

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK

MAUD NOBLE CABIN

HISTORIC STRUCTURES REPORT

HISTORY SECTION

by

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Eastern Service Center
Washington, D.C.
November 1970





TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations and Maps	ii
Acknowledgements	iv
Chapter I, Administrative Data	1
Chapter II, Maud Noble and Her Cabin	3
Chapter III, Horace M. Albright and the 1923 Meeting	11
Chapter IV, Structural History	29
Chapter V, Notes on Furnishings	43
Chapter VI, Recommendations	49
Bibliography	51
Maps and Illustrations	55

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS AND MAPS

ILLUSTRATIONS

- PLATE I Maud Noble Cabin. Earliest known photograph.
- PLATE II Menor's Ferry, 1919. Sydney Sandell operating it.
- PLATE III Original south wall of living room.
- PLATE IV Original north wall of Miss Noble's bedroom.
- PLATE V Original south wall of living room.
- PLATE VI Front of cabin, 1950.
- PLATE VII Front of cabin, 1950.
- PLATE VIII Reconstruction of front entrance, 1950.
- PLATE IX North end of cabin, 1950.
- PLATE X East side of cabin, 1950.
- PLATE XI Restored porch, south end of building, 1950.
- PLATE XII East side of cabin, 1950.
- PLATE XIII Noble Cabin and outbuilding, 1950.
- PLATE XIV Entrance to Noble Cabin today.
- PLATE XV Front of Noble Cabin today.
- PLATE XVI East side of Noble Cabin today.
- PLATE XVII Details of construction, north end of Noble Cabin.
- PLATE XVIII North wall of living room, showing fireplace.
- PLATE XIX Modern south wall of living room.
- PLATE XX East wall of living room, showing ell room beyond.
- PLATE XXI Middle room in Noble Cabin, originally Miss Noble's bedroom.
- PLATE XXII Looking east in ell room.

PLATE XXIII South room, originally a semi-enclosed porch.

PLATE XXIV Front of outbuilding.

PLATE XXV North side of outbuilding.

PLATE XXVI East end of outbuilding.

MAPS

1. Cabin during Noble and Budge occupancies.
2. Cabin during Carmichael and Tea Room occupancies.
3. Cabin during National Park Service occupancy.
4. Menor's Ferry area.
5. Jackson Hole, Grand Teton National Park.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Doing the research on this report allowed me to interview some truly outstanding citizens of this land. Their gracious hospitality, their interest in the preservation of the Maud Noble Cabin, their knowledge of things past, their desire to contribute to the project — all these things made my journey through the history of the cabin and of the 1923 meeting a memorable adventure. My thanks go to all of them:

Mr. and Mrs. Horace M. Albright , Los Angeles, California
Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian, Salt Lake City, Utah
Mr. and Mrs. James Budge, Jackson, Wyoming
Mrs. George T. Lamb, Jackson, Wyoming
Mr. W. C. Lawrence, Moran, Wyoming
Mr. Lee Lundy, Wilson, Wyoming
Mrs. J. B. Moseley, Antelope Flat, Wyoming

Many members of the National Park Service contributed their knowledge and helped overcome obstacles along the way: Merrill J. Mattes, Chief, Office of History and Historic Architecture, Western Service Center; Miss Frances Nugent, Midwest Region; and Superintendent Howard H. Chapman, Chief Naturalist Charles H. McCurdy, Miss Elizabeth Knight, and Mrs. Marcia Hamblin, Grand Teton National Park.

Frank B. Sarles, Jr., OAHP, reviewed the report and caught many errors in spelling and style. My thanks go also to Miss Joy Short who typed this study.

Despite the length of this report, there are questions that still go unanswered. And despite all the help, I have undoubtedly made errors in the narrative that follows. They are my responsibility.

E.N.T.

CHAPTER I

Administrative Data

The Maud Noble cabin, located at Menor's Ferry, Grand Teton National Park, is numbered 109 and its outbuilding is numbered 111 on the Grand Teton Register. At present, both buildings are classified as CC structures.

Grand Teton National Park is presently in the process of developing a new Master Plan. The role of the Maud Noble cabin in this Master Plan is at this time unknown.

In 1964, Nan Rickéy prepared an Interpretive Development Plan for the Menor's Ferry Historical Area. This plan was approved by the Superintendent of the Park and the Acting Director, Midwest Region, in 1965. The interpretive development, as stated in this plan, calls for the furnishing of the living room and as much of the ell bedroom as may be seen through the open door from the living room as of 1923, the year of the meeting between Superintendent Horace M. Albright, Yellowstone NP, and a group of Jackson Hole residents. The door to Miss Noble's bedroom, south of the living room, would remain closed. Curtains would cover the windows of the unfurnished parts of the house.

The plan calls for the interpretation of the structure primarily through an audio program. (The existing electrical wiring to and in the cabin will have to be removed; however underground wiring is feasible.) The audio program would present: the origins of public lands in this country, the philosophy behind their significant uses, the origins of Grand Teton NP, and the 1923 meeting. It recommends the use of Mr. Albright's recorded voice concerning the 1923 meeting and the creation of Grand Teton NP.

(It should be noted that the conclusions presented in this report concerning the significance of the 1923 meeting are somewhat different than those that have sometimes been presented. However, the 1923 meeting had significance — see Chapter III — and a suitable audio presentation may readily be developed.)

The interpretive plan also calls for a leaflet that would expand on the themes listed above. This leaflet would contain photographs of the refurbished structure as well as the text of Mr. Albright's reminiscences.

No separate interpretation is mentioned for the outbuilding.

To manage and operate the structure, the plan recommends that a high glass or plastic viewing area, large enough to accommodate ten people, be installed and that the audio program be visitor-operated. These provisions would allow the structure to be unattended.

CHAPTER II

Maud Noble and Her Cabin

To be "in" in Philadelphia society earlier in this century meant spending a few summer weeks at one of the dude ranches located in magnificent Jackson Hole, Wyoming. The tie between Jackson Hole and Philadelphia may have come about because one of the first dude ranchers was Struthers Burt.

Burt, author of Powder River, Let'er Buck and other well-known works and a Princeton teacher, lived in Philadelphia. In 1908, still a young man, he came to Jackson Hole on a hunting expedition. While there he became acquainted with Louis E. Joy, owner of the JY homestead. Joy persuaded Burt to join him in establishing the JY as a dude ranch. Burt then encouraged his wealthy eastern friends, especially Philadelphians, to travel westward to enjoy the clean air and magnificent mountain scenery.¹ In 1910, Burt split from Joy and joined with Dr. Horace Carncross to establish the Bar BC (dude) ranch in competition with the JY.

Maud Noble, daughter of a prominent Philadelphian, made the journey to Jackson Hole about 1915. She stayed at the Bar BC

1. Elizabeth Weid Hayden, "Jackson Hole, Its History," MS., restricted to research purposes only, photostat of typescript, files, Midwest Region, NPS, Omaha; The Jackson Hole Guide, Sept. 2, 1954.

ranch as the guest of Mrs. George Woodward. Maud's intentions when she arrived at Jackson Hole are not known. But soon after her arrival, she began making arrangements to remain in the Hole. She went into partnership with Frank Bessette on his homestead on Cottonwood Creek. Still single, Miss Noble was no longer a young woman at that time. Hometown friends of hers have estimated that she was born between 1865 and 1870.²

The next year, Harry Clissold built a log cabin for Maud on the Bessette ranch. Located on the east side of Cottonwood Creek, the cabin had three rooms: a living room and either a kitchen or a bedroom in the main part, and a bedroom in an ell. Although a number of modifications were made over the years, the cabin today contains essentially these three rooms.

A few miles away, William D. Menor operated a ferry on the Snake River. For many miles in either direction this was the only place where one could cross the Snake River when it was at high water. Menor made a living from his ferry and from his 149-acre homestead on the west side of the river. A colorful character, he was widely noted for "his original and purple profanity, excelling in the highly competitive field of strong language." But by 1918 he was ready to sell the ferry and the homestead and take up a new

2. Russell A. Apple, "An Interpretive Prospectus for Post-Fur Trade History, Grand Teton National Park, With Amendments February 1963," typescript, NPS, pp.81 and 83. Apple received his information on Miss Noble from John Pickens Dornan, Jackson Hole, whose family had lived next door to the Nobles in Philadelphia.

life in California. Maud Noble decided to enter into the business of operating a ferry. Harry Clissold came to her assistance again, dismantled her new cabin piece by piece, and reassembled it at its present location a few hundred feet downstream from Menor's store and house on the west side of the Snake.³

Sometime before this transaction, just when being unknown, Sydney (Frederick) Sandell arrived in Jackson Hole. He had been a groom for Miss Noble's father's horses back in Philadelphia. Sandell's along with a Mary C. Lee's name appeared on the documents with Maud Noble's in the purchase of the Menor property. For the next few years, until a bridge was finally built across this section of the Snake, Sandell operated the ferry and the ranch, which they called the Ferry Ranch, while Miss Noble kept busy maintaining their home and cultivating a large vegetable and renowned flower garden. Visitors came away remarking on the quality of their garden and how Maud kept the house "spic and span." These were good years, ones that Miss Noble would later recall in a letter as "those happy years there . . . are ever yet a joy to me to remember."⁴

3. Ibid.; Hayden, p.189; Nolie Mumey, The Teton Mountains, Their History and Tradition . . . (Denver, 1947), p. 348; leaflet, "Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park, Jackson Hole, Wyoming." According to Apple, p.69, Maud Noble and her associates purchased the Menor property for \$9,000.

4. While Sandell's first name apparently appeared on some documents as Frederick, all those who knew him over the years at the ferry called him Sydney. Apple, p. 69; Maud Noble, letter to Harold P. and Mrs. Fabian, Feb. 5, 1950; leaflet, "Menor's Ferry Restoration"; Harold P. and Josephine Fabian, interview with writer, 1970. Mary C. Lee sold her interest in the Menor property to Noble and Sandell in 1919.

The only major change inside the cabin during this time was the possible conversion of the kitchen into a second bedroom. It is said that Maud and Sydney thereafter ate in the old Menor cabin 500 feet away.⁵

Many of the older citizens of Jackson Hole today remember both Maud and Sydney. Yet descriptions of them and of the appearance of the cabin are difficult to uncover. The apparent cause of this dearth of information is that Maud and Sydney never married. The social code of that time did not foster close relations with the community under those conditions. Miss Noble, it would appear, preferred it that way. Those who did know her recall that she was a tall, thin, gray-haired, quiet, and dignified lady. She minded her own business and kept Sydney under her thumb, yet was gracious and kind toward those whom she met. An illustration of her character may be noted in that she and Sandell donated the land on which the Chapel of the Transfiguration stands today.⁶

A few stories, apocryphal or not, about the ferry under "that old Dutchman" Sandell's management have survived. As soon as he began operating it he raised Menor's price of 50¢ per car to

5. Apple, p.83. Five hundred feet would be a long distance during a winter storm. On the other hand, the Menor house is very close to the ferry should a traveler wish to cross at mealtime.

6. Apple, p.83; Hayden, p.242; Charles B. Voorhis; interpretive marker in entrance to chapel; Lee Lundy, Wilson, Wyo., interview with writer, 1970; W.C. Lawrence, Moran, Wyo., interview with writer, 1970; James and Viola Budge, Jackson, Wyo., interview with writer, 1970; Mrs. George T. Lamb, Jackson, Wyo., interview with writer, 1970.

\$1 for Wyoming licenses and \$2 for out-of-state cars. At the time of the dramatic Gros Ventre slide in 1925, many visitors came to Jackson Hole to see the dramatic results. The ferry is said to have yielded a large revenue that summer. Then there was the local resident who used the ferry regularly. Every time Sandell asked this individual for the fare, the man would wave a \$100 bill, exclaim that he had no change, and promise to pay next time. Finally, mild-mannered Sandell had had enough. The next time the man waved the century note, Sydney calmly reached into his pocket and pulled out 99 one-dollar bills.⁷

With the completion of a bridge (not the present one) across the Snake at Menor's Ferry in 1927, the ferry operation came to a close. About 1927, Miss Noble and Sandell moved to another ranch, seven miles below Wilson, also in Jackson Hole. A secondary source states that during the summer of either 1927 or 1928, a niece of Maud Noble opened a tea room in the cabin. Then, in 1929, Miss Noble and Sandell sold the Menor homestead to the Snake River Land Company (that is, to John D. Rockefeller, Jr.). They realized a handsome profit, receiving over \$50,000 for the property.⁸

7. Mumey, p. 348; Mrs. George Lamb, interview; Harold P. and Josephine Fabian, interview.

8. Orrin H. Bonney and Lorraine G. Bonney, Bonney's Guide, Grand Teton National Park and Jackson's Hole (Houston, 1966), p.88. The guide gives the figure \$52,500 as the selling price of the ranch, but does not indicate the source of this information.

