

Date: July 15, 2007

Smithsonian # N/A

RECORD TYPE:  First-recording,  Full Re-record,  Update,  Condition Report,  Site Lead

PROPERTY CATEGORY:  Prehistoric Site,  Historic Site,  Building,  Structure,  Object,  District,  Landscape,  Lithic Landscape,  TCP

**1. IDENTIFICATION/OWNERSHIP**

Consultant Project Number **DOINPS42501** Agency Project Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Associated Project Name **Complete Determination of National Register of Historic Places Eligibility for Helene Wittmer Property, Hartgrave/Halpin Property and the Rudd Property**

Site Name **Wittmer Property** Temporary Field Number \_\_\_\_\_

Other Common names: **Witty's Place; The Bettys' Place** Agency Site Number **Tract: 03-112**

Other Site Number \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner (at time of this reporting, specify agency/district, if private give name and address): \_\_\_\_\_ check here if site information is confidential  
**National Park Service**

**2. LOCATION** (repeat as needed on continuation sheets; \_\_\_\_\_ check here if additional locational information is on continuation sheet)

Street address **Moose-Wilson Road** Town **Moose**

Lot-Block: \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel \_\_\_\_\_ County **Teton**

USGS 7.5' Map Name, Date **Grