, p. 178. Ida Chambers, widow to Andrew Reese Chambers Lots 3 and 4 NW quarter and Lots 1 and 2 SW quarter for \$10.00.
- 1956 Deed, signed July 23, 1956, filed July 23, 1956, recorded in Book 9 D, p. 589. Andrew Reese Chambers to U.S.A. Lots 3 and 4 of NW quarter and Lots 1 and 2 of SW quarter for \$97,900.00.

4. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The ranch house was built by Andy Chambers and his brother Jim Chambers.
5. Original plan and construction: There are no plans for the ranch house. The structure is built of coniferous logs with "tenant" notching at the corners. Logs are spiked to one another at the corners with a large iron nail. This form of notching was common to homesteads built in Jackson Hole between 1910 and 1940. The basic plan consists of two rooms (living-bedroom and a kitchen-dining room) partially divided by a central staircase.
6. Alterations and additions: A front porch and a rear porch and nursery were added to the main structure in the 1920s.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Andy Chambers received 160 acres of land in Kelly, Wyoming, in 1916 from the United States Government as part of the Homestead Act of 1862. The Chambers land was located near the middle of "Mormon Row," a small community of fifteen homesteads largely settled by Mormons. Chambers built his ranch house ca. 1917, before his marriage to Ida Kneedy, the Mormon Row schoolteacher and daughter of Milton H. Kneedy, the owner of the water-driven flour and sawmills in Kelly. Shortly after his marriage to Ida, Andy Chambers left to fight in World War I. During his absence, Ida proved up their homestead claim. She plowed forty acres of

land herself in the fall and, with the help of her neighbors, planted it with grain in the spring. Upon Andy's return to Mormon Row, Ida drove one team and wagon while Andy drove another to Yellowstone, where they sold their grain at the then unheard-of rate of \$5 per hundredweight. (Rudd, p. 7).

The homesteaders of Mormon Row found the area a difficult one to ranch. Until quite recently they lived a pioneer existence, hauling water and chopping wood; they worked for years with teams and shovels to bring irrigation across the flats. The Chambers, too, experienced the same hardships and difficulties. When the Gros Ventre River flooded, Ida's parents and youngest brother were all drowned. From 1923 to 1935 Ida was the Gro Vont postmaster and Andy held the contract for mail delivery in the Valley.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

- a. Deed Books: Teton County Clerk's Office, Teton County Courthouse, Jackson, Wyoming.
- b. Interviews: Ida Chambers, widow of Andy Chambers, Jackson, Wyoming, August 25, 1977.

2. Secondary sources:

"How They Built Cabin Corners," Jackson Hole News, August 13, 1970, p. 19.

Rudd, Robert C. Artist's Folio: They Settled Here: Homesteads and Cabins of Jackson's Hole. Moose, Wyoming, 1970.

Saylor, David J. Jackson Hole, Wyoming: In the Shadow of the Tetons. Norman, Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1970.

Prepared by Peter L. Goss, Ph. D.
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
August 1977

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Chambers ranch house is a good example of log construction with "tenant" corners, common to ranch houses and homesteads built in the area between 1910 and 1940.
2. Condition of fabric: Fair to good.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: 29'-10" (2 bays) x 32'-3" (1 bay), one and a half stories, rectangular.
2. Foundations: Concrete.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Log bearing walls with natural finish. Wood and mortar chinking are used in the joints between the logs.
4. Structural system, framing: Logs with "tenant" notching at the corners, secured with spikes; the gable ends are framed in.
5. Porches: There is an open porch the full width of the building along the main (west) facade. There is also a screened-in porch off the back entry at the southeast corner of the house.
6. Chimneys: The remains of a single chimney stand at the ridge of the house. This is centrally located over one side of the kitchen.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Doorways are built with dimension lumber and are of simple design and construction. Doors are paneled, with windows in the upper panels. The front door faces west and enters the living-bedroom. The rear door faces east and enters the kitchen-dining room.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Windows used in the structure are both fixed-sash and double-hung vertically operated windows. There are windows on the west, south and north sides.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The gable roof is steeply pitched over the central portion of the house; low-pitched shed roofs extend over the side porches. The exterior covering is formed with hand-split shingles attached to horizontal decking which is supported on rough-sawn rafters.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The eaves are projected and boxed in.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The basement, a root cellar, is accessible from both the exterior and interior.
 - b. First floor: This is a two-room house with a central stairway. The living room-bedroom is on the north side and the kitchen-dining room is on the south. A nursery was added to the northeast corner behind the living room.
 - c. Second floor: The second floor consists of one large unfinished space, which was probably used as a sleeping loft.
2. Stairways: There are two interior stairs, both enclosed, one to the basement and one to the second floor. The need for more space made it necessary to extend the stairs to the loft from the kitchen and eliminate a landing. The stair treads became angular to accommodate a right-angle change of direction. The stairway from the exterior into the basement is concrete and may have had a hatch cover at one time.
 3. Flooring: The floors are all wooden plank decking covered with linoleum. Floor joists are rough cut timber. The exception is a concrete floor in the basement.
 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls and ceilings are finished with lath and plaster and covered with wallpaper.
 5. Doorways and doors: The doorways are built of finished grade lumber and are simple in design and construction. The doors are paneled.
 6. Trim: Clear finish, flat boards.

7. Hardware: No notable hardware.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: None.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The orientation of the house is east and west, with the front facing west toward the Tetons.
2. Outbuildings: A well house and a structure for the storage of machinery are located northeast of the house, while the outhouse is directly to the east.

Prepared by Burtch W. Beall, Jr.
Architect
Project Supervisor
National Park Service
September, 1977

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These documents were prepared under contract with Burtch W. Beall, Jr., Architect, Salt Lake City, Utah, for Grand Teton National Park and the Rocky Mountain Regional Office, under the direction of Historical Architect Rodd L. Wheaton. The drawings were done by Bruce Mac Knight; the historical information was written by Dr. Peter K. Goss, University of Utah; and the photographic documentation was provided by Lorin Wiggins of Salt Lake City, Utah. This report was edited for HABS by Candace Reed in 1978. This building is threatened by possible demolition.

ANDY CHAMBERS HOMESTEAD

HABS No. WY-83

(Andy Chambers' Ranch House)

Grand Teton National Park

Mormon Row

0.4 miles south of Antelope Flats Road on the east side of Mormon

Row Road

Kelly Vicinity

Teton County

Wyoming

ADDENDUM TO

ANDY CHAMBERS' RANCH HOUSE

0.4 miles south of Antelope Flats Road on the east side of Mormon

Row Road

Kelly Vicinity

Teton County

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE

National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

12795 West Alameda Parkway

Denver, CO 80228