Maud and Sydney continued to live at their second ranch until about 1943, when they left the Hole. Miss Noble returned to Pennsylvania where she lived until her death in the early 1950s. In February 1950 she wrote Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian regretfully declining their invitation to visit her old home at Menor's Ferry: "I am too old now to stand the winter climate in Jackson Hole."⁹

The Snake River Land Company and, later, the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., maintained the Noble cabin until turning it over to the National Park Service in 1953. For most of this time it retained its original use as a residence, each new occupant making such alterations as seemed necessary. The first of these occupants was Reed Turner; following him came Jack Woodman. In 1937, Jim and Viola Budge and their family moved into the cabin. Mrs. Budge became postmaster of the Moose post office in a nearby store that year. During World War II, Mrs. Budge gave up this position when her husband and sons went into the armed services. Later, Mr. Budge joined the National Park Service and is now retired, living in Jackson.

In 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carmichael moved into the house and Mrs. Carmichael (now Mrs. J. B. Moseley and a noted artist) became postmaster at Moose. They lived in the cabin until 1948. Following the Carmichaels, a Mrs. Rush occupied the place for a

9. Maud Noble, letters to Mr. and Mrs. Fabian, Feb. 5 and Feb. 25, 1950. In one of these letters, Miss Noble said that she had lived in Jackson Hole for 25 years.

brief period. In 1949, Harold P. Fabian, Vice-President of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., reconstructed the ferry and restored the original Menor buildings. One year later, Mrs. Fabian opened the Ferry Tea Room in the Noble cabin, preserving the basic structure but making such alterations and additions as necessary for the new undertaking. The tea room operated for two years, 1950-51. A statement written at that time reads:

The cabin has been preserved and kept intact and is being used to meet a demand for a quiet place to dine, near the Tetons, in the atmosphere of historic Jackson Hole. The former ranch name has been revived and used to designate the title of the unique Inn.

After the cabin became a part of the national park, seasonal employees occupied it for a number of summers. During this period some additional modifications were made. All these changes over the years will be discussed in a succeeding chapter. Today the cabin stands empty, awaiting the touch of the restoration specialist.¹⁰

The Maud Noble cabin is now a little more than fifty years old. It is an ordinary structure that would have slipped into the anonymity of the past had not a meeting occurred in its living room in 1923. This meeting proved to be a milestone, but not the milestone, in the struggle to create the Grand Teton National Park as it exists today.

10. Apple, p. 83; leaflet, "Menor's Ferry Restoration"; Grand Teton National Park files, folder "Menor's Ferry," containing correspondence concerning the transfer of the Menor property to the National Park Service, with accompanying documents; Harold P. Fabian, speech to the Dude Ranchers' Association Convention, Bozeman, Mont., Oct. 29, 1947, copy in the files, Grand Teton NP; Mrs J.B. Moseley, Antelope Flats, Wyo., interview with writer, 1970; Mr. and Mrs. Fabian, interview; Mr. and Mrs. Budge, interview.

CHAPTER III

Horace M. Albright and the 1923 Meeting

Yellowstone, the first national park, was established in 1872. In 1891, a forest reserve was set up adjacent to and south of Yellowstone; this reserve included portions of the Grand Teton range. The U.S. Department of the Interior administered this preserve until 1905, when the U.S. Forest Service was established and the forest reserves (national forests) were transferred to its administration under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. As early as 1898, Dr. Charles D. Walcott, Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, recommended that the magnificent Grand Tetons and Jackson Hole, north of the Gros Ventre River, be made a national park. He recommended that the area either be added to Yellowstone or be established as a separate park. Also, that same year, H.R. 7703, "To Extend the limits of the Yellowstone National Park," was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on February 4.

Again in 1902 the U.S. Congress showed some interest in preserving the region, including Jackson Hole. But no action followed. From time to time writers, such as Owen Wister and Emerson Hough (Saturday Evening Post), would urge that the valley be preserved for the future. J.R. Jones, as early as 1909 when he was still a camp cook for dudes in Jackson Hole, began trying

to influence his guests in the idea of preserving the area.¹

Then, in 1916, Stephen T. Mather, the first director of the newly-established National Park Service, and his principal assistant, Horace M. Albright, visited Jackson Hole. They spent one night at the cabin camp of Ben Sheffield at the Jackson Lake Dam. The idea was not new to them, but both men reaffirmed the thought that someday Jackson Hole and the Grand Tetons must come into the National Park System. The following winter they discussed this idea with members of the Wyoming delegation in Washington, D.C. While these Wyoming people agreed that Jackson Hole was primarily suited to recreation, they reserved some concern for the continuation of elk hunting.²

Two years later, 1918, Albright again visited Jackson Hole. He met Richard Winger, a Jackson newspaper editor, who indicated that he supported the concept of preserving the area. Although the two men struck up a lasting friendship, Winger retained reservations for a few more years about the National Park Service's

1. Hayden, pp.267-68; J.R. Jones, "Some Notes on the Creation of the Grand Teton National Park," typescript, OAHP Files, NPS, Washington, D.C., pp.1-2; John Ise, Our National Park Policy, A Critical History (Baltimore, 1961), p.490; Donald C. Swain, Wilderness Defender, Horace M. Albright and Conservation (Chicago, 1970), p.114; Edmund B. Rogers, compiler, History of Legislation Relating to the National Park System Through the 82d Congress, 39 (1958).

2. House Documents, 78th Congress, 1st Session, Hearings Before the Committee on the Public Lands, House of Representatives, Seventy-Eighth Congress, 1st Session, on HR 2241, To Abolish the Jackson Hole National Monument, Wyo. (1943). Testimony of Horace M. Albright, p. 278.

administering any such preserve, as he clearly indicated in his later testimony before the U.S. Congress (see page 24). For the moment, Albright did not know that his concepts had very few supporters in Jackson Hole.

In the following year, a bill for the addition of the Tetons and for the Hole north of Buffalo Fork to Yellowstone National Park passed the House of Representatives. However, due to an unwarranted concern by Idaho Senator John F. Nugent, who erroneously thought that it would exclude Idaho sheep ranchers from the west slope of the range, the bill was held up in the Senate. By the time Senator Nugent learned that he need not be concerned, a filibuster was taking place in the Senate and no more bills passed that session.

That same year, 1919, Mather appointed Albright as the superintendent of Yellowstone. In addition, Albright had the responsibility for overseeing the operations of all the Western parks. (Actually, Albright was Acting Director for substantial periods of time the next few years because of the repeated, serious illness of Mather.) On his way to Yellowstone, Albright visited Wyoming's Governor Robert D. Carey at Cheyenne. He came away in the belief that Carey approved of the idea of developing Jackson Hole for tourists. In August, Governor Carey visited Yellowstone and told Albright that a public meeting would be held at Jackson to discuss the idea of preserving Jackson Hole. Albright decided that he would attend and make a presentation in favor of a national park.

As soon as Albright concluded his descriptive talk that evening on the benefits of national park status and how good roads would open up the valley, he found himself facing 100 angry dude ranchers and cattlemen. Development was the last thing they wanted. They did not wish to have outsiders swarming over their valley. The attack on a surprised Albright was long and vicious. Among its leaders were Struthers Burt and Dr. Horace Carncross. Yellowstone's superintendent later recalled the evening as "one of the roughest meetings I have ever seen." J.R. Jones later recalled that as a result of his enthusiasm for Albright's speech he was told that he "had better leave the country." As for Albright, he vowed to himself to continue to struggle for a national park.³

Despite this set-back, a gradual diminishing, but not an extinction, of the tumult took place during the early 1920s. While cattlemen continued to oppose the idea, their cries were not quite so loud. The good beef prices of World War I had disappeared. Many ranchers had to mortgage their ranches and herds. Moreover, some of the dude ranchers, dismayed by the appearance of honky-tonks and telephone lines along a road that the Forest Service had built to Jenny Lake in 1923, started having second thoughts about the need for preserving the best of Jackson Hole.

3. Swain, pp. 115-16; Jones, p. 3; Horace Albright, interview with Asst. Supt. Robert C. Haraden and Chief Naturalist Willard E. Dilley, at Grand Teton NP, Sept. 12, 1967; House Documents, Hearings... on HR 2241, p. 279.

Meanwhile, Albright continued to influence potential supporters. In 1921, Interior Secretary Albert B. Fall toured the area, and Albright let him absorb the magnificence of the landscape and the need to preserve it. Two years later, Albright escorted President Harding through Yellowstone. The President viewed the Grand Tetons from afar and he too supported the extension of Yellowstone. But Harding died a few weeks later.⁴

The first important convert among the valley inhabitants was Struthers Burt. Albright spent the winter of 1919-20 at Washington, D.C. Burt, back in Philadelphia, came down to Washington and met with Albright at the Cosmos Club. Albright carefully worded his conversation so that he and Burt would find a common ground for discussion. Burt absorbed it all and told Albright that he was ready to make peace and that he had concluded that only the National Park Service could save Jackson Hole. Dr. Carncross, as Burt's partner, also came around to the same idea. From then on the Bar BC ranch was Albright's base of operations when he visited Jackson Hole.⁵

By 1922, J.R. Jones was operating a grocery store in Jackson. He learned that Jack Eynon, a rancher, had come around to favoring the preservation of Jackson Hole. Apparently, about this time, Jones also learned that Winger was a supporter of some kind of

4. Swain, pp. 144 and 152; Albright, interview, 1967; Margaret and Olaus Murie, Wapiti Wilderness (New York, 1966) pp. 116-17.

5. Albright, interview with writer, 1970.

management. Jones wrote Burt in Philadelphia mentioning these first two names. The record is not clear as to the getting together of these people. But by 1923 they had agreed to invite Superintendent Albright down from Yellowstone to discuss a plan of action. The meeting was to be held at Maud Noble's cabin on July 26.⁶

Two reasons have been given for the selection of Miss Maud's cabin. In the first place, it was a part-way point between Superintendent Albright's headquarters at Mammoth and those participants who lived in Jackson. (To be sure, Menor's Ferry was much closer to Jackson than to Yellowstone.) Secondly, the participants from Jackson Hole felt the need for secrecy. Many of their neighbors were still against all ideas of management, especially if the Federal Government were involved in any way.⁷

Maud Noble's role in that meeting was that of hostess. She made her living room available. She might even have served coffee and food — there is no clear account of her activities that evening. While she too supported the idea of saving the Hole, there are conflicting statements as to whether she actually took part in the discussion.

Albright and his secretary, Joe Joffe, arrived at the Noble

6. Jones, p.5. Jones is the only source that gives a date for the meeting. When writing his "notes," he put down at this point in his narrative "*As soon as I can consult my diary I will give the exact date." Written in ink at the bottom of the page is "*July 26, 1923."

7. Albright, interview, 1970.

place and found there: Struthers Burt, Horace Carncross, J.R. Jones, Richard Winger, and Jack Eynon. These men also represented a few other ranchers who had not been able to attend. They informed Albright that they favored the preservation of Jackson Hole as a recreation area, but they were still not in favor of the extension of Yellowstone National Park. Their plan, as they presented it to Albright that night, was to raise sufficient money to send some of them East where they would attempt to raise enough funds from rich friends and their rich friends to purchase the ranches in the Hole north of Jackson. A study of their accounts indicates that none of them had thought much beyond that as to the kind of management that would be needed from then on. They felt that some cattle ranching could be carried on so that visitors could witness that way of life. Also, they saw the value of preserving wildlife, again for the visitor's enjoyment.⁸

Albright listened. He did not think it would be appropriate for him to counter with an argument to extend the boundaries of Yellowstone. He decided that the general tone of the meeting was compatible with his own hopes: "I didn't object to those things. They even suggested including the town of Jackson" as a frontier town. "I told the group," he continued, "the Park Service would, I was sure, contribute anything it could in the

8. Other ranchers, not present but in support of the general concept, included at least Henry Stewart of the JY Ranch and Cy Ferrin on Spread Creek. Albright, interview, 1967.

way of planning." His private thoughts at that time were: "I'm happy to get anything we can get, if we can get support from the local people. If they want a recreation area that's part way; someday it will be a National Park because that would be about the only way you could administer it. So it was up to me to participate and go along and agree to do what I could to help although a Park wasn't mentioned."⁹

Although Albright was not as optimistic as the others that they could easily raise the million dollars or so that would be needed, he agreed to raise the necessary travel money. Through friends, including Director Mather, and by digging into his own pocket, he managed to obtain \$2,300. Richard Winger and Jack Eynon went East that fall. Albright's practical view proved correct. The two men were not able to acquire pledges that came anywhere near the amount of money needed.

