

Madison Museum (HS-121)  
Yellowstone National Park  
16 miles north of Old Faithful on Grand Loop Road  
Old Faithful Vicinity  
Teton County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-98

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Rocky Mountain System Support Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

MUSEUM  
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

MADISON MUSEUM  
(HS-121)

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Location: 16 miles north of Old Faithful on Grand Loop Road, Yellowstone National Park, Old Faithful Vicinity, Teton County, Wyoming.

Significance: The Madison Museum, designed by architect Herbert Maier and built in 1929, is one of the best examples of rustic architecture existent in the National Park System. The building served as a model for many state and national park structures built by work relief programs during the 1930's.

Description: This small, one story structure has a T-shaped design and is constructed with battered rubble masonry. It has a gable roof covered with wood shingles. Boards with sawn tree shapes and diamond patterns compliment the vertical siding at the gable ends. It has a front and a rear door. There is also a small stone chimney near the rear of the building.

The floor in the main room is flagstone and stripped-log posts are visible throughout the room. The floor in the wing is carpeted, probably overlaying a wooden plank floor.

On the rear of the building is a flagstone terrace which overlooks the confluence of the Firehole and Gibbon Rivers. On the terrace are two small memorials; one to Stephen Mather and the other commemorating the Yellowstone National Park idea.

History: In 1928 and 1929, Dorr G. Yeager, who was in charge of the Yellowstone educational program, and architect Herbert Maier began work on four "trailside museums." These museums were designed to educate the public, who were visiting the park by automobile in increasing numbers, about the park. Museums were located at Norris, Old Faithful, Fishing Bridge, and Madison. A variety of programs were presented in order to introduce visitors to the uniqueness of the park. The Madison Museum was intended to focus on the history of Yellowstone. The museums and the educational outreach provided by the park became a model for both national and state parks. Today the museum is used as a book store and information station.

Sources: Laura Soulliere Harrison, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form: Norris, Madison, and Fishing Bridge Museums," National Park Service, 1986.

Aubrey L. Haines, The Yellowstone Story: Volume Two, Colorado Associated Museum Press, 1977.

Historian: Michael J. Smith, HABS Historian, 1996.

ADDENDUM TO:  
MADISON MUSEUM  
(HS-121)  
Yellowstone National Park  
North of Old Faithful & Grand Loop Road  
West Thumb vicinity  
Teton County  
Wyoming

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FIELD RECORDS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001