

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce

Sub: Restaurant

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Log Cabin
Wood frame barn

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Asphalt shingles
walls Log
wood boards - barn
other Porch:Wood
Chimney:Brick

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location. (36'west & 30'south)
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Settlement

Period of Significance 1910 - 1935

Significant Dates 1910/1911

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Van Vleck, Roy

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Name of repository: Teton County Historical Center

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: 1.03 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	<u>12</u>	<u>519465</u>	<u>4813990</u>
B	<u>12</u>	<u>519465</u>	<u>4813900</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Amy Kiessling/Research Assistant

organization Teton County Historical Society

date June 27, 1994

street & number P.O. Box 1005

telephone (307)733-9605

city or town Jackson

state WY zip code 83001

=====
Property Owner
=====
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Abi Garaman

street & number P.O. Box 1 telephone (307)733-3333
city or town Jackson, WY 83001 state WY zip code 83001
=====

NPS Form 10-900-a
(8-86)

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National Park Service

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RECEIVED 413
OAR No. 024-0018
AUG 7 1995
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Van Vleck House and Barn
name of property
Teton County, Wyoming
county and state

The Van Vleck House is a small one-story log cabin located at 135 East Broadway in the town of Jackson, Wyoming. The building was built as a residential home in the years 1910 and 1911. The residential barn stands 42 yards behind the house at 130 East Deloney Avenue. Jean Van Vleck Stewart believes her father built the barn within a few years of the house. The barn is rectangular with dimensions of 29 feet 9 inches by 27 feet 8 inches. It is a wood frame barn with narrow novelty siding. It is 2 stories with a gable roof.

The present appearance of the property is very similar to its historical appearance despite a fire which occurred in 1988 destroying much of the interior of the house, but did not affect the barn. The exterior of the house remained intact and relatively unaffected by the fire.

After the fire the house was moved from the original foundation which did not span the entire building and was placed on an all new poured concrete foundation approximately 36 feet to the west and 30 feet to the south. Although the building was moved the historic appearance has been maintained in that the move was very slight and the building sits in the same orientation and retains its original setting, feeling and association as well as general location and distance from the barn.

The overall layout of the house is L-shaped. Today the building's dimensions are 36 feet by 60 feet. These dimensions are only slightly larger than the original. (Historically there had been an enclosed porch attached to the back of the cabin but due to extensive fire damage it was removed. The dimensions of this enclosed porch were 10 feet 6 inches by 24 feet. When this area was removed it was replaced with an addition 10 feet longer in length and 3 feet shorter in width. Although the addition is slightly larger the exterior walls are of the same type of construction and materials as the original.)

Another change occurring to the exterior at the time of the fire, was the removal and reconstruction of a closet that had protruded off the northeast corner of the building. The closet maintains its original dimensions of six feet square.

A deck, 47 feet 5 inches by 18 feet, was added off to the west side of the building. This deck is wood and is constructed in the same fashion as the front deck which spans the entire width of the building across the front. The front deck/porch is from the original 1910 construction and is covered with an overhang. The porch ceiling of the overhang has a typical tongue and groove ceiling. One by four tongue and groove pine was used for the porch decking. Four inch diameter log balusters standing 23 inches high support a 2 by 6 clap railing wrapping around both the original front porch and added porch. At the corners and walkways two and three balusters extend to the porch overhang.

The exterior walls are stained brown and cement daubing is used between the logs. The logs, are laid horizontally and are peeled. The corners are square corner notched and have cornerboards. The logs are squared off at the window openings four to eight inches beyond the window trim.

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The facade is asymmetrical with two windows at the left of the door and one to the right. The windows are all double hung with one over one window panes. The window surrounds are plain wood molding with lugsills. There had been nine windows on the original construction, today there are eight. A window on the west side of the building was made into a door to meet fire safety regulations. The front door is from the original construction. It is wood and has four panels with a window. The door surround is plain molding.

The soffit is trimmed with a crown molding. The medium pitched hip roof is covered with brown asphalt shingles. The front hip is intersected by a rear hip. There are two scroll metal ornaments from the original construction placed along the roof ridges. Two brick chimneys straddle the roof, one in front and one in back.

The interior was badly damaged in the 1988 fire and is newly constructed. It was reconstructed with the help of Jean Van Vleck Stewart who grew up in the home. The interior had originally been divided into four rooms. Today there are three rooms excluding the new addition in back (D on Diagram 1). Plain wood surrounds trim the entryways dividing the rooms. The front room on the west side of the building maintains the original oak wood floor. It is laid out in a square pattern paralleling the walls. The floor on the east side of the building is a pine overlay done by Roy Van Vleck in the 1940's.

Overall the building is in good condition. Roy and Genevieve resided in the home until 1960. From 1960 to 1974 Jean Van Vleck Stewart lived in the home. After 1974 the building was leased to a local doctor for three years. After this Teton County leased the home as a social services center for troubled teens. In 1980, the house was leased as a restaurant: Jedediah's Original House of Sourdough. It still serves this same function today.

There are numerous windows and doors found on all sides of the barn. The east and west sides each have a rolling barn door. Both sides also have man doors, two appear to have been put in at a later date. The east and south sides each have a six over six lite window. All sides, except the west side, have a hinged hay loft door. On the east side there is small window with a pulley above it used to haul hay into the large hay loft. At the northeast corner is the turn drum that was used to pull up the hay. Three small windows, one on the south side and two on the north side, appear to be later additions.

The south side of the barn roof is wood shingled and the north side is covered with rolled asphalt roofing. A central brick chimney straddles the ridge. The barn is painted a traditional barn red.

Overall the barn is in fair condition and is currently being used for storage by the owner of the property.

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The Van Vleck House and barn are significant for their association with and representation of the earliest settlement and development of the Town of Jackson in the early twentieth century. The structures are therefore eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A. They constitute an interesting and fragile property, which survived the early settlement period and the later transformation of Jackson into an internationally recognized tourist destination area after the National Park was established. The buildings work together in that both were needed and utilized for everyday living. The barn, located at the back of the lot, was used by the Van Vlecks, as was typical in the early 1900s, much like a modern garage. It housed cows, chickens, horses, wagons and hay. There were never more than a dozen similar residences located within downtown Jackson, but no other examples of this residential/ house and barn relationship remain. In 1989 a historic survey of the downtown identified twenty historic buildings standing, with only six retaining integrity. Two of these are stone structures from the 1920s, two are the Van Vleck house and barn and two have since been removed. With very few exceptions historic buildings that have survived in Jackson have lost their integrity in a frenzied drive to create "a wild west image" that represents the communities role as a tourist town but not its early history. As the only original residential structures adjacent to the town square, the Van Vleck house, barn, on the original lot represent the earliest history and development of this genuine old west agricultural community, which was transformed by tourism.

Prior to the early 1880's, Jackson Hole had no permanent year round residents and it was not until 1884 that the valley would see its first settlers. In that year John Holland filed for the first homestead on what is now the National Elk Refuge. Until 1900 the valley remained sparsely populated with homesteads being found throughout the 80 mile long, 15 mile wide valley. The population for the entire valley was less than 50 souls. With the sparse population the settlers did not need a central location or town. With the growth of population little towns with their post offices and schools emerged all over the valley. Eventually Jackson was established as the valley's primary community. (Daugherty n.d.:14:3) Jackson possessed an advantage over other areas for its geographic location. It "was a natural crossroad linking all ends of the valley." (Huidekoper 1978:70) The earliest settlement of Jackson was considerably more spread out than it is now, with a single property owner having a home, barn, garden and outbuildings taking up the space of approximately 1/4 of a standard city block.

In 1896, the members of the Jackson Hole Gun Club built the town's first community building, the Clubhouse, on what eventually developed into the Town Square, a space equivalent to a standard city block. Although still standing the clubhouse is no longer recognizable as a historic building, its original shape and facade have been altered in an attempt to "westernize" its appearance.

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In 1901 the residents established the first town plat and by 1907 there were twenty-one buildings in Jackson. These buildings included businesses as well as homes. An early photograph shows the twenty-one buildings spread over an approximately 40 block area with empty lots and open space. A few residential structures can be picked out on large lots with barns located at the back of the property, unfortunately the photo is faded and the properties were never labeled so we can not be certain which properties functioned in specific capacities. Large lots were not uncommon, and provided street access to the entrances of all buildings.

In 1906, Roy and Frank Van Vleck arrived in Jackson. They had grown up in Michigan, tried their hand at running a mercantile in Colorado, and were headed for Oregon when they stopped in Jackson Hole to hunt for provisions. Apparently winter was coming, they liked the area and stayed. They found work assisting in the construction of the first Mormon church in the valley. Moved from its original location the church is now a pizza parlor with a red and white striped "boom town" facade. They rented the first floor of the most prominent structure in town, the Clubhouse, and using the provisions from their first merchandising operation, they opened Jackson's first mercantile. In 1909 Roy and Frank purchased the V-V cattle ranch near Hoback Junction and operated it with the store in partnership. In 1913 they decided to split the two operations and didn't apparently care who got which. They decided by the flip of a coin -- Frank got the ranch and Roy the general store.

The population of the town of Jackson had grown to 180 by 1910, the year Roy Van Vleck began building the log cabin known as the Van Vleck House. Before its completion in 1911, he traveled to Michigan and married his childhood sweetheart, Genevieve Lawton. He and his bride returned to Jackson and lived in the cabin until 1960.

By 1914 Jackson was well on its way to becoming a permanent town. The residents built a two-story, brick schoolhouse and the valley's first bank was opened providing a local source of funding for community development. Both buildings have been replaced with new structures. The town incorporated and elected its first mayor and town council. (Daugherty n.d.:14:5)

The Van Vleck House became the center of much social activity for it was the only home with its own water well. As recalled by the Van Vleck's daughters, Jean Stewart and Stella Weston, when friends and neighbors were not coming to the home for meetings or social activities, they came to get water to carry away to their homes.

