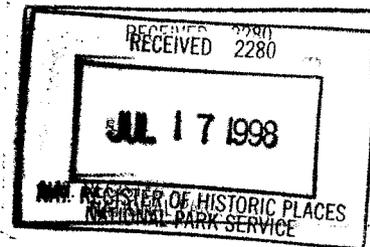


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM



1024

1. Name of Property

historic name: Death Canyon Barn

other name/site number: Death Canyon Patrol Cabin/Smithsonian #48TE1193

2. Location

street & number: 5 trail miles NW of Phelps Lake, near Alaska Basin

not for publication: n/a  
vicinity: X

city/town: Moose

state: Wyoming code: WY

county: code: 039

zip code: 83012

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Ronald M Greenberg  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7-9-98  
Date

Department of Interior, National Park Service

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Shirley Birkby-Wade  
Signature of commenting or other official

5/15/98  
Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- X entered in the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- other (explain)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Ronda McClure

8/25/98

Name of Property

County and State

**Ownership of Property:** Public-Federal

**Category of Property:** Building

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** N/A

**Name of related multiple property listing:** Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Listing

Number of Resources withiu Property		
Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	_____	bnilding(s)
_____	_____	sites
1	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
2	_____	Total

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:**  
Transportation/pedestrian related

**Current Function:**  
Transportation/pedestrian related

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:**  
Other: NPS Rustic

**Materials:**  
**foundation:** stone  
**walls:** log  
**roof:** wood  
**other:**

**Narrative Description**

The Death Canyon barn/patrol cabin and associated corral are located in the southwestern corner of the park, adjacent to Death Creek, and five trail miles northwest of Phelps Lake. The barn occupies a level bench along the Death Canyon Trail, between the steep ascent from the lake and Fox Creek Pass, at the Alaska Basin Trail junction. In locating the Death Canyon facility, NPS planners noted with approval that "trail crews can work in three directions . . . from this working base." Wild geranium and ferns grow among the tall, dense pine and fir trees that surround the site. The forest obstructs much of the view, except for a commanding vista of the northeast wall of Prospector Mountain. The barn and corral are clustered on the south side of the trail, next to the creek bed, while the modern outhouse is removed to the north, outside the site boundaries. The access road to the Death Canyon Trailhead diverges from the Moose Wilson Road approximately 4 miles north of Teton Village.

**Death Canyon Barn/Patrol Cabin (HS-DC7), constructed 1935**

The Death Canyon barn/patrol cabin is a one-and-one-half story log building with a rectangular footprint constructed on a substantial stone (granite) foundation. Logs are saddle-notched, daubed with mortar, and stained dark brown. The chopper-cut log ends extend 15"-24" beyond the protective reach of the eave line. In a classic NPS-rustic detail, the stone foundation extends 15" beyond the building corners to support the extended ends of the sill logs.

Wood shingles cover the side-gable roof, which features exposed log chopper-cut rafter and purlin ends (extending well beyond the eave) and a metal chimney located low in the west gable slope. Twelve-inch vertical planks

See continuation page.

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**8. Statement of Significance**


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**Applicable National Register Criteria:** A, C

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** N/A

**Significant Person(s):** N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:** N/A

**Areas of Significance:** Conservation; Architecture

**Period(s) of Significance:** 1935-1948

**Significant Dates:** ca. 1945

**Architect/Builder:** NPS Branch of Plans and Design/Civilian Conservation Corps for the National Park Service

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**
**Summary**

Like the barns/cabins at Upper Granite Canyon, Cascade Canyon, and Moran Bay, the Death Canyon Barn is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C, for its association with Grand Teton National Park Administration and Development and NPS Rustic architecture. (Please see the Park Administration and Development Context, GRTE MPS, for a more complete discussion of the need for and characteristics of back country infrastructure.) The barn's period of significance extends from 1935 until the end of the historical period as defined by the National Register (1948), or until the building is no longer an important component of the park's backcountry administrative system. Significant dates include the ca. 1945 conversion of the barn to a patrol cabin. The interior contributes to the building's significance. Although regularly maintained, with "modern" materials, the Death Canyon corral conforms to general specifications from the 1940s. The corral contributes to our understanding of historic use of the Death Cabin facility and has been evaluated as a contributing structure.

In 1935, CCC crews from either Hot Springs camp #N.P. 3 or Jenny Lake Camp #N.P. 4<sup>1</sup> (working out of the Phelps Lake Spike Camp) constructed the barn at Death Canyon and placed foundation corners for the cabin that would complete the Death Canyon development plan. According to longtime GRTE employee Doug McClaren, this proposed Death Canyon trail-maintenance cabin was never completed and the barn was converted to a tool-cache/habitation facility soon after dissolution of the CCC program. This modified barn housed trail-maintenance crews, rangers on a loop patrol of the southern park canyons, and (if only briefly in the 1950s), a ranger permanently stationed in the canyon. In 1953, after a season at the Death Canyon station, ranger Mahlon Williamson wrote to the Chief Ranger:

The [Death Canyon] cabin is an excellent starting point for patrols into the high country of the park. Ranger patrols can be made to Alaska Basin via Lookout Point and by way of the bench along north side of Upper Death Canyon, and to Marion Lake. Each of these patrols require a day. . . . That it is practical and advantageous to the park to have a ranger stationed in Death Canyon is self evident due to the amount of country that can be covered in a day's ride. The chances of a fire getting a good start are small with the same country being covered three or four times a week. In the years past many camp-sites have been left in very bad condition . . . This year campsites were left in good condition. This may be due to the presence of a ranger stationed in the area and having knowledge of whom was camped where.<sup>2</sup> See continuation page.

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<sup>1</sup> USDI NPS Branch of Plans and Design, "Trail Maintenance Cabin," Drawing No. 3029, 1935, Maintenance Files, GRTE Headquarters (also TIC). Pencilled notation that plan used at Death Canyon and Cascade Canyon, E.C.W project #57, Camp N.P. 3, 5th period, and E.C.W. project #54, Camp N.P. 4, 5th period.

<sup>2</sup> Mahlon J. Williamson to the Chief Ranger, August 31, 1953, File No. 620-63 "Ranger Cabins and Stations," Beaver Creek Archives, GRTE.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

McClaren, Doug. Telephone interview with Ann Hubber, Historical Research Associates, December 1995.

National Park Service Branch of Plans and Design, "Trail Maintenance Cabin," Drawing No. 3029, 1935, Maintenance Files, GRTE Headquarters (also TIC).

NPS, Monthly and Yearly reports of the Resident Landscape Architect and his assistants, 1934-1937, Box D37, Yellowstone National Park Archives, Mammoth Hot Springs, Wy.

NPS, *Fixed Property Records*, Death Canyon Patrol Cabin.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	A 12	513780	4834422

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See attached site map.

**Boundary Justification**

These boundaries encompass only the barn/cabin, corral, and immediate trail-side setting. The historic GRTE trail system, connecting front-country administrative facilities with the patrol-cabin loop, may be added to the site boundaries at a later date, creating a backcountry administration/tourist trail historic district.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Janene Caywood, Ann Hubber, Kathryn Schneid  
 organization: Historical Research Associates, Inc. date: 1997  
 street & number: P.O. Box 7086 telephone: 406 721-1958  
 city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59807-7086

**Property Owner**

name/title: National Park Service  
 street & number: Grand Teton National Park Headquarters telephone: 307 739-3300  
 city or town: Moose state: WY zip code: 83012

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Page 1

Death Canyon Barn (aka Patrol Cabin), Teton Co., WY.

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### 7. Narrative Description, continued

(paired with 4" interior battens) face the gable ends; board ends are cut in a scalloped pattern and the six center boards extend approximately 12" below the side boards -- to the level of the protruding ends of the structural beams -- creating a decorative pattern. In the early spring of 1994, a large tree fell across the roof of the patrol cabin, puncturing the roof, separating the ridgepole from the north gable end, and collapsing the north gable end outward.

Windows are wood-frame, multi-light with hopper and sliding sashes. All are paired with functional shutters, constructed of 6" vertical planks/exterior diagonal braces and secured with the original iron hinges. Doors and windows are trimmed with 6" butt-joint trim, stained dark brown. The entry is unprotected and accessed by a substantial two-step wood stoop constructed of heavy 12"x3" planks.

Features within the east (front) elevation are limited to a five-panel pedestrian door (sharply offset to the south), fitted with an aluminum bear/rodent metal patch over the bottom two panels, and paired with a wood-frame screen. The milled-lumber frame associated with the original barn door, measuring 52" wide, remains visible. The wide opening has been infilled with 8" vertical planks.

North elevation features include two four-light hopper windows, symmetrically offset to either side of the wall, and a board-and-batten hay door centered under the gable end. (At the time of survey, this gable end and hay door were badly damaged by windfall and were scheduled to be reconstructed.)

West elevation features are limited to a six-light by six-light sliding-sash window centered within the elevation. A moveable pole and plank ladder leans against the elevation, providing access to the roof.

South elevation features are limited to a six-light by six-light sliding-sash window centered in the elevation and two wood-slat vents, symmetrically offset in the gable end.