One is tempted to dwell on the continuing story leading to the establishment of today's Grand Teton National Park: the visits of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Albright's dream and hard work, the Snake River Land Company and Harold P. Fabian, the purchase of 35,000 acres for well over one million dollars by Rockefeller, the continuing opposition of many people in Wyoming, the establishment of a small Grand Teton National Park (the mountains and lakes only) in 1929, the establishment of Jackson Hole National Monument in 1943, the attempt by the U.S. Congress

9. Albright, interview, 1967.

to abolish Jackson Hole National Monument, and finally the culmination of the long struggle with the establishment of today's park in 1950. Horace Albright today, looking back on his National Park Service career, considers the establishment of the Park to be one of his three greatest contributions to the NPS. (The other two are his contribution toward the founding and building of the National Park Service and his contribution toward the introduction of history and historic preservation in the NPS.)¹⁰

Two additional notes from the Albright records concerning the meeting at the Noble cabin should be noted. When the Rockefeller family (John D., Jr., his wife, and three of the boys: Lawrance, Winthrop, and David) and Albright visited Jackson Hole in 1926, they stopped at a viewpoint:

We could see in both directions all over the valley, clear down to Blacktail Butte and beyond; a gorgeous day; we could see everywhere very clearly. I can remember we could see the haystacks in or near the May property over at the edge of Blacktail Butte. And while we stood there, all of them more or less breathless at the beauty and vast extent of the country, I told them about our plan. I was talking about the 1923 plan but I added, of course, that some day it should be a national park. I was honest with them; I told them the recreation plan, exactly what we did at Mrs. Noble's cabin. I called it a "dream" but I said our dream faded away: nothing came of.

10. Albright, interview, 1970.

it. They never said a word, any of them!¹¹

Later, when the Snake River Land Company began purchasing ranches in the Hole, Rockefeller's name was kept a secret at first. In order to maintain this secrecy the belief was allowed to develop that what was happening was a follow-up to the recreation scheme discussed at Miss Noble's in 1923.¹²

The report has already drawn from Albright's recollections and evaluations of the meeting at the Noble cabin. Several others who were participants have also recorded their memories of that evening. One of these was J.R. Jones. His account differs in some detail from the above narrative:

This meeting took place at Menors Ferry in a log cabin belonging to Miss Noble. * * * In a discussion of the question Dick Winger still maintained that all that was needed to put the deal across was for him to make a trip East. * * * Mr. Albright advised that the plan could best be put through by taking portions at a time and asked Mr. Winger to help support his plan of asking first for the inclusion of the Teton Mountain range. Mr. Winger who up until this time had opposed any form of Park Extension that did not include all of Jackson Hole reluctantly [sic] agreed to do this. Mr. Winger was so sure of raising the money for the big plan and putting the entire deal through before the first of the coming year that it was agreed that we would

11. Albright, interview, 1967 and 1970. Mr. Albright repeated this narrative to the writer. When he said "I had a dream," one could well imagine the spell cast on the Rockefellers by both the scenery and the conviction in Albright's voice. At that time, Albright felt he had failed to make an impression on Rockefeller. He could not have been more wrong.

12. Ibid., 1967 and 1970.

endeavor to raise the money to send Winger and Eynon back East that Fall to see what they could do. Most of the money for the trip East, some \$2,000.00, was raised through the efforts of Mr. Albright. [Jones recalls that Albright said that their plan would take 5 years rather than 3 months.] The money raised by Mr. Albright was sent to me and later forwarded to a bank in Iowa and placed to the credit of Winger. This was done so as to avoid any local comment or give an inkling to Winger's and Eynon's trip East.

Jones added that after the meeting at Miss Noble's cabin, at least some of the participants met again that same night at his residence in Jackson. Here they pledged themselves to fight unceasingly for the plan. He and Winger were the only persons to mention this second meeting.¹³

J. L. Eynon testified in 1933 at a U.S. Senate hearing concerning the 1923 meeting. During his testimony, Committee Counsel John C. Pickett interjected several questions. Eynon responded:

I think that Mr. Burt first talked of this meeting, I am not right sure of that, but it was talked among Mr. Winger, myself and Jones at first here, and I think we arranged with Mr. Burt to have a meeting, and he arranged for Albright to be present at this meeting.

* * * * *

[Pickett] You were not so interested in the preservation of the wilderness as you were to sell your ranch?

13. Jones, pp. 6-8; Apple, pp.127-28. In 1960, Winger told Historian Apple that the meeting at the Maud Noble cabin started between 7 and 8 p.m. and ended between 10 and 11 p.m. If correct, that would have made the alleged second meeting a mid-night affair.

[Eynon] I was interested in both of them.

[Pickett] Why was Mr. Albright called down to this meeting?

[Eynon] Well, we wanted to sell the — he was in the business, and we wanted to talk with him.¹⁴

Struthers Burt also testified at the hearings:

[Pickett] Tell us what happened at that meeting.

[Burt] Mr. Winger was our spokesman and stated our case. I had been sent up to talk to Albright in the meantime, the winter before I met him; he approved of this thing. We had no idea of what would happen to this land. Our only thought was if we could only get somebody to help us protect it. * * * Mr. Albright at that time said, "This is not going to be like a national park, it is going to be a western valley, kept decent."

[Senator Norbeck] Do I understand that the origin of this movement to protect the upper part of the basin against commercialization originated not with Albright, but with you people?

[Burt] Yes, sir; absolutely, Mr. Jones, Mr. Jack Eynon, Mr. Winger, my partner Dr. Carncross, who is now dead, and Miss Noble.

Another decade later, in 1944, Burt made another brief reference to the meeting: "I was one of the original group of Wyoming citizens, land owners and residents of Jackson Hole, old-timers, and representing all the interests of the valley, but predominantly stock, who met twenty-one years ago and first formulated 'The Jackson Hole Plan'." He also wrote: "There was

14. Senate Documents, Hearings Before a Subcommittee of the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys, United States Senate, 73rd Congress, 2d Session, Aug. 7-10, 1933. Investigation of Proposed Enlargement of the Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks (Washington, 1934), pp.26-27.

just one negative vote, and that was cast by a fine old-timer who afterwards boasted that for twenty years he had never voted aye to anything." One has to wonder as to this "old-timer's" identity. None of the known participants seems to have fit his image.¹⁵

Richard Winger too was called upon to testify. Pickett asked him to give his version of what transpired at the Noble cabin and to give the reason for the meeting. Winger responded at length, some of his details being at variance with other accounts:

While I was engaged in the newspaper business in Jackson . . . I think it was '17 -- the question of the extension of the Yellowstone National Park was brought to the front. My first recollection . . . was an article . . . in the Saturday Evening Post . . . by the late Emerson Hough . . . he advocated a very substantial extension. . . . [Winger was then against that idea] and, I think, practically all the people in Jackson Hole [were against it]. I was very much opposed to the Yellowstone Park extension.

I was informed in the spring of 1923 by Mr. Burt that he had, during the winter, met with Mr. Albright in Washington and discussed this proposition with him, and that he found that Mr. Albright's ideas were a good deal along the ideas that Mr. Burt entertained for the development of the country. In other words, Mr. Albright's idea for including all that area; including the Tetons and the country north of the Buffalo River was then not so much to open it up and create new loop roads, and so forth, as it was

15. Ibid., pp. 9-10; Struthers Burt, "The Jackson Hole Plan," reprinted from Nov.-Dec, 1944, Outdoor America, and published in National Park Service, Compendium of Important Papers Covering Negotiations in the Establishment and Administration of the Jackson Hole National Monument, Wyoming (4 vols., Chicago, 1945).

to preserve that very thing, to sort of preserve it as it was.

* * * * *

In talking with Mr. Eynon in reference to the correspondence he had had with Mr. Burt, in which he had urged us to change our views toward the park matter, we were both agreed that we did not like the park and we could not share Struthers Burt's views. Mr. Eynon had . . . told me . . . of some of his early hunting trips in the valley with H.N. Hanna, a brother of Mark Hanna. * * * At that early date, Mr. Hanna had seen the necessity of preserving part of this country for the game, and he had urged that if that was not done at that time it would be increasingly difficult to do it because of settlement. That gave me an idea when we were talking, and I said, "I suppose that they could never do that now," and he said, "Well, I don't know," and then we started talking about that, and we talked about whether it were possible or not. We came back to town that night and went to see Mr. J.R. Jones, a local merchant, and went in and discussed this matter with him. I might say that Mr. Jones from the first had always favored park extension.

* * * * *

We then took the matter up with Struthers Burt — I do not remember now how, whether it was by correspondence or personally — but he was quite enthusiastic about it, and he said that he wished we would talk to Mr. Albright about this, and he arranged a conference in July 1923 at Menor's Ferry with Mr. Albright. I was the spokesman, and I started out . . . saying to Mr. Albright that we had always opposed his park plans and that we could not agree to his park plans, but we had a plan in the making . . . which we thought was even greater than his plan. . . .

* * * * *

Another thing that was brought up and discussed, now, this may not have been at the meeting at Menor's Ferry, but it may have been late that same day, because we met again that same day in the residence of J.R. Jones, at which meeting all were present except J.L. Eynon. We told

Mr. Albright that we were submitting this plan in lieu of his plan, that we could not bring ourselves to a park-extension plan of that kind, but we felt that it was even bigger than his idea, and he agreed that it was even bigger, because he had no idea about any such thing. We discussed how this might be done. We asked that it be done only in this way -- to try to interest wealthy people in the East to put up the money to buy out these properties

* * * * *

Mr. Albright brought up the one suggestion or objection to our plan; he said, "If we agree to this, knowing that it will take 10 years or more to put such a plan as that across, what is to prevent in the meantime commercialism" That was a vital point, well taken. Mr. Albright said, "If this particular area could be segregated and a park created there to protect this particular territory in the meantime (referring to the Grand Teton mountains and the lakes at their feet, which were already threatened by irrigation plans and schemes for subdivision around the lakes), I would be for your larger plan and I would do all that I could to further it," but he said, "I think that you should withdraw your objection to the creation of a national park in the vicinity of the Tetons and the Jenny lake country, if I agree to that.

Mr. Albright argued that if we didn't do something with that particular area, in the course of years it would be impossible to put across our larger plan, and we agreed that that was probably true, and we agreed to withdraw our objection to the creation of the park for the protection of that particular section of the country.

* * * * *

Now, this plan was conceived in Jackson Hole. Mr. Albright knew nothing about it, so far as I know, except that he was invited to Menor's Ferry to consult with us, but I told him in my own words as best I could the first idea he ever had of it. The plan was ours and not his.

* * * * *

Another thing I might mention, at this meeting we all agreed to keep this absolutely secret until we discovered whether it would be possible to do this.

* * * * *

[He and Jack Eynon went back East to try to raise money] but we did finally reach the conclusion that it was all a dream and that it would never happen, and that no one would put up sufficient money to do this. 16

Winger's concluding sentence, above, dramatically sums up the efforts of the "pioneers" to save Jackson Hole. Yet, the meeting at Miss Noble's cabin was not without significance. While it did not have a direct bearing on the future establishment of the park, it did commemorate an important development. Four years earlier, the citizens of Jackson Hole were almost wholly united in hostility toward any idea of any control — either preservation or managed development — over the valley's future, particularly by the Federal Government. Now, some of the leaders of that opposition along with a small number of ranchers concluded that controlled development and administration were necessary, that recreation was a valid use of the Hole, and, for some of them at least, that the National Park Service could play a role.

Albright recognized that the meeting was beneficial. Ranchers had at last said that land could be purchased and saved

16. Ibid., pp. 150-58. Winger is also reported to have said, concerning the long controversy over Jackson Hole: "We don't have clean killings in Jackson Hole; we just worry each other to death." Murie, p.121.

for recreation. This was the first real indication that some of the low-county holdings could be obtained. Although most of these local supporters were not yet thinking of National Park Service control, Albright and the NPS now were encouraged to pursue the dream of a truly significant national park. The future would witness Albright's continuing dogged efforts combined with Rockefeller's concern. Perhaps the finest tribute to Albright's eventual success was written by John Ise:

Always deeply in love with the Grand Teton-Jackson Hole area, however, Albright never gave up. Jackson Hole was not to be secured until years later, but the Grand Tetons were added to the park system on February 26, 1929. Their addition was one of Albright's greatest achievements.

* * * * *

The moving spirit behind most of the Jackson Hole agitation was Horace Albright He was deeply in love with the scenery and worked persistently to save it from commercial debauchery.¹⁷

It would seem that from time to time too much has been claimed for the 1923 meeting at the Noble cabin. On the other hand, the meeting was not without significance. It cannot simply be dismissed.

17. Ise, pp. 328 and 492.

CHAPTER IV

Structural History

Harry Clissold built the log cabin for Miss Noble on Cottonwood Creek in 1916. In 1918, Clissold dismantled the structure and rebuilt it in a similar manner at its present location at Menor's Ferry. During the time that Maud Noble lived in it, including the time of the 1923 meeting, the appearance of the structure remained essentially unchanged. After she moved away, the house underwent several occupancies and usages, and modifications occurred.

During Miss Noble's occupancy, the house was L-shaped. The main section, located on a northeast-southwest axis (but referred to in this report as if it lay on a north-south axis), consisted of a living room at the north end, a middle room that may have been meant to be a kitchen but which was Miss Noble's bedroom, and a partly-enclosed porch at the south end. Miss Noble wrote: "In my day, there was . . . an inclosed porch out of my bedroom, with a most beautiful view of the mountains -- pink and gold in the early mornings." No kitchen was needed in the cabin at that time since, it is said, Miss Noble and Mr. Sandell took their meals over in the Menor house.

The ell, to the rear or toward the Snake River, consisted

of one bedroom, probably Sandell's. Miss Noble wrote that "there was a piazza outside (this) back bedroom." The existence of this piazza has been confirmed by the Budes who later lived in the cabin. The living room had a fireplace with an exterior stone chimney at its north end. The front door opened off the living room to the west, presenting another grand view of the Tetons. A small porch sheltered the doorway. Short benches, with backs, on either side of the door provided an attractive entrance.

Traces of window boxes are to be seen today, below the windows on the west side of the house. Despite Miss Noble's known love of flowers, there is some confusion as to whether these boxes existed during her time. These boxes will be discussed again. No chimneys other than the fireplace's existed. Early photographs show stovepipes projecting through the roof, including a photograph believed to be from Miss Noble's time. Later occupants did have a kitchen range and an oil heater, both equipped with simple stovepipes. Most likely, Miss Noble also had heating stoves, especially in the bedrooms.

In two letters that she wrote in 1950, Maud Noble referred to changes made in the roof while she was living there. Unfortunately her comments are not entirely clear. Perhaps architectural investigation will explain them. On the first occasion she wrote: "I am almost sure we had a double roof put on to hide the taking off (of) its eyebrows during my (temporary?) absence." Later she

complained about a photograph: "The photograph of the house is poor — short eaves, no rustic fence."¹ Perhaps, to Miss Noble, "the taking off its eyebrows" resulted in the "short eaves." The earliest photograph and later ones indicate that the roof was covered with roofing paper, laid up and down, and with the sheets on the back roof overlapping the front roof by a few inches in order to protect the ridge. Early illustrations do not indicate any shed roof over the doorway to the south porch. Such a roof does exist at the entrance today. Perhaps it was added when this porch was converted into a bedroom several years after Miss Noble left.

She and Sandell sold the house and property to the Snake River Land Company in 1929. The exact date of their moving is not known; but they were still there long enough that year to make friends with Superintendent Sam Woodring of the newly-established Grand Teton National Park (the small park).² The cabin did not suffer from neglect after their departure. A summary of subsequent occupants, functions, and modifications follows.

1. Maud Noble, letters, Feb. 5 and 25, 1950. See illustrations for various aspects of the structure described above. Illustration no. 1 is thought to be the one referred to by Miss Noble, above. If so, it is the only known photo dating from her occupancy. It shows the seats on either side of the doorway, but does not indicate window boxes or shutters. Of course, these could have been added between the time of the photograph and Miss Noble's moving away.

2. Senate Documents, Hearings, 73d Congress, 2d Session, 1933, p.169.

Reed Turner lived in the house after the Snake River Land Company acquired it. Jack Woodman followed him as a resident. Nothing else is known of this period. In 1937, Jim and Viola Budge and their sons moved into the house. Mrs. Budge was postmaster at the nearby Moose post office. Mr. Budge recalls finishing off the piazza in the corner of the ell as a bedroom for his sons. They converted Miss Noble's bedroom into a kitchen-dining room and boarded up the openings of the south porch. They used part of the porch as a woodshed and kept chickens in the remaining part.³

When World War II came along, Mr. Budge and his sons went on active duty. Mrs. Budge continued to live alone in the cabin until 1943, when she moved to Jackson. That same year, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Carmichael took up residence in the cabin and Mrs. Carmichael assumed the duties of postmaster. The Carmichaels continued to use the additional bedroom in the corner of the ell as such, and gave it the additional function as a storage area. The Carmichaels did not have chickens but they used the south porch area for storage. However, they used coal as a fuel, rather than wood.

They found that the fireplace in the living room failed to produce sufficient heat during Jackson Hole's cold winters. To solve this problem, the Carmichaels installed an oil stove (heating) in the living room next to the ell-bedroom wall.

3. Mr. and Mrs. Budge, interview.

Photographs show stovepipe for such a heater projecting through the roof. They also installed a large black cooking range in the southwest corner of their kitchen — Maud Noble's former bedroom. Again, photographs show a stovepipe projecting through the roof in this area. For a time Mrs. Carmichael continued to draw water from an outside well (discussed below). Later, she had a pump and sink installed in the southeast corner of the kitchen, thus providing the cabin's first interior water source. The Carmichaels were, naturally, quite proud of this installation and the convenience it offered.

Another change that Mrs. Carmichael was responsible for was today's white ceilings. When she moved in, the ceilings consisted of bare boards. They caused the rooms to be very dark and this bothered her greatly. As a result, the white ceilings shown in the photographs became a part of the house.

Mrs. Carmichael recalls today that the porch benches were already in place when she moved there. She is not so certain about the window boxes and the green shutters on the windows. It is her recollection that both these were added to the cabin when she lived there.⁴

The Carmichaels lived in this cabin for five years, until 1948. Following them a Mrs. Rush lived there for a time. She was an assistant to Mrs. Carmichael, and Mr. Rush worked for the

4. Mrs. Moseley, interview. After Mr. Carmichael died, his widow married Mr. J.B. Mosely. They live in Jackson Hole today.

National Park Service. Following this brief residency, the Noble cabin underwent a drastic change in function.

By 1947, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., had conveyed the lands he had purchased to the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., a non-profit corporation governed by a board of six trustees. The vice-president and manager of this corporation was Harold P. Fabian, who had been Rockefeller's attorney during the land purchasing. Mr. Fabian and his wife, Josephine, took a great interest in the history of Menor's buildings, the ferry, and the Noble cabin. By this time, too, the Noble cabin had fallen into disrepair and made a shabby presentation to visitors. The Fabians began to collect the history of the Menor's Ferry area and developed the idea of restoring the structures.

At first they concentrated on restoring the William Menor buildings and reconstructing the ferry itself. In June 1949, work was begun on these projects and was almost completed that fall. They then turned their attention to the Noble cabin. They decided that they would restore the exterior as much as possible and use the building as a pleasant tearoom for visitors to Jackson Hole.

Workmen put on new roofing and converted the ell bedroom and the additional bedroom (Budge's) into a kitchen, dishwashing area, and food storage space. They removed the partition between the living room and Miss Noble's former bedroom so as to make one large tea room for guests. The logs in this partition

were numbered and carefully stored in the event the partition might be replaced at some future time. Unfortunately, they apparently became lost in succeeding years.

After the National Park Service acquired this structure in 1953, a partition of vertical boards, having a doorway in its center, was rebuilt, again dividing the tea room into two rooms. However, the original partition was log and the doorway between the living room and Miss Noble's bedroom (later, kitchen) was toward the east end of that partition. This argument is based on the following evidence.

The report includes five photographs showing the interior of a furnished cabin. The photographic files at Grand Teton National Park identify these as being of the Noble cabin. The writer believes that there is sufficient architectural detail in these photographs to compare with the detail to be found in the cabin today and that they are indeed of the Noble cabin. Nonetheless, the details, such as notching, size of logs, nails, ceiling, etc., should be checked thoroughly by architects in order to confirm or deny the above conclusion.

According to calendars hanging on the walls, four of the pictures were taken in December 1949. The Rushes may have been living in the cabin at that time, which was the winter before the Fabians removed the partition between the living room and Miss Noble's former bedroom (a kitchen in 1949).

The two photographs showing the gray-bearded gentleman on the wall (made into an imperfect composite picture in this report, illustration no. 3) are, it is believed, the original south wall of the living room — a log partition similar to others found in the structure, and with the door to the former bedroom toward the east end of the wall rather than in the center of the modern wall as found today. It is believed that a careful check of the east wall of the living room in this area will disclose similar notchings, log sizes, etc., to those shown in the photograph of the wall containing a calendar and a mirror. Also, traces of the door jamb should still be present in the flooring once the modern partition is removed.

The two photographs showing overhead kitchen cabinets and shelves of dishes (made into an imperfect composite picture in this report, illustration no. 4) are, it is believed, the opposite side of the original partition. That is, this is Miss Noble's former bedroom which was used as a kitchen since the time the Budes moved into the cabin in the late 1930s. Again, architectural study of the side walls (east and west) will be important.

The fifth interior photograph (illustration no. 5) complements the above photographs in regard to construction details and by including the ceiling allows for further comparison with the structure today. It is, in the writer's opinion, another illustration of the original south wall of the living room. Since the ceiling is white and electrical fixtures are present,

the photograph must have been taken sometime after the Carmichaels installed the ceiling, mid-1940s, and before the Fabians removed the partition, 1950. But just who owned the furnishings is unknown.

Mr. Fabian had the workmen add a small room, reached by an outside door, to the northeast corner of the original ell bedroom. This small space contained a hot water heater. They also restored the seats at the front door and the window boxes, fixed up the south porch, and generally improved the appearance of the structure and its site.

A leaflet published at this time stated the philosophy behind the work accomplished: "The cabin had been preserved and kept intact and is being used to meet a demand for a quiet place to dine, near the Tetons, in the atmosphere of historic Jackson Hole. The former ranch name [the Ferry Ranch] had been revived and used to designate the title of the unique inn."

The Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., also had a brass plaque manufactured and placed on the outside wall near the front door. This plaque commemorated the 1923 meeting. While Chapter II of this report draws certain different conclusions concerning the significance of the 1923 meeting, it is recommended that the plaque be retained. It probably should be removed from the wall and placed on its own pedestal. One good location might be along the path that leads to the front door. Supplemental interpretive

media could refine the points of difference between the contents of the plaque and the conclusions in this report. The present text reads:

This cabin, erected on its present site in 1917 by Miss Maud Noble, has been preserved and renovated to commemorate a meeting held here on the evening of July 26, 1923, at which Mr. Struthers Burt, Dr. Horace Carncross, Mr. John E. Eynon, Mr. J.R. Jones and Mr. Richard Winger, all residents of Jackson Hole presented to Mr. Horace M. Albright, then superintendent of Yellowstone National Park, a plan for setting aside a portion of Jackson Hole as a national recreation area for the use and enjoyment of the people of the United States. The purpose of that plan has been accomplished by the establishment and enlargement of the Grand Teton National Park.

The broad vision and patriotic foresight of those who met here that July evening in 1923 will be increasingly appreciated by our country with the passing years.