In 1917 the mayor had established the first street grade around the area in the center of town known as the park. It had a deep swale which was filled with dirt from various building projects and eventually became a town square park through the attentions of numerous citizens. It was during this period of growth that many buildings were added to the downtown area. None of these are recognizable as historic structures because of alterations.

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The Mercantile remained in the same location until 1918 when it moved to a new building next to the Clubhouse. The structure has been reconstructed so many times local authorities believe the original structure is completely gone. Roy continued to operate the store on the square for another 27 years. By 1930 the town of Jackson had a population of 533.

As was typical in the early years of settlement of such agricultural communities, the merchants became very important in local issues. Roy and Genevieve Van Vleck were active participants in the community and both are important figures in the history of Jackson. Genevieve Van Vleck was among the five women who served on the nation's first all women's town council. The five women won the Municipal election in May of 1920, replacing the entire town council. They served until June of 1923. Roy Van Vleck was a successful businessman and was instrumental in bringing new ranching equipment to the valley. He administered the Homestead Act of 1862 in the position of Land Commissioner, served on the hospital and school boards, and was a member of several civic organizations.

Roy Van Vleck is also closely associated with what was probably the most controversial event to take place in the valley, the creation and eventual extension of the Jackson Hole National Monument now known as Grand Teton National Park. The controversy spanned across some four decades and the eventual result, the creation of the park, changed Jackson history forever. Van Vleck spent a considerable amount of time and money on representing his and fellow businessmen's interests. (Starr 1992:14-15)

The businessmen felt that as the park was extended, valuable agricultural land would be taken out of production. They feared their businesses would suffer due to the departure of settlers. (Righter 1982:64) In 1931, the opponents of park extension published a weekly paper, "The Grand Teton", for the express purpose of voicing their opposition. The paper was published by the Grand Teton Publishing Co. (Inc.) with Van Vleck as one of the "principle stockholders." He also served as Secretary-Treasurer for the first few issues of this paper. (Bonney 1984:23) Representing the interests of the opposition, Van Vleck traveled to Washington D.C. and New York City in 1934 where he met with a number of government officials.

By 1945, with the population approaching 1300 Jackson had become a tourist town and its early history as an agricultural community was pushed aside. Today we see buildings designed portraying the West as defined by novels, Hollywood movies and television.

Very little has been done in the way of preserving Jackson's historic structures and as a result the town has lost much of its historic character, but the Van Vleck House as one of few original structures, is representative of Jackson's earliest history. Many of Jackson's oldest buildings have been torn down or altered dramatically. Because of tremendous growth and property tax pressures, (the population now exceeds 7000) the original community has been almost completely replaced with a mythical "wild west fantasy" representation including

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elements described by visitors and locals as "wild west boom town", "riverboat victorian" and "French Alps". Gone are the open spaces and empty lots which historically characterized this small agricultural community. With the exception of the town square, the Van Vleck property is the only remaining open space within the 3 block area surrounding the square. The house and barn stand in the midst of modern encroachments as a reminder of how Jackson began. It serves to remind locals of their heritage and provides visitors with an opportunity to experience a small reminder of the towns modest beginnings.

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Primary Sources:

Byrd, Jo Anne. Interview with Jean Stewart, 1983. Transcript.
Teton County Historical Center.

Van Vleck, C.R. [Unpublished diary, 1934] typescript excerpts,
8 pages, at the Teton County Historical Center, A92.0004.

Secondary Sources:

Bonney, Lorraine. "Thunder in the Hole: The Battle of Park Extension
moves to the Printed Page," Jackson Hole News, 21 Nov. 1984: 23-26.

Daugherty, John. "A Place Called Jackson Hole: A History" [Unpublished
typescript] n.p., n.d.; Grand Teton National Park,
National Park Service.

Huidekoper, Virginia. The Early Days in Jackson Hole.
Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1978.

Righter, Robert W. Crucible for Conservation: The Struggle for Grand Teton
National Park. Boulder: Colorado Associated University Press, 1982.

Starr, Eileen F. Architecture in the Cowboy State, 1849-1940.
Glendo: High Plains Press, 1992.

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundary for the Van Vleck property is defined by the sidewalk edge on the north along East Deloney Avenue and by the sidewalk edge on the south along Broadway. The boundary on the west is defined by the east edge of the driveway extending from north to south approximately 5 feet west of the building and porch exterior. The eastern boundary is defined by an invisible and arbitrary line extending north and south approximately 5 feet east of the building exterior. The legal description for the property included within the boundaries is as follows. Part of the SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 27, Township 41, North Range 116 West

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes only the Van Vleck House and barn. The barn stands on the back of the property 42 yards from the house in its original location. The property is bounded by Broadway to the south, a driveway to the west and East Deloney Avenue on the north. An arbitrary boundary is used on the east to exclude a portion of the original lot and a building recently placed directly east of the house. This building was not part of the original Van Vleck property.