### Interior

The ground level of the Death Canyon cabin features a large central room, broken only by the grain/tack room located in the northwest corner (and now serving as a tool cache). Three-inch tongue-and-groove planks, painted blue-gray, cover the floors. Exterior walls are log, chinked with split poles. The tack room partition walls are constructed of vertical poles faced with horizontal 6" planks. The ceiling is dropped, with exposed log beams topped with the 6" hay-loft flooring. Windows are trimmed with 4" butt-joint trim, painted white. The exterior door is untrimmed. Fixed furnishings include built-in upper cupboard/lower shelf units, paired with a tongue-and-groove countertop (lining the south wall), and a counter (constructed of tongue-and-groove paneling atop 2"x4" posts and braces) centered under the sliding-sash window in the west wall. A rodent-proof cupboard constructed of random-width planks secured to a milled-lumber frame is centered on the east wall. A wood-burning cook stove is located in the southwest corner. Propane-powered lights illuminate the room.

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Death Canyon Barn (aka Patrol Cabin), Teton Co., WY.

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The open stairway to the loft is constructed of milled-lumber stringers and tread. There are no risers. The milled-lumber railing is secured to 3" x 2" posts.

The hay loft, now used as a sleeping loft, suffered surprisingly little damage from the wind fall: neither the ridgepole nor rafters split, they simply pulled away from the gable end. Six-inch softwood planks cover the floor. Walls consist of two courses of log and the sloped ceiling. The ceiling is open, exposing the log truss system and roof planks.

### Death Canyon Corral (DC-ST1). Contributing Structure.

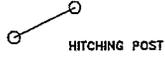
Standing trees provide the corner supports for six of the seven three-pole sides of this pole corral. Two sections of jack-leg fencing support the horizontal poles of the seventh side. The north gate slides through 2"x4" planks nailed to the adjacent "corner-post" trees. The southern gate is mounted on vertical log posts.

### 8. Statement of Significance, continued

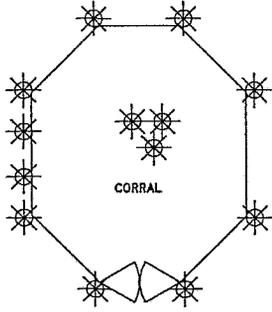
Exterior modifications associated with the barn's conversion to a cabin appear to be limited to the interior floor and to the replacement of the wide barn doors with a pedestrian door and vertical-plank infill. These modifications date to the period of significance.

The Death Canyon and Cascade Canyon barns were constructed from the same building plan, by different CCC crews. Although the buildings are remarkably similar, minor differences suggest that builders frequently modified standard plans in accordance with their lumber supply or their personal taste: the gable end battens are mounted on the interior at Death Cabin and on the exterior at Cascade Canyon; windows are trimmed at Death Canyon, and untrimmed at Cascade Canyon; window shutters are constructed of 6" boards at Death Canyon, and random-width (10"-12") boards at Cascade Canyon; fenestration patterns vary.

SITE BOUNDARY

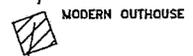


HITCHING POST

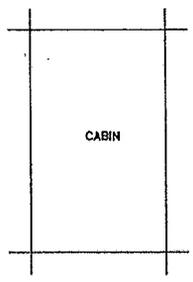


CORRAL

TRAIL TO DEATH CANYON



MODERN OUTHOUSE



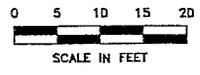
CABIN

TRAIL TO ALASKA BASIN

SITE BOUNDARY

LEGEND

-  TREE
-  TRAIL
-  INTERMITTENT STREAM
-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

