

PA0352314

# DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 5 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC

**\*\*** Moraine Lodge  
AND/OR COMMON

Moraine Park Visitor Center

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Bear Lake Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Estes Park

VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Colorado

CODE  
08

COUNTY

Larimer

CODE  
069

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

#### CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

#### OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

#### PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

#### STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

#### ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

#### PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

### 4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet

CITY, TOWN

Denver

VICINITY OF

STATE

Colorado

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Larimer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Fort Collins

STATE

Colorado

### 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED    DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Moraine Lodge is sited on the hillside of a glacial moraine at the edge of a ponderosa pine forest. The lodge, which contained the business office, a tearoom, and an "assembly hall", served as a social center for both resort guests and summer residents of Moraine Park until it was purchased by the United States in 1931.

The basement story of the building, partially excavated into the hillside, is constructed of concrete faced with uncoursed rubblestones. The upper story is of false-cornered log construction, with the log ends projecting approximately 1 3/4 feet from the structure.

A two-story gabled roof porte-cochere extending from the front (south) of the building, open in the historic period, is enclosed at the second story for use as a "viewing porch" by museum visitors.

A battered chimney of uncoursed rubblestone is centered in the west end of the building. In the historic period, the chimney was surrounded by a balcony, with sole entry to the balcony provided by doors from an interior balcony. Since its acquisition by the United States, an exterior stairway to the balcony has been added.

Muntined sash, both singly and doubly hung within single, double and triple openings, are of the historic period. The second story of the porte-cochere is enclosed plate glass windows. A few windows, notably those under the porte-cochere, have been covered with masonite since their location conflicted with museum functions.

The gabled roof is broken on the south slope by two shed roofed dormers with shingled cheeks.

The first floor, which in the historic period contained the office of the Moraine Lodge as well as a tearoom and kitchen, has been remodeled to provide space for a reception counter and sales area, restrooms, a workroom, and an exhibit room containing display cases of habitat groups. The habitat cases, first installed at the information office on Moraine Road (south side of Estes Park) in 1931, were moved to their present location in 1941 and so must be regarded as among the historic appurtenances of the building.

The second floor contains a large, two-story rustic room with a "cathedral" ceiling supported by four massive log trusses. The trusses are notched and toenailed except for critical intersections which are joined by steel bolts. Throughout the second floor the structural logs -- smoothed and varnished -- form the inside finish. The trusses

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are joined by log purlins on which are set the rough-sawed boards which form the roof decking. The gable ends also are finished with rough-sawed boards, attached to vertical logs extending from the tie-beam to the rafter.

At the west end of the second floor room a balcony extends 12 feet from the west wall of the building. The balcony, also of naturally finished logs, is supported by a log partition with a 12' doorway into the main hall. The railings are made of naturally finished log poles. Entrance to the balcony is by a narrow stairway on the north or by the exterior stairway previously described.

Although the photographic evidence is scanty, it appears that in the historic period there were nearly a dozen cabins in the Moraine Lodge resort, sited roughly in a half circle opening to the south with the surviving building at its center. Most of the buildings appear to have been of frame construction, faced with slabs. Some may have been made of logs, and one photograph shows a corner of what appears to be a tent house. These structures were demolished between 1932 and 1937.

The United States acquired the lodge from the McPherson estate in 1931, and the park converted the building into a museum. In 1934 the Superintendent wrote, "In the hope that action would be taken on the renovation of the Moraine Park Auditorium and its creation into a museum, plans were drawn up during the winter". By 1935, the work was nearing completion: "During the year just past the amusement hall of old Moraine Lodge was reconditioned for museum use. By the end of the fiscal year much progress had been made, and it was estimated that another month would put the building in readiness for occupancy".

The Superintendent was overly optimistic; opening of the museum was delayed by the completion of the outdoor amphitheatre and the parking lot. It appears that the museum was opened to the public in early summer, probably June, of 1937, since the Superintendent observes on June 30 that the museum should be operating at full efficiency by August 1 of that year.

Under National Park Service management, the exhibit cases were set against the outside wall of the second floor room which was used as an auditorium for evening programs. Use as an auditorium ended about 1960, and new exhibits, centrally grouped, were installed about 1970.

Operation of the Moraine Park Visitor Center will continue to function under adaptive use as at present and routine maintenance functions will be performed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) (Hotel)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1923 - present      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Moraine Lodge, built in 1923, served until 1931 as the central building of Mrs. Imogene McPherson's summer resort and as the center of social activities by the summer residents of Moraine Park. Purchased by the United States in 1931, the building was remodeled and has since 1937 served as the principal museum of Rocky Mountain National Park. This is the last remaining structure in Moraine Park typifying summer resort development in Rocky Mountain National Park.

The first residents of Moraine Park moved to the valley in 1875. By the turn of the century, tourists were becoming appreciative of the beauties of Moraine Park and, as a result, various arrangements had been made for their accommodation, including the development of Moraine Lodge.

The land on which the subject structure sits was homesteaded by M. Imogene Green on February 6, 1899. Miss Green -- later Mrs. W. H. McPherson -- gradually constructed cabins for summer rental and developed a resort center in the northeast area of Moraine Park.

The completed structure was opened to the public in an elaborate ceremony on July 19, 1923, as noted in the Estes Park Trail of the following week.

"Very elaborate ceremonies ushered the fine new rustic assembly hall just completed at Moraine Lodge into the center of the social activities of the popular resort, Thursday evening of last week.

"The spacious hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion and good orchestra music made the evening very pleasant.

"The new building, just inside the gate to the Lodge grounds, contains the business offices and a nice tea room on the ground floor and the hall occupies the entire second floor.

"Prof. L. A. Wilkins, a regular guest at the Lodge for a number of years . . . was master of ceremonies, and handled the entire program very cleverly. He also gave a brief talk on the unseen forces at the Lodge, introducing the cooks, the [sic] each attired in the uniform of their rank.

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"Prof. Wilkins introduced Editor A. Scott, of the Iola (Kansas) Register, who with his family always spend a portion of the summer at the Lodge, the Park being his home twenty-five years ago, who in a very interesting manner gave a history of Moraine Park and the Lodge and paid an excellent tribute to Mrs. Imogene McPherson, who for many years conducted the Lodge. Mrs. McPherson then gave an address of welcome to the guests of the evening and told briefly of the progress of the Lodge in the business life of the community."

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Superintendent's Annual Reports, Library, Rocky Mountain National Park  
 Superintendent's Monthly Reports, Library, Rocky Mountain National Park  
 Tract Books, Bureau of Land Management, Denver, Colorado  
 Estes Park Trail, July 27, 1923

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one

UTM REFERENCES

500		500					
A	13	45,050,7	4,46,715,06	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

A square, approximately 208.5 feet on a side, with the Moraine Lodge at its center.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE

D. Ferrel Atkins, Ranger-Naturalist

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

DATE

July 9, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

Rocky Mountain National Park

TELEPHONE

303 - 586 - 2371

CITY OR TOWN

Estes Park

STATE

Colorado

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is \_\_\_\_\_ National \_\_\_\_\_ State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary

DATE JAN 30 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/8/96

Acting DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

9/27/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER





PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

10.8,76

Larimer Co., Colorado  
Moraine Lodge, # 1  
Looking northwest to the  
Moraine Lodge, right. Other  
buildings of the resort are  
seen center and left.

ca 1925





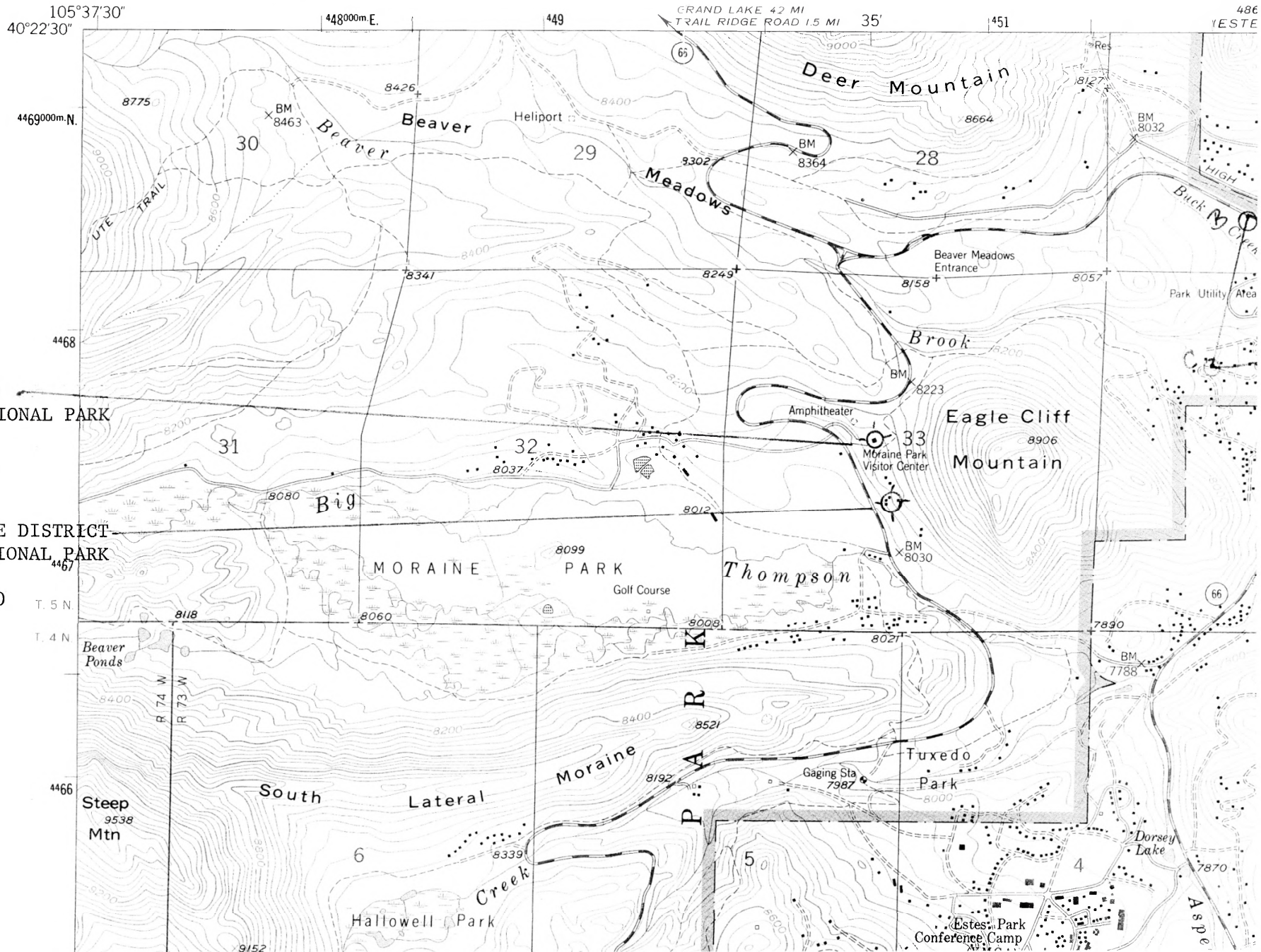
**PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

Moraine Lodge, #2  
10.8.76 Looking northeast to the  
Moraine Park Visitor Center  
Larimer Co., Colorado



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

4864 NW  
(TRAIL RIDGE)



MORAINES LODGE (217)  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK  
UTM:  
13/450500/4467500

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE DISTRICT  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK  
UTM:  
13/450550/4467250