Jackson Hole Preserve, Incorporated⁵

Mrs. Fabian oversaw the operation of the tea room for two summers, 1950 and 1951. The next year, the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., undertook the necessary steps to turn over the entire Menor's Ferry complex to the National Park Service's administration. (The enlarged Grand Teton National Park had become a fact in the fall of 1950.) In February 1953, Superintendent Edward D. Freeland wrote the NPS Regional Director, Region Two, that the Maud Noble cabin was suitable as a residence and that no alterations or

5. Apple, p.156; leaflet, "Menor's Ferry Restoration"; Mr. and Mrs. Fabian, interview; Harold P. Fabian, speech, Oct. 29, 1947.

changes were contemplated. One month later, the property was transferred to the United States.⁶

For sometime thereafter the National Park Service used the building as a residence for seasonal employees. During these years, some further modifications were made. A partition between the old living room and Miss Noble's bedroom was reinstalled. However, this wall was made with boards. The former ell bedroom, lately a kitchen for the tea room, was used as a kitchen. Much of the shelving and cupboards are still fastened to the walls today. A small closet was built in the northwest corner of Miss Noble's bedroom, the room now reverting to its original function. The semi-enclosed south porch was finished off as a second bedroom, and so remains today. The bedroom that the Budes had added (the piazza) became a bathroom. Today, electrical wiring and light fixtures are to be found within the structure.

Out-Buildings and Grounds

A well, just off the southeast corner of the house, supplied water from the time Miss Noble lived there until the Carmichaels installed a pump inside the building. A simple gable roof standing on posts sheltered the well. The user drew water by a bucket, rope, and crank. Once the pump was installed, the well fell into disuse. Today its walls are level with the ground,

6. Grand Teton NP Files, folder, "Menor's Ferry," containing correspondence pertaining to the transfer of the property, between Sept. 17, 1952, and Mar. 10, 1953.

its roof is gone, and a cover over it prevents accidents.

To the rear of the house stands a well-built, one-room log structure that has a lean-to addition of inferior construction. The main part of this out-building dates from the Noble period. However, photographs indicate that in Miss Noble's time the front of the building faced south. Today, it is turned 90° and its front faces the Noble cabin, i. e., the west. Probably designed to be a storage building, it is of fine enough workmanship to serve as a bedroom for hired help or guests. Mrs. Budge recalls that they used the building for storage when they lived there. The Carmichaels converted the building into a bedroom for hired help. The addition was made after their time, built either by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., or by the National Park Service.

The Budges recall that the outdoor toilet structure stood behind this building — that is, between it and the river. It does not exist today. Mr. Budge built a storage shed for wood and hay. It consisted of four posts covered with a gable roof, and was located a few yards to the southeast of the house. It too has disappeared. He also built a small barn in which he kept a cow. This building was moved away later.

Earlier, note was made of Maud Noble's love of flowers. In the general area west and north of the cabin, extending beyond today's parking lot, she and Sandell cultivated a large vegetable garden. Along with the vegetables, flowers

grew profusely. However, no information is available on the kinds of flowers grown, the arrangements of beds, and so forth. The one photograph extant from her time shows only a snow-covered front yard. Historian Apple has suggested that probably a water wheel in the Snake River lifted water to this area for irrigation.

At some time during her residency, Miss Noble had a rustic fence built around the cabin. Whether this fence was built before the first bridge in this area crossed the Snake is unknown. Once the bridge went into use, the road to it ran between the Noble cabin and the Menor buildings. It would seem likely that the fence was by then a necessity. Succeeding occupants have recalled a rustic fence, particularly in the area along the road. Today a fence runs along that area and continues across the front of the house. Whether any of it is original is unknown. Mr. Fabian recalls that he had the present gateway in that fence built when he was restoring the area, about 1950.

The fence today runs down to the river's edge. Thus, anyone walking along the river bank from the Menor buildings to the Noble cabin must climb the fence. In Maud Noble's time a road or path ran along the river behind her house. Although this lane would have made a pleasant walk up to the Menor place, she said that it was then closed: "I sent you a photograph of my house at the Ferry, also, one of the lane back of it along the river. It was closed at that time, but made a lovely

background to my place." The whereabouts of that picture is unknown at this time. The lane was still noticeable when the Carmichaels lived there; by then too there were trees and brush along the river. Today, one may walk through the woods and climb the fence; but one does not get the sense of a trail, probably due to an increase in the amount of vegetation.⁷

7. Mrs. Moseley, interview; Mr. and Mrs. Budge, interview; Apple, pp.83-85; Mr. and Mrs. Fabian, interview; Maud Noble, letters, Feb. 5 and 25, 1950.

CHAPTER V

Notes on Furnishings

Very few descriptions have been found of the cabin's furnishings during the time Miss Noble lived there. Horace Albright, the only survivor of the 1923 meeting, recalls that the furnishings were ordinary; nothing stood out to make one remember it.

Although from a prominent family, Maud Noble appears to have lived modestly in Jackson Hole. She did not engage in many social activities while there and would have been able to live comfortably amid modest surroundings. Although she and Mr. Sandell are said to have eaten their meals at the Menor house, such an arrangement would not preclude their having coffee and some light meals at the cabin.

At the time of the meeting Maud was, in Albright's reminiscences, "the hostess." Although he does not recall her doing so, Miss Noble might well have served coffee and cake to the men at the rather long meeting. Albright does recall that although it was a normal clear, July day, there was a fire lit that evening: "Miss Noble always liked to have a fire in the fireplace." When asked about the furnishings, he replied: "I remember it had a table and some chairs and we sat around in

those chairs. I didn't look the cabin over very much. I had been in at other times but was not in the habit of checking everything that was in a place like that."¹

Typical early-day furnishings in Jackson Hole have been described by Mrs. Hayden. While she described a slightly earlier period than 1923, many of the articles she mentioned were still to be found at the time of the meeting:

Crocheted rugs made with a hand-whittled hook, or braided rag mats and hides of bear, deer and elk served as rugs.

Bedsteads were made of poles with rawhide strips lashed from one side board to the other in lieu of springs.

* * * * *

Mattresses were home-made from ticking and stuffed with straw; and were usually topped with that comfort of the frontier, the featherbed. Quilts were of patchwork, the ever-present handiwork of women. When a housewife had pierced enough blocks for a quilt in her favorite pattern — True Love's Knot, Tea Bird, Bird's Nest or Dove at the Windows —, she sent one of her boys on horseback to invite the neighboring ladies to a quilting bee

Stoves and treadle sewing machines were the most modern conveniences of the pioneer home.

* * * * *

Often the kitchen range, the heart of the home, furnished the only heat; but some cabins had airtight stoves, which could take short logs of unsplit wood and hold a fire all night. Washing machines were a rarity. Most washings were done

1. Albright, interview, 1967.

on a board, and homemade soap was the only cleansing agent. Kerosene lamps and elk tallow candles supplied the light.

* * * * *

Every self-respecting household had a sourdough pot.

She added that in every house a bag of carpet rags always stood in a corner. During the winters, women sewed, knitted, and made rugs. In the summers, they tended their gardens.²

Pole furniture was common in Jackson Hole at the time Miss Maud Noble lived there. It is still popular today, nearly every household having at least a pole chair or a pole table. One of the best collections of pole furniture to be found in the valley today is said to be at the EW Ranch, in the beautiful home of Mrs. (Ramsay) McCabe.

W.C. Lawrence's museum in Jackson Hole has a few examples of household furnishings such as might have been found in Jackson Hole in the 1920s. Among them are a chair and a stand, both made of moose antlers. Also on display is a 1909 pot-bellied heating stove. (It should be noted that elk antlers are plentiful too and may also be used to create rather exotic-appearing stands, tables, and so forth.)

Bonney's Guide includes a description of the interior of Miss Noble's cabin at the time of the 1923 meeting. Although not documented, it perhaps should be considered: "During the

2. Hayden, pp. 205-08.

1923 meeting, fire place flames cast a warm glow across the Navajo rugs. A kerosene student lamp lit the table, 'showing rustic furnishings and rows of books neatly in their shelves'.³

In the preceding chapter, it was noted that several of the inhabitants of the cabin following Miss Noble used the south porch for coal storage, woodshed, and as a chicken coop. However, when Maud lived there, her bedroom was next to this porch. She recalled the magnificent view of the mountains that she had from the porch. Conjecturing on her comment, one concludes that in her time the porch was simply and neatly that. It seems feasible that it might have been furnished with a chair or two, perhaps a rocker, and even a few potted plants. Possibly, she, Mr. Sandell, and their guests sat there often watching the sun's light playing over the mountains.

It will be noticed that the cabin had no closets in its early days. The Carmichaels solved that problem by installing a large wardrobe against the west wall in the ell bedroom. Possibly Miss Noble had a similar solution, placing a wardrobe in each of the two bedrooms in use at that time.

The five interior photographs showing furnishings in the cabin need only be considered in a general way. They date from the late 1940s, almost 20 years after Miss Noble moved to another ranch. Yet they show, with a certain timelessness, a Jackson

3. Bonney's Guide, p.86

Hole cabin during that quiet time between the World Wars.

In the event no additional evidence concerning Maud Noble's household furnishings comes to light, the furnishings plan for the cabin as of 1923 will perforce be conjectural. However, it does not seem to be difficult to determine typical furnishings for a Jackson Hole cabin of that time.⁴

4. Mrs. Moseley, interview; Maud Noble, letters, Feb 5 and 25, 1950.

CHAPTER VI

Recommendations

Recommend:

That the partition between the living room and Miss Noble's bedroom be studied. It seems most probable (See illustrations 3, 4, and 5.) that the original partition was log, similar to other partitions in the structure.

That this wall and floor area be studied to determine, if possible, if the original doorway between the living room and Miss Noble's bedroom was off to the side, as shown in photographs, or in the center as it is today.

That the late-day closet in Miss Noble's bedroom be removed.

That the south room be restored to its original appearance as a semi-enclosed porch.

That the outside door to this south room and the roof sheltering this door be removed when the porch is restored.

That the Budge boys' bedroom be removed and that a conjectural "piazzza" be placed in the corner of the ell.

That the front door seats be rehabilitated.

That the traces of window boxes and the window shutters be removed — and saved. Should the evidence in this report be proven erroneous, these features could be rebuilt at that time.

That the small room for a water heater at the end of the ell be removed.

That the roof be returned to its original covering, which, from an early illustration, appears to have been roofing paper, laid vertically.

That the white ceiling material installed by the Carmichaels be removed.

That the well be restored and that a simple pitched roof on posts be erected over it.

That the addition to the outbuilding be removed. Any decision to move this structure around 90° to its original location should be based on a determination of practicability by historical architects.

That the brush between the cabin and the river be cleared.

That the furnishings plan be based on a typical Jackson Hole cabin of the 1920s.

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Maps and Illustrations

PLATE I

Earliest known photograph of Noble Cabin. It is thought that this picture was taken during Miss Noble's residency, probably in the 1920s. Note the absence of window shutters and window boxes. However, these features could possibly have been added between the time of the photo and the time Miss Noble moved away. Note also the out-building at extreme left; it sits at 90° difference today.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian

PLATE II

Menor's Ferry. Although the man standing on the ferry had been identified as William Menor, he is more likely to be Sydney Sandell, Maud Noble's partner. The date of the photograph is fairly well fixed at July 9, 1919, by which date Miss Noble had purchased the ferry.

Grand Teton NP, Photo Files

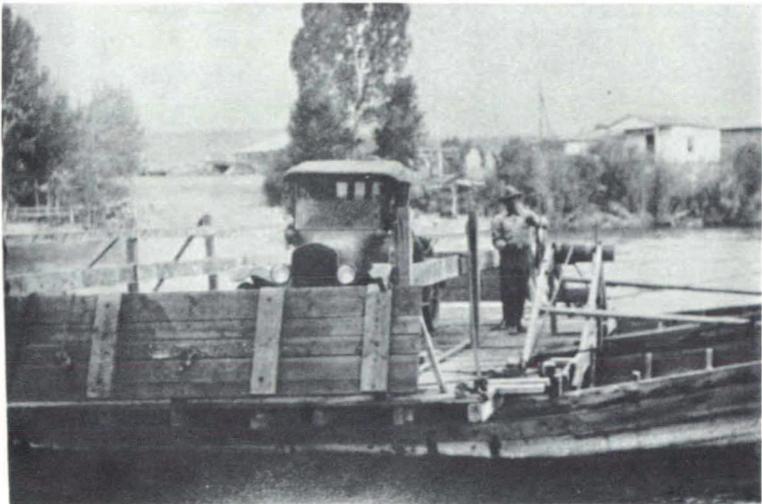


PLATE III

Composite photograph of original south wall of living room. According to a calendar on the wall, the picture was taken in 1949. Although this wall is board today and has a door in the middle (see illustration below), it originally was log and had a door toward the east end.

