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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2009



Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### **Inventory Unit Description:**

The inventory unit, the Old Faithful Historic District cultural landscape, is located in the western portion of Yellowstone National Park, in Teton County, Wyoming. It is approximately 30 miles southeast of Yellowstone's west entrance, and is on the Park's Grand Loop Road 16 miles south of Madison Junction and 17 miles west of the West Thumb area. The Old Faithful district is on a low rise south of the Firehole River, surrounded on the northeast and east by lodgepole pines and volcanic cliffs. West of the inventory unit is a wet meadow, and to the south is a lodgepole pine forest that was burned in the 1988 fires; this forest is now regenerating. The Firehole River flows to the northwest, turns north at the Biscuit Basin, and joins the Madison River at Madison Junction. The proposed expanded Old Faithful district encompasses approximately 773 acres, and contains historic buildings, landscape features, trails system, as well as the setting provided by the Old Faithful Geyser and many other thermal features.

The Old Faithful district's proposed period of significance is 1878 to 1942. The period began with the construction of a road spur that connected the Upper Geyser Basin (UGB) with the park's west and north entrances (Haines, 1997, 244). This new road effectively opened the Upper Geyser Basin to visitation. The period ends in 1942. This year marks the end of the boom in cabin construction as well as the end of the Rustic era.

The Old Faithful district remains in a good condition and harbors a number of landscape features and patterns that contribute to the significance of the Old Faithful Historic District.

Areas within the Old Faithful district that retain a substantial number of contributing cultural landscape features include the Old Faithful Inn and Lower General Store to the west; the Upper General Store to the south; the Lodge to the east; and the trail network to the north. The spatial organization and circulation within these areas is evocative of the historic design, setting and location. The Old Faithful Geyser remains central to the overall organization of the landscape with buildings and development spreading out in a radial pattern from the Geyser. Throughout the district, buildings and small-scale features remain representative of Rustic workmanship and materials. Similarly, the patterns of lodgepole pine stands are still representative of the district's historic vegetation. Additionally, views to the Old Faithful Geyser and the Old Faithful Inn remain key contributing features of the district's cultural landscape.

Across the Old Faithful district, natural systems and features and topography remain evocative of the appearance of the historic cultural landscape. Similarly, land use patterns and cultural traditions still reflect the focus on tourism and providing services to tourists. Constructed water features at Old Faithful relate mainly to the provision of tourist services, and consist primarily of infrastructure items such as water treatment, sewage, stormwater and fire suppression facilities. These features do not contribute to the significance of the district.

Automobile circulation is the major feature of the Old Faithful district that has changed since the period of significance and altered the overall design and feel of the Old Faithful area. The 1972 construction of the bypass road and cloverleaf along with large parking lots ended the tradition of visitors driving to and parking by thermal features, of which the Old Faithful Geyser was no exception. The historic arrival

## Old Faithful Historic District Yellowstone National Park

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and view sequence from the road and parking lots to major features, such as the Old Faithful Geyser and Inn, has been eliminated. The historic Grand Loop Road entry is now a trail that adheres to the historic road alignment. Therefore, the former entry route is still intact although it now serves pedestrians rather than automobiles. The historic patterns of automobile circulation around the Inn, lodge and general store do remain intact. Also, pedestrian circulation and the trail system around the Old Faithful Geyser and through the Upper Geyser Basin remain substantially unchanged.

While the majority of the remaining buildings and structures do pre-date 1942 and their materials and workmanship reflect those of the period of significance, the extant landscape does not represent the historic setting in its entirety. Overtime, the district has lost a number of features that contributed to its historic feel and function. The loss of original features such as the Housekeeping cabins, the boulevard and buildings that lined it, the amphitheatre, and the auto campground altered the historic spatial organization of the district by compromising the Upper General Store Zone (compare the site plan and historic plans in the photo collection). The removal of cabins throughout the district also compromised the feel and design of the district. Fortunately, enough cabins remain near the Old Faithful Lodge to evoke the feeling and association of automobile tourism and concession development in the context of guest cabins.

Site Plan



Site Plan #1 / Contributing Features Map - 1

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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*Site Plan #1 / Contributing Features Map - 2*

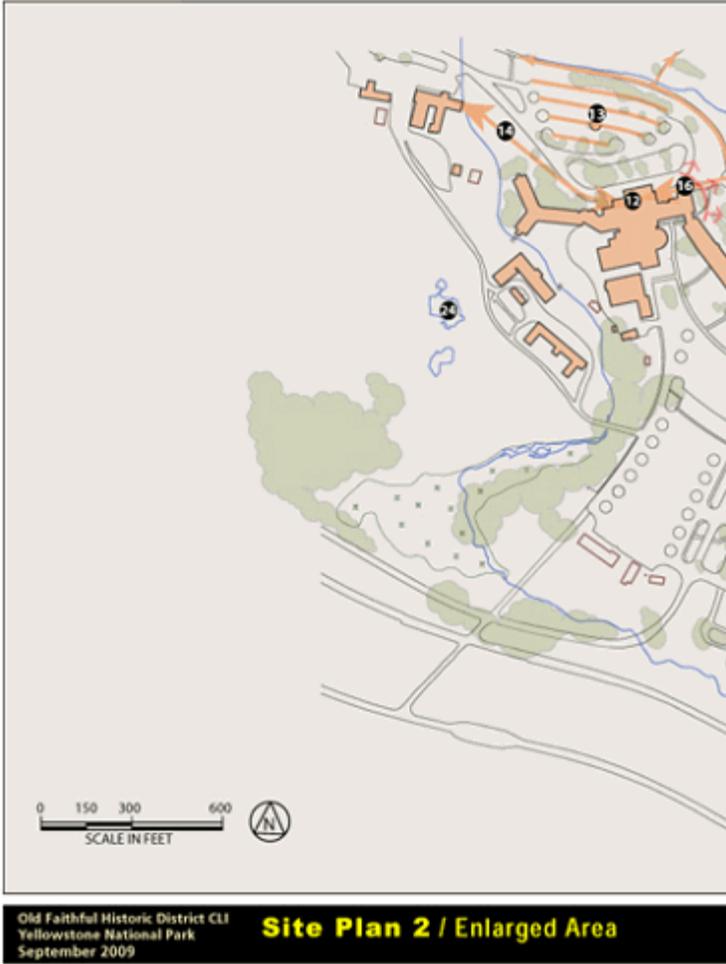


*Site Plan #1 / Contributing Features Legend*

**Contributing Features**

- 1 Old Faithful Geyser and other thermal features of the Upper Geyser Basin.
- 2 Old Faithful Inn and other established contributing resources of Old Faithful Historic District (see the analysis and evaluation section for a list of all contributing building resources).
- 3 Radial pattern of development centered around the Old Faithful Geyser.
- 4 Sacred Area Designation. 1/8 mile development setback from Old Faithful Geyser.
- 5 Trail zone north and west of the Old Faithful Geyser extending through the Upper Geyser Basin (including the former Grand Loop Road).
- 6 Views from outlying trails in the Upper Geyser Basin to the Inn, Lodge, the Old Faithful Geyser and other thermal features.
- 7 Firehole River.
- 8 The pattern of footbridges and river crossings providing access to the trails and thermal features.
- 9 The pattern of boardwalks (the pedestrian circulation system is contributing, but not materials and alignment, which have changed over time).
- 10 Rustic interpretive signage along boardwalks and trails (use of signs to communicate information about the thermal features and their Rustic style is contributing, the signs themselves have been replaced over time).
- 11 Open, barren landscape outlying the thermal features.

*Site Plan #1 / Contributing Features Text*



*Site Plan #2 / Enlarged Area - 1*

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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*Site Plan #2 / Enlarged Area - 2*

**LEGEND**

Contributing Features are numbered and correspond with the contributing features and patterns list.

-  Contributing Feature
-  Building/Structure: Contributing
-  Building/Structure: Non-Contributing
-  Contributing View
-  Contributing Circulation Routes
-  Lodgepole pine
-  Forest Edge

*Site Plan #2 / Enlarged Area Legend*

### Contributing Features

- 12 Rustic style as represented by the architecture, use of natural materials and retention of native vegetation.
- 13 Historic Inn parking lot contains edging and walkways within the medians. Boulder edging in both Lodge and Inn parking areas.
- 14 Pathway and crossing connecting the Lower General Store and the Old Faithful Inn.
- 15 Pedestrian circulation pattern that links the Old Faithful Geyser viewing area with the central visitor facilities, the Lodge and the Inn.
- 16 Axial orientation of Old Faithful Inn's porte cochere to the geyser and views to the geyser.
- 17 Views to Old Faithful Geyser and the Upper Geyser Basin landscape from the boardwalk.
- 18 View from the Lodge lobby to the Old Faithful Geyser.
- 19 Paint specifications for cabin and comfort station exteriors. "Formation Brown" was specified to blend structures with the natural environment.
- 20 Tourist cabin clusters within the Old Faithful Lodge Zone.
- 21 Relatively flat topography and gentle, wooded hills outlying the district.
- 22 Dense lodgepole pine forest outlying Old Faithful Historic District.
- 23 Pattern of stands of lodgepole pines and individual trees within the developed landscape.
- 24 Myriad Spring Group.

*Site Plan #2 / Enlarged Area Text*

Old Faithful Historic District  
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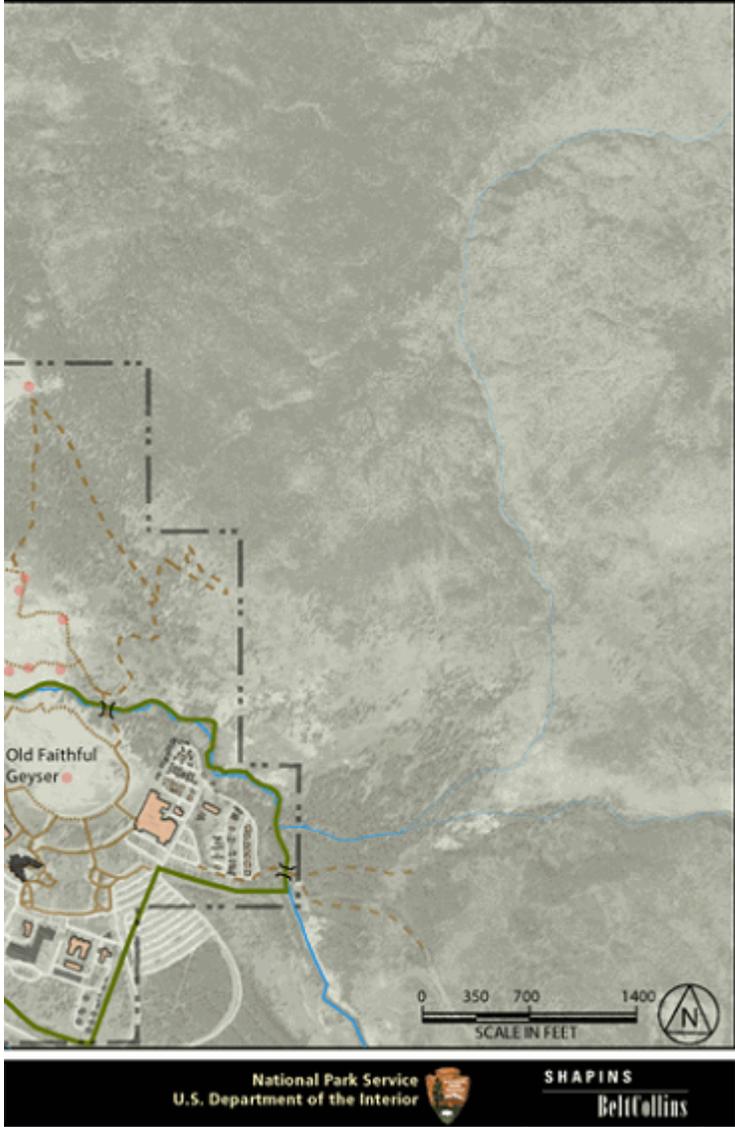
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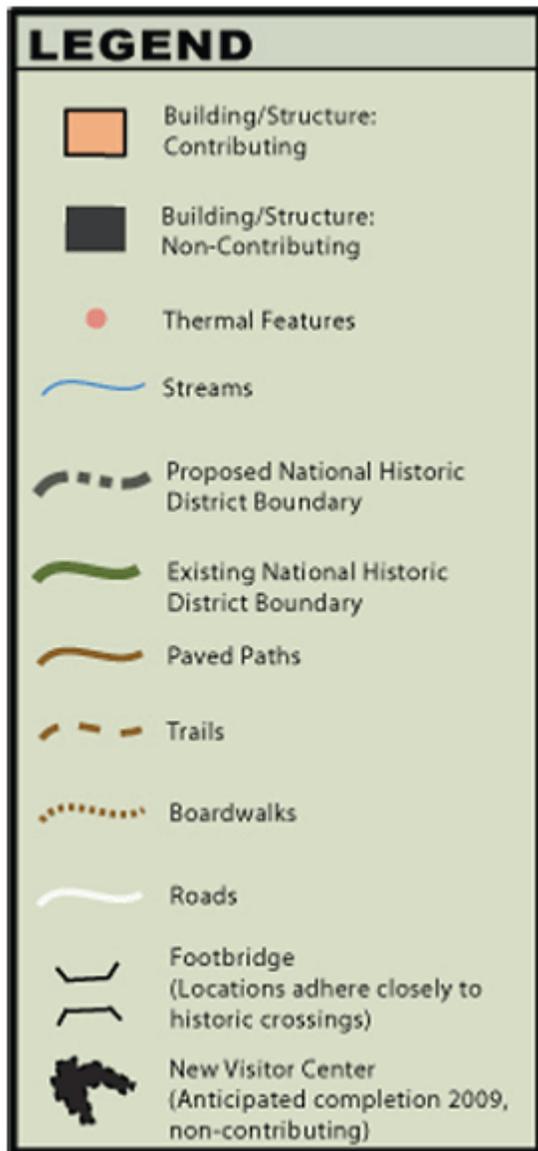
*Site Plan #3 / Proposed District Boundary Expansion - 1*

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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*Site Plan #3 / Proposed District Boundary Expansion - 2*



*Site Plan #3 / Proposed District Boundary Expansion Legend*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Old Faithful Historic District
<b>Property Level:</b>	Component Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	890087
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	890220

### **Park Information**

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Yellowstone National Park -YELL
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	1570
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Yellowstone National Park

### **CLI Hierarchy Description**

N.A.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

Currently, the Old Faithful Historic District is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (listed July 23, 1971 and 1982). Buildings are the focus of the nomination form, including the Old Faithful Inn, Old Faithful Lodge, 3 stores, 2 service stations, 5 dormitories, 10 support buildings, and the guest cabins behind the Old Faithful Lodge and the Snow Lodge.

This CLI recommends that the existing registration be amended to include landscape features and patterns that also contribute to the significance of the district.

In 2008 Shapins Belt Collins completed a CLI for the Old Faithful Historic District. The project will be finalized once concurrence data is entered into the NPS CLI website.

### Concurrence Status:

**Park Superintendent Concurrence:** Yes  
**Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:** 09/02/2009  
**National Register Concurrence:** Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination  
**Date of Concurrence Determination:** 09/30/2009  
**National Register Concurrence Narrative:**  
See SHPO concurrence letter in Concurrence Status section.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
P.O. Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park  
Wyoming 82190

**ELECTRONIC FILE-NO HARD COPY TO FOLLOW**

HD015(YELL)

September 2, 2009

Memorandum

To: Paul Chattey, Manager for Historic Preservation Programs  
Intermountain Region

From: Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park

Subject: Old Faithful Historic District, Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) program is a joint effort between Yellowstone National Park and the Intermountain Regional Office; it requires park superintendent concurrence with the content and assessment of the cultural landscape in the CLI. This concurrence is also required in order for the CLI to be considered complete under PMDS Goal 1a7. The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) consensus determination on the CLI findings will also be required.

I hereby concur with the content and the assessment of the cultural landscape for the Old Faithful Historic District Cultural Landscape Inventory. Specifically, I concur with the following findings and recommendations:

1. The CLI identifies the Old Faithful Historic District as a "Historic Designed Landscape" (page 64).
2. The CLI rates the condition of the cultural landscape as "Good" (page 65).
3. The Management Category is listed as "Must be Preserved and Maintained" (page 62).
4. The period of significance for the Old Faithful Historic District is recommended to change from 1903-1942 to 1878-1942 for Criteria A and C (pages 4 and 63 of the CLI). While the period of significance in the National Register Form begins in 1903 with the construction of the Inn, this CLI recommends extending the period back to 1878 when important changes were made to this area after a small separate road crossed the Firehole River to provide initial access to the geyser basin. This will be proposed to the Wyoming SHPO in our request for consensus determination of eligibility for the cultural landscape.
5. The contributing patterns and features are listed on pages 7-9, and are described on pages 44-60.

/s/ Signature Authenticated by Janice R. Lays

Suzanne Lewis

cc: Jill Cowley, Historical Landscape Architect and CLI Coordinator, Intermountain Region

*Superintendent concurrence, dated September 2, 2009*

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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**ARTS, PARKS,  
HISTORY.**

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

State Historic Preservation Office  
Barnes Building, 2nd Floor  
2301 Capitol Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: (307) 777-7667  
Fax: (307) 777-6421  
1420Wy0900-0289.WY44

30 September 2009

Suzanne Lewis  
Superintendent  
PO Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190

Re: Determination of Eligibility on the addition of the Cultural Landscape Patterns and Features in the Old Faithful Historic District (48V0682) (SHPO file # 0909K13H10)

Dear Ms. Lewis:

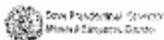
Thank you for consulting with the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the above referenced historic district. We have reviewed the report and find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42). We concur with your finding that the cultural landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic. The landscape patterns and features, including the natural system, topography, spatial organization, cultural traditions, vegetation, circulation patterns, views and vistas, land use, archeological sites, and small-scale features and patterns are eligible as contributing features to the Old Faithful Historic District (48V0682). We also concur with the expanded boundary and the extended period of significance.

This letter should be retained in your files as documentation of a SHPO concurrence with your determination of eligibility of the cultural landscape. Please refer to SHPO project # 0909K13H10 on any future correspondence regarding this project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 307-777-7828.

Sincerely,



Kate Hahn  
National Register Coordinator



*Wyoming SHPO concurrence letter, dated September 30, 2009*

## Geographic Information & Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

This CLI recommends expanding the existing Old Faithful National Historic District to include additional cultural landscape features. This boundary change is shown in the map titled, "Proposed District Boundary Expansion" within the Site Plans section. Specifically, the CLI recommends expanding the boundary to the north and west in order to encompass the historic Upper Geyser Basin trail system. Developed during the period of significance, these trails have remained integral to the visitor's experience of the Old Faithful district since the early development of the cultural landscape. The trail system represents an additional spatial zone of the Old Faithful district that also encompasses many thermal features. The trails function as an extension of the pedestrian circulation system and provide significant vantage points for observing the Old Faithful Geyser, the Inn and the Upper Geyser Basin's many thermal features.

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**State and County:**

**State:** WY

**County:** Teton County

**Size (Acres):** 785.00

**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,397
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,924,683
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,192
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,543
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,463
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,543
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,467
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,975
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,852
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,971
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12

<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,860
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,591
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	514,070
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,586
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	514,070
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,049
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	514,205
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	514,205
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,922,717
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,825
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,922,717
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83

<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
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<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,922,412
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,454
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,922,412
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	513,454
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,922,748
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<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,502
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,923,591
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point

<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
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<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,214
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,924,194
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<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,214
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,924,416

Old Faithful Historic District  
Yellowstone National Park

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<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,397
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,924,416
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<b>UTM Zone:</b>	12
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	512,611
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,924,674

**Location Map:**



*The Old Faithful Historic District unit is located in the western portion of Yellowstone National Park. It is 30 miles SE of the Park's west entrance on the Grand Loop Road 16 miles south of Madison Junction and 17 miles west of the West Thumb area.*

**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Prior to the establishment of the national park, the Yellowstone area had been inhabited by prehistoric peoples for millennia and used by several tribes of American Indians. Most of the area containing Yellowstone National Park became part of the United States through the Louisiana Purchase in 1803. The remainder was acquired in 1824 through boundary negotiations with Spain and England. Although intrepid explorers including William Clark and John Colter explored the area between 1803 and 1811, much of the early geographic knowledge of the region came from fur trappers and prospectors. It was not until a triad of parties surveyed the area (Folsom, 1869; Washburn, 1870; and Hayden, 1871) that details of the area became widely known and the idea of designating the area as a national park was introduced. Once designated by Congress, the new park ushered in and promoted an era of tourism in the American West, and in many ways Yellowstone has set the standard for what a national park should be. The Old Faithful district which evolved within this context of developing tourism is a notable example of an early tourist cultural landscape.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

The Old Faithful district is located within Yellowstone National Park's Upper Geyser Basin (UGB). It lies on the Grand Loop Road between Madison Junction and the West Thumb area. The UGB is an approximately 1½ square-mile area with over 200 geysers—the highest concentration of geysers in the world. It lies within a forested river valley at an elevation of more than 7,300 feet, with the Firehole River at the center. The Basin is relatively flat and consists of a light-colored, barren, porous soil.

