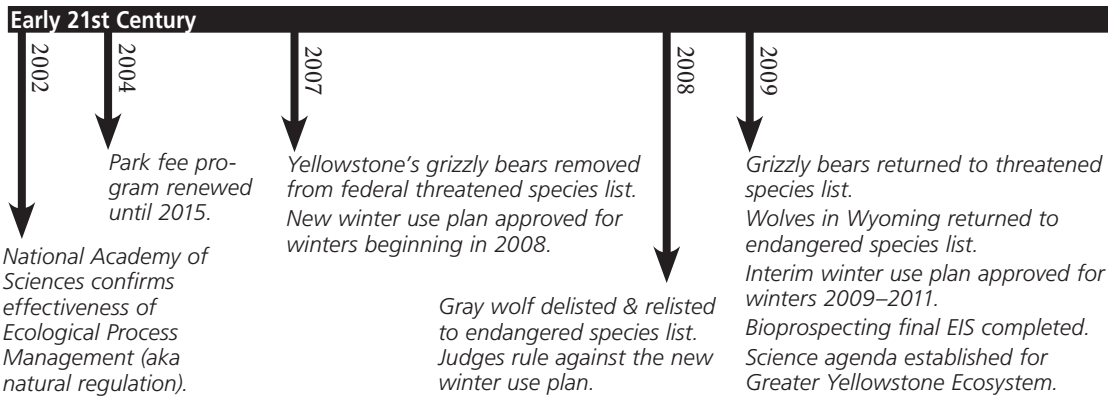


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History



YELLOWSTONE'S CULTURAL RESOURCES



- More than 300 ethnographic resources (animals, plants, sites)
- Approximately 1,600 prehistoric and historic Native American archeological sites and historic European American archeological sites
- More than 2 dozen sites, landmarks, and districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places; many more eligible for listing
- More than 900 historic buildings
- 1 National Historic Trail
- Museum collection of more than 379,000 cultural objects and natural science specimens available to researchers
- Archives containing thousands of historic documents
- Thousands of books and periodicals available to the public; plus manuscripts and rare books available to historians and other researchers
- 90,000 historic photographs used by staff, scholars, authors, and filmmakers

American people considered typical of lower, more open lands. They probably used this Yellowstone site in the summer while hunting bear, deer, bighorn, and rabbits, and perhaps making tools and clothes. Archeologists speculate these people may have also made rafts to visit islands in Yellowstone Lake.

Cultural Landscapes

Cultural landscapes—geographic areas associated with historic events, activities, or people—also reflect the park's history, development patterns, and the relationship between people and the park. They include areas significant to European American culture, such as Fort Yellowstone and the Old Faithful area, and areas significant to Native American cultures, such as Obsidian Cliff and sacred sites. Yellowstone's cultural landscapes are being inventoried to ensure new undertakings are compatible with them and to identify landscapes eligible for the National Register.

Ethnographic Resources

Yellowstone National Park has more than 300 ethnographic resources identified by tribal peoples. These include animals such as bison, plants, hydrothermal areas, mineral paints from hydrothermal areas, Yellowstone Lake, vision questing sites, obsidian, rendezvous sites, and hunting sites.

Historic Structures & Districts

Mammoth Hot Springs/Fort Yellowstone

The Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District includes Fort Yellowstone, where 35 structures remain from the 1890s and early 1900s when the U.S. Army administered the park. Significant conservation policies were developed here that led to the origin of the National Park Service. Fort Yellowstone is also listed as a National Historic Landmark District, the highest designation.

Lake Hotel

The Lake Hotel is the oldest operating hotel in the park. When it opened in 1891, the building resembled other hotels financed by the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1903, the architect of the Old Faithful Inn, Robert Reamer, designed the Ionic columns, extended the roof in three places, and



Right: Albright Visitor Center, in the Mammoth Hot Springs Historic District and Ft. Yellowstone Historic Landmark District, housed the first "information office" (visitor center).

Historic Park Buildings still in use						
1891	1903	1903-04	1906	1908	1909	1918-28
Lake Hotel, National Historic Site	Roosevelt Arch, in the Ft. Yellowstone Historic Landmark & North Entrance Road Historic District	Old Faithful Inn, National Historic Landmark; in the Old Faithful Historic District	Lamar Buffalo Ranch, Historic District	Norris Soldier Station, now the Museum of the National Park Ranger, in Ft. Yellowstone Historic Landmark District	Albright Visitor Center, in Mammoth Historic District & Ft. Yellowstone Historic Landmark District	Old Faithful Lodge, in the Old Faithful Historic District

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service. Currently 73,000 listings have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals because they are important to a community, a state, or the nation.

