



Name of Property: Lake Hotel
City, State: Teton County, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming
Period of Significance: 1891-1940
NHL Criteria: 4
NHL Theme: III. Expressing Cultural Values
5. Architecture, landscape architecture, and urban design
Previous Recognition: 1991 National Register of Historic Places
1983 Historic American Buildings Survey, HABS Nos. WY-121 and WY-121-A
National Historic Context: Special Study

NHL Significance:

- Lake Hotel embodies the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen especially valuable for study of a period and style: an early twentieth-century grand resort hotel displaying the Colonial Revival style as adapted to the context of a national park in the western United States.
- Initially completed in 1891, Lake Hotel is the oldest hotel constructed within the boundary of a national park. After its historic redesign and expansion in 1903-04, it became the only Colonial Revival grand resort hotel within a national park.
- Noted architect Robert C. Reamer provided the hotel, on the north shore of Yellowstone Lake, with an architectural distinction befitting a grand resort hotel through the application of Colonial Revival detailing. The resulting 720-foot frame building encompassed more than three-hundred guest rooms and elegant public rooms, clearly placing the facility in the grand resort hotel category.

Integrity:

- Lake Hotel, a frame building in an isolated high-altitude location known for harsh winters and heavy snows, maintains a high degree of historic integrity. Small additions required for safety, comfort, and efficient operation are confined to the rear of the building, and guest rooms are reconfigured to meet contemporary expectations of grand resort hotels.
- Expansion of the hotel occurred within the period of significance, with its current footprint in place by 1940.

Owner of Property: National Park Service

Acreage of Property: 12.4 acres

Origins of Nomination: Yellowstone National Park and Xanterra Parks and Resorts, Inc. (the concessioner) initiated the effort to prepare the nomination. A professional consulting firm prepared the briefing statement and nomination.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Designation as an NHL will further enhance the heritage tourism potential of Lake Hotel, recognize it as a Colonial Revival grand resort hotel constructed in a national park of the West, and will illustrate the ability of architect Robert C. Reamer to produce designs in varied architectural idioms.
- Designation will also celebrate and honor the long public-private partnership between the park and the concessioner, which has resulted in the stewardship and preservation of the Lake Hotel and many other historic properties in Yellowstone.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation: Designation. Dr. Seale moved, Dr. Carson seconded; 1 abstention; 7 yeas; approval.

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 5/14/14):

Bryant F. Tolles, Jr., Professor Emeritus of History and Art History, University of Delaware,

Adjunct Faculty Member, Harvard University Summer School, Concord, New Hampshire

Barbara Pahl, Western Regional Vice President, National Trust for Historic Preservation,
Denver, Colorado

Steve Tedder

Karen Bates Kress, President, Yellowstone Park Foundation, Bozeman, Montana

Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Yellowstone Association, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming

Mary Humstone, President, Alliance for Historic Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming

Advisory Board Recommendation:

National Park System Advisory Board

<http://www.nps.gov/nhl/news/LC/spring2014/LakeHotel.pdf>