Lodgepole pine forest characterizes the area outlying the Old Faithful district, because it is the species best able to deal with the nutrient-poor soils of the area. Intermittent patches of lodgepole pine exist within the Old Faithful district where their roots have escaped the harmful effect of the thermal features' mineral-laden waters. The topography of the land has been shaped by volcanic activity. The hills surrounding the Old Faithful district and the UGB are reminders of Quaternary rhyolitic lava flows that resulted from a catastrophic volcanic eruption about 640,000 years ago. Glacial activity also influenced the UGB landscape and glacier till deposits that underlie the geyser basins currently provide storage areas for the water used in eruptions.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

The Old Faithful district is located in Teton County, Wyoming within the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park

**Management Unit:** Old Faithful

## Management Information

### General Management Information

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 09/02/2009

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

See Supt concurrence memo, dated Sept 2, 2009

### Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

**Management Agreement:**

**Type of Agreement:** Concession Contract/Permit

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Hotels and tourist accommodations, as well as the stores and gas stations are all operated by a concessionaire.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Explanatory Narrative:**

The NPS owns the land and facilities at Old Faithful, and maintains agreements with one or more concessionaires for operation of the tourist facilities.

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

### Adjacent Lands Information

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Adjacent lands within the Upper Geyser Basin are part of the overall context for the significance of the Old Faithful district.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Although certain buildings within the Old Faithful district have been documented as contributing elements of a historic district on the National Register, cultural landscape elements were not included in that documentation or its analysis.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Old Faithful Historic District
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	82001839
<b>Other Names:</b>	YELL Old Faithful Inn 73000226

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Individual
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	District
<b>Significance Level:</b>	National
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

**Period of Significance:**

<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1878 - 1942
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Transforming the Environment
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Conservation of Natural Resources
<b>Facet:</b>	Origin And Development Of The National Park Service
<b>Other Facet:</b>	concessions development (c.1883), Old Faithful as an NPS icon
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1878 - 1942
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Developing the American Economy
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Transportation by Land and Air
<b>Facet:</b>	Land Travel West Of The Mississippi (I.e., Stagecoaches), After 1840
<b>Other Facet:</b>	Railroads; Automobiles, Buses, Wagons, and Highways
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1878 - 1942
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Recreation
<b>Facet:</b>	General Recreation

**Area of Significance:**

<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Conservation
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Entertainment - Recreation
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Architecture
<b>Area of Significance Category:</b>	Landscape Architecture

**Statement of Significance:**

Background

The Old Faithful Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 34, 1971. The 1981 Nomination form lists the Old Faithful district as nationally significant in the areas of architecture and park development. Under Criteria A, the district is significant for its association with the concessions development in the early 1900's that was necessary to accommodate the visitors

## Old Faithful Historic District Yellowstone National Park

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flocking to view one of the most recognized resources of the National Park System, the Old Faithful Geyser. Under Criteria C, the district is significant for its representation of Rustic style architecture. The sensitivity of the architecture within the Old Faithful district to its natural surroundings served as a model for facility development within the National Park Service (Culpin, 1981, 6). Buildings are the focus of the 1981 nomination. This CLI recommends that the existing registration be amended to include landscape features and patterns that also contribute to the significance of the district. These contributing features are discussed in detail in the Analysis and Evaluation section of this CLI and are summarized in the table in the Analysis and Evaluation Summary section.

### District Boundary

This CLI proposes expanding the existing district boundary to incorporate the Upper Geyser Basin trail system that extends north and west from the Old Faithful Geyser. Please see the proposed boundary revision map for the existing and proposed district boundaries.

### Period of Significance

The period of significance given for the Old Faithful district in the nomination form is 1903-1942. This CLI suggests revising the period of significance to 1878-1942. While the period of significance in the National Register Nomination form begins in 1903 with the construction of the Inn, this CLI recommends extending the period back to 1878, the year in which initial access into the geyser basin was provided by a small, separate road. This spur road made the area accessible to more visitors and was a catalyst for facility development. For example, development of the historic trail system was initiated in 1881, tent camps were built in 1883, and the district's first hotel was built in 1885. In 1897 additional visitor facilities were developed including a general store and photographic studio. Given the district's significance for its role in concessions development as stated in the 1981 Nomination form, including the 1878 date of when the road opened the Upper Geyser Basin to tourism is important. The year 1942 remains an appropriate end to the period of significance since it marks the conclusion of an extensive period of development in the national parks and is generally viewed as the end of the NPS Rustic design and construction era. This CLI recommends that features and patterns associated with the Mission 66 era (1956-1966) be evaluated once the current park-wide assessment of all Yellowstone Mission 66 properties is completed.

### Significance

Like the buildings listed in the 1981 nomination form, landscape features are significant under Criterion A and C in the areas of architecture and park development. Given the importance of design and site planning to the development of the district, this CLI also proposes adding landscape architecture as an area of significance.

### Criterion A

The Old Faithful district supports Yellowstone National Park's nationally significant role in the area of NPS development. The district is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Specifically, the district is distinguished by its role in concessions development in the early 1900s (Culpin, 1981, 6).

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Buildings and landscape features within the district are associated with the twentieth-century movement to develop national parks for public enjoyment (McClelland, MPN, 1995). The Old Faithful district is representative of concession development and the growth of tourism infrastructure in the Park and the western United States. Given the area's incredibly unique collection of thermal features it has always been a powerful draw for visitors and has overtime set a standard of what tourists expect in a NPS destination. The Multiple Property Listing Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks and its associated "Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916-1942" as well as "Development of Concessions, Yellowstone National Park: 1827-1955" provide the historic context for the Old Faithful district's association with park development.

#### The Rise of Tourism

The evolution of the Old Faithful district cultural landscape between 1878 and 1942 is representative of the development of tourism in Yellowstone and throughout the park system. Yellowstone was the first of the national park destinations embraced by tourists in the American West. The park played a significant role in establishing the American tradition of visiting scenic landscapes that contain astonishing natural phenomenon. By the early 20th century, a visit to the Old Faithful district had become one of the quintessential Yellowstone experiences. Old Faithful has always been one of the busiest places in the Yellowstone, as it is today. The method of visiting the area evolved over time along with transportation methods and available lodging. Initial tourist access to Old Faithful was through roads built in the late 1870's. Many of the more affluent tourists stayed in a hotel elsewhere in the park and visited Old Faithful via stagecoach on a day-trip. Others stayed at Old Faithful in one of the permanent tent camps or the primitive hotel, and in 1904 the more luxurious Old Faithful Inn opened. When automobiles were allowed into the park in 1915, concessionaires constructed additional permanent tent camps to accommodate individual travelers' newfound convenience and autonomy. These were eventually converted to cabins, with the NPS also providing a tent-camping area. This pattern of tourism development was typical of the early national parks, and many of these distinct forms of tourist accommodations can still be found within the Old Faithful district.

#### Concession Development

Development of the Old Faithful district reflects the NPS' practice of encouraging private industry to develop and manage visitor facilities and to provide goods and services, which have become common at most national parks. The Old Faithful district is significant for its role in concessions development in the early 1900's to accommodate the many visitors drawn to see the iconic Old Faithful Geyser (Culpin, 1981, 6). Concessionaires promoted the Geyser and its surroundings as a must-see destination, which initiated development of the area. These entrepreneurs for the most part used the stone and logs at hand to build a compound that resembled a small town with a full range of visitor services. Many regarded the landscape as a playground and the water of some thermal features was used to enhance visitor comfort, most notably with the swimming pool adjacent to the Geyser between 1915 and 1951. The area took on the feel of a village complete with visitor amenities and recreational opportunities. The developed setting around the Old Faithful Geyser was representative of efforts of both concessionaires and the NPS to shape the landscape to accommodate the needs and desires of an ever-increasing number of visitors.

#### Criterion C

The Old Faithful district is also significant on the national level under Criterion C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of the NPS Rustic style. This design style was embraced by the NPS and concessionaires from the 1910s through the 1940s. The sensitive, context-driven design style which relied on natural materials and careful workmanship is well represented by buildings and landscape features throughout the Old Faithful district.

#### A Rustic Icon: The Old Faithful Inn

The Old Faithful Inn and other buildings such as the Lodge and Hamilton stores are key components of the Old Faithful Historic District's cultural landscape that embody the distinctive characteristics of the NPS Rustic style.

The Old Faithful Inn, designed by Robert Reamer and built in 1903-04, is considered the first Rustic hotel built in the national parks and represents the design principle of harmonizing construction with the natural surroundings. The Swiss-influenced Adirondack style adopted by Robert Reamer embodies many characteristics of the Rustic style including the use of wood shingles, logs and stone as structural features, (MPN-1916-1942, 1995, 34). In addition to materials and workmanship, the siting of the building is important. Reamer oriented the building to put arriving guests as they pulled up to the porte cochere "on a viewing axis with the geysers reminding them of disturbing forces beneath the earth's surface" (Leavengood, 1985, 503 quoted in Byrand, 1995,76). Likewise, the Inn's dining room provided excellent views across the geyser basin (note, this view is now obstructed by the Inn's east wing).

The Old Faithful Inn remains one of the premier Rustic structures in the country (Culpin, 1981, 6). Subsequent development of the lodge, stores and gas stations also adhered to rustic design principles as exhibited in their use of natural materials and log craftsmanship. Like the Inn, the Lodge was sited on the periphery of the Old Faithful Geyser's thermal landscape in order to minimize impacts to the sensitive resource yet allow for remarkable views and an intimate experience of the eruptions. The sensitivity of the architecture within the Old Faithful district to its natural surroundings served as a model for facility development within the National Park Service (Culpin, 1981, 6).

#### Rustic Landscape Features

Landscape patterns found in the Old Faithful district such as the spatial organization or layout of buildings and trails are representative of the NPS Rustic design principals. NPS designers during the period of significance were endeavoring to provide access to the parks' wonders while simultaneously protecting natural resources and harmonizing built improvements with the natural setting (McClelland, 1998, 6). For example, when planning for the Grand Canyon, landscape engineer, Daniel Hull, endeavored to preserve "wonderful landscape beauty but provide adequately for the large numbers of visitors" (Annual reports of Interior, 1923, 39-40; quoted in McClelland, NF, 165). This sentiment was applied to planning for development at Old Faithful, too. In the district, facility development outlies, but does not encroach on the thermal features. In fact, the area (1/8 mile) encircling Old Faithful was designated a sacred area and therefore considered inviolate. Since the sacred area was to remain unimpaired by development, the Inn, Lodge and other visitor facilities including trails and viewing areas

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lay respectfully at its edge. This development pattern in the Old Faithful district reveals the importance of balancing development areas with areas that were to remain natural and unimpaired (McClelland, 1998, 307).

The early earthen trails that wound through the thermal features outlying Old Faithful were in keeping with the precepts of the Rustic style in that they provided direct access to the Upper Geyser Basin's thermal features while blending and harmonizing with their surroundings (McClelland, 1998, 237). Over time, park landscape architects recognized that the trail system within the Upper Geyser Basin, however, required specialized treatments. In order to ensure visitor safety and to minimize intrusions on the thermal features, boardwalk trails were constructed. This specialized trail design, first introduced to the Old Faithful area in 1929, consisted of "log curbing arranged in free-flowing curves and topped by a wooden boardwalk" (McClelland, 1995, 86). The Old Faithful area also required footbridges in order to cross the Firehole River. These footbridges were historically simple log or timber constructions (McClelland, 1995, 48). Today's trail system is evocative of the historic trail system and its Rustic style as boardwalks are still in use and simple wooden footbridges span the Firehole. The trails are curvilinear as they navigate the basin and provide access to the thermal features. In some places natural materials such as logs and stones are still used to demarcate the narrow, earthen trail routes and lead visitors through the thermal landscape. The alignment of the trail system within the Old Faithful Historic District today closely adheres to the historic trail route that had been established by 1891. While trail, signage and bridge materials have been replaced and exact alignments have shifted since the period of significance, the feel of the trail experience and the trails' function in providing access to the thermal features outlying the Old Faithful geyser is representative of the historic character and Rustic style of the Old Faithful district.

A limited number of other small-scale landscape features can be found in the district. These features such as stone curbing in the Old Faithful Inn parking lot complement the buildings' Rustic style and help define the district's Rustic character.

Retention of lodgepole pines within and in close proximity to developed areas is another element of the Rustic style found in the Old Faithful district. A 1930s drawing of the Old Faithful area notes "densely forested" areas adjacent to the Lodge parking and directly south of the Old Faithful Geyser. In order to preserve natural features and views and to retain the feel of the natural setting, landscape designers and architects working in the Rustic Style used existing vegetation as natural screens or accents to harmonize the built environment with the natural. The lodgepole pines and other native vegetation within the Old Faithful district continue to contribute to the visitor's experience of Yellowstone's best-known geyser within a setting that feels natural and at times wild.

In summary, the Old Faithful Historic District is significant under National Register Criteria A and C for its association with the development of the NPS and its representation of the Rustic style. In addition to buildings, landscape features also contribute greatly to the significance of the district and should be added to the registration. Despite incompatible development that occurred after the period of significance, the proposed expanded Old Faithful district recommended by this CLI conveys its historic significance and, therefore, retains historic integrity. The proposed district contains many of the built features and landscape components that were established during the period of significance and are representative of both the Rustic style and concession development in the park.

**National Historic Landmark Information**

**National Historic Landmark Status:** No

**World Heritage Site Information**

**World Heritage Site Status:** No

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Designed

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Primary Current Use:** Recreation/Culture-Other

**Other Use/Function**

View

Forest

**Other Type of Use or Function**

Both Current And Historic

Both Current And Historic

**Current and Historic Names:**

**Name**

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Old Faithful

**Type of Name**

Current

Both Current And Historic

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

Generally the Old Faithful area has not been inventoried for ethnographic or archeological resources. However, several ethnographic resources have been identified within the area and include, among others, Old Faithful where a small group of Nez Perce rode to during their 1877 passage through the park; the Firehole River in the Upper Geyser Basin that the Crow used as a passage to escape from the Bannock who were chasing them; and possibly a petroglyph that may be associated with the Kiowa (Sucec, 2006). Additionally, several archeological sites have been identified within the area, which include: a prehistoric archeological site, a large historic dump, and a historic rock art site (Johnson, 2004).

**Chronology:**

Year	Event	Annotation
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AD 1800 - 1900	Inhabited	<p>Crow Indians migrate seasonally to the Upper and Lower Geyser Basin areas of the park to gather minerals. Shoshone Indians also reside in the area seasonally. With the exception of one Nez Perce account, however, none of the tribes describe a thermal feature similar to Old Faithful (Sucec, 2004).</p>
		<p>Association Crow, Shoshone, Nez Perce</p>
		Crow
		Shashone
		Nez Perce
AD 1870 - 1903	Developed	<p>This period marks the early development of the Old Faithful district beginning with the Washburn expedition of 1870 which named the Old Faithful Geyser. Development during this period includes roads and trails, a hotel, tent camping, a photo shop, general store, and other tourist and support facilities.</p>
		Department of Interior
		YNPIC
		YPA
		Wylie
		Haynes
		Klamer
		YPT Company
AD 1872	Established	U.S.Congress established Yellowstone National Park
AD 1877	Built	<p>Traveler, Thomas Sherman, reported a narrow, rustic footbridge spanning the Firehole River. The bridge is the earliest known human-made structure within the Upper Geyser Basin. Its builders are currently unknown. Additionally, the Henry Gannet map of the Hayden Survey (1878) shows a trail running from the north along the Firehole River into the Old Faithful Area. (Whittlesey, 2007)</p>

AD 1878                      Built                      New road construction opens the Upper Geyser Basin to visitors. In 1878, Superintendent Norris builds a road west and then south out of Mammoth to connect with the road from the park's west entrance as well as a spur to the Upper Geyser Basin.

Department of Interior

AD 1879                      Built                      A park official's residential compound is built in the UGB and includes a log house, stable and ditch. The crude cabin on the south bank of the Firehole River serves as an outpost for exploration of a route to Yellowstone Lake and for winter stay in order to observe the thermal features.

Department of Interior

AD 1879 - 1903            Developed                Initial development begins with the construction of a stable and corral between the Castle and Beehive Geysers (DOI, 1879). By 1903, concessionaires establishes a tent camp (YNPIC, 1883), a hotel and lunch station (YNPIC 1885), a hothouse (YPA, 1897) Haynes photo shop (Haynes, 1897), stage coach facilities (Monida and Yellowstone Stage Co., 1898) and a general store (Klamer, 1897).

Department of Interior

YNPIC

YPA

Wylie

Haynes

Klamer

YPT Company

AD 1881                      Built                      Two foot bridges are built across the Firehole River and provide access to the thermal features. One crosses between the UGB's hotel and the Beehive Geyser, the other crosses in the vicinity of the Saw Mill Geyser (the bridges are rebuilt by the Corp of Engineers in 1905).

Norris

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AD 1882 - 1883      Built      A cabin is built on the north bank of the Firehole River across the river from Castle Geyser's runoff channel. Either Superintendent Patrick Conger or the YNPIC built it. Photographer Carleton Watkins documented the cabin in 1883. (Whittlesey, 2007)

Department of Interior

YNPIC

AD 1883      Built      Visitation within the UGB increases significantly (from 1000 visitors in 1882 to 5000 in 1883) following the completion of the Northern Pacific Rail Road spur to Yellowstone's north entrance at Cinnabar (Haines, 1977).

Conger

Built      Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company (YNPIC) builds a tent camp consisting of several small sleeping tents and a large dining tent on 1.5 acres between Castle and Old Faithful geysers. In the area where the west end of the Inn parking area is now (Haines, 1977, 276). The tent camp serves as visitor lodging for the seasons of 1883, 1884 and part of 1885. Other facilities built during this period include temporary tent frames erected by YNPIC just east of Castle Geyser, probably for employee housing and a bath house on the Firehole River in the meadow northeast of Castle Geyser (Whittlesey, 2007).

YNPIC

YPA

AD 1884 - 1885      Built      A building is constructed on the site of the present lower Yellowstone General Store. Its builder and use are currently unknown. The building is documented in a stereo photo #4246 taken by B.W. Kilburn (Whittlesey, 2007).

AD 1885      Built      First hotel, known as the "Shack", is built in the Upper Geyser Basin in place of YNPIC's tent camp. In violation of the Sundry Civil Bill of 1883, the hotel is built within one-quarter mile of Old Faithful Geyser (in 1894, the Hayes Act decreased the limit to one-eighth of a mile). The hotel burns in 1894 and is replaced with a more primitive structure in 1895.

YNPIC

Built An assistant superintendent's house is constructed most likely in the vicinity of the Norris cabin (Byrand, 1995, 48).

#### Wear

AD 1885 - 1918 Military Operation The U.S. Army is charged with protecting the park and is stationed on the Firehole River from June through November to protect the thermal features from vandalism (Harris, 1887). Four buildings and two or three tents near the Norris cabin are used for housing the troops. The Army is dismissed from the UGB in 1918.

#### U.S. Army

AD 1888 Developed The first bear feeding areas are established as entertainment for visitors. By this year the George Wakefield barn, stables, and corrals are present approximately 1,320 feet southwest of Old Faithful Geyser. The dates of these structures' erection and razing are unknown.

#### YNP

AD 1895 - 1900 Engineered The Army Corp of Engineers improves the road system with in the UGB. The Corp reconstructs the road from Old Faithful to the upper crossing of the Firehole River (1895) and constructs a new road among the UGB's thermal features (Goode, 1900).

#### Army Corps of Engineers

AD 1895 Built Yellowstone Park Association builds stove-heated, wooden-floored tents in place of the "Shack" (it burned down in 1894). The temporary facility (a crude wooden building plus tents) accommodates 96 visitors.

#### YPA

AD 1897 Built H.E. Klamer builds a general store/curio shop/post office. The Klamer store is later remodeled in 1907. The store is sold to Charles Hamilton (1914) and becomes the park's first Hamilton Store in 1915. It is refurbished by Charles Hamilton in the 1920's. This is today's Lower Store. Also, the YPA builds the Old Faithful area hothouse behind the present lower Service Station.

#### Klamer

#### Hamilton

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	Built	F. Jay Haynes builds the Log Cabin Studio, a photo shop, at Old Faithful.  Frank J. Haynes
AD 1898 - 1917	Built	The Department of Interior grants W.W. Wylie a license to develop permanent camps in the park. Wylie builds rows of wood-floored tents in the north end of the UGB south of Daisy Geyser (on Wylie Hill). The camp also included larger tents to accommodate a dance hall, a meeting hall, a log office/dining room (1915), and a log storehouse (1909). The campground remains on the landscape until 1917.  Wylie
AD 1899	Built	F. Jay Haynes' Monida-Yellowstone Stage Company constructs buildings 883 feet south of Old Faithful Geyser.
AD 1903 - 1904	Built	Old Faithful Inn is constructed on the site of the former "Shack" by architect Robert Reamer. Construction begins on June 12, 1903 and is completed on June 11, 1904. The Inn opens to visitors in 1904 and accommodates 316 guests. In 1913, a three story wing (100 additional rooms) is added to the southeast end of the Inn.  YPA
AD 1904 - 1942	Developed	This is a period of intensive development in the Old Faithful area and throughout Yellowstone National Park. The period begins in 1904 with the construction of the Old Faithful Inn and ends in 1942 with the close of the Rustic era of design. World War II also halts development within the Old Faithful district and the park.  Department of Interior S&PCC YPA YP Hotel Company Brothers Hamilton Stores YP Campus Co. YPTC Haynes Stores Inc.

AD 1911	Built	Several bridges are built and refurbished in the UGB. The Inkwell Spring footbridge and a wagon-traffic bridge near Riverside Geyser are constructed. The old wooden Riverside Geyser Bridge is replaced by a steel arch structure.
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Army Corps. of Engineers

AD 1913 - 1919	Built	Shaw and Powell Camping Company (S&PCC) construct permanent camps in a small grove east of Old Faithful Geyser. Camp consists of canvas, wooden-floored tents (50 total), an office and dining room facility (1915). In 1919, following the merger of S&PCC and the Wylie Permanent Camping Co. (1917) and the consequential closure of the Wylie campground, large-scale development in the original S&PCC camp begins. In 1919 the dining room facility is expanded and, in 1921, a recreation pavilion is built. In the years to following the camp company changes owners becoming the Yellowstone Park Camp Company (1920) and later the Yellowstone Park Lodge and Camps Company (1928). This development today is the Old Faithful Lodge.
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S&PCC

AD 1913 - 1930	Built	The Hotel Company develops housing and operation facilities including employee dorms (1913, 1919, and 1923) and laundry facilities (1927). Additionally, caretaker and engineers' quarters (1913, 1926, and 1929), a carpenter and paint shop, a pipe shop, a tailor shop, a boiler house and power plant, a hose house, and a large boiler room/laundry are all constructed in proximity to the Inn.
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YP Hotel Company

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AD 1914 - 1934	Built	<p>Henry Brothers establishes a natural hot water plunge and bathhouse (1914) as well as a 5,000 square foot open plunge (a swimming pool) and five private plunges (5'x10'). In 1923, Henry Brothers adds a log dwelling house to the pool and a thirty-foot extension, dressing rooms, bath tubs and a washing machine. In 1927, Brothers develops an additional bathhouse on the "Promenade" just south of Jack Hayne's photo shop. Charles A. Hamilton buys and remodels the bathhouse converting it into an enormous log structure (1934). The auto camp bathhouse closes in 1942 probably due to reduced visitation during the war. The large bathhouse closes in 1950 for public health reasons and as a result of a feud with the NPS over the building's appropriateness. The building is demolished in 1951.</p> <p>Brothers Hamilton Stores</p>
AD 1915	Established	<p>The Department of Interior permits the use of automobiles in Yellowstone. As a result, annual visitation to the park increases dramatically.</p> <p>Department of Interior</p>
AD 1915 - 1928	Developed	<p>Charles A. Hamilton begins developing store concessions at Old Faithful. In 1915, Hamilton buys and renovates the Klamer store to create the Lower General Store, the largest store in the national park system (Albright, 1924, 29). In 1920 and 1927, Hamilton constructs filling stations. In 1923, Hamilton develops a small grocery in the auto camp. By 1930, Hamilton completes construction of another, much larger grocery/general store known as the Upper General Store.</p> <p>Hamilton Stores</p>
AD 1916	Established	<p>The National Park Service is established and charged with managing public lands for both preservation and use.</p> <p>Congress</p>

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AD 1916 - 1920      Built      The first automobile camp is established in the park. The camp is located just east of the Old Faithful Geyser, along the Firehole River. A large wood-framed shed (60'x32' for 12 automobiles), restrooms, free firewood and cooking grates are provided at each campsite. In 1920, due to overcrowding and expansion of the private S&PCC campground, NPS moves the auto camp to a cleared site on the opposite side of the road from Old Faithful (on the far east side of today's east parking lot). The larger new camp is laid out on a grid and accommodates 350 automobiles. Over the next 8 years, NPS adds 10 comfort stations (restroom facilities) to the camps (1923, 1926, 1927, and 1928).

NPS

AD 1916 - 1932      Built      The Upper Geyser Basin becomes the most visited area of Yellowstone and concessionaires build numerous facilities to cater to the increased visitation. By 1932, the Old Faithful district supported two gas stations, two Hamilton stores, a Haynes photo shop, and a large campground.

Concessionaire

Built      In 1916, the newly formed NPS initiates a structured interpretive program and the new focus on interpretation is reflected within the Old Faithful district. During this period, the NPS adds many interpretive features including a museum, trails, an amphitheater, and signs.

NPS

AD 1918      Built      The Yellowstone Camps Company begins construction of the Old Faithful Lodge and construction continues through 1928. The completed Old Faithful Lodge houses a large dining room, a veranda overlooking Old Faithful Geyser and a recreation hall.

YP Camps CO.

AD 1919      Built      A ranger station is constructed 450 feet southeast of Old Faithful Geyser, making it more convenient to the area's other visitor facilities.

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	Established	1919 Established Yellowstone Park Hotel Company (successor to the Yellowstone Park Association) develops a bear feeding ground (behind the auto camp and housekeeping area) as an added tourist attraction in the district. After the 1941 season, all bear feeding grounds are closed.
		Yellowstone Park Company
AD 1920	Removed	The NPS dismantles and cleans up the Wylie camp site on Wylie Hill. The site had been abandoned in 1917 in favor of the Old Faithful Lodge site.
		NPS
AD 1921	Built	NPS builds an Old Faithful Ranger Station 450 feet southeast of Old Faithful Geyser and in a grove of tree.
		NPS
AD 1921 - 1942	Built	Construction of tourist cabins begins. YP Camps Co. builds 110 rustic one to four room cabins in the Old Faithful district (1921-1923). By 1940, there are over 400 cabins divided between two locations within the district – one cluster was located east of the Old Faithful Geyser behind the Old Faithful Lodge, the other was south of the geyser and west and northwest of the Hamilton Store.
		YP Camps Co.
AD 1921 - 1927	Built	Yellowstone Park Transportation Company (YPTC) begins construction of new facilities in the UGB including bunkhouses, a mess house, service garage (located by T. Vint, 1927), horse barn and storage garage (also 1927), located behind the Old Faithful Inn.
		YPTC
AD 1923	Demolished	NPS demolishes the Old Faithful Soldier Station (built in 1879, added to in 1886).
		YNP
AD 1923 - 1940	Built	YP Camps Co. erects several employee/service buildings including dorms (1923-1940), comfort stations (1924-1940), laundry buildings (1926), and an employee bathhouse (1938).
		YP Camps Co.

AD 1924 - 1938	Built	<p>NPS infrastructure improvements include construction of a 1300-foot roadway to accommodate expansion of the permanent camp (1924), widening of the Grand Loop Road to 28 feet (1935), construction of a steel girder bridge across the Firehole River southeast of the permanent camp (1937) and development of two parking areas along the Grand Loop Road (1938) (Byrand, 1995, 107).</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1926 - 1934	Developed	<p>NPS develops self-guided interpretive trails. The Formation Trail that led through Geyser Hill from feature to feature is improved with interpretive signage. The new Nature Trail follows a two-mile loop that encircles Geyser Hill and ascends Solitary Geyser and Observation Point. Between 1932 and 1934 portions of both trails are paved with asphalt and additional sections of trails are created.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1927 - 1939	Damaged	<p>YP Camps Co. develops the Housekeeping area south of the Upper General Store. Housekeeping Cabins as well as 256 tent cabins (canvas tents) are constructed. Additionally, permanent cabins and comfort stations are built and/or moved (from the Lodge) to the area. By 1939, the Housekeeping area is fully developed and includes over 400 permanent cabins, a lunch counter and delicatessen (1925), cafeteria (1927), company headquarters/office (1929), and a laundry facility (1933).</p> <p>YP Camps Co. Yp Lodge &amp; Camps Co.</p>
AD 1927	Built	<p>Haynes builds a new photo shop at Old Faithful in the auto camp on the northeast corner of the promenade (the building was moved by NPS to a location next to the Old Faithful Snow Lodge in 1974). In 1935, Haynes moves his original log-cabin studio (1897) to the utility area and converts it into a complete photo-finishing plant (1936).</p> <p>Haynes Stores Inc.</p>

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AD 1928 - 1932      Built      Construction of interpretation facilities escalates with the construction of the Museum of Thermal Activity (1929) and an amphitheater (1932) to accommodate ranger naturalist lectures. Architect Herbert Maier designs both facilities.

NPS

AD 1929      Built      The unsurfaced trail around the Old Faithful Geyser is replaced with a wider boardwalk.

NPS

AD 1929 - 1930      Built      Charley Hamilton builds large upper Hamilton Store.

Charles Hamilton

AD 1939      Designed      A major reorganization of the parks lodge areas begins, starting with Old Faithful in 1939. Park and concessionaires agree to provide electricity and running water in all cabins; standardize layout of cabins (14 feet apart, lap siding). In the Old Faithful area brown stain with red paint for the window trim is called for at the suggestion of Thomas Vint (Culpin, 2003, 83)

NPS / Yellowstone Park Company

AD 1940 - 1941      Built      NPS improves utility and operations and management facilities in the UGB including the installation of dump stations, sewage systems (1940-1) (Byrand, 1995, 105). 1941 marks the last season the NPS artificially feeds bears at the "Bear Feeding Shows" (Whittlesey, 2007).

NPS

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AD 1943 - 1972	Developed	Although facilities at Old Faithful and elsewhere in the park languish during World War II, following the end of the war visitation increases substantially and the NPS takes new approaches to balancing visitation and preservation. This period encompasses the Mission 66 period (1956-66) which sought to preserve the parks' natural landscapes and wildlife by directing automobile and pedestrian traffic away from sensitive areas and spreading out use to prevent overuse of any one area. The period ends with the construction of the bypass road and large parking areas which led to the removal of the auto campground and other concessionaire facilities. The removal of the road from the edge of the thermal features and the enlarged parking areas reflect the Yellowstone's Mission 66 prospectus that is finalized in 1956.
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NPS/Concessionaires

AD 1947 - 1953	Built	NPS initiates construction of a boardwalk system around the thermal features to reduce the impacts of foot traffic (1947-48) (Byrand, 1995, 182). Due to budget constraints the project is not completed until 1953. The entire Geyser Hill Trail is replaced with a wooden walk. NPS placed warning signs along the boardwalk system and barrier logs around the Old Faithful Geyser (1953).
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NPS

AD 1948	Planned	Proposed Old Faithful Development drawings from the 1948 Master Plan illustrate Mission 66 planning principals and call for the removal of all development that encroaches on the thermal features including the Old Faithful Inn and Lodge as well as the re-routing of the entrance drive. Although a bypass road is constructed in 1972, the removal of the area's signature buildings is never implemented.
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NPS

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Yellowstone National Park

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AD 1948 - 1972	Built	Yellowstone Parks Company initiates limited overnight facility improvements and concentrates on expanding its day-use services. In 1948, the company establishes a sandwich shop and in 1953 adds a lunch counter to the Lodge. In 1954, YPC constructs thirty cabin units in the Lodge area and in 1958 moves additional cabins to the area from Mammoth Hot Springs. A public laundry and bath facility is added to the cabin office, but burns after only a year (1955). YPC constructs a housekeeping cabin and new office/cafeteria facility just west of Hamilton's Upper Store during the period between 1955 and 1968. In 1972 this structure is converted into the Snow Lodge (Byrand, 1995, 195).
AD 1949	Built	NPS enlarges the third auto camp by adding 115 more camps. The expanded camp consists of three long parallel loop roads with 14 comfort stations and fire pits/tables at each site.  NPS
AD 1951 - 1953	Built	Hamilton Stores Inc. builds a dormitory and dining room for store employees (Byrand, 1995, 197).  Hamilton Stores Inc.
AD 1956	Planned	The 1956 Mission 66 prospectus cautions that development at Old Faithful (in particular the access road) is encroaching on the thermal features and specifies that it should be moved. The plan calls for widespread changes to roads, parking areas and other facilities throughout the park in order to better accommodate the increasing number of visitors while preserving the park's resources.  NPS
AD 1959	Built	Sanitary dump stations are installed near campgrounds to handle the increased refuse from visitors.  NPS
AD 1963 - 1964	Established	Snowmobiles are permitted into the park and at Old Faithful.  NPS
AD 1966	Reconstructed	The parking area southeast of the Lodge is enlarged.

NPS

AD 1969                      Removed                      NPS removes the third auto campground (completed in 1940 – where the east parking is now) leaving only the Old Faithful Inn and Lodge as overnight accommodations for visitors.

NPS

AD 1970 - 1975              Built                              NPS constructs a bypass road and two large parking areas (1,500 spaces total). The auto campground and some concessionaire facilities are removed to make room for the parking area.

NPS

AD 1971                      Built                              NPS constructs a trail in place of a portion of the old Grand Loop Road leading from Castle Geyser to Morning Glory Pool. The trail is paved and open to bicyclists and pedestrians.

NPS

AD 1971 - 1972              Built                              The original museum is razed and a new visitor center complex is constructed. The new building is intended to serve as the center of the day-use area once all overnight facilities and concessions are removed. This plan never comes to fruition.

NPS

AD 1973                      Established                      The Old Faithful Inn is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

NPS

Built                              New cabins are added to the Snow Lodge to meet the increasing demand for accommodations. Many old cabins are left in place. Additionally, a fire in the Old Faithful Laundry (north of the Upper Hamilton Stone) causes the YPC to convert it to the “Four Seasons Snack Shop.” The fast-food restaurant stayed on site until 1997.

YPC

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AD 1973 - 1975	Built	<p>Changes to the concessionaire landscape include YPC's construction of a fast-food facility known as the "Four Seasons Snack Shop." Haynes Studio is moved from its previous location across from the cafeteria to its current location (1973-74) in a final push by the NPS to move visitor facilities away from the thermal features.</p> <p>YPC Haynes</p>
AD 1973 - 1990	Built	<p>New development such as employee housing and maintenance buildings are constructed away from the geysers in the utility area, hidden from visitors' view.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1974	Moved	<p>The Photo Shop is moved next to the Snow Lodge as part of NPS' push to move visitor facilities away from the thermal features.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1974 - 1984	Planned	<p>Both the 1974 Park Master Plan and 1984 Development Concept Plan call for converting the Upper Geyser Basin into a day use area in order to increase protection of the area's natural and cultural resources. The plans result in the removal of visitor facilities away from the thermal features and limited facility development within the UGB. The day use concept is never completely adopted.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1976 - 1986	Reconstructed	<p>NPS undertakes considerable trail repairs and upgrades including replacement of the boardwalk system in 1979 and again in 1986. In 1980, sections of the boardwalk near Grand Geyser are widened to accommodate larger crowds and benches are installed (1981).</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1981	Removed	<p>Cafeteria building is removed.</p> <p>NPS</p>

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AD 1983	Removed	<p>NPS enters into an agreement with the state of Wyoming and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for the “removal of 78 cabins at Old Faithful” (Barbee, 1983, 55) in order to realize the day use only objectives of the 1974 Master Plan and 1984 Development Concept Plan. In 1985, another 77 cabins are removed.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1988 - 1993	Reconstructed	<p>12 Snow Lodge cabins are burned in the park fires (1988) and are replaced the following year. In 1993, the Old Faithful Snow Lodge cabins are removed to make way for the construction of the new Snow Lodge. Some cabins are transferred to Roosevelt Lodge.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1990 - 1995	Built	<p>The Old Faithful Emergency Services building is built across the street from the Employee Pub (built 1992-1993). In 1992 the Old Faithful Transportation and Service Center is also constructed and opens for winter season. In the winter of 1993-1994, the newly constructed Larkspur dormitory opens. The new Old Faithful Ranger Station and medical center are erected during the summer of 1995 at the south end of the west parking lot.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 1997 - 1998	Built	<p>The Old Faithful Snow Lodge is constructed.</p> <p>NPS</p>
AD 2002 - 2003	Built	<p>A manager’s apartment complex is built in the Old Faithful housing area and used by the Amfac/Xanterra corporation.</p> <p>Amfac/Xanterra</p>
AD 2004 - 20074	Planned	<p>A circulation study is underway to analyze pedestrian and vehicular movement throughout the site. Also, construction drawings for a new visitor center designed in the Rustic tradition are completed.</p> <p>NPS</p>

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AD 2006 - 2009

Built

A temporary visitor center opens in May 2006 in a trailer-like building near the site of the old YP Company cafeteria. The old visitor center is torn down in the fall of 2006 and construction of the new visitor center begins that same year. Completion of the building is anticipated for 2009.

NPS

## Physical History:

### 1870 – 1903: EARLY YEARS

The early Anglo-American period of the Old Faithful district's history represents the inception of Yellowstone as a national park, proceeds through the first wave of tourist facilities and infrastructure, and ends with the initial construction of the Old Faithful Inn in 1903. During this period, park managers endeavored to protect wildlife and natural features amidst a campaign to promote tourism in the newly established park.

It is important to note that Native Americans frequented the Upper and Lower Geyser Basin areas of the park prior to development of the Old Faithful district. Crow Indians migrated seasonally to the Upper and Lower Geyser Basin areas of the park to gather minerals. They traveled from the eastern Cody entrance along the Firehole River. Crow accounts reveal that they were at times chased by Shoshone Indians who also resided in the area seasonally. With the exception of one Nez Perce account, however, none of the tribes describe a thermal feature similar to Old Faithful. Therefore, it is unlikely that the Old Faithful area was as revered by Native American tribes as it is by modern day park visitors (Sucec, 2004). While there are limited accounts referring specifically to the Old Faithful Geyser, there is evidence that the thermal features in general were highly valued by the tribes for their medicinal and spiritual powers (Sucec, 2004).

This CLI's "Early Years" period encompasses several periods of development outlined in Yellowstone National Park archeologist's 2006 paper entitled, *Association of Old Faithful Area Historical Archeological Sites and Cultural Landscapes to Periods of Development in Yellowstone National Park* (Hale, 2006). The overlapping periods include Period I- Nascence (1872-1882) when tourism facilities and structures were primitive; Period II - Transition (1883-1892) when tourism infrastructure including roads, accommodations, trails and visitor facilities were greatly improved; and part of Period III - Diversification and Expansion period (1893-1915), during which tourism services grew in complexity to accommodate the broadening tourist base (Hale, 2006).

### General Background

In 1872, Congress designated Yellowstone as the country's first national park and placed it under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior. However, it was not until 1878 that Congress allocated funds (\$10,000) to "protect, preserve, and improve" the park (Byrand, 1994, 39). Much of the development during the early years was undertaken by the park's second superintendent, Philetus W. Norris (1877-82). Besides launching a massive public relations campaign to promote the park, Norris also emphasized the importance of not despoiling the park's features. Norris established a primitive road system, hired a game keeper, placed simple informational signs throughout the park, and built the first permanent structures near Old Faithful – a log-house with stable, corral, ditch and reservoir. By 1877 a trail connected the west entrance to the Upper Geyser Basin (UGB) and in 1878 Norris completed construction of a road spur that linked the park's north and west entrances with the Upper Geyser Basin which made Old Faithful accessible to more visitors (Haines, 1997, 244). In 1879, Norris ordered the construction of the UGB's first structure – a small cabin located in "the little grove between the

Castle and Beehive Geysers in the Upper Firehole basin” (Norris, 1979a, 9 quoted in Byrand 1995, 44).

After a series of relatively unsuccessful superintendents that followed Norris, Congress placed the park under military control in 1886. During the period 1886-1918, the Army was stationed on the Firehole River in the UGB in order to protect the thermal features from vandalism. The army occupied four buildings and two or three tents in the vicinity of the Norris cabin (Byrand, 1995, 44, 49). At the time, visitors generally viewed their visit to the UGB as an interactive, tactile experience that led to considerable abuse of the thermal features. Visitors scrawled their names on the geyser formations, placed objects (hats, towels, stones, etc.) in the geysers in order to watch them shoot out, washed clothes in Old Faithful and other thermal features, and boiled eggs and potatoes in the “Devils Well” (today’s Crested Pool) and other hot springs (Byrand, 1995, 243-244).

In addition to controlling visitors, the Army engineers also improved the road system within the UGB. By the 1890s, paths and trails had evolved among the thermal features of the UGB. Wooden signs marked notable natural features along the route, providing an initial form of interpretation in the area. Guided tours were also offered at this time by concessionaires.

#### Initial Development of the Old Faithful Area

Old Faithful was named by the Washburn expedition of 1870, the members of which were impressed by the geyser’s size and frequency. Since Old Faithful has been erupting in roughly the same fashion throughout the recorded history of Yellowstone, it has emerged as the most popular destination within the park. The Hayden survey of 1871 was also captivated by the UGB resources and survey artists Henry Jackson and Thomas Moran depicted Old Faithful and other thermal features in their photographs and paintings. Their artwork and the Washburn and Hayden reports of the UGB were later used to lobby Congress to set aside the Yellowstone region as a national park.

Access for horses, wagons, and stagecoaches was integral to bringing most tourists to the Old Faithful area, and roads used by them were a necessity recognized by park management. The first road to the area was established in 1878 from Mammoth Hot Springs. Superintendent Norris was responsible for constructing the road in 1878 that connected Mammoth Hot Springs with the geyser basins on the Firehole River. Initially built in response to the need to move troops more efficiently through the park, the wagon road essentially opened the UGB to tourism by providing direct links to the park’s north and west entrances (Haines, 1977, 242). Following completion of the Mammoth to UGB connection, Superintendent Norris extended roads and trails elsewhere. Another significant step in opening access to the UGB included Norris’ development of a trail and later road east from the Upper Geyser Basin to the West Thumb of Lake Yellowstone. The Army Corps of Engineers took over road work in 1883, and by 1891 had converted the West Thumb trail to a road, thereby providing a direct connection between Old Faithful and Lake Yellowstone. By 1895 the Corps had improved the quality of the road from Mammoth to Old Faithful, and established a touring loop, later known as the Grand Loop. The only missing stretch at this date was the Canyon to Tower connection which was not completed until 1905.

Throughout the history of the Old Faithful area, the tastes and demands of tourists shaped the UGB landscape. Concessionaires, the primary provider of tourist facilities within the park, created much of the built environment within the Old Faithful area and, in turn, influenced the landscape's character. Upper and middle-class visitors were the primary visitors during Yellowstone's early period, as they were the only ones who could afford a train trip to the park. These visitors traveled on stages run by park concessionaires from the rail stations and stayed in park hotels established at points of interest. Less affluent visitors typically resided in permanent tent camps also run by concessionaires or traveled in their own wagons, camping along the way.

As is the case today, the early visitors to the Old Faithful area were pre-occupied with geyser watching. Old Faithful was not the only thermal attraction, in fact early development in the Upper Geyser Basin included a system of footpaths that provided access to thermal features outlying the Old Faithful geyser (see the historic trail maps in the photo collection).

#### Accommodating Visitors

The groundwork for the development of visitor facilities in the Old Faithful district was established in 1878 when Superintendent Norris and his men inspected the UGB for potential areas where concessionaires could build (Byrand, 1995, 57). They found "several good building sites, plenty of wood, fair water" between the Old Faithful and Castle Geysers (Norris, 1878, 986 quoted in Byrand, 1995, 57). In 1883 the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company (YNPIC), the park's only approved concessionaire, built a tent camp between the Castle and Old Faithful geysers. Each tent was furnished with beds, chairs and other "conveniences." The company outfitted the kitchen tent with a hotel cooking range, and built a log storehouse. Two years later, the hotel company built the area's first hotel structure, affectionately known as "The Shack." This 50-guest log building was used by affluent tourists, even though it was berated for its shoddy construction. Its location became a point of contention with park managers, as it was outside of the company's approved land and too close to the Old Faithful Geyser. Concerned with preservation in the park and the generous terms of the lease awarded to the Yellowstone National Park Improvement Company, Congress passed a resolution in 1883 that amended the park's lease policy and included language that specifically addressed the Upper Geyser Basin (Sundry Civil Bill, 3 March 1883). A clause stated that no lease should "include any ground within one-quarter of a mile of any of the geysers or of the Yellowstone falls" (Bartlett, 1985 cited in Byrand, 1995, 60). Despite the resolution, the first hotel facility that replaced the YNPIC tent camp, the Shack, was constructed in same area as the current Old Faithful Inn and within the restricted 1/4 mile area. The hotel occupied a key scenic vantage point as every active geyser in the basin could be seen from its porch and the company delayed relocating the building.

In 1894 with the passage of the Hayes Act, the size of allowable lease holdings for concessionaires was increased from ten to twenty acres at one site and the distance facilities could be built from thermal features was decreased from 1/4 to 1/8 mile (Hayes Act, 1894). This legislation was a catalyst to the development of a new hotel at the Upper Geyser Basin because the ideal building site, the location illegally occupied by the dilapidated "Shack," could

be resurveyed to fit the YPA's lease and accommodate a hotel (Byrand, 1995, 68). Subsequent master plan maps of the Old Faithful area show a 1/8 mile radius drawn around the Old Faithful Geyser (NP-YEL 2264, 1948, Master Plan). The circle denotes a "sacred zone" and the Old Faithful Inn lies just outside this boundary.

Until 1903-04, relatively few buildings dotted the Old Faithful cultural landscape. A camp was established in 1886 to provide housing for soldiers brought in to protect the UGB's thermal features from vandalism. Four buildings and two or three tents were in use for housing troops by 1904. Other structures that were added to the landscape during the early stages of Old Faithful's development to support both park management and tourists included the following: a residential compound with log house, stable and ditch was constructed near Old Faithful (1879) and nearby assistant superintendent's house (1885); the George Wakefield barns, stables, and corrals (present in 1888); the YPA Hot-house (1897); and the Wylie Camping Company's tent camp and outbuildings was established in 1898 on Wylie Hill west of Grotto Geyser between Red Mud Crater and Cyclops Spring (Whittlesey, 2007). Also of note was F. Jay Haynes construction a log-cabin photographic studio northwest of the tent camp facility for "preparation of photographic views" for tourists in 1897. Haynes sold photographic and lithographic images of the park's features, as well as postcards and other souvenirs. In 1890, he also began publishing the Haynes Guides, which provided tourists with information, maps and photographs of and about the park. In 1897, H.E. Klamer opened a general store/curio shop/post office, also near the tent camp. In 1899 the Haynes' Monida-Yellowstone Stage Company leased a one-square-acre tract southeast of the tent camp, and built a barn for housing stock and storing grain, and sleeping quarters for drivers and stocktenders.

#### Interpretation

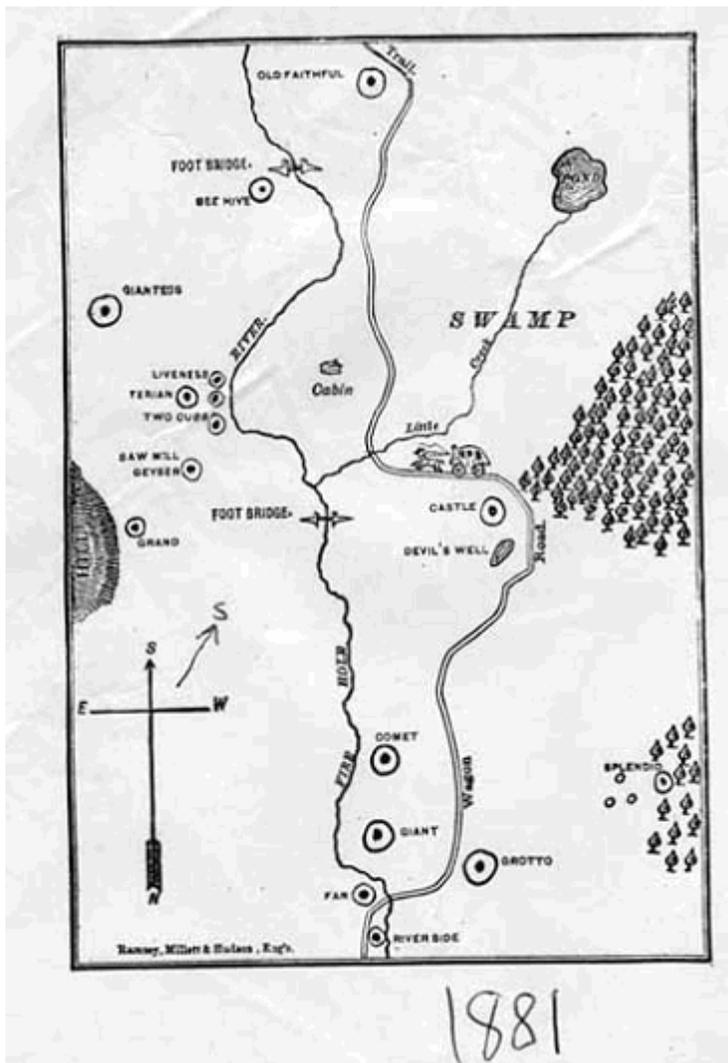
Interpretation at Old Faithful dates back to the early days of the park. Interpretation of the thermal features began with the "cone talks" presented by the soldiers of the Twenty-second Infantry stationed in the Upper Geyser Basin in 1888 (Haines, 1977, 307). Concessionaires such as Wylie and the hotel company hired interpretive guides to provide visitors tours of the UGB (Byrand, 1995,54). Superintendent Norris did make attempts to interpret the thermal features with signs, however, vandalism and degradation of the wooden signs due to hot vapor emitted by the thermal features led to persistent maintenance problems (Byrand, 1995,56). Overtime and with the involvement and commitment of the NPS to education, interpretive services within the Old Faithful district became more sophisticated.

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Note: The history in this CLI concisely summarizes physical changes to the Old Faithful cultural landscape. For a more comprehensive account of the history and evolution of the Old Faithful area, refer to *A History of the Old Faithful Area with Chronology, Maps, and Executive Summary* (2007), written by park historian, Lee Whittlesey.

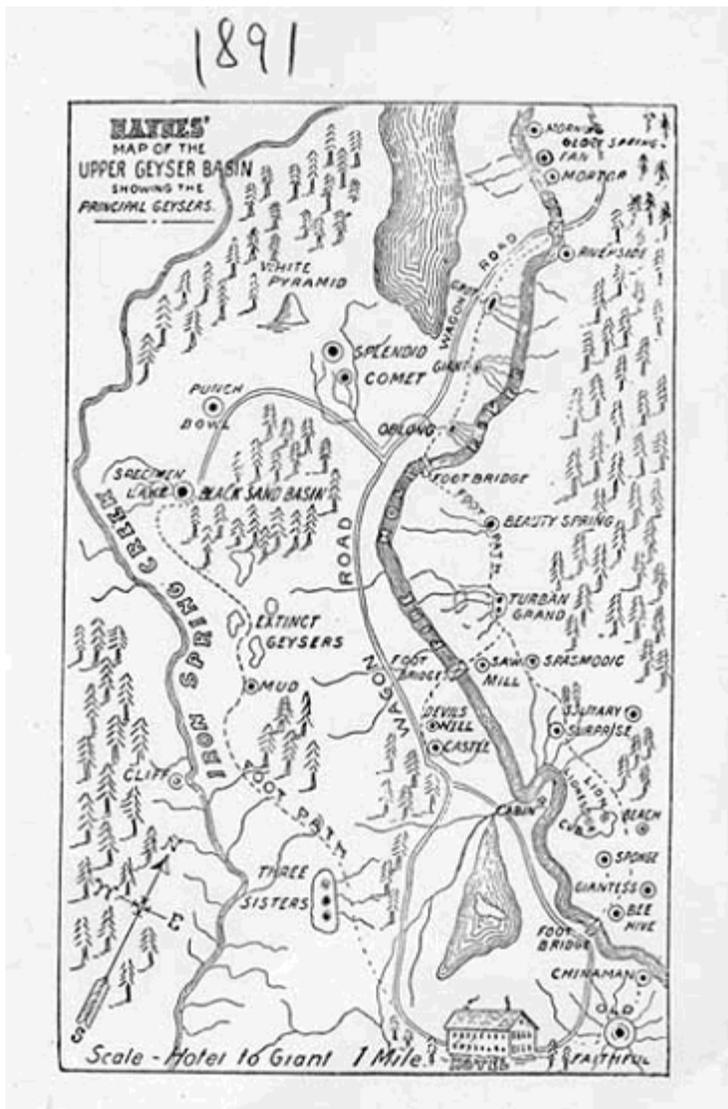
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*Old Faithful trail system in 1881 (YNP archives, Wylie 1882 guidebook).*

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Old Faithful trail system in 1891 (YNP archives, Guptill 1892).



*The predecessor to the Old Faithful Inn was informally called 'The Shack' (YNP archives, item 127883).*

#### 1904 – 1942: USE THROUGH DEVELOPMENT

In the early 1900's, many changes in park and concession administration were instituted in order to better serve the growing number of tourists and their automobiles. Concessionaires began to work together to promote each other's business and establish Old Faithful as a more desirable and comfortable overnight destination. A period of intensive development in the Old Faithful area began in 1904 with the construction of the Old Faithful Inn and spanned 35 years in the park during which nearly a thousand buildings were constructed throughout Yellowstone National Park. The construction of the Inn marks the beginning of the NPS Rustic, a design style which shaped the development of Old Faithful's cultural landscape and remains a signature element of the historic district today. YNP archeologist, Elaine Hale, has defined this period of intense development in Yellowstone as Period III- Diversification & Expansion (1893-1915) and Period IV – Transition and Reformation (1916-1942). Similar, to this CLI's "Use Through Development" period, Hale's "Transition and Reformation" period is characterized by tourism development necessary to accommodate the automobile and the exponential rise in park visitation that occurred between 1916-1942.

A notable example of this advance in tourism development was the Old Faithful Inn. Completed in 1904, the Inn could house 316 guests and was remarkably better than any previous overnight facility in the area. Its situation in the landscape was ideal: even dining guests could enjoy watching spouting geysers. The Old Faithful Inn has emerged as one of the West's most important icons of park architecture – the "first 'rustic' hotel built in the national parks in a large-scale effort to harmonize construction with the natural surroundings" (McClelland, 1993,

62). Considered a prototype for the Rustic style, the Old Faithful Inn ushered in a new period of design for national park facilities. The Inn, like the Old Faithful Geysers, became a must see feature of the park.

The Old Faithful Inn together with the Klamer Store (1897) and the Haynes photo studio (1897) formed early groupings of concessionaire development within the Old Faithful district. The three buildings were all constructed within view of the erupting thermal features and in close proximity to the UGB trails (Byrand, 1995, 87).

Development intensified when Yellowstone was transferred to the newly formed National Park Service in 1916. The NPS participated in the “See America First” program during and before World War I to promote America’s scenic lands as alternatives to those in Europe. Yellowstone’s managers concentrated on developing infrastructure to make the park more accessible to visitors. Around Old Faithful, the NPS built or refurbished several bridges that provided transportation links between geyser groups. Parking areas were created in widened sections of the Grand Loop Road that allowed drivers to pull off in convenient spots. One lay between the east wing of the Inn and the Old Faithful Geysers. In 1935, the NPS widened the Grand Loop Road from 18 to 28 feet between Madison Junction and Old Faithful (Culpin, 1994 cited in Byrand, 1995, 107).

#### Tourist Facilities and the Automobile

In 1915, the Department of Interior permitted the use of automobiles in Yellowstone. As a result, the park landscape was altered substantially over several years to accommodate the influx of automobiles and the growing number of visitors. Over the next 25 years, automobile campgrounds, a new tent camp, an additional lodge, and tourist cabins were all developed at Old Faithful to accommodate the increasing number of visitors.

In 1916, automobile camps opened throughout the park, financed through an automobile entrance fee. The Old Faithful automobile camp opened just east of the Old Faithful Geysers, along the Firehole River behind a tent camp owned by the Shaw and Powell Camping Company. It took the form of a large wood-framed shed with corrugated steel roof, 60 feet by 32 feet, holding 12 vehicles (Brett, 1916, 42 cited in Byrand, 1995). There were also toilet facilities, cooking grates at each campsite and free wood.

This campground quickly became overcrowded and the site was moved in 1920 to the opposite side of the road from Old Faithful. Much timber had to be removed from this thickly wooded site, but it proved superior to the old site. Screened by trees and on level, sandy soil, the new camp could hold 350 automobiles. The new camp also provided convenient access to the thermal features within the UGB. The camp initially included two rustic-appearing comfort stations and water was provided by tying into a line from the hotel’s system (Byrand, 1995, 100). As demand increased, the park added two more comfort stations in 1923, 1926, 1927 and 1928 (for a total of ten). Urbanization made its mark on the campground, with street lights added in 1928, and road widening in 1929. The auto campground was very popular, and in 1939 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) began work on a new auto campground, this one located southeast of the second. However, it was not finished until the end of World War II due

to CCC staff being called away and lack of funds during WWII (Byrand, 1995, 103).

Other tourist facilities also continued to develop during this period. Old Faithful Inn was expanded with two wings and more than 250 rooms because guest rooms were in short supply. In 1919 and 1923, the Hotel Company constructed employee dormitories to open additional rooms for tourist use in the Inn. The Company also built a plethora of other structures behind the Inn, including a small caretaker's quarters, two separate engineers' quarters, a carpenter and paint shop, a pipe shop, a tailor shop, a boiler house, a power plant, a hose house, and a large boiler room/laundry (Byrand, 1995, 132).

Old Faithful Lodge developed gradually and piecemeal. In 1913, the Shaw and Powell Camping Company received permission to construct a permanent tent camp at Old Faithful just east of the Geyser. Along with the 50 wooden-floored canvas and frame tents, the facility included a kitchen facility and dining room with lobby and office. Water was piped from 900 feet away. In 1921, the company added a recreation pavilion to the camp. In 1926, under new management, the camp company (now the Yellowstone Park Camps Company, or YPCC) constructed a new lodge building at the site, known as the Old Faithful Lodge. The initial Lodge was not well received and Superintendent Albright felt it resembled a "factory more than a resort" (Albright, 15, April 1926, cited in Byrand, 1995, 138). Consequently, Albright ordered that the recreation hall be torn down. Albright's order was obliged and in 1928, a new recreation hall and lobby were added to the Lodge. The company also constructed several other service buildings in the Lodge area, including four employee housing facilities, employee laundry, employee bathhouse, and also five comfort stations within the camping area.

Scattered among the Lodge, tents, dorms, and service facilities were tourist cabins. These wooden buildings, which ultimately would replace the tents, first appeared in the area in 1921. In that year the YPCC built 50 cabins, and in 1923 it constructed 60 more. Development of these structures advanced rapidly and by 1940 the total in the Lodge area was 414 (Byrand, 1995, 140). The camp company also built both tents and cabins across the road next to the auto camp in the late 1920s. Known as the Housekeeping Cabins, these structures allowed visitors to prepare their own meals, furnish their own bedding and park adjacent to the cabin. They gave visitors the convenience and economy of camping without the burden of carrying their own tent. The camp company also moved its tents to the Housekeeping area and constructed additional tents for a total of 256 in 1929 (Byrand, 1995, 143). The company continued to erect cabins in the Housekeeping area, for a total of 370 in 1935, and then began converting the tents to wooden cabins. At that point, the company wired both the cabins and the tents for electricity. It also built a boy's dormitory, two comfort stations, a lunch counter/delicatessen, and a cafeteria. Across from the Hamilton Upper Store, the company constructed a headquarters and cabin registration office with upstairs dormitory, and an employee laundry (Byrand, 1995, 144).

#### Other Concession Developments

Haynes' business expanded greatly during this period, and he expanded his log cabin studio several times. Then in 1927, he built a two-story log-trimmed living quarters and photo shop/finishing plant in the auto camp. His original shop was relocated to the Old Faithful utility area in 1933 – as the result of a NPS plan to eliminate artificial intrusions within scenic areas of

the parks – to be used as a photo-finishing plant (Byrand, 1995, 147). The new building was located on a corner of the main boulevard, where it was at the center of visitor facilities and offered many customer contacts.

Store concessions continued to thrive, and C.A. Hamilton bought the Klamer store in 1915 from Klamer's widow. In addition to selling general merchandise, curios and souvenirs, he entered the fuel business through a joint marketing agreement with the original fuel concession owner. As a result, in 1921 he opened a filling station just west of the Klamer store. He also added a concrete walkway to the Old Faithful Inn to encourage its guests to visit his store. Between 1923 and 1926 he enlarged the store, and added a knotted-pine porch and restaurant. In 1923, Hamilton built a small grocery at the auto camp to serve the large numbers in the camp and Housekeeping Cabins. In 1930, he completed construction of a larger store – known as the Upper General Store – to replace the small grocery. This was a very grand and large structure with a 150-foot gabled frontage (Byrand, 1995, 158).

Transportation concessions within Yellowstone were consolidated in 1917 under the auspices of the Yellowstone Park Transportation Company (YPTC), to minimize conflicts between horses and automobiles. Between 1921 -1927 the YPTC built a chauffeurs' and mechanics' bunkhouse, a drivers' bunkhouse and wash house, a mess house, and a service garage within the Old Faithful Area (Byrand, 1995, 147).

A swimming pool was opened in 1915 across the road from the original Haynes Studio. Although this was a controversial facility because of its proximity to the thermal features, it proved to be popular with about 11,000 visitors per year. The swimming pool was representative of a phase in tourist development in which visitors fully exploited the area's resources. In 1933 Brothers retired and sold the bathhouse to C.A. Hamilton. Park officials urged Hamilton to relocate the bathhouse, but he resisted, and instead enlarged and remodeled the facility (Byrand 1995, 157).

#### Interpretation Facilities

In 1916, the newly formed NPS initiated a more structured interpretation program. Interpretive tours continued, which included a self-guided automobile-based tour with visitors driving between thermal features. Use of signs was expanded during this period. In 1918, rangers expressed a need for more metal signs (the first of which had been installed in 1907). These were installed in 1920, with most colored green and white; danger areas were marked in red (Byrand, 1995, 121). There is no clear record of where these signs were placed. During the park's early days concession company employees and occasionally park soldiers also provided oral descriptions of park landscapes. The first interpretive naturalist, Isabel B. Wasson, was hired in 1919 (Whittlesey, 2004).

A museum building – the Museum of Thermal Activity – was completed in 1929, which became one of the main points of interest in the Old Faithful area. The museum was designed by architect, Herbert Maier, who “used landscape techniques and features to blend museum buildings and structures with the natural setting they were trying to interpret” (McClelland, 1903, 239). In addition to using natural materials such as stone and wood, Maier relied on

screening to make his structures more inconspicuous. Buildings were either placed behind natural features such as trees and rocks or native vegetation were planted as screens. Like other buildings outlying the geyser, the museum was sited so that its main entrance faced Old Faithful and provided a direct view of the geyser. The open court at the museum's rear served as a lecture area for the ranger naturalists, as well as a place to exhibit live snakes, frogs, and wildflowers. When the court proved too small to accommodate visitors, the park opened an 800-seat semi-circular amphitheatre in 1932. Adjacent to the museum, the facility was screened with trees and provided a rustic setting. Each evening a campfire talk was given on natural history and other Yellowstone subjects (Byrand, 1995, 115).

In 1919, the NPS established a formal dump/bear feeding ground within walking distance of the Old Faithful automobile camp and housekeeping area. It consisted of a wooden feeding platform on which the bears would "dine," wooden benches for the visitors, and a wire barricade and shallow ditch to protect people from danger. In 1936, the scheduled bear feedings were discontinued due to safety concerns (Byrand, 1995, 109).

Because park naturalists could not reach all visitors with guided tours, in 1926 the park established two interpretive trails, Formation Trail and Nature Trail. The Formation Trail allowed visitors to walk on the bare soil of Geyser Hill from feature to feature, and offered 38 signs interpreting what they were seeing. The Nature Trail essentially circled the Formation trail and led visitors on a longer self-guided nature walk out to Solitary geyser. The trail used 249 signs to point out geological and biological features, as well as logs to keep equestrians from using the trail (Byrand, 1995, 124). In 1934, the NPS built one mile of asphalt-paved trail at Geyser Hill, making the first permanent path in the area (Superintendent report, 1934).

Boardwalks have been an important feature at Old Faithful since early in the area's history. Early trails dating from the 1920s, consisted of logs eight to ten inches in diameter placed end to end along the ground in parallel rows to form an unsurfaced path about six feet wide (McClelland, 1998, 238). When charged with improving trails closest to Old Faithful in 1929, Kenneth McCarther, the park's resident landscape architect, suggested retaining the log curbing, but topping it with planks in order to create a wider (ten foot minimum) boardwalk system above the surface. The boardwalk trails could handle the increased foot traffic and guided tours. Also, the boardwalks were appropriate to the setting because they did not deface the formations like other alternatives such as concrete or masonry (McClelland, 1998, 238). This form of trail construction that relied on natural materials, was tailored for local conditions, and was durable enough to sustain adverse climatic conditions and heavy use set an important precedent for trail improvements throughout Yellowstone and in other national parks (McClelland, 1998, 239). Although boardwalks were constructed around the Old Faithful geyser in 1929, the remainder of the area's trail system was not converted to boardwalk until 1953 (Byrand, 1995, 180). To safeguard visitors from the hot pools, McCarther also recommended installing log curbing around hazardous pools and marking them with low signs that read, "Dangerous" (McClelland, 1998, 238).

In order to continue the tradition of providing convenient visitor access to thermal features, a parking area was created adjacent to the road between the Old Faithful Inn and the Old

Faithful Geyser in 1937 (Byrand, 1995, 106). With this new construction, tourists would be oriented to the geyser by the axial relationship of the Grand Loop road and could watch the geyser erupt while sitting in their car.

#### Support Facilities

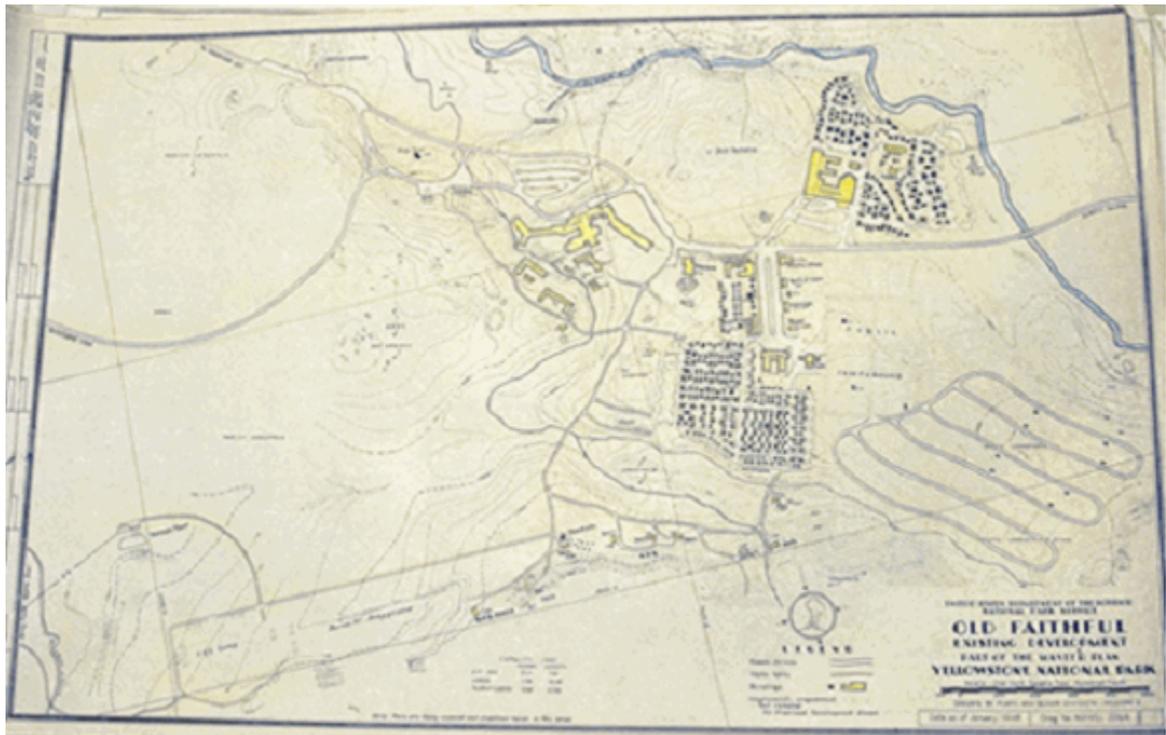
The growth in visitation during this period required the construction of employee and utility facilities throughout the district. In 1919, a new ranger station was constructed in a small grove approximately 450 feet southeast of Old Faithful Geyser, making it more convenient to the area's other visitor facilities, and in 1923, the original soldier/ranger station to the west was razed (Byrand, 1995, 104). Also in that year, the park constructed a combined winter ranger's quarters and summer mess hall at the northwest end of the second auto camp. In 1932, this building was moved to the utility area and remodeled into four-room house for the ranger naturalist. Additional administrative development included a ranger dorm, ranger apartment, a bunkhouse, a tool cache, a storage barn, and a garbage incinerator. In 1935, an employee camp was added to utility area, with pit toilets and its own water supply. In 1923, the NPS completed a sewage facility to protect the Firehole River from pollution by raw sewage from visitor facilities. By 1937, the facility was inadequate for the demands placed on it, and in 1941 a new facility was built in the utility area with a spray field southwest of it. The NPS chose this site because of its desire to eliminate artificial intrusions from scenic and natural landscapes (Byrand, 1995, 105).

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*This 1952 drawing depicts the existing conditions at Old Faithful in 1948. This site plan is a good record of conditions within the Old Faithful District at the close of the period of significance of 1942 (YNP archives, item 4956).*



*Old Faithful trail system in 1936 (YNP archives, Old Faithful Haynes Guide).*

#### 1943 – 1972: BALANCING USE AND PRESERVATION

Yellowstone illustrated the National Park Service’s struggle to accommodate the expedient increase in visitation following World War II. In 1948, the park saw one million visitors, up from 20,000 in 1920. In 1948 Newton Drury, the NPS director, claimed that new development was necessary to cope with the increase in visitation and he reported that the Old Faithful area was at “the saturation point” (Carr, 2007). The Mission 66 program, instituted in 1956 to deal with increased visitation through upgrading the parks’ infrastructure and facilities by 1966, called for the relocation and removal of many structures. Any development during this period was primarily focused on meeting the needs of the automobile visitor, who by 1958 made up 98.7 percent of all park visitors (Byrand, 1995, 168). The program also sought to preserve the parks’ natural landscapes and wildlife by directing automobile and pedestrian traffic away from sensitive areas and spreading out use to prevent overuse of any one area.

One of the principals of Mission 66 era planning within the Old Faithful area was to eliminate “the encroachment upon thermal features” (Carr, 2007). Among Mission 66 era planners there was a consensus that popular and sensitive destinations, especially Old Faithful and Mammoth Hot Springs, were being overwhelmed by the increase in visitors (Carr, 2007). The 1948 Master Plan marked the beginning of this shift in planning for the Old Faithful area. The

“ultimate plan” within the master planning set of maps called for demolishing the Old Faithful Inn and Lodge and realigning the entrance road so that these features no longer encroached on the thermal features (see photo and map documentation section for a copy of this plan, YNP archives, item 4958). The plan stated that all of the past development at Old Faithful encroached seriously upon the thermal features and that this development would be removed, and new facilities of a comparable capacity be provided on a new site. Old Faithful was to become strictly a day-use area, with new parking areas, rest rooms and boardwalks with interpretive displays. The plan called for the construction of overnight accommodations and restaurant facilities several miles to the north at the proposed “Firehole Village.” The Firehole Village concept was never realized and changes to the Old Faithful area were slow in coming. By 1966, the area had still not been converted into a day-use area and for the elimination of overnight facilities had never come to fruition.

The 1956 Mission 66 prospectus for Yellowstone called for \$17.5 million government spending and a total concessioner investment of \$13.5 million over the next ten years in order to meet the 2 million visitors anticipated by 1966 (the actual number of park visitors would only be slightly higher). The relocation of roads away from sensitive areas including the realignment of the entrance to Old Faithful was among the improvements called for in the prospectus (Carr, Jackson-Retondo, Warner, 2006). Likewise the prospectus listed the expansion of parking areas in many of the park’s development areas. These changes to the Old Faithful area were not implemented until 1970-72 when the bypass road and enlarged parking areas were constructed.

#### Evolving Tourist Accommodations

Tourist facilities continued to be upgraded and expanded during this period to allow for increased demand, and the Old Faithful area evolved quickly. For example, in 1941 YPC provided all tourist cabins and lodges with running water (Byrand, 1995, 193). By 1954, YPC had built 30 additional cabin units complete with bathrooms in the lodge area. The auto camp was expanded by 115 camp sites, and now consisted of three long parallel loop roads with 14 comfort stations and fire pits/tables at each site. Increased demand also resulted in the enlargement of Old Faithful Inn’s parking lot in 1966.

In late 1971, YPC converted an office structure next to the Upper Store into the Snow Lodge to provide winter overnight facility for the users of a new concession – snowmobiles. This action was significant because the Old Faithful area would now serve tourists on a year-round basis. The area’s roads and trails were used for both cross country skiing and snowmobiling. Winter visitation numbers were high with up to 2,000 visitors reported in the area in 1984 (NPS Memorandum, May 6, 1984, signed Steve Martin).

In light of the post-war planning objective to convert Old Faithful to a day-use area, tourist facilities were also removed during this period. In 1969, the NPS eliminated all camping areas. While the goal was to reduce overnight visitors, this action was also significant because it made room for the new planned bypass road and parking facilities.

#### Other Concessions

The lack of visitors during WWII resulted in several difficult years for businesses (Byrand, 1995, 192). For example, the auto camp bathhouse closed in 1942 due to a lack of visitors. In 1948, the bathhouse building was transformed into a sandwich shop frequented by guests in the Housekeeping Area and the auto camp. To accommodate a growing employee base, Hamilton Stores added a girls' dormitory and dining room for employees directly behind the Upper Store in 1953.

Despite challenging economic times, development in the district did continue to expand. A public laundry and bathhouse opened in the housekeeping area in 1954, but tragedy struck in 1955 with a fire burning these facilities along with the girl's dormitory and the tourist cabin office (Byrand, 1995, 195). The office was not replaced until 1968, when YPC constructed a new office/cafeteria facility just west of Hamilton Upper Store.

New services were introduced during this period. For example, in 1956 a "driver-ur-self" service made rental cars available to the public at various locations within and outside the park. The Old Faithful Inn was designated a rental station (Byrand, 1995, 202). Snowmobiles were permitted to visit Old Faithful beginning in the winter of 1963-64. Snowmobiles of West Yellowstone was the snowmobile concessionaire. This also brought demand for overnight accommodations for snowmobile users that was eventually filled by the opening of the Snow Lodge in the winter of 1971-1972.

This period brought an end to Hamilton's large bathhouse next to the Old Faithful Geyser, with its removal in 1951. This action concluded years of discussions between the concessionaire and the NPS about its position between the area's highway approach and the Old Faithful Geyser. It was considered by the NPS to be a conspicuous and "artificial intrusion" in the natural landscape. Hamilton fought its removal for over ten years, but the final determining factor was its failure to meet the public health standard that called for a complete water change twice every 24 hours. He declined to spend the \$35,000 required to remedy the situation, and instead spent \$12,000 to have it razed (Denver Post, August 4, 1950).

#### Interpretation Facilities

Due to reduced resources during WWII, many of the park's visitor facilities fell into disrepair. Neglect compounded by the drastic increase in visitation following the war expedited the need to upgrade the district's interpretive facilities. The amphitheatre was refurbished and improved in 1945, adding a public address system and new film projection house and screen. These improvements "served to increase the ease and scope of interpretation" (Byrand, 1995, 186).

As discussed earlier, the NPS constructed a boardwalk system around thermal features in order to reduce the impacts of foot traffic. By 1953, park engineers and landscape architects had completed an improved boardwalk trail system, including a viewing platform at Old Faithful. Signs were also constructed in order to interpret the landscape and control visitors through cautionary messages. These included "Keep Off" signs at boardwalks' edges, to prevent visitors from leaving the boardwalk. Also in 1953, the Geyser Hill asphalt trail was replaced with boardwalk because bituminous cinders deteriorated with heat, and visitors threw them into the geysers (Rough Draft Report on Yellowstone Mission 66, 1956, 173 cited in Byrand, 1995,

182). The walk was doubled in width at key stopping points, and outfitted with “stopping stations,” long narrow planks that jutted toward objects of interest for guides to stand on while giving lectures. The goal and effect of the boardwalk system and stopping stations reduce intrusions on the thermal landscape.

The original museum was razed in 1971 to make way for a new visitor center with two theaters, which was then to serve as the center of the envisioned day-use only area.

#### Support Facilities

Roads were altered significantly during this period. By 1972, the park completed a bypass road system with a clover leaf to redirect automobile traffic around the UGB’s natural resources. The bypass had been planned since the early 1960’s, but financial priorities and a discussion regarding its appropriateness delayed construction of these facilities. The park landscape architect (Frank E. Mattson) believed the selected course intruded least on the area’s scenic resources. However, he questioned whether the bypass was needed at all, because he believed very little visitor traffic would bypass the park’s number one destination – Old Faithful. The 1972 re-design of the district also included the addition of two large parking lots with a capacity of 1,500 cars, a newly laid-out pedestrian circulation system and a new, modern visitor center.

Utilities continued to be improved in order to both improve visitor services and park management, as well as to protect park resources. 1959 saw several improvements that kept the area cleaner and quieter. The park installed sanitary dump stations near the campground to handle refuse produced by bus visitors. Telephone service was brought in from outside the park, provided by Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph (Byrand, 1995, 177). This ended NPS provision of this service. NPS provision of electrical power was also ended, with Montana Power Company now providing this service. An FM base station installed at Old Faithful improved radio communication throughout park. Lastly, the sewage spray field was converted into several sewage lagoons to improve the sewage facility’s effectiveness.

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*Overview of Old Faithful geyser area, with parking abutting the geyser, a boardwalk, and the Old Faithful Lodge in distance (YNP archives, item 21009).*

#### 1973 – PRESENT: FOCUSING ON THE ECOSYSTEM

The NPS soon discovered that high numbers of visitors and the newly developed facilities were causing problems. Specifically, the new road system confused visitors, and some structures actually blocked the view of the Basin’s thermal features. A 1984 Draft Development Concept Plan reported visitor “services and support facilities were intermixed in an undesirable way” (Byrand, 1995, 207). This new plan’s goals were to protect the area’s natural and to consider preservation of certain cultural resources. Some structures were called out for preservation, such as Old Faithful Inn, while others were designated for removal, specifically all tourist cabins. About 150 cabins were removed prior to the 1988 fires, and 12 of the Snow Lodge’s cabins burned in the fires. Although the burned cabins were replaced, most of that area’s cabins (Snow Lodge/Housekeeping Area) were subsequently removed.

#### Changing the Shape of Development

In the early 1970s, the portion of the original Grand Loop road that had once led visitors from Morning Glory Pool, past Castle Geyser to the Inn was converted to a pedestrian/bike path and service road. Along with these changes, the Hamilton (formerly Haynes) Photo Shop was moved next to the Snow Lodge as part of the NPS push to move visitor facilities away from thermal features. Also, in 1975, after the campers’ Laundromat and shower building burned (near the Upper General Store), the concessionaire developed a fast-food facility in its place. This change was considered more consistent with the new day-use philosophy for the area.

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Although development was curtailed during this period, many of the structures designated for removal still remain and have been maintained. Employee housing (both park and concessionaire) facilities were the exception to the halt in facility development. Construction that's taken place in recent years includes the NPS Emergency Services Building (1990-92), Old Faithful Employee Pub (1992-93), Larkspur Dormitory (1993) and the managers' apartment complex for Amfac/Xanterra Corporation (2002-03)/

By 1990, historic preservation groups began to protest the removal of structures around Old Faithful. They pointed out that the Inn and other buildings were on the National Register of Historic Places, and that no studies had been done to prove their existence threatened the geyser basin. As such, they demanded better justification for the plan and building removal was effectively brought to a standstill.

At present, a new visitor center is under construction and will likely be opened in 2009. The new visitor replaces the former visitor center and is in the same location. The architecture of the new visitor center will resemble the Rustic style.

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*The current boardwalk is wider than original, but generally retains the spatial relationship to the geyser (Shapins Associates, 2003).*

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

#### Overall Integrity Rating

The Old Faithful Historic District retains historic integrity.

Through an analysis of landscape characteristics, researchers compared historic and existing conditions throughout the Old Faithful district. While some historic landscape features, such as the original vehicular circulation and arrival sequence, have been lost, the district possesses a number of landscape features that contribute to its significance. The natural setting that characterizes the cultural landscape including the forested surroundings and thermal features have been largely unhampered by development and remain central to the experience of the Old Faithful area. Historic Rustic style buildings and small-scale features as well as the trail system that winds among the thermal features lend cohesion to the historic fabric of the district. Two of the three primary spatial organization zones - the Inn and the Lodge zones retain their integrity. Although the third zone (Upper General Store/Housekeeping Area cabins/auto campground) has been compromised, the Upper General Store remains a central visitor facility evocative of the period of significance. Overall, the historic character of the Old Faithful District remains intact.

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. The integrity of the Old Faithful District has been assessed using the criteria established by the National Register. The seven aspects of integrity are: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While the existing conditions of the district do not fully represent historic conditions, this CLI finds that the proposed expanded Old Faithful district possesses integrity of all of these qualities. Landscape characteristics that factor most into the assessment of the integrity of the district include: natural systems, buildings and structures, views, spatial organization, and circulation.

The Old Faithful District is associated with the development of tourism and concessions within the Yellowstone National Park. The association with this early period of development within park remains strong. Likewise the Old Faithful district remains representative of the Rustic style of architecture and landscape architecture. The materials and workmanship of cabins, footbridges, walkways as well as the Inn's massive log siding harmonize well with Old Faithful's forested setting. Design principles of the Rustic style are also represented by the siting of the Old Faithful Inn and Lodge both of which were located to capitalize on views of the iconic geyser while preserving natural features.

The setting of the Old Faithful district, a natural landscape characterized by unique thermal features, retains a high degree of integrity. Across the Old Faithful district, natural systems and features and topography remain evocative of the appearance and feel of the historic cultural landscape. Although some trees have been lost to the creation and enlargement of parking area and the 1988 fires, the vegetation within the Old Faithful district has not changed significantly since the period of significance.

Perhaps the most important remaining characteristic of the area are the views to Old Faithful Geyser which reflect the landscape's historic feel and association with an extraordinary natural feature within

## Old Faithful Historic District Yellowstone National Park

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a wild and forested setting. The Geyser remains the organizing point for the spatial organization of the landscape and the location of buildings radiating from the Old Faithful “sacred area” remains evocative of early planning decisions.

Automobile circulation is the landscape characteristic of the Old Faithful district that has been most drastically altered since the period of significance. The loss of the historic vehicular circulation system has significantly compromised the overall design and feel of the Old Faithful area. The 1972 construction of the bypass road and cloverleaf along with large parking lots ended the tradition of visitors driving to and parking by thermal features, of which the Old Faithful Geyser was no exception. With the extant circulation system, visitors are no longer oriented to the site upon arrival because they can not view the main features of the area from their cars. Portions of the trail system included within the proposed expanded district (from Biscuit Basin to Morning Glory Pool and Morning Glory Pool to the Old Faithful Inn) adhere to the historic alignment of the Grand Loop Road (see the Proposed Boundary Revision Map) and, therefore, preserves this arrival experience for those entering from the West on foot. Overall, pedestrian circulation around the Old Faithful Geyser and throughout the Upper Geyser Basin trail system remains substantially unchanged.

The removal of original features, such as the Housekeeping Area cabins, the boulevard and the buildings that lined it, the amphitheater, and the auto camp altered the historic spatial organization of the landscape. As a result, the extant landscape’s integrity of design and feeling has been degraded. The majority of the remaining buildings and structures do, however, pre-date 1956 and their materials, workmanship, design and feeling do evoke the period of significance. Although many cabins have been removed from the district, enough remain to evoke the feeling and association of automobile tourism in the context of guest cabins.

Location  
Retains Integrity

Association  
Retains Integrity

Setting  
Retains Integrity

Feeling  
Retains Integrity  
(although weakened by loss of buildings and changes to vehicular circulation which impacted historic arrival view sequence)

Design  
Retains Integrity  
(although weakened by loss of buildings/campgrounds and significant changes to circulation patterns)

Materials  
Retains Integrity

Workmanship  
Retains Integrity

**Aspects of Integrity:**            Location  
   Association  
   Setting  
   Feeling  
   Design  
   Materials  
   Workmanship

**Landscape Characteristic:**

**Natural Systems and Features**

The Old Faithful area’s unique combination of geology and hydrology has created a rare natural system unlike anywhere else in the world. Development in and around the landscape resulted in certain patterns that reflect this rare system. The thermal features of the Old Faithful district remain the focal point of the tourist experience as they did at the onset of the period of significance in 1878. The Old Faithful Geyser, in particular, remains the dominant feature of the cultural landscape while the pools, geysers, and hot springs outlying the iconic geyser also captivate visitors who venture along the area’s trails.

The Old Faithful district lies within a forested river valley at an elevation of more than 7,300 feet. The Firehole River drains the Basin and flows from south to north (and at times east to west) through its center. The Basin is relatively flat and consists of a light-colored, barren, porous soil that is littered with geyser cones and other thermal features (Byrand, 1995, 43). Lodgepole pine forest characterizes the area outlying Old Faithful, because it is the species best able to deal with the nutrient-poor soils within the volcanic caldera. The 1988 fires resulted in considerable loss of the lodgepoles, but many of the burned areas are now undergoing natural restoration and a young forest has taken root. Intermittent patches of lodgepole pine exist within the Old Faithful area where their roots have escaped the harmful effect of the thermal features’ mineral-laden waters (Byrand, 1995, 43). The lodgepole pine patches outlying the Old Faithful Geyser viewing area have shaped the visitor experience by providing a sense of entry as one passes through the trees into the open thermal landscape and by providing a shaded seating areas for geyser viewing during the heat of the day. Since vegetation is a dynamic landscape feature, there are more and thicker patches of lodgepole pine today than there were during the period of significance. For example, stands of lodgepole pine have grown up around the parking area north of the Old Faithful Inn where as this area was virtually clear of vegetation in the early 1900s following the construction of the Inn.

The topography of the land has been shaped by volcanic activity. The hills surrounding Old Faithful and the UGB are reminders of Quaternary rhyolitic lava flows that resulted from a catastrophic eruption about 640,000 years ago. Glacial activity also influenced the UGB landscape and glacier till deposits that underlie the geyser basins currently provide storage areas for the water used in eruptions.

The park as a whole possesses close to 60 percent of the world's geysers. The UGB, is notable because it contains at least 200 geysers in its small area. Naturalist staff regularly predict only five of these geysers, including Old Faithful. As said by early explorers, Old Faithful is not the tallest or most regular geyser in Yellowstone but it is “the tallest regular geyser.”

Many of the thermal features have historically served utilitarian functions. Some provided hot water for heat and domestic activities. The largest of these is the Myriad Group to the south of Old Faithful Inn. A couple of large springs (probably Laundry Spring and/or Abuse Spring) within this group were used to service the Shack Hotel’s “hot spring laundry” and provide water for several concessionaire buildings (Whittlesey, 2007).

Climate also played an important role in the development of the Old Faithful district, in particular restricting development to seasonal uses. Given the harsh winters Yellowstone faces, the Old Faithful area was closed to visitation in the late fall and not re-opened again till spring. This development pattern changed in the 1970s with the introduction of winter use and the construction of the Snow Lodge which could accommodate visitors year round.

**Contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Old Faithful Geyser and the other thermal features of the Upper Geyser Basin
- Firehole River
- Myriad Spring Group
- The pattern of dispersed Lodgepole pine patches throughout the developed area
- Outlying Lodgepole pine forest

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Old Faithful Geyser

Feature Identification Number: 134242

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Upper Geyser Basin thermal features

Feature Identification Number: 134240

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Firehole River

Feature Identification Number: 134244

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Myriad Spring Group

Feature Identification Number:      134246

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Dispersed Lodgepole pine patch pattern

Feature Identification Number:      134248

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Outlying Lodgepole pine forest

Feature Identification Number:      134250

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

### **Spatial Organization**

In 1894 with the passage of the Hayes Act, the distance facilities could be built from thermal features was decreased from 1/4 to 1/8 mile (Hayes Act, 1894). This legislation (and the earlier 1883 Sundry Civil Bill which called for a larger restricted area) shaped the spatial organization or layout design of the Old Faithful district by establishing a 1/8 mile radius around the Old Faithful Geyser in which development was prohibited. Master plan maps of the Old Faithful area show a 1/8 mile radius drawn around the Old Faithful Geyser (NP-YEL 2264, 1948, Master Plan). The circle denotes a “sacred zone” and the Old Faithful Inn lies just outside this boundary. The inviolate sacred area ensured that all development was located at the periphery of the Old Faithful Geyser and its impact on the thermal feature would be minimized. The effect of the sacred area designation remains evident in the spatial organization of the landscape today development zones including the Inn and the Lodge outly rather than encroach upon the geyser. The spatial organization of the Old Faithful district remains representative of the NPS’ efforts to build a public constituency and meet the needs of visitors while protecting the park’ natural features.

The Old Faithful Geyser remains central to the overall organization of the landscape with buildings and development spreading out in a radial pattern from the popular geyser. The 1885 Shack hotel was located closest to the geyser in order to take advantage of views of most thermal features in the Upper Geyser Basin. In 1904, the Old Faithful Inn was built in roughly the same location to also take advantage of views and convenient access to the Old Faithful Geyser. By 1930, the primary development features were within ¼ mile of the Old Faithful Geyser and included the Lodge area (hotel and cabins), the Inn, the original Haynes Photoshop, a cafeteria, post office, campgrounds, and the Upper and Lower General Stores, a swimming pool, a museum and a ranger station. Subsequent development including campgrounds and cabins took place south of the main road that cut across the site from west to east where the terrain was relatively flat. The proximity to the road provided tourists with relatively easy access to NPS and concessionaire facilities.

#### Spatial Zones – Visitor Accommodation and Facility Zones

By 1939, concessionaires and the NPS had developed three main visitor accommodation zones within the landscape, each providing close and convenient services for tourists: the Old Faithful Inn Zone, the Old Faithful Lodge Zone, and the Upper General Store Zone. These zones were not purposefully developed, but were shaped by the sacred area designation. The Inn Zone included the Lower General Store, the bath house, as well as support facilities such as the dorms and laundry. In addition to the lodge itself, the Lodge Zone included all the visitor cabins and support facilities. Anchored by the store, the Upper General Store Zone included, the cabins plus the auto campground and the Housekeeping area. Each of these accommodation zones provided lodging services for tourists (including bathrooms/bathing facilities/comfort stations), a place to obtain food, and lodging for employees. The Housekeeping Area also contained laundry services and a repair garage.

Central to all of three visitor accommodation zones was a fourth visitor facilities zone that housed the Museum of Thermal Activity and its log amphitheater and the boulevard which was lined by visitor facilities such as the photo shop, bath and laundry, cafeteria and garage. This zone has substantially altered due to the 1972 re-design of the district. In the 1970's the Museum of Thermal Activity was replaced with a visitor center and the boulevard was removed to make room for the expansive east parking area. Some remaining lodgepole pine demarcate the linear axis of the former promenade. The photoshop which once occupied the promenade was relocated beside the Snow Lodge. An important feature of this zone that does remain in tact is the boardwalk south of the Old Faithful geyser. The boardwalk to access and view the Old Faithful Geyser generally adheres to the historic spatial organization established in the 1920s. Since the period of significance the boardwalk has been enlarged and moved back further from the geyser, yet the boardwalk and pathways still adhere to the historic radial pattern of concentric circles.

The Inn and Lodge zones remain largely intact, however, the integrity of the Upper General Store zone has been compromised overtime. New development (Snow Lodge) and the removal of the auto campground and Housekeeping Cabins to accommodate new parking areas and the new road system compromised the historic integrity of the Upper General Store Zone. Remaining contributing features of the Upper General Store Zone include the store and the gas station. The location and organization of the campground areas is still evident because the service roads have not been revegetated. The remaining cabins north of the Old Faithful Lodge remain evocative of the original layout of visitor cabins throughout the district during the period of significance. Both the Lodge and the Housekeeping Area cabins were intentionally placed in groups of four to six, which was thought to give a more “artistic” and “attractive” arrangement within the landscape (Letter from Douglas Hull McLellan to YPA, March 23, 1939).

Today the Snow Lodge and surrounding dorms, employee cabins, ranger station, post office, and parking areas represent a distinct visitor accommodation zone. This zone is not historic and does not contribute to the significance of the district.

#### Spatial Zones – Trail Zone

The trail system that links the Old Faithful Geyser with other thermal features throughout the Upper Geyser Basin represents a fifth Trail Zone. This Trail Zone extends to the north and west of the Old Faithful Geyser basin and provides visitors with opportunities to explore the natural setting outlying the developed area. The trails north and west of the Old Faithful Geyser reflect the historic layout of trails and the Grand Loop Road. While alignments of its trails have changed over time, the visitor experience of winding through the thermal features north of the Old Faithful Geyser has not.

#### Spatial Zones – Utility

In the 1940s, the NPS developed a sixth Utility Zone. Known as the Utility Area, this zone was necessary to provide space for additional concessionaire housing, concessionaire vehicle storage and repair, and a place for sewage treatment. This zone was lost during the 1972 reorganization of the district and is no longer extant. The 1972 entrance road bisected the original utility area and required relocating buildings and utilitarian uses south of the road. Although the extant utilitarian area represents a distinct zone that is not a contributing feature, it does continue to serve park operations and maintenance and provide employee housing.

#### Contributing Features and Patterns:

- Sacred area designation. 1/8 mile development set back from Old Faithful Geyser.
- Radial pattern of development centered around the Old Faithful Geyser
- Old Faithful Inn and Old Faithful Lodge visitor accommodation zones
- Trail zone north and west of the Old Faithful Geyser
- Tourist cabins placed in groups of four to six within Old Faithful Lodge zone.

#### Non-contributing Features and Patterns:

- Snowlodge visitor accommodation zone
- East and west parking areas

#### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Sacred area designation

Feature Identification Number: 134252

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Radial pattern of development - OFG

Feature Identification Number: 134254

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Old Faithful Inn and Lodge zones

Feature Identification Number: 134256

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Trail zone north & west of Old Faithful

Feature Identification Number:      134258

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Tourist cabin groups in OF Lodge zone

Feature Identification Number:      134260

Type of Feature Contribution:      Contributing

Feature:      Snow Lodge visitor accommodation zone

Feature Identification Number:      134262

Type of Feature Contribution:      Non Contributing

Feature:      East and west parking areas

Feature Identification Number:      134264

Type of Feature Contribution:      Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Overview of Old Faithful geyser area, with parking abutting the geyser, a boardwalk, and the Old Faithful Lodge in distance (YNP archives, item 21009).*

### **Land Use**

Tourism remains the principal land use within the Old Faithful district. Development related to visitor services and accommodations directly shaped the landscape. Concessionaires were also a driving force in the development of the tourist landscape at Old Faithful. Tourism development began with small-scale visitor accommodations, which were expanded and diversified over the course of nearly one hundred years. By the close of the period of significance in 1942, the Old Faithful was a full-service village with multiple lodging options and a variety of visitor facilities.

The automobile affected the development of tourist land uses at Old Faithful. The original road system allowed tourists to drive between thermal features and park next to the Old Faithful Geyser. As numbers of visitors grew and the NPS became increasingly concerned with protecting resources from the impacts increased visitation, the site was reorganized with large-scale parking and new roads located away from the thermal features (1970-75). Tourists still experience the same route through the features only now along a trail and on foot.

#### **Contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Tourist accommodations within Old Faithful Inn and Old Faithful Lodge clusters.

#### **Non-contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Post-1956 roads and parking lots

#### **Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Tourist accommodations OF Inn/Lodge area

Feature Identification Number: 134266

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Post-1956 roads and parking lots

Feature Identification Number: 134268

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

#### **Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Prior to the 1940s, watching bears feed at NPS sites was a tourist activity (YNP archives, item 106403).*

### **Cultural Traditions**

The Rustic style is the primary cultural tradition that has influenced the development of the Old Faithful district in terms of stylistic preferences, materials and building forms. This style, embraced by the NPS from 1920s to 1940s, is evidenced today in the log craftsmanship of the Old Faithful Inn, the Old Faithful Lodge and the General stores. In fact, the architecture of Old Faithful Inn set the standard of rustic architecture within parks, and also helped visitors feel they were in the wilderness rather than within a highly developed tourist area. The Rustic style is notable for its hand craftsmanship and the use of native materials in a rough-hewn manner. These construction methods were employed in order to design structures that blended with their surroundings and didn't appear to as "artificial intrusions" into the landscape.

Although no longer extant, the museum's amphitheater was evocative of the Rustic style. The amphitheater was recognized as a design ideal for a woodland setting and for having a wilderness character (Good, *Park Structures and Facilities*, 1935). Designed by architect Herbert Maier, the semicircular amphitheater was a rustic variation of the traditional Greek theater built into a hillside (McClelland, 1998, 254). Maier adhered to the Rustic design principles and used natural materials, wood and stone, as well as native vegetation. Rows of Engelmann spruce were planted in front and behind the log parapet stage and additional trees were planted or left in place to screen the theater from outside activities. During construction and the clearing of the amphitheater site, some trees were salvaged and remained standing amongst the seating. Irregular sized and shaped boulders were used to edge the planting beds

that divided the aisles and seating. More stones were used to construct a campfire circle in front of the stage. Benches were constructed from split logs and rough-hewn logs formed the backdrop to the stage.

The Old Faithful area also exemplifies the NPS tradition of encouraging private industry to provide goods and services within the park's natural environment, which was common at many of the national parks. The result was a highly diverse and sophisticated tourist environment that was guided by NPS ideals, but provided tourists with both recreation facilities and other services within the park's natural setting.

Finally, the tourist landscape of Old Faithful reflects the American tradition of automobile tourism. The landscape's original circulation network allowed visitors to conduct "drive by" viewings of the UGB's thermal features from pull-off parking along the Grand Loop Road.

**Contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Rustic style as represented by the architecture, use of native materials, retention of native vegetation

**Character-defining Features:**

- Feature: Rustic style as represented
- Feature Identification Number: 134270
- Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*The NPS Rustic Style of architecture shaped development of the Old Faithful Inn and built features throughout the Park.*

**Topography**

Given the thermal activity of the Upper Geyser Basin, the topography around some of the thermal features within the Old Faithful district is dynamic. Outside the immediate vicinity of the thermal features, the topography within the cultural landscape has remained relatively unchanged since the period of significance.

The Old Faithful district sits in a relatively flat area, surrounded by wooded hills. Many of the thermal features outlying the Old Faithful Geyser are perched slightly above the Firehole River on Geyser Hill. The site eventually occupied by the Old Faithful Inn was identified when Superintendent Norris inspected the area and noted its “availability of wood and excellent water” (Byrand, 1995, 57). Because of its relative flatness, the site has an excellent view of many of the UGB’s geysers. The Old Faithful area is surrounded by gentle, wooded hills that provide both scenic values and a sense of enclosure. These features appear substantially as they were during the landscape’s historic period.

Given the amount of water flowing through the UGB, signs of the forces of erosion can be seen everywhere. Runoff channels carve across the sinter in the geyser basins to the drainage created by the Firehole River. The boardwalk system, however, has successfully minimized the erosion that once resulted from foot traffic on the loose soils surrounding the thermal features.

**Contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Relatively flat topography
- Surrounded by gentle, forested hills

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Relatively flat topography

Feature Identification Number: 134272

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Surrounded by gentle, forested hills

Feature Identification Number: 134274

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Old Faithful Inn and surroundings, c. 1925 (National Archives, found in Schreier, 1989).*

### **Vegetation**

Given the Old Faithful district's volcanic and ice-age history, vegetation consists primarily of species able to either persist in the area or recolonize after major disturbances, such as glacial activity and lava flows. Lodgepole pine forest characterizes the area around Old Faithful, because it is the species best able to deal with the nutrient-poor soils within the volcanic caldera. Over a long period of time and in the absence of fire, the lodgepole pine will be succeeded by a climax forest of Subalpine fir and Engelmann spruce. A major fire encroached upon the southern edge of the Old Faithful area in 1988, resulting in a treeless area to the south. However, subsequent years have brought healthy vegetative growth with a developing dense forest of lodgepole pine. Vegetation is a dynamic landscape characteristic subject to change overtime, yet the historic character of the lodgepole pine forest framing the Old Faithful district and of scattered stands of pines found throughout its interior is evident in the landscape today.

Beginning with development in the early 1900s, the forest outlying the UGB has been cleared in areas for visitor facilities: roads, buildings, camping, parking, and circulation paths. During the period of significance however, efforts were made to retain stands of lodgepole pine within the Old Faithful district. In the tradition of Rustic design, vegetation is intermixed with development. Remnants of the lodgepole pine forest from which areas of Old Faithful district were carved are still found in the landscape. For example, islands of lodgepole pines remain in the Inn and Lodge parking areas. Likewise, the Old Faithful Geyser viewing area is framed to the south by lodgepole pines (both live trees and dead stands). Early photographs of the Old Faithful Inn

suggest that efforts were made to preserve select trees around the building such as a lone pine beside the porte-cochere and scattered pines along the Inn's north side (Haynes, 1904. MT Historical Society). Also during the construction of the Inn's new wing in 1913, pines north of the wing were left in place though they may have obstructed some of the room's views to the geyser. It is important to note that the lodgepole pine stands within the developed area are thicker and more numerous than they were during the period of significance since they are fast growing trees and there has been little thinning (in Views the impact of the larger, more abundant lodgepole stands on views is discussed).

The thermally active landscape north of the developed area is characterized by an open area devoid of most vegetation, except grasses and types of algae. The makeup of soils surrounding the features and the heat that emanates from them precludes most vegetative growth.

Few concessionaires or park managers planted ornamental vegetation within the Old Faithful area. This is probably due to the region's harsh winters and poor soil, as well as the desire to maintain the site's natural setting. However, in the 1930s, as a result of the NPS' expanding interest in the interpretation of natural history, native plant gardens became a standard landscape feature of national park museums. In 1929, a wildflower garden was planted outside the Old Faithful museum. The park superintendent, Horace Albright, praised the garden for enabling visitors to "see and enjoy as many varieties as possible of the exquisite wild flowers that abound[ed] in out-of-the way places" (McClelland, 1998, 271). While the wildflower gardens were the brainchild of NPS' Educational Division, the Landscape Division was not always supportive of the interpretive features arguing that they were "artificial, unconvincing and more or less depressing" in their attempt to condense the diversity of the park's flora for "tabloid consumption" (Ernest A. Davidson, NPS landscape architect, quoted in McClelland, 1998, 271). In 1971, the museum was razed and replaced with a new visitor center complex and the wildflower garden was lost.

Another planting of note are the lodgepole pines that once lined the boulevard. The pattern of the linear row of trees is still visible and helps illuminate the spatial organization of the buildings and road that once formed the boulevard.

**Contributing Features and Patterns:**

- Dense lodgepole pine forest outlying Old Faithful district
- The pattern of individual lodgepole pine trees and small stands of pines found close to buildings, within the Inn and Lodge parking areas, and ringing the Old Faithful Geyser.
- Open, barren landscape outlying the thermal features
- Remnant lodgepole pines along the former boulevard

**Non-extant Features and Patterns:**

- Native wildflower garden outside museum
- Tree stands within and around former amphitheater

**Character-defining Features:**

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Feature: Outlying dense lodgepole pine forest

Feature Identification Number: 134294

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Tree pattern at buildings, parking, OF

Feature Identification Number: 134296

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Open landscape outlying thermal features

Feature Identification Number: 134298

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Remnant pines along former boulevard

Feature Identification Number: 134300

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Old Faithful Inn, 1904, illustrates efforts taken to preserve select specimen pines around the building (F.J. Haynes, Montana Historical Society, found in Schrieier, 1989).*



*Old Faithful Geyser, 1951. Note the few preserved lodgepole pines outlying the geyser (J.F. Haynes, Montana Historical Society, found in Schreier, 1989).*

### **Circulation**

During the period of significance, the systems of movement through the Old Faithful district have related primarily to automobile traffic. The Grand Loop Road provided convenient access to most features within the UGB, with visitors able to sit in their vehicle and watch geysers erupt.

Parking for geyser viewers was historically provided in two roadside lots near Old Faithful. While this provided convenient access for automobile tourists, it made the automobile a prominent feature of the Old Faithful viewing experience and significantly impeded on the sensitive natural landscape outlying the geyser. An enlarged parking lot at the Old Faithful Inn also provided additional spaces for tourists and hotel guests to park.

Historically, the Old Faithful district's circulation system was hierarchical, with the main road leading to a boulevard in the center of the visitor facilities, along which were many service-oriented concession facilities. This boulevard provided a link between the Upper General Store and the Old Faithful Lodge, establishing a sort of "town center" for tourists visiting the Upper Geyser Basin. Day visitors could easily find the services they needed, overnight visitors parked at the fringes of the site, and Lodge guests had a clear link to the Upper General Store.

The vehicular circulation system was completely reconfigured in the 1970s. With increasing tourists after World War II, however, traffic jams became common because most people visiting Yellowstone also visited Old Faithful. The 1956 Mission 66 prospectus called for re-routing the Old Faithful access road away from the thermal features. These recommendations were implemented in 1972, and now tourists arrive at the site via one-way roads, park in one of two large lots and then walk to the visitor center compound and to the Old Faithful viewing platform. However, this creates confusion for most visitors, because the orientation and hierarchy of the previous circulation system was lost. Upon parking their cars in the large east or west lots, today's visitors are often disoriented and unsure which way to proceed to view the famous geyser.

The road bridge east of the Mortar Geyser and west of Riverside Geyser that now serves as a footbridge for trail users reflects the historic alignment of the Grand Loop Road. The first iteration of this bridge, built in 1884 allowed vehicular access into the Upper Geyser Basin. The extant bridge was built outside the period of significance (c. early 1960s) and is, therefore, a non-contributing, compatible feature.

#### Pedestrian Circulation and Trails

Pedestrian circulation between parking areas, buildings and the geyser also became less hierarchical following the 1972 reorganization of the district. The promenade which organized circulation between the Upper General Store Zone and the Inn and Lodge Zones was removed and in its place large unpaved expanses were introduced to accommodate pedestrian traffic between the parking lot, visitor center and interpretive trails. However, the pedestrian connection between the Old Faithful Inn and the Lower General Store does remain legible. A pathway and Rustic-compatible knotted pine footbridge adhere to the historic route connecting the two structures. Likewise, the radial boardwalk connection between the Inn, Old Faithful geyser and lodge adheres to historic circulation patterns.

Pedestrian circulation and, specifically, the trail system remain an important component of the Old Faithful district that contributes to the significance of the district. An early map of the Old Faithful area dating from 1881 (see trail maps in photo sheets) shows two footbridges spanning the Firehole river which presumably provided access for visitors to the thermal features north and east of the Old Faithful Geyser (one between Old Faithful Geyser and Beehive Geyser and the one near Castle Geyser both reportedly built by Superintendent Norris in 1881). An 1891 Haynes map depicts the beginnings of a trail system that includes three footbridges across the Firehole and a foot path that winds among the thermal features. In 1926, the NPS refined the trail system with the construction of the Formation Trail and the outlying Nature Trail. These trails were lined with interpretive signage and wove through the thermal landscape. The trails provided visitors opportunities for self-guided interpretive tours. Between 1932 and 1934 portions of both trails were paved with asphalt and additional sections of trails are created. A clear circulation system was also created around the Old Faithful Geyser, complete with boardwalks to keep visitors from leaving the trail and causing damage. Today, the Geyser Hill

and Observation Point Loop trails take the place of the Formation and Nature trails. The two extant river crossings on footbridges beside Oblong and Castle geysers are in the same vicinity as the historic bridges. Similarly a footbridge remains in place across the Firehole River, east of the lodge and provides access to the Mallard trail. The footbridge just east of Old Faithful Geyser has been slightly re-aligned and is now further downriver than it was historically, yet the crossing mirrors the original footbridge's function to provide access to the thermal features on Geyser Hill.

Note that portions of the trail system included within the proposed expanded district (from Biscuit Basin to Morning Glory Pool and Morning Glory Pool to the Old Faithful Inn) adhere to the alignment of the grand Loop Road (see the Proposed Boundary Revision Map). These trails trace the course of the Grand Loop Road which historically wound through the Upper Geyser Basin's thermal features providing visitors with "drive-by" experiences of the geysers, pools and springs and striking views of the Inn upon arrival from the west.

Trail construction within the Upper Geyser Basin required distinct design solutions. Sections of the early trail system consisted of logs placed end to end in parallel rows to form an un-surfaced path about six feet wide (McClelland, 1998, 238). Later portions of the Formation and Nature Trails were paved with asphalt. In 1929, the park landscape architect, Kenneth McCarther, recommended new guidelines for trail construction in the geyser basin. He recommended expanding the width of the trails in close proximity to Old Faithful to 10 feet wide in order to accommodate the large crowds and guided tours. He also suggested a wooden boardwalk trail design. The boardwalk design consisted of wooden planks laid over the log curbing. McCarthur argued that the boardwalk design was more appropriate to the sensitive thermal landscape than the concrete and masonry which he deemed inappropriate since they would deface the formations (McClelland, 1998, 238). McCarther also addressed safety issues and called for low "dangerous" signs and for pulling the log curbing six to eight feet away from each hazardous pool in order to warn visitors, but not "seriously interfere with the natural beauty of the pools or the landscape." (McCarther, 1929, quoted in McClelland, 1998, 238 ). In 1929, a wide boardwalk was constructed around the Old Faithful geyser, but it wasn't until 1953 that the entire outlying trail system had been converted from barren surfacing or asphalt paving to boardwalk. The extant trail system remains set back from the features and warning signs are still present.

Although the extant trail system does not appear to adhere to the exact alignment of the historic trail system, it does traverse the same area and provides today's visitors with access to the same features tourists were trekking to during the period of significance. One section of historic trail that extended from the Oblong geyser north along the east side of the Firehole River to the Mortar Geyser does appear to have been removed sometime between 1964 and 1967. During this time, the vehicular circulation was re-aligned and the historic Grand Loop road was converted to a trail, therefore the additional stretch of trail east of the river was unnecessary.

Contributing Features and Patterns:

- Parking lots at the Old Faithful Inn and Lodge historically provided spaces for tourists and hotel guests to park
- Pedestrian circulation pattern that links the Old Faithful Geysers viewing area with the central visitor facilities, the Lodge and the Inn
- Pedestrian circulation pattern of trails that extends through the UGB (from Geysers Hill to Morning Glory Pool and from Morning Glory Pool to Old Faithful Geysers along the course of the Grand Loop Road).
- Pattern of footbridges crossing the Firehole River and providing access to the thermal features and trails on the opposite bank
- Pedestrian circulation pattern (pathway and footbridge) that links the Lower General Store and the Old Faithful Inn.

Non-contributing Features and Patterns:

- Post-1972 roads and parking lots
- Post-1972 pedestrian circulation within parking lots and Visitor Center area
- Footbridges and road bridges (the structures themselves are non-contributing)

Non-extant features

- Clear hierarchy of the original automobile circulation system
- Main boulevard that provided visual orientation to main public services
- Visual orientation from original Grand Loop Road to Old Faithful Geysers
- Small-scale rural feeling of original roadbed
- Small parking lots at original roadside near thermal features

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Parking lots at OF Inn and Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 134328

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pedestrian circ pattern linking OF area

Feature Identification Number: 134330

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Pattern of trails extend through the UGB

Feature Identification Number: 134332

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Footbridge pattern over Firehole River

Feature Identification Number: 134334

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Inn - Store pathway & footbridge pattern

Feature Identification Number: 134336

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Post-1972 roads & parking lots

Feature Identification Number: 134338

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Post-1972 parking lot pedestrian circ

Feature Identification Number: 134340

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Post-1972 VC area pedestrian circulation

Feature Identification Number: 134342

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Footbridge & road bridge structures

Feature Identification Number: 134344

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*This 1899 William Henry Jackson photograph depicts the early visitors' close encounters with the Old Faithful Geyser (Library of Congress, American Memory collection).*



*Upper Geyser Basin from Beehive Cone, c. 1888. Note footbridge across Firehole River indicative of early development of the UGB trail system (F.J. Haynes, Montana Historical Society found in Schreier, 1989).*



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*The Upper Geyser Basin historically involved "drive by" experiences of the thermal features. The roads were eventually replaced with trails and boardwalks (F.J. Haynes, Montana Historical Society, found in Schreier, 1989).*



*Over time, the trail system through the Upper Geyser Basin has evolved. The first trails were developed in the early 1880s (YNP archives, item 1007-5).*



*Beginning in the 1920s boardwalk trails were introduced to the district. By the 1950s all of the trails had been converted to this more sensitive design (Shapins Associates).*



*A present-day walking trail follows the original Grand Loop Path roadbed (Shapins Associates, 2003).*

### **Buildings and Structures**

The Old Faithful district contains many buildings and structures. According to the latest List of Classified Structures (LCS) database, the Old Faithful district consists of the Old Faithful Inn and related buildings, the Old Faithful Lodge and related buildings, the Upper Hamilton Store, the Upper Gas Station, the Lower Hamilton Store and shed, the Lower Service Station, the Haynes Photo Shop, Photo Finishing Shop and Storage building, and the Cinderella dorm.

The architectural style of many of these buildings is the Rustic style. The Old Faithful Inn is the most dominating building in the landscape and is considered one of the NPS' preeminent examples of Rustic architecture. Old Faithful Inn is important for both pioneering the rustic style – which set the style for future development at Old Faithful – and for exhibiting workmanship of the time. Architect Robert Reamer used native materials, a rhyolite foundation and rough-hewn timbers, to harmonize the structure with its natural surroundings. The 1981 National Register Nomination Form expands the original listing of the Inn to include a number of the building's interior spaces. The rustic log quality of the building's exterior is echoed throughout the interior spaces. The Inn contained all of the modern conveniences which travelers of the day were accustomed to (electric lights, baths, etc.), thereby providing a civilized setting within the wilderness. Buildings related to the Old Faithful Inn such as:

Powerhouse/Laundry: A frame structure built in 1929, it has wood shingle exterior siding with a wood shingled gable roof with louvered windows;

Caretaker's Quarters: a frame structure built in the late 1920s with wood shingle exterior siding and wood shingled gable roof with a transverse hip at one elevation. The building has exposed log rafter ends and double hung and casement windows. Today, the building is a winter keeper's residence.

Girls Dormitory: Built in 1925. Frame construction with exterior wood shingle siding and wood shingled masard roof. The building is similar in design to the 1913 addition to the Inn.

Additional buildings related to the Inn include the Employee's Laundry (late 1920s), the Old Pumphouse, the U-Plan Dormitory (1913), and Utility Shop.

In addition to the Old Faithful Inn, the LCS lists other buildings that are also representative of the Rustic style and retain their architectural and historical integrity. Some of these buildings and a summary of their Rustic characteristics as noted in the nomination form are briefly summarized below (Culpin 1981, 2).

The Lower Service Station: Date of construction unknown. The structure's exterior walls are horizontal siding with vertical half-timbers. The roof is wood shingled and extends over the gas pumps.

Lower General Store: Built in 1894, expanded by Hamilton following his purchase of the business in 1914. The frame constructed building has novelty siding and a wood shingled gabled roof with several transverse gables. Burled branches and logs are used as brackets and decorative elements. Burled wood spells out "Hamilton Stores" above the entrance to the salesroom.

Upper Gas Station: Built in 1929. The walls are constructed of concrete made to resemble hewn logs. Stepped stone masonry pilasters are used at the corners, similar stone columns support the canopies. The gabled roof has wood shingles and exposed log rafter ends.

Upper Hamilton Store: Built in 1929. The walls are constructed of concrete made to resemble hewn logs. The building is placed on a masonry stone foundation with stepped stone masonry pilasters and stepped stone masonry columns that support two covered entrance porches. The eaves of the wood shingled gabled roof are wood shingled with exposed log rafters ends; log rafter purlins are used in the roof structure of the two covered entrance porches. The tips of the log rafter ends and the purlins are tapered and whittled to resemble beaver gnawing.

Photo Shop: Built in 1927 (moved to its present location in 1971). Frame construction with half-log and shiplap siding. Porch extends across the front of the building. The wood shingled

gabled roof has exposed log rafter ends.

Cinderella Dorm: built in 1940.

Old Faithful Lodge: Built in 1923 with several additions made through 1927. Frame construction with stone masonry walls, wood shingled exterior siding, and half-log decorative elements. Stepped stone masonry columns and large log poles support the porte cochere and other covered porches. Stepped stone masonry pilasters are used at some corners. Wood shingled, gabled roof with monitored roof over the recreational hall. Exposed rafter ends and log brackets are used. Additional buildings related to the Old Faithful Lodge include 4 Double Comfort Stations, a Winter Storage Building, an Employee Laundry (late 1920s), 2 Employee Residences, the Linen Room (1930), the Love Nest, the Manager's Residence, and the Pump House. Even utilitarian and administrative buildings were in keeping with the Rustic architectural style established by the visitor accommodations. Of note are the cabins related to Old Faithful Lodge. The 1981 Nomination notes that the remaining cabins have historical significance given their representation of cabin construction in Yellowstone National Park (Culpin, 1981, 2). The cabins in the Old Faithful Lodge area still retain architectural integrity. They include 15 Quad Cabins, 8 single cabins, and 48 Duplex Cabins.

In 1972, the NPS departed from the Rustic style with the construction of a new Visitor Center. This was larger than the existing museum and was constructed in a modern style. The rustic outdoor amphitheater was replaced with an indoor mini-theater. Today, a new Visitor Education Center is under construction in place of this 1970s building. It has rustic elements that make it compatible with the Old Faithful Inn.

A number of other non-contributing buildings do infill the historic district (see site plan). These buildings were built outside the period of significance and do not contribute to the significance of the district. The buildings include the Ranger Station, the Post office, the US West Building, the Snow Lodge, the Obsidian Dorm, and several cabins to the south of the Upper Gas Station.

Two additional buildings of note, though they have been removed, are the former greenhouse and swimming pool. Both structures were unusual because they tapped the area's thermal features. The first greenhouse was built in 1897 and was replaced in 1913 (Reinhart, 2004). The greenhouse was located in the Myriad Spring group behind the Inn and was heated by water piped in from the springs. Produce for the Inn dining room and for the winter keepers was grown in the greenhouse until the mid to late 1940s when it was removed (Reinhart, 2004). The swimming pool was an impressive log structure that contained two pools heated by the area's thermal waters (for more of a description of the swimming pool, see constructed water feature section). Although it was a prominent feature in the Old Faithful district and a popular destination for tourists during the period of significance, the swimming pool building was also removed in the early 1950s.