National Historic Landmarks

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Today, fewer than 3,500 historic places bear this national designation. The National Historic Landmarks program draws upon the expertise of National Park Service staff who evaluate potential landmarks and provide assistance to existing landmarks.



Lake Hotel

added the 15 false balconies, which caused it to be known for years as the “Lake Colonial Hotel.” By 1929, additional changes—dining room, porte-cochere (portico), sunroom, plus interior refurbishing—created the landmark we see today.

Roosevelt Arch

The Roosevelt Arch rises in the North Entrance Road Historic District and part of the Fort Yellowstone Historic Landmark District. This soaring stone structure was conceived by U.S. Engineer Hiram Chittenden; Robert Reamer may have contributed to the design, and architect N.J. Ness also worked on it. President Theodore Roosevelt placed the cornerstone for the arch in 1903. The top of the arch is inscribed with a line from the Yellowstone National Park Act of 1872: “For the benefit and enjoyment of the people.”

Roosevelt Area

Diners at Roosevelt Lodge (President Theodore Roosevelt had camped nearby) view much the same landscape seen by visitors when the lodge opened in 1920. The area is registered as the Roosevelt Lodge Historic District.

The Buffalo Ranch

The Lamar Buffalo Ranch Historic District overlooks Lamar Valley. The ranch, in operation from 1906 until the 1950s, was the center of efforts to increase the herd size of bison in Yellowstone.

Remnants of irrigation ditches, fencing, and water troughs can still be found, and four buildings from the original ranch compound remain (*center photo*)—two residences, the bunkhouse, and the barn. Newer cabins, which blend with the historic buildings, house students attending Yellowstone Association Institute classes or the National Park Service's residential education program.



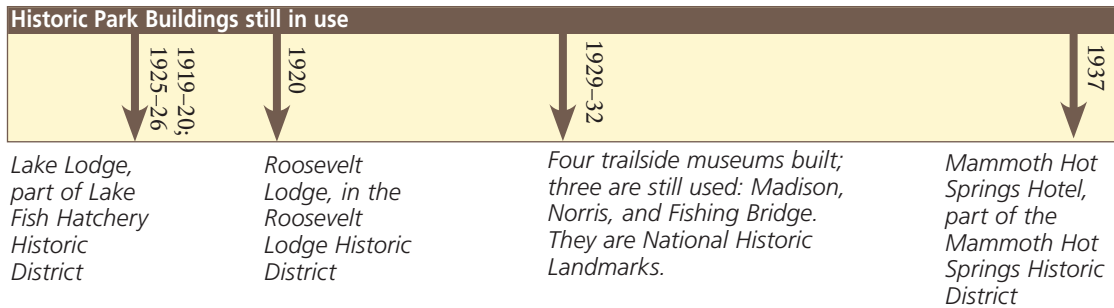
Buffalo Ranch



Old Faithful Inn

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History



Old Faithful Inn & Historic District

Most people who step into the Old Faithful Inn for the first time stop as their eyes follow thick rustic logs up to the soaring peak of the ceiling. Robert Reamer designed this National Historic Landmark, which opened in 1904. It is the centerpiece of the Old Faithful Historic District. Nearby, the Old Faithful Lodge is a result of numerous changes made until 1928 when the lodge reached its present configuration.

Trailside Museums

Four trailside museums were built in Yellowstone as part of a national idea that a

Yellowstone on the National Register of Historic Places

This is a partial list.

National Historic Landmark District:
Fort Yellowstone

National Historic Landmarks:
Fishing Bridge, Madison, and Norris Trailside Museums

Northeast Entrance Station

Obsidian Cliff

Old Faithful Inn

National Register Historic Districts:

Lake Fish Hatchery

Mammoth Hot Springs

North Entrance Road

Old Faithful Area

Roosevelt Lodge

National Historic Sites:

Lake Hotel

Lamar Buffalo Ranch

Obsidian Cliff Kiosk

Queen's Laundry Bath House

Mammoth Post Office

national park is itself a museum. An interpretive structure should blend in with its surroundings and its exhibits explain but not substitute for the park experience. The museums here are well-known examples of the architectural style, National Park Rustic (also called "parkitecture").

The Old Faithful Museum was the first trailside museum in Yellowstone, and the only one no longer standing. It opened in 1929 to acclaim for its quality materials and construction, and for the way it blended into its surroundings.