Grand Teton NP, Photo Files



PLATE IV

Composite photograph of original north wall of Miss Noble's bedroom (kitchen for later occupants). This is the reverse side of the wall shown in illustration no. III. Again, a calendar suggests that the picture was taken in 1949. The owner of the furnishings in this and in the preceding illustration has not been identified.

Grand Teton NP, Photo Files



PLATE V

Although not identified as to date or occupant, this is a photograph of the same south wall of the living room as shown in illustration no. III. The type of furnishings does not suggest Maud Noble. Could they be those of an NPS ranger?

Grand Teton NP, Photo Files



PLATE VI

Front (west side) of Maud Noble cabin on the eve of restoration by Harold P. Fabian, 1950. Note that shutters do appear, but window boxes are still absent.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE VII

Front of Noble Cabin before restoration in 1950. Bench seats and shutters are quite evident. The nearer chimney comes from the living room, the farther (and bent) one comes from the kitchen (formerly Miss Noble's bedroom).

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE VIII

Workmen reconstructing the benches and front porch during the 1950 restoration. Note at near end of structure the semi-enclosed porch has been restored to its original appearance.

Courtest, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE IX

North end of cabin showing fireplace and its chimney.
Photograph taken during 1950 restoration.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian

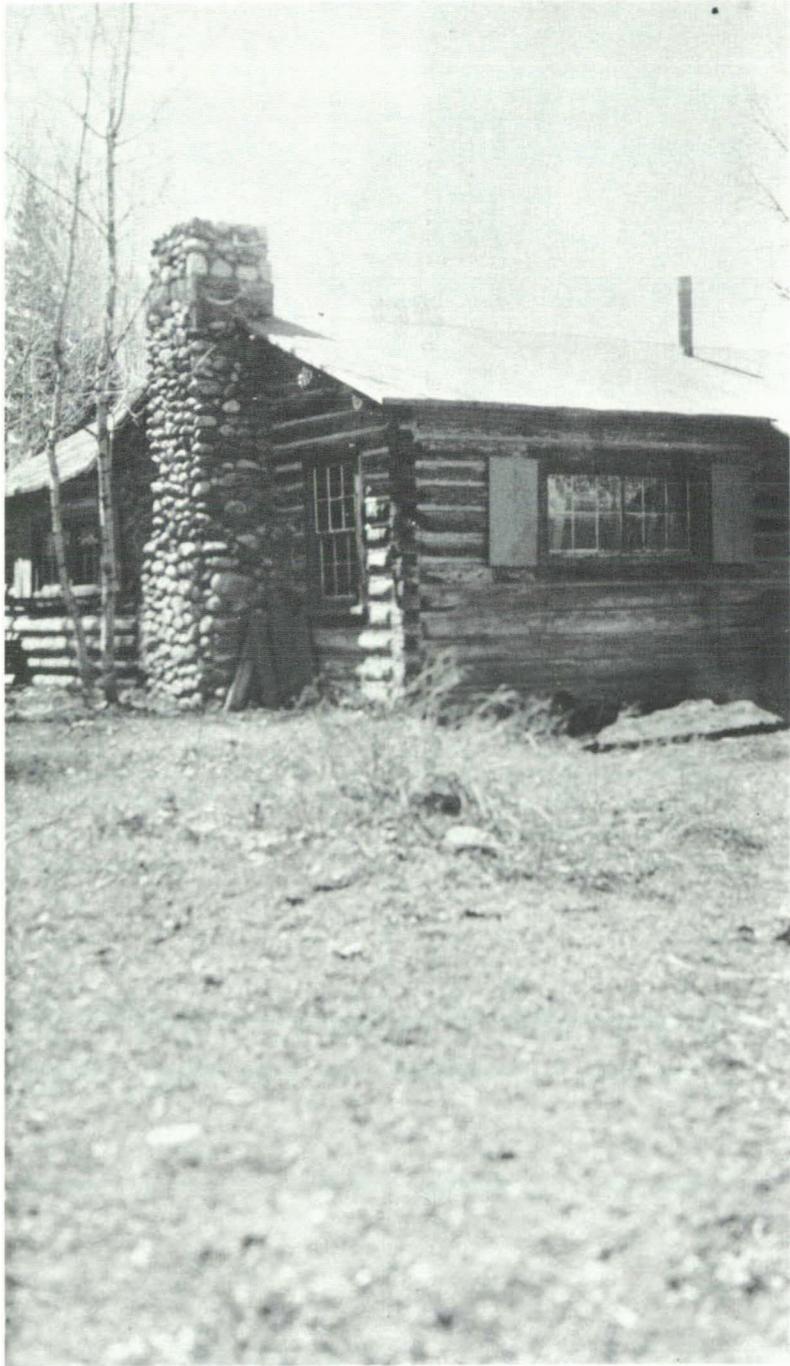


PLATE X

Rear (east side) of Noble Cabin just before 1950 restoration. Semi-enclosed porch, to left, is still boarded up. Standing just before it are the remains of the well casing. Tar paper is partly torn off the Budge boys' bedroom, originally a piazza. The shed to the far left no longer stands.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE XI

The semi-enclosed porch at south end of the Noble Cabin. Workmen restored it in 1950; later it was again changed into a room.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE XII

Restoration work on Noble Cabin, 1950. The new roofing was placed over the original tar paper.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE XIII

Noble Cabin and outbuilding, 1950. Note that the outbuilding then faced south; today it faces west, i.e., toward the house.

Courtesy, Mr. and Mrs. Harold P. Fabian



PLATE XIV

Entrance to Maud Noble Cabin today. The gateway was put in by Harold P. Fabian in 1950. The Snake River runs beyond the trees.



PLATE XV

The front of the Noble Cabin today. The former semi-enclosed porch at the near (south) end is finished off as a room.



PLATE XVI

The east side of the Noble Cabin today. The door leads into a room that was originally a piazza. The small addition at the right corner of the building is not original — it contained a hot-water heater. On the extreme right is a corner of the outbuilding which today faces the house. Originally it faced in the camera's direction.



PLATE XVII

Detail of chimney, fireplace, and window at north end of Noble cabin today.

Photo by Charles S. Pope



PLATE XVIII

North wall of living room, showing fireplace.

Photo by Charles S. Pope



PLATE XIX

South wall of living room in Noble Cabin. Originally this was a log wall with a doorway towards the left end. See illustrations III, IV, and V.

Photo by Charles S. Pope

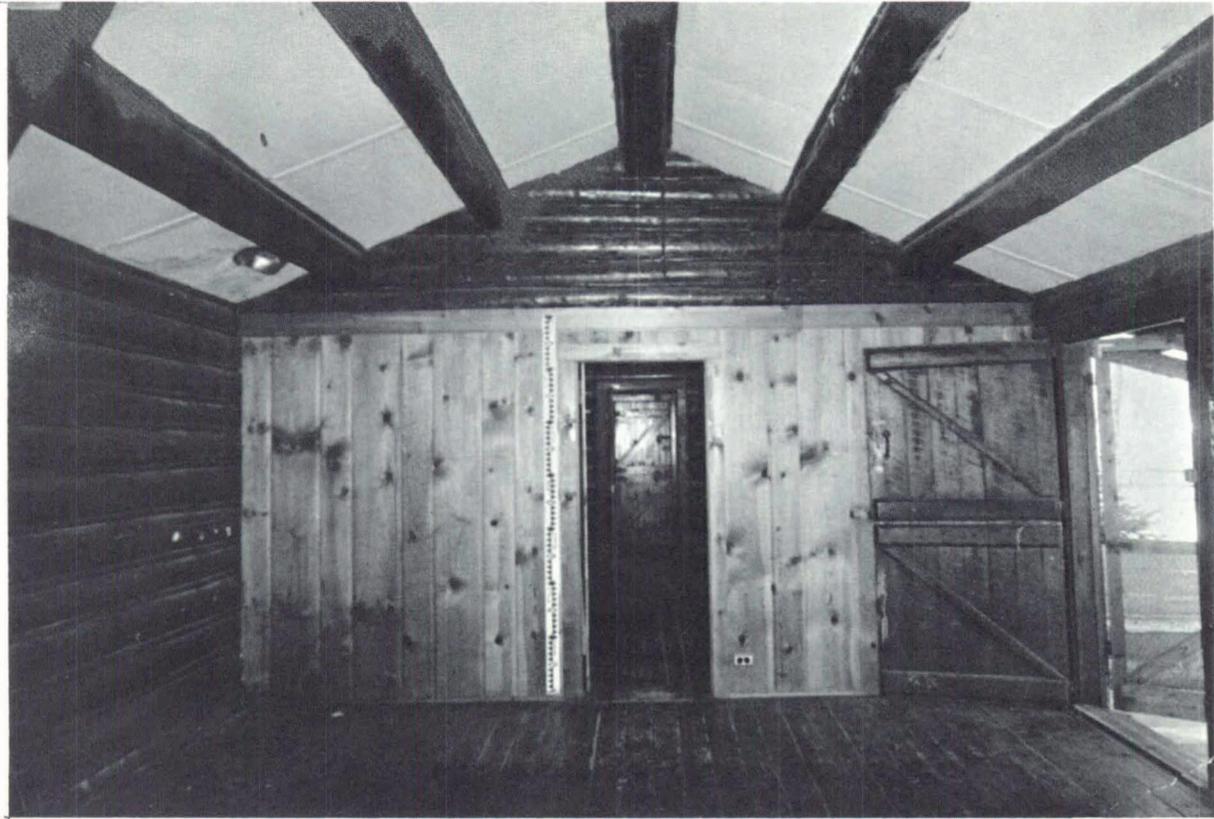


PLATE XX

East wall of living room showing the ell room beyond. Most recently a kitchen, the ell room was a bedroom when Maud Noble lived here.

Photo by Charles S. Pope



PLATE XXI

The middle room in the Noble Cabin today, looking east. This was Maud Noble's bedroom; later occupants used it as a kitchen. The wall to the left was originally a log partition.

Photo by Charles S. Pope

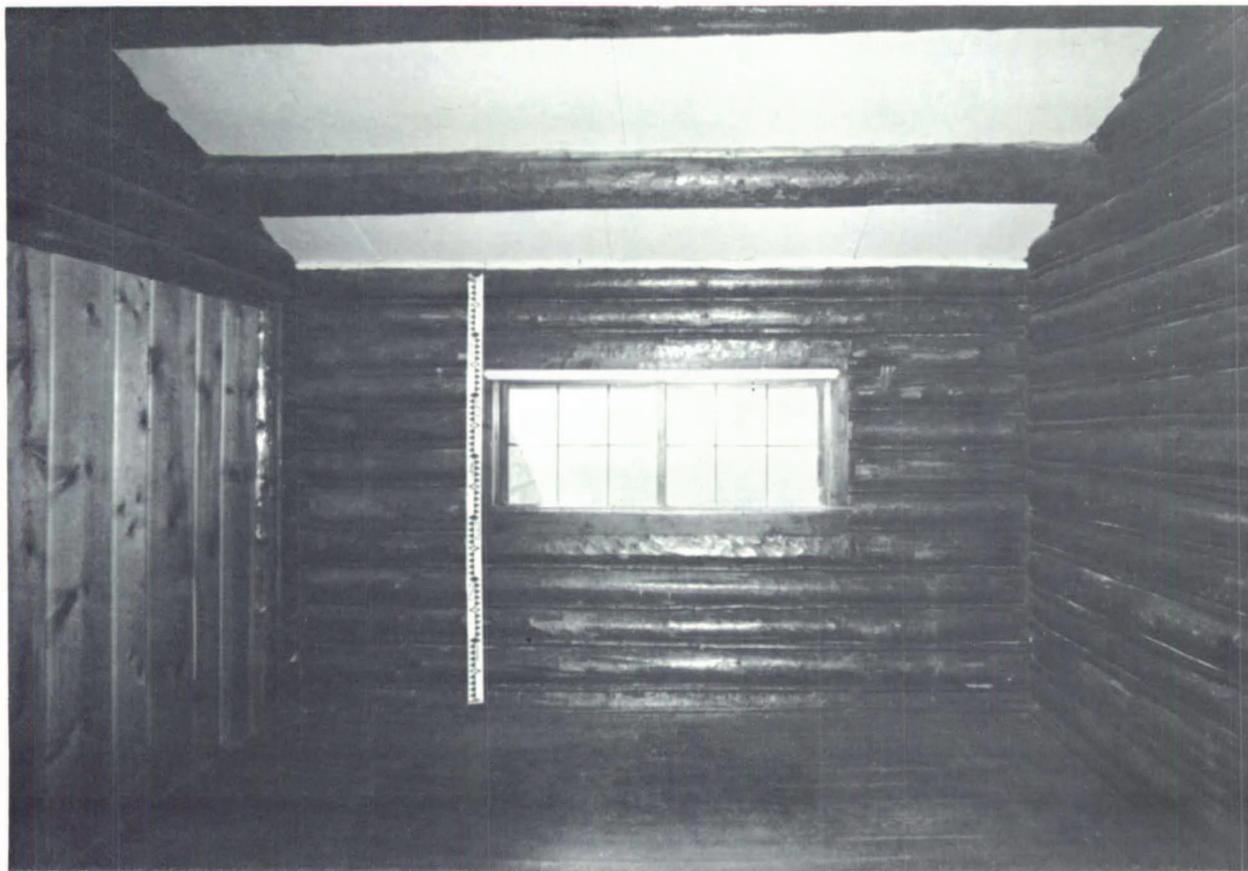


PLATE XXII

Looking east in the ell room, most recently used as a kitchen, but which was a bedroom during Miss Noble's time.