Contributing Features and Patterns:

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- Old Faithful Inn (HS-2305) and related buildings:
  - o Caretaker's Quarters (HS-2310)
  - o Employee's Laundry (HS-2313)
  - o Girl's Dormitory (HS-2312)
  - o Old Pumphouse (HS-2309)
  - o Powerhouse/Laundry (HS-2306)
  - o U-Plan Dormitory (HS-2314)
  - o Utility Shop (HS-2307)
  
- Old Faithful Lodge (HS 2337) and related buildings:
  - o 4 Double Comfort Stations
  - o Winter Storage Building (HS-7007)
  - o Employee Laundry (HS-7575)
  - o 2 Employee residences (HS-9997, 9998)
  - o Linen Room (HS-2338)
  - o Love Nest (HS-7576)
  - o Managers Residence (HS-7574)
  - o Pump House (HS-0155)
  - o 15 Quad Cabins
  - o 8 Single Cabins
  - o 48 Duplex Cabins
  
- Cinderella Dorm (HS-2343)
- Photo Shop (HS-2780)
- Haynes Photo Finishing Shop (HS-2781)
- Haynes Storage Building (HS-2782)
- Lower Service Station (HS-2302)
- Lower Hamilton Store (HS-2303)
- Lower Hamilton Store Shed (HS-2304)
- Upper Gas Station (HS-2327)
- Upper Hamilton Store (HS-2326)

Non-contributing Features and Patterns:

- Visitor Center and associated structures
- Ranger Station
- Post Office
- US West Building
- Snow Lodge
- Obsidian Dorm
- Several sabind south of the Upper Gas Station
- Footbridges across the Firehole River (the pattern of crossings and access to the trails is contributing, not the bridges themselves which have been replaced over time)

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: OF Inn HS-2305

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Feature Identification Number: 134346  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50028  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2305

Feature: Old Faithful Inn Caretaker's Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 134348  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50030  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Caretaker's Quarters  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2310

Feature: Old Faithful Inn Employee's Laundry

Feature Identification Number: 134350  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50039  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Employee's Laundry  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2313

Feature: Old Faithful Inn Girl's Dormitory

Feature Identification Number: 134352  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50036  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Girls' Dormitory  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2312

Feature: Old Faithful Inn Old Pumphouse

Feature Identification Number: 134354  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50029  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Old Pumphouse  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2309

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Feature: Old Faithful Inn Powerhouse/Laundry  
Feature Identification Number: 134356  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50026  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Powerhouse/Laundry  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2306

Feature: Old Faithful Inn U-Plan Dormitory  
Feature Identification Number: 134358  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50040  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn U-Plan Dormitory  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2314

Feature: Old Faithful Inn Utility Shop  
Feature Identification Number: 134362  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50027  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Inn Utility Shop  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2307

Feature: Lower Hamilton Store  
Feature Identification Number: 134364  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50024  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lower Hamilton Store  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2303

Feature: Lower Hamilton Store Shed  
Feature Identification Number: 134366  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 50025  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lower Hamilton Store Shed  
LCS Structure Number: HS-2304

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Feature: Lower Service Station

Feature Identification Number: 134368

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50023

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lower Service Station

LCS Structure Number: HS-2302

Feature: Upper Hamilton Store

Feature Identification Number: 134370

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50043

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Upper Hamilton Store

LCS Structure Number: HS-2326

Feature: Upper Gas Station

Feature Identification Number: 134372

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50044

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Upper Gas Station

LCS Structure Number: HS-2327

Feature: Cinderella Dorm

Feature Identification Number: 134374

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50049

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Cinderella Dormitory

LCS Structure Number: HS-2343

Feature: Haynes Photo Finishing Shop

Feature Identification Number: 134376

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50056

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Haynes Photo Finishing Shop

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LCS Structure Number: HS-2781

Feature: Photo Shop

Feature Identification Number: 134378

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50055

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Photo Shop

LCS Structure Number: HS-2780

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 134380

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50046

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge

LCS Structure Number: HS-2337

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Winter Storage Buildi

Feature Identification Number: 134382

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50058

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Winter Storage Building

LCS Structure Number: HS-7007

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Employee Laundry

Feature Identification Number: 134384

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50361

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Employee Laundry

LCS Structure Number: HS-7575

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Linen Room

Feature Identification Number: 134386

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50047

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LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Linen Room

LCS Structure Number: HS-2338

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Love Nest

Feature Identification Number: 134388

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50362

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Love Nest

LCS Structure Number: HS-7576

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Manager's Residence

Feature Identification Number: 134390

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50360

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Manager's Residence

LCS Structure Number: HS-7574

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Pump House

Feature Identification Number: 134392

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 50002

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Pump House

LCS Structure Number: HS-0155

Feature: Old Faithful Lodge Employee Residence

Feature Identification Number: 134394

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 329784

LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Employee Residence # 152

LCS Structure Number: HS-9997

Feature: Old Faithful Employee Residence

Feature Identification Number: 134396

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

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IDLCS Number: 329799  
LCS Structure Name: Old Faithful Lodge Employee Residence # 153  
LCS Structure Number: HS-9998

Feature: OF Lodge- 4 Double Comfort Stations  
Feature Identification Number: 134398  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OF Lodge-8 Single Cabins  
Feature Identification Number: 134400  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OF Lodge- 15 Quad Cabins  
Feature Identification Number: 134402  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OF Lodge- 48 Duplex Cabins  
Feature Identification Number: 134404  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Ranger Station  
Feature Identification Number: 134406  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: US Post Office  
Feature Identification Number: 134408  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: US West Building  
Feature Identification Number: 134410  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Snowlodge  
Feature Identification Number: 134412  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Obsidian Dorm

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Feature Identification Number: 134414  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  
Feature: Cabins South of Upper Gas Station  
Feature Identification Number: 134416  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  
Feature: Visitor Center and associated structures  
Feature Identification Number: 134418  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  
Feature: Comfort Station north of Upper Gas Stati  
Feature Identification Number: 134420  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  
Feature: Footbridges Across Firehole River  
Feature Identification Number: 134426  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing  
Feature: Boardwalks Through Upper Geyser Basin  
Feature Identification Number: 134428  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Tourist cabins at Old Faithful (YNP archives, item 31172-2).*



*Cabins at Old Faithful Lodge area. Historically, the paint color of the cabins (Formation Brown) was specified to ensure the structures blended with the natural environment (Shapins Associates, 2003).*



*Hamilton Upper Store and young boulevard vegetation (on left) (YNP archives, item 31214-1).*

### **Views and Vistas**

Views and vistas were an organizing feature of the district during its early development and remain a prominent landscape characteristic today. In order to enhance visitors' experience of

the area's wonders, controlled vistas of the thermal features were established from both the Old Faithful Inn and from the main road. Also, concessionaires and park managers promoted panoramic views of the natural landscape to encourage a feeling of wilderness submersion and to delight visitors with the sightings of erupting geysers. Certain structures were specifically oriented to take advantage of views to the area's geysers. For example, the original Shack hotel was sited such that every active geyser in the basin could be viewed from its porch. The Old Faithful Inn was located on axis with the geyser, not because the architect wanted rooms to have a view of the geyser, but because he wanted people to have their first view of the geyser when arriving in their stagecoach at the Inn's porte cochere\*. The Inn faced the main road in 1904, which today is represented by the trail that runs east and west from Castle Geyser to Old Faithful Geyser. This positioning and its resulting views are significant since the Inn becomes a prominent landmark that is viewed from distant Geyser Hill and elsewhere in the Upper Geyser Basin. Later, the Inn's dining room was constructed so that dining guests could view many of the UGB's geysers through the dining room's window.

Due to the change in vehicular circulation patterns and the construction of the bypass road in the 1970s, the arrival view sequence from the period of significance has been lost. Visitors are no longer oriented to the Old Faithful district with initial views of the geyser and Inn upon arrival. In fact visitors arriving in the eastern parking lot are often completely disoriented and do not know where to proceed to observe Old Faithful's eruptions. Views to the Inn from the Upper Geyser Basin trails and, in particular, from the former Grand Loop Road trail continue to contribute to the significance of the district. This view, however, is being compromised by larger and more abundant stands of lodgepole pines than were present historically. These stands including those that have grown within the parking area north of the Inn obscure the Inn from view and reduce its prominence within the cultural landscape when viewed from afar.

Trails in the Old Faithful district do continue to provide significant views. While the alignment of the trail system north of the Old Faithful Geyser has changed overtime, views from the trail remain largely unchanged. Like the historic trails, the extant trails wind through the thermal features and provided up-close views of the area's geysers and hot springs as well as distant views to the Old Faithful Geyser and the Old Faithful Inn. The trail system affords visitors the same viewing opportunities visitors enjoyed in the 1880s.

The NPS was insistent on minimizing "artificial intrusions" on the scenic landscape. To protect natural and visual resources, the NPS discouraged development from encroaching on the landscape surrounding the thermal features. A particularly contentious intrusion was the Old Faithful swimming pool, which obstructed views of the geyser from the Grand Loop Road approach (Bartlett, 1985, 197). As a result, the swimming pool was removed in the early 1950's.

Contributing Features and Patterns:

- Axial orientation of the Old Faithful Inn's porte cochere to the geyser and views to Old Faithful Geyser from the entrance drive and the present day trail (former Grand Loop Road).

- View from the Lodge's lobby to Old Faithful Geysers
- View from the boardwalk to the Old Faithful Geysers and the thermal features and undeveloped surrounding hills
- Views from outlying trails to the Inn, Old Faithful Geysers, other thermal features and the surrounding UGB landscape

Non-extant Views:

- Approach road to the Old Faithful Geysers, for orientation purposes
- To the geysers from parking areas (other than the Old Faithful Inn parking lot)
- Old Faithful Inn's dining room to Old Faithful Geysers

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\* Note that since stagecoaches did not have windows in the front, the earliest visitors arriving via stage would not have had a view of the geysers until they disembarked from the coach in the porte cochere. Later visitors arriving by car would have enjoyed views to the geysers upon entry, even before entering the porte cochere. (clarification provided by Leslie Quinn of Xanterra's Old Faithful staff through correspondence with Zehra Osman, August, 2007).

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: OF Inn's porte cochere orientation to OF

Feature Identification Number: 134304

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Views of OF Geysers from drive & trail

Feature Identification Number: 134302

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: OF Lodge lobby view to OF Geysers

Feature Identification Number: 134306

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Boardwalk view to OF & surrounding areas

Feature Identification Number: 134308

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Outlying trails view to Inn, OF, other

Feature Identification Number: 134310

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Visitors originally were oriented to the Old Faithful Geyser from the Grand Loop Road as they drove in, as shown in this 1936 photograph. (YNP Archives, item 10285-6).*

### **Constructed Water Features**

In the early 1900s, as the Old Faithful district grew to accommodate ever-greater numbers of visitors, infrastructure development escalated along with the construction of tourist facilities. The Old Faithful district was reminiscent of a small-town with its associated support facilities. Infrastructure development included constructed water features such as water treatment, sewage, stormwater and fire suppression facilities. These features have been modified and updated since the period of significance and they do not contribute to the significance of the Old Faithful district.

Historically, certain thermal features themselves were built up in order to serve infrastructure needs. They were regularly used for domestic purposes, such as providing heat for buildings, water for the swimming pool, and hot water for laundry. For example, the Yellowstone Park Company and Hamilton Stores used hot water from a spring in the Myriad Group of hot springs (south of Old Faithful Inn), in order to furnish heat for certain buildings. However, this practice was determined “a contradiction of appropriate preservation of the park thermal resources,” and was eliminated in the late 1950’s (NPS letter to Hamilton Stores, Inc., July 17, 1958, Yellowstone Archives, Box C30). Concessionaires were required to restore thermal areas they had used to near their original conditions.

The swimming pool was a prominent water feature within the Old Faithful district during the period of significance. In 1915, concessionaire Henry P. Brothers built a swimming pool at Upper Geyser Basin northwest of the Inn. Water was piped downhill from Solitary Spring (now known as Solitary Geyser). Brothers also developed the “Old Faithful Geyser Baths” which offered a more private opportunity for to soak in water diverted from the thermal features. (Bartlett, 1985). In 1934 Hamilton Stores purchased the business and constructed a new pool. The new pool was housed in an impressive log building boasting 147 dressing rooms and two pools (Haynes papers, YNP archives cited in Reinhart, 2004). Visitors enjoyed the pool at Old Faithful until 1951 when it was demolished.

Contributing Features and Patterns:

- None

Non-Extant Features and Patterns:

- Use of thermal feature water for domestic purposes
- Swimming pool

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: none

Feature Identification Number: 134276

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Small Scale Features**

Small-scale features within the Old Faithful district represent elements designed to add to the visitor’s experience of the natural environment, augment the rustic architecture within the landscape, and protect and interpret the area’s thermal features. They also provide safety within what could be a dangerous landscape.

Boardwalks

Boardwalks have historically been an important feature at Old Faithful and were built around the Old Faithful Geyser in 1929. These were used to safeguard thermal features from foot traffic and visitors from the dangers of the thermal features. The boardwalks proved a success with visitors because they also provided stopping “stations” for guided tours. Boardwalks seemed appropriate to the setting because they did not deface the formations like other alternatives such as concrete or masonry, and visually fit well with the natural environment. The boardwalk around Old Faithful Geyser has been rebuilt since the period of significance, but remains the destination point for visitors to the area. The existing radial pattern of concentric circles formed by the boardwalk and pathways mirrors the historic layout of pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems. In the 1950s the Geyser Hill trail adjacent to the Old Faithful Geyser was converted to a boardwalk.

Signs

In 1926, the park established interpretive signs along the interpretive trails outlying Old Faithful. Along the Nature Trail alone, 249 signs were posted to interpret the biological and geological features (Byrand, 1995, 124). Safety signs were also constructed to control visitors through cautionary messages (McClelland, 1998, 238). The tradition of using signage to convey information about the natural resources at Old Faithful is ongoing. Simple wayside signs, warning signs and informational signs are found throughout the Old Faithful district. Although the signs in the landscape today have been replaced since the period of significance, they are non-contributing compatible features because they are constructed from natural materials (namely wood) and adhere to the Rustic design style.

#### Paint

Paint combinations were dictated for cabin and comfort station exteriors, so that the cabins would integrate with the natural landscape and rustic architecture. Specifically, they were to be painted a “formation brown” with wall studs painted a darker brown. Screen doors were also to be painted formation brown. Windows and outside doors were specified by group numbers, with one group to be green, and the other to be red. (NPS Memorandum, 1939, signed Huntley Child, Jr, YNP archives). The Lodge cabins and comfort stations exteriors are still painted “Formation Brown,” a color which allows them to blend in more with their natural environment.

#### Edging

Walkways in parking lots were edged in stone, a configuration that can still be seen in the Old Faithful Inn parking lot. These were generally sited between parking rows, and contained a gravel pathway between the edging stones. Furthermore, medians the both the Lodge and Inn parking areas are edged with large boulders. Use of stone and boulders in these areas provided clear pedestrian paths and protected plantings in a manner that complemented the rustic architecture.

Other Rustic style small-scale features in the Old Faithful district include the stone culvert used to divert water from Old Faithful’s eruption and the log benches outside the Lodge. While these structures were built outside the period of significance they are in keeping with the historic appearance of the Rustic design tradition. The culvert and benches are therefore considered non-contributing but compatible features.

#### Contributing Features and Patterns:

- Paint specifications for cabin and comfort station exteriors. “Formation Brown” specified to blend structures with the natural environment.
- Stone edging and walkways within the Old Faithful Inn parking area
- Boulder edging in the Inn and Lodge parking areas
- Gravel pathways edged by stone
- Pattern of using interpretive and safety signs along boardwalk and trails (materials and design have changed over time, although the use of these signs dates to the period of significance)

Non-contributing, but Compatible Features and Patterns:

- Stone-lined swale and culvert
- Log benches outside the Lodge
- Rustic-styled signage (constructed with natural materials)

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Paint color spec for structure exteriors

Feature Identification Number: 134278

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone edging & walkways OF Inn parking

Feature Identification Number: 134280

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Boulder edging Inn & Lodge parking areas

Feature Identification Number: 134282

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Gravel pathways edged by stone

Feature Identification Number: 134284

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Use of interpretive & safety signs

Feature Identification Number: 134286

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Stone-lined swale and culvert

Feature Identification Number: 134288

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Log benches outside the Lodge

Feature Identification Number: 134290

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

Feature: Rustic-styled signage

Feature Identification Number: 134292

Type of Feature Contribution: Non Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Old Faithful Inn north parking lot, c.1951. Note stone curbing and walkways within the parking area. (Anonymous, Homer Noar, Union Pacific Railroad, found in Schreier, 1989)*



*Parking areas Old Faithful Inn and Old Faithful Lodge retain small scale features of stone-lined walkways between rows and tree plantings with boulder barriers at the ends of rows (Shapins Associates, 2003).*



*Extant rustic landscape features include log railings and stone edging (Shapins Associates).*

### **Archeological Sites**

Crow Indians migrated seasonally to the Upper and Lower Geyser Basin areas of the park to gather minerals. They traveled from the eastern Cody entrance to and then along the Firehole River. Crow accounts reveal that Shoshone Indians also resided in the area seasonally. With the exception of one Nez Perce account, however, none of the tribes describe a thermal feature similar to Old Faithful. Therefore, it is unlikely that the Old Faithful area was as revered by Native American tribes as it is by modern day park visitors (Sucec, 2004). While there are limited accounts referring specifically to the Old Faithful Geyser, there is evidence that the thermal features in general were highly valued by the tribes for their medicinal and spiritual powers (Sucec, 2004).

The archeological data shows that before the construction of the Old Faithful Inn, development (the Army post, the early bath house, and the early cabin) was not focused on the Old Faithful Geyser, as illustrated by the location of the Wylie Hill tent camp. The location of trash dump areas also suggest that the geyser was not the center of development since it was common to haul tourist and infrastructure garbage "into the woods" in places that, at the time, were considered to be out of the developed area. Today, these dumps are considered within close proximity to the Old Faithful geyser area (e.g. the old Haynes photo shop trash dump). Encroachment on the Old Faithful Geyser therefore came later. Construction on the present day location of the Old Faithful Inn marked the beginning of development's encroachment on the Old Faithful Geyser which in turn elevated the geyser's significance to the public and spurred its rise to a icon status.

There are multiple documented/undocumented archeological sites in the Upper Geyser Basin and at least two undocumented sites. The archeological sites that date from the period of significance and are proposed as eligible include the historic Wylie Camp and the historic

military post. Other ineligible archeological sites that relate to the evolution of Old Faithful National Historic District's cultural landscape include the bath houses, greenhouses, and the historic route of the Grand Loop Road (Hale, 2009).

Far more structural remains are in the Old Faithful area and require further inventory. Future archeological surveys will likely uncover additional patterns and features from the earliest configuration of the Old Faithful cultural landscape and exact locations of past development.

**Contributing Features and Patterns :**

- Historic Wylie campground
- Historic military post
- Historic bathhouse,
- Historic greenhouse foundation
- Historic OF Lodge camp
- Historic debris scatters
- Historic dumps
- Prehistoric lithic scatters
- Abandoned segments of the Grand Loop Road
- Haynes finishing laboratory and storage shed
- Historic dam
- Historic auto camp

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: Historic Wylie campground

Feature Identification Number: 135730

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic military post

Feature Identification Number: 135732

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic bathhouse

Feature Identification Number: 135734

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic greenhouse foundation

Feature Identification Number: 135736

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: Historic greenhouse foundation

Feature Identification Number: 135738

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Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Historic debris scatters  
Feature Identification Number: 135740  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Historic dumps  
Feature Identification Number: 135742  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Prehistoric lithic scatters  
Feature Identification Number: 135744  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Abandoned segments of the Grand Loop Rd  
Feature Identification Number: 135746  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Haynes finishing laboratory and storage  
Feature Identification Number: 135748  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Historic dam  
Feature Identification Number: 135750  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
Feature: Historic auto camp  
Feature Identification Number: 135752  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 08/01/2005

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Assessment of a cultural landscape's condition under the CLI primarily relates to its level of negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. This information is used to determine the time period in which corrective action should be taken, if at all, and to justify expenditures on stabilization measures for landscape elements. Because the Old Faithful district's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expended under the given environmental conditions, no immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 09/02/2009

#### Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Superintendent concurrence on condition.

#### Stabilization Measures:

At this time there is no proposed or approved stabilization measure for the Old Faithful Historic District

### Stabilization Costs

**Landscape Stabilization Cost:** 0.00

**Cost Date:** 09/28/2009

**Cost Estimator:** Park/FMSS

#### Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:

At this time there is no proposed or approved stabilization measure for the Old Faithful Historic District

## Treatment

### Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Undetermined

**Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:**

At this time there is no approved treatment for the Old Faithful Historic District.

### Approved Treatment Costs

**Landscape Treatment Cost:** 0.00

**Cost Estimator:** Park/FMSS

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