The Norris Museum, built in 1930, still serves as a gateway to the Norris Geyser Basin. Visitors first glimpse the area's hydrothermal features from a breezeway; they learn about the area from exhibits in the wings as well as from trailside exhibits and a trail guide.

The Madison Museum (*photo above*), overlooking the junction of the Gibbon and Firehole rivers, features many elements associated with National Park Rustic: stone and wood-shingled walls, and rafters of peeled logs. Built in 1930, it now serves as an information station and bookstore.

The Fishing Bridge Museum, built in 1932, retains many original exhibits as an example of early National Park Service displays. On the south side of the museum, visitors can cross a flagstone terrace overlooking Yellowstone Lake and descend steps to the shore.

Lodging No Longer Standing

Marshall's Hotel, which stood near the present-day intersection of Fountain Flats Drive and Grand Loop Road, was built in 1880 and was the second hotel in the park. Later renamed the Firehole Hotel, it was razed in 1895.

Fountain Hotel opened in 1891 north of Fountain Paint Pot. This was one of the first Yellowstone hotels where bears were fed for the entertainment of guests. The hotel closed after 1916 and was torn down in 1927.

Four lodging facilities were built at Norris. Three were built between 1886 and 1892; the first two burned. The last hotel at Norris, which overlooked Porcelain Basin, served the public from 1901 to 1917.

Three hotels were built in succession at Canyon, the last being the largest hotel in the park. Sited where the horse stables are now, the Canyon Hotel was closed in 1958 due to financial and maintenance problems and burned in 1960.

These and other sites of former park facilities are historic archeologic sites. They are studied and documented for what they reveal about past visitor use in the park.

The Legacy of Yellowstone

The years have shown that the legacy of those who worked to establish Yellowstone National Park in 1872 was far greater than simply preserving a unique landscape. This one act has led to a lasting concept—the national park idea. This idea conceived wilderness to be the inheritance of all people, who gain more from an experience in nature than from private exploitation of the land.

The national park idea was part of a new view of the nation's responsibility for the public domain. By the end of the 19th century, many thoughtful people no longer believed that wilderness should be fair game for the first person who could claim and plunder it. They believed its fruits were the rightful possession of all the people, including those yet unborn. Besides the areas set aside as national parks, still greater expanses of land were placed into national forests and other reserves so the country's natural wealth—in the form of lumber, grazing, minerals, and recreation lands—would not be consumed at once by the greed of a few, but would perpetually benefit all.

The preservation idea, born in Yellowstone, spread around the world. Scores of nations have preserved areas of natural beauty and historical worth so that all humankind will have the opportunity to reflect on their natural and cultural heritage and to return to nature and be spiritually reborn. Of all the benefits resulting from the establishment of Yellowstone National Park, this may be the greatest.

Cultural Resource Laws

These laws guide the management of historic and cultural resources in national parks:

The Antiquities Act (1906) provides for the protection of historic, prehistoric, and scientific features on and artifacts from federal lands.

The Historic Sites Act (1935) sets a national policy to “preserve for future public use historic sites, buildings, and objects.”

The National Historic Preservation Act (1966) authorizes the creation of the National Register of Historic Places and gives extra protection to national historic landmarks and properties in the national register. National parks established for their historic value automatically are registered; others, such as Yellowstone, must nominate landmarks and properties to the register.

The Archeological and Historic Preservation Act (1974) provides for the preservation of significant scientific, historic, and archeological material and data that might be lost or destroyed by federally sponsored projects. For example, federal highway projects in Yellowstone include archeological surveys.

The Archeological Resources Protection Act (1979) provides for the preservation and custody of excavated materials, records, and data.

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (1990) assigns ownership or control of Native American human remains, funerary objects, and sacred objects of cultural patrimony to culturally affiliated Native American groups.

American Indian Religious Freedom Act (AIRFA) protects and preserves American Indian access to sites, use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonies and traditional rites.

Executive Order 13007 guarantees access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and that these sites not be adversely affected.

Construction Dates for Other Park Buildings

Tower General Store 1932, 36, 61

Lake General Store 1920

Lake Ranger Station 1922–23

Mammoth Chapel 1912–13

Mammoth Gas Station 1920

Old Faithful Gas Station (Lower) 1920, 1925

Old Faithful Lower General Store 1897, 1921 addition

Old Faithful Upper General Store 1929–30

South Entrance Ranger Station Duplex 1928

West Thumb Ranger Station 1925; now an information station