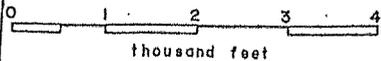
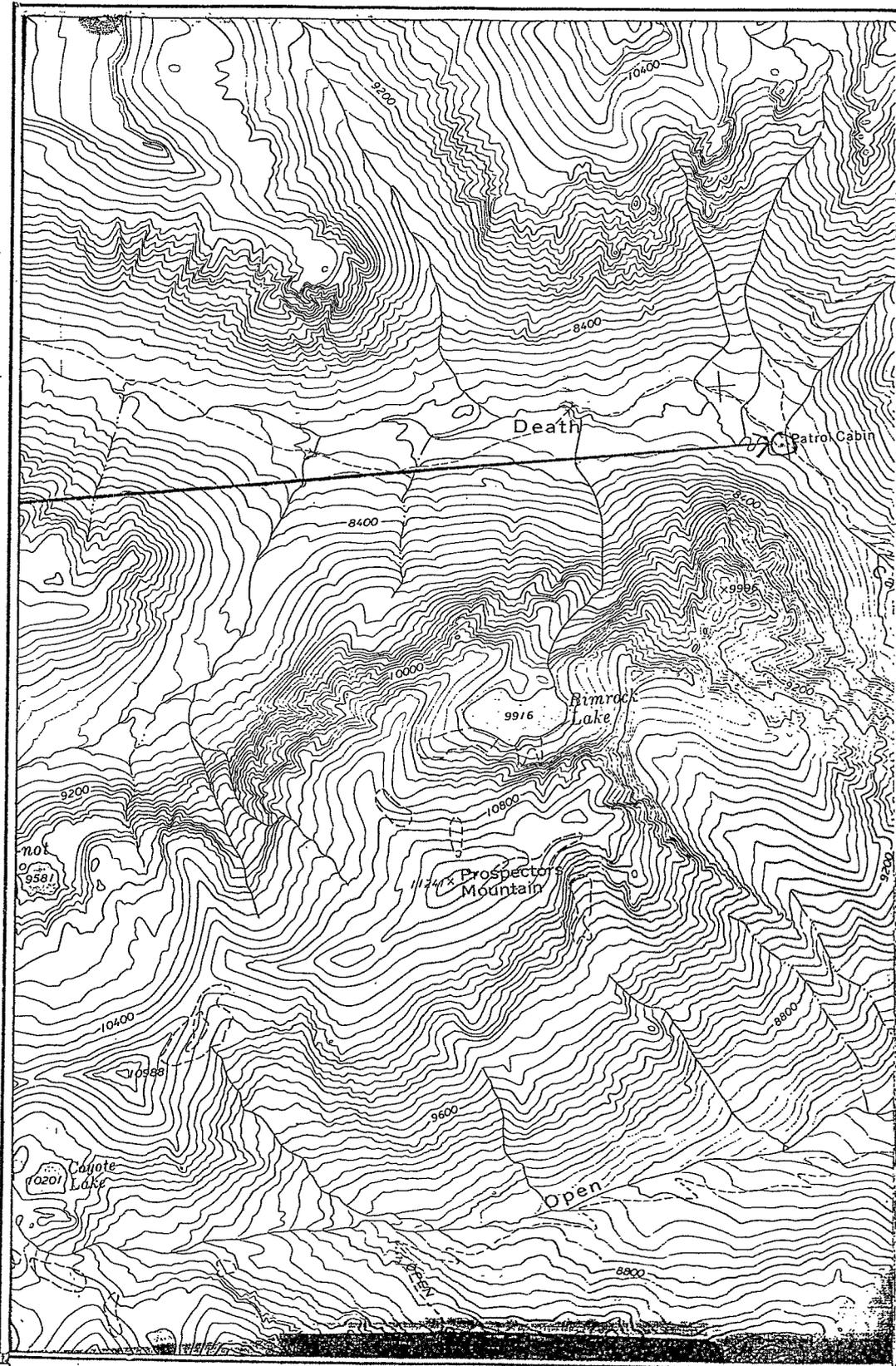


SCALE IN FEET

GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK  
DEATH CANYON PATROL CABIN

NR STATUS: ELIGIBLE

Death  
Canyon  
Barn



USGS 7.5' Quad *Grand Teton*  
Sec. \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_ R *Wilsunyeval*  
County *Teton*

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 98001024

Property Name: Death Canyon Barn

County: Teton State: Wyoming

Grand Teton MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

 August 25, 1998  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10: The verbal boundary description is, hereby, amended to note that where the eastern boundary intersects with the walls of the modern outhouse, the boundary is drawn along the base of the walls so that the building is excluded from the boundaries.

-----  
Chris Whitaker of the Intermountain Regional Office was notified of this amendment.

**DISTRIBUTION:**  
National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin Barn  
GRTE/DC-7

GRTE, Teton Co., WY

Photographer: HRA, 1995

View to SW

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO

KS B W I S # 25



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin 1  
GRTE/DC-7

Barr

GRTE, Teton Co., Wyo  
Photographer: HRA, 1995  
View to SE

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO  
KSBWIS #26



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin/Barn  
GRTE/DC-7

GRTE, Teton Co., Wyo  
Photographer HRA, 1995  
Views to NW

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO  
KS BW IS #27



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin Barn  
GRTE/DC-7

GRTE, Teton Co., WY  
Photographer: HRA, 1995  
View to NE

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO  
KS BW IS # 28



Corral

GRTE/ST-1 DCST-1

Death Canyon Patrol Cabin (Barr

GRTE, Teton Co, Wyo

Photographer: HRA, 1995

View to N

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO

KS BWIS #33



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin / Barr  
GRTE / DC-11

GRTE, Teton Co., Wyo  
Photographer: HRA, 1995  
View to SW

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO  
KS BW IS # 36



Death Canyon Patrol Cabin 1 Barn  
GRTE/DC-7

GRTE, Teton Co., Wyo  
Photographer HRA, 1195  
View to (detail)

Location of neg: NPS, Denver, CO  
KSB WIS # 37