Photo by Charles S. Pope



PLATE XXIII

This small room at the south end of the Noble Cabin was originally a semi-enclosed porch. The foil ceiling is a recent touch.

Photo by Charles S. Pope



PLATE XXIV

The front of the outbuilding today faces west. Originally it faced south.
The board lean-to postdates Miss Noble's time.



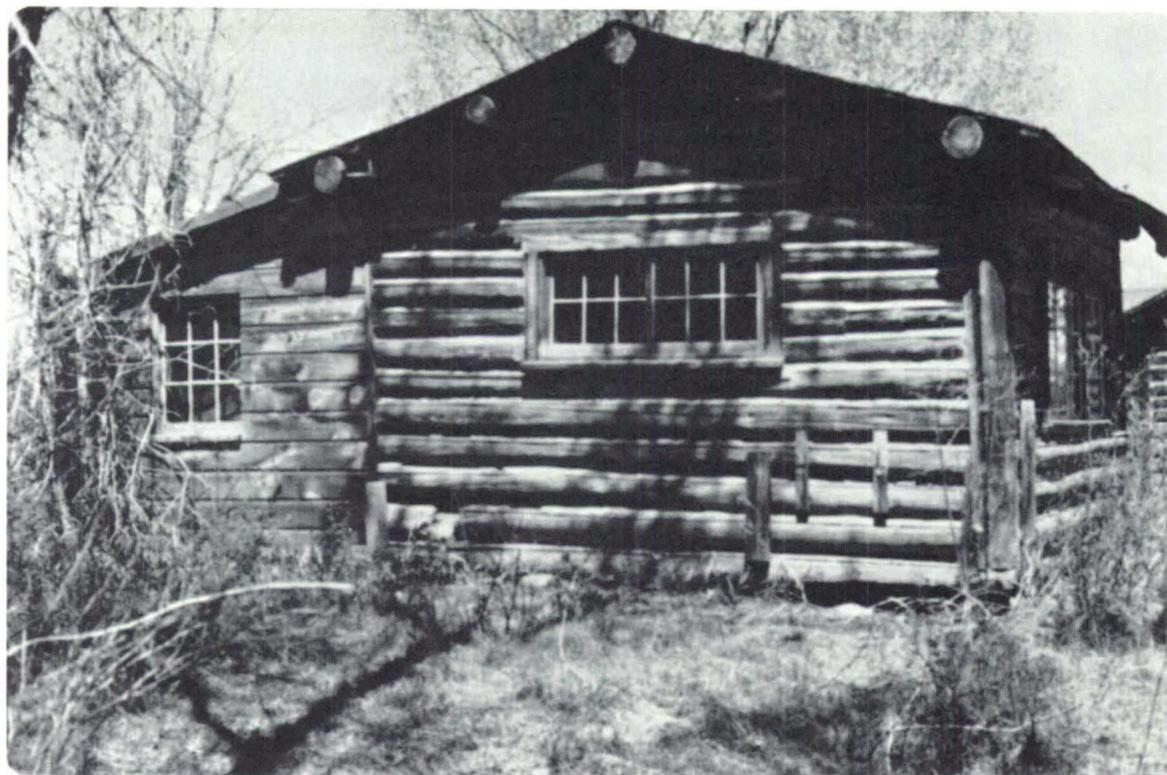
PLATE XXV

North side of the outbuilding today. This wall originally faced west. The roofing is modern.

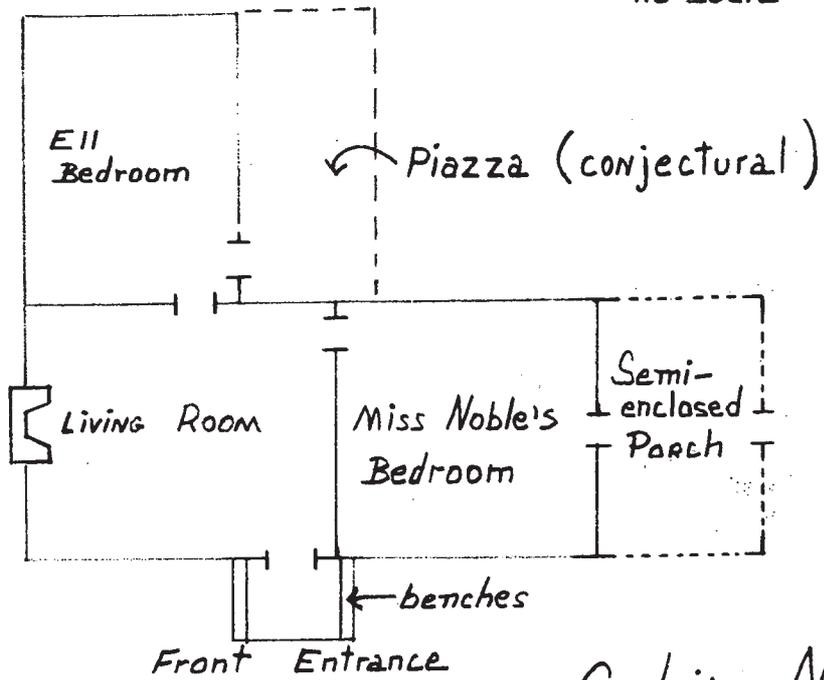


PLATE XXVI

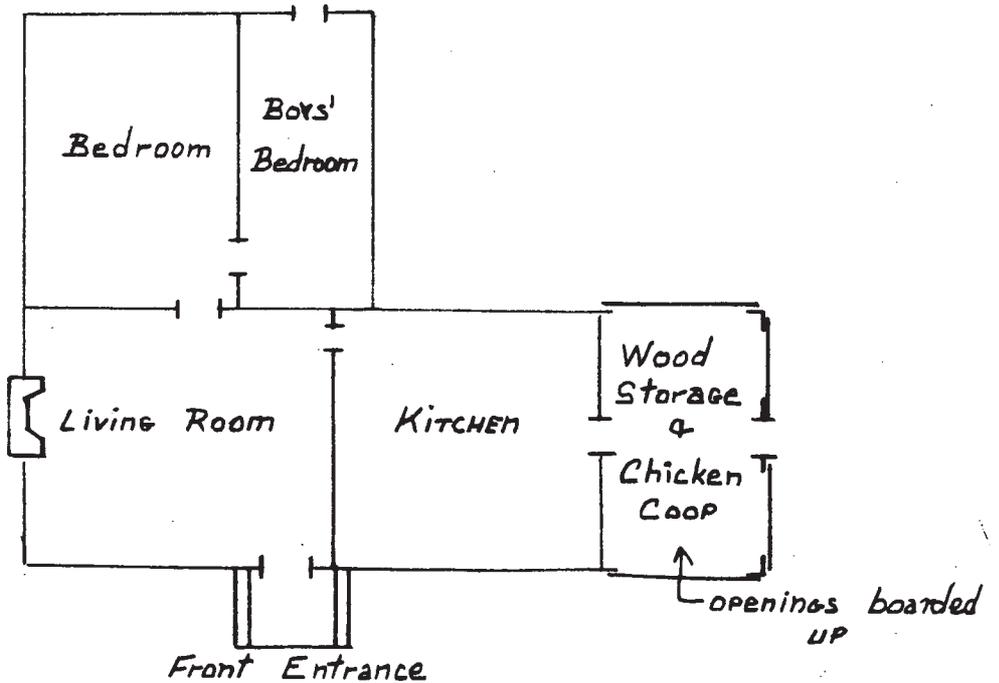
The east end of the outbuilding today. During Miss Noble's occupancy this wall faced north and the lean-to did not exist.



SCHEMATIC
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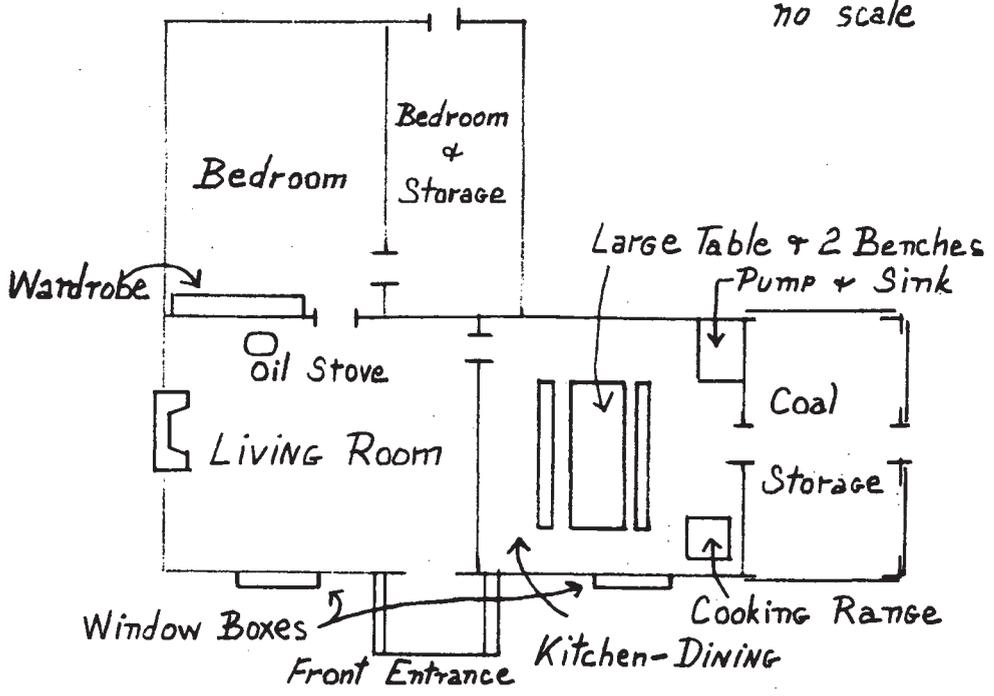


Cabin, Noble

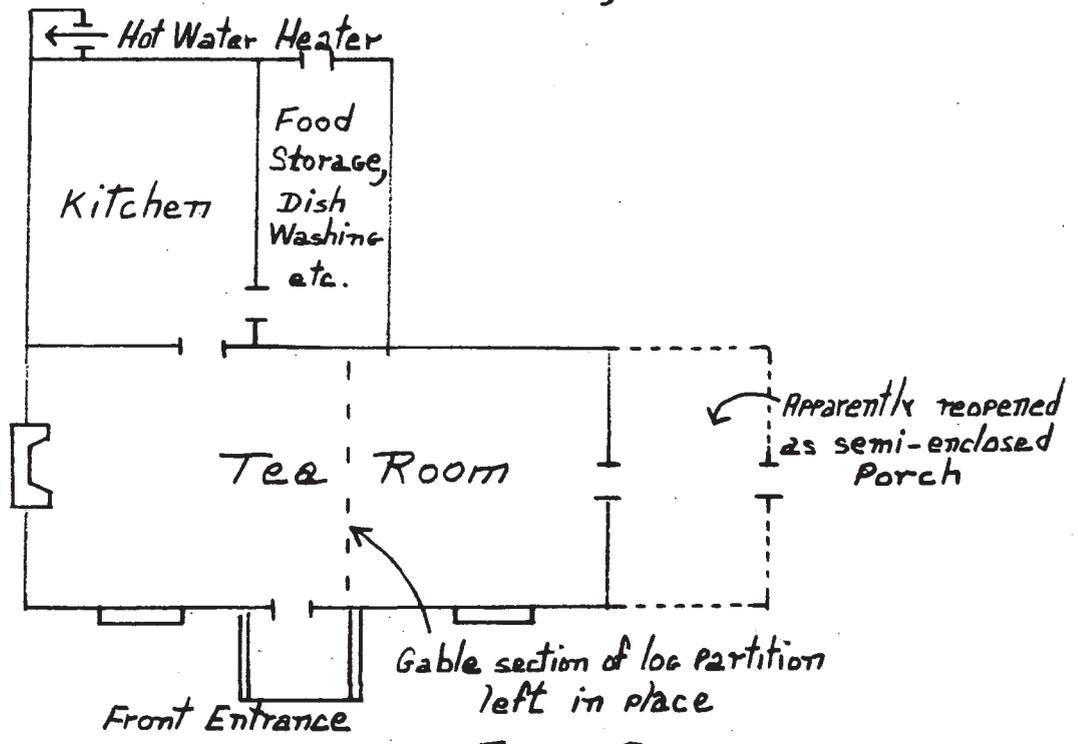


Cabin, Budge's

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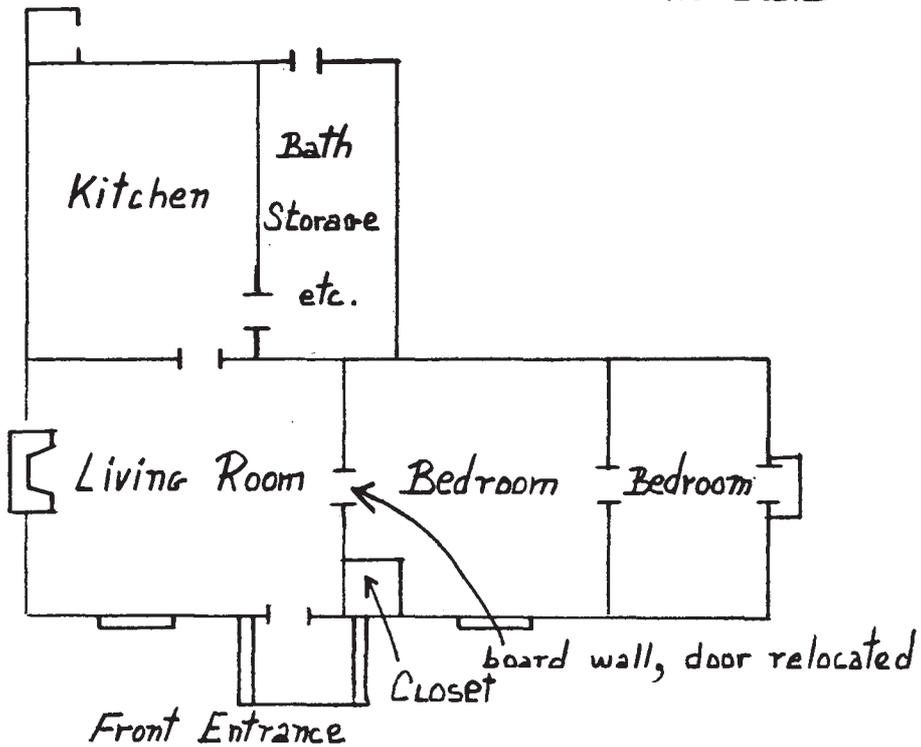


Cabin, Carmichaels



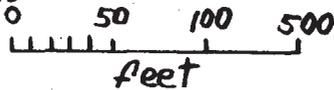
Cabin, Ferry Ranch Tea Room

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Cabin, National Park Service

TO CHAPEL OF TRANSFIGURATION & PARKING



MAUD NOBLE CABIN & MENOR'S FERRY

TEMPORARY VISITOR CENTER + RESTROOMS

MENOR'S HOUSE

ANCHOR

STEPS

SMOKEHOUSE

TOILET

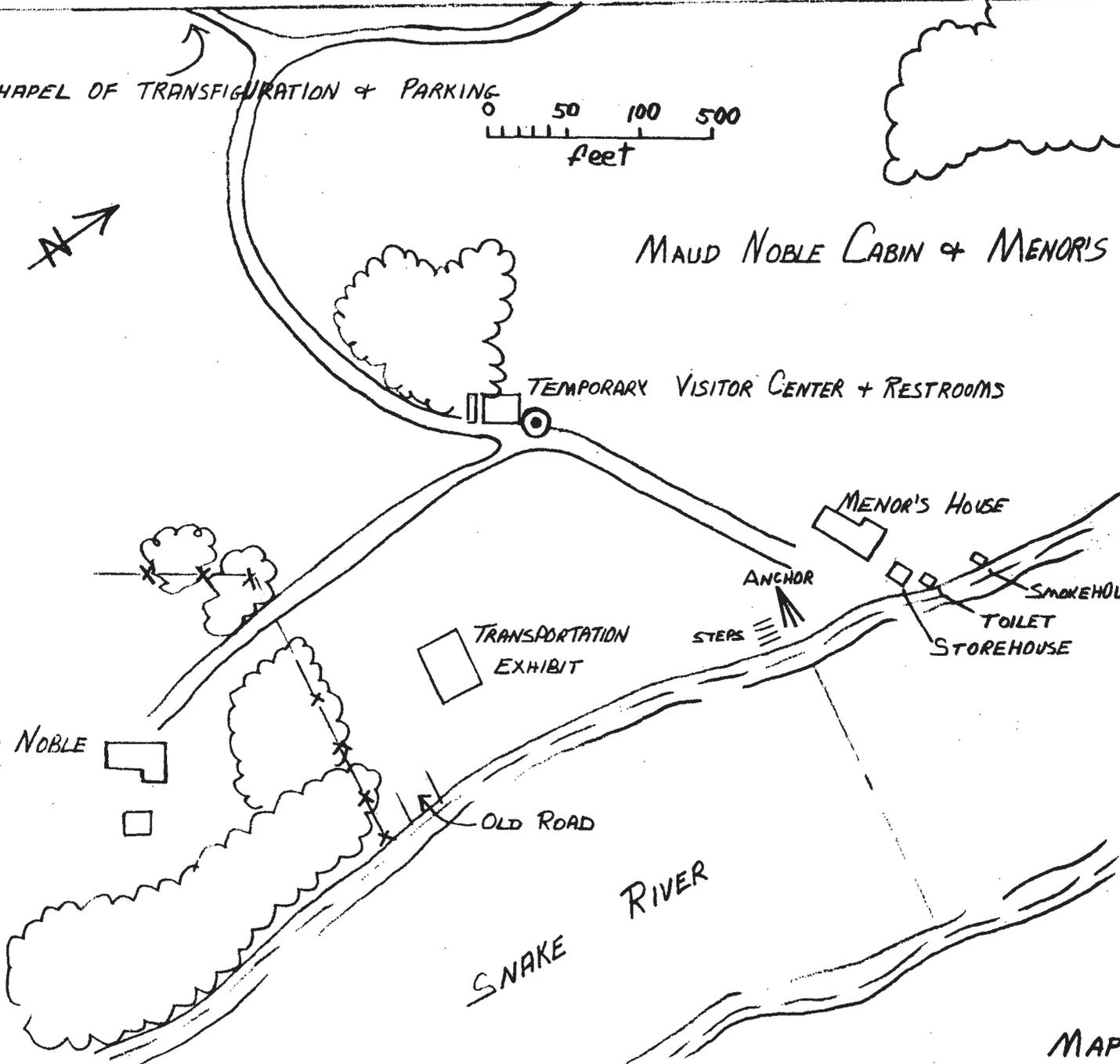
STOREHOUSE

TRANSPORTATION
EXHIBIT

MAUD NOBLE

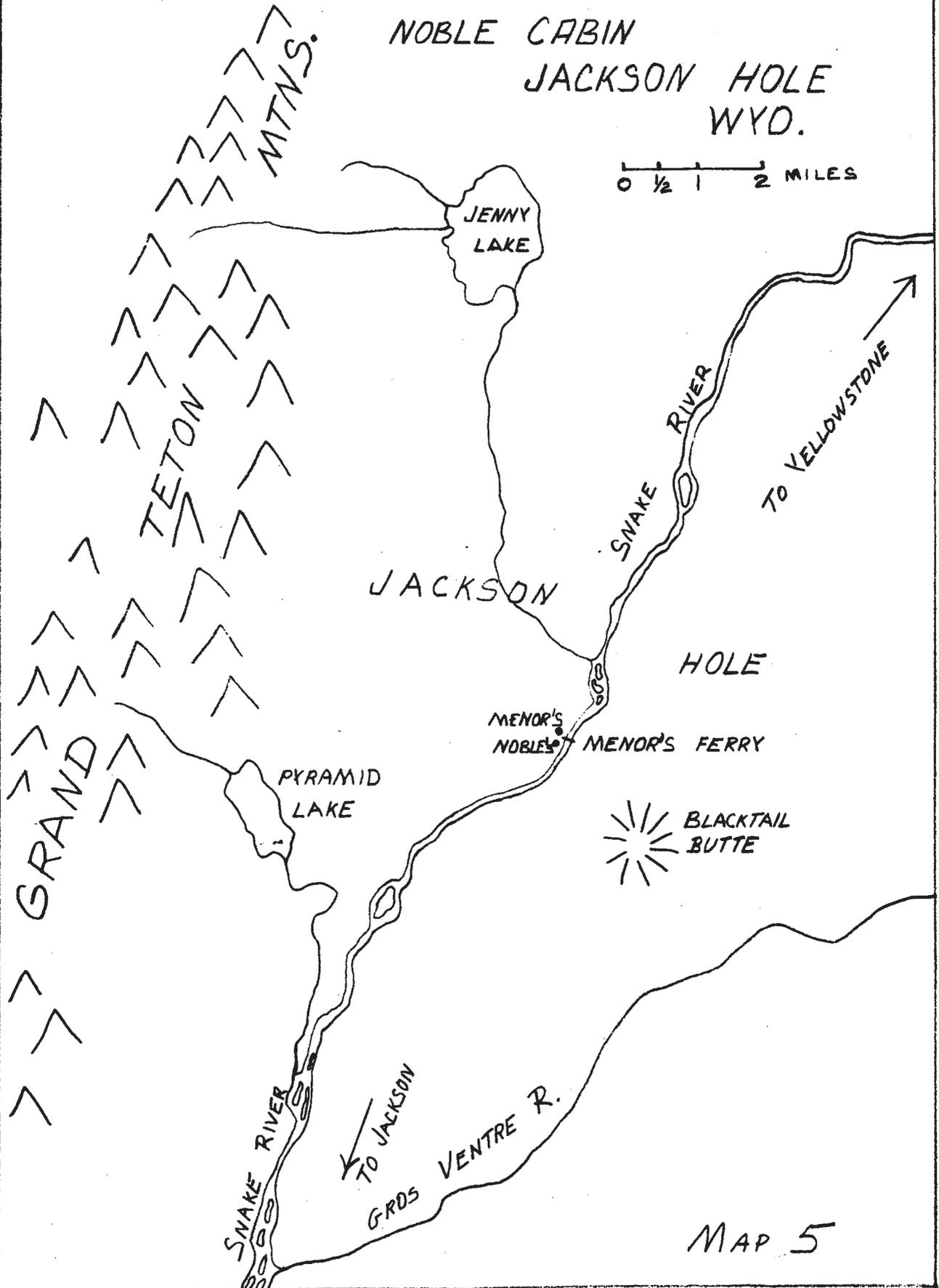
OLD ROAD

SNAKE RIVER



NOBLE CABIN
JACKSON HOLE
WYD.

0 1/2 1 2 MILES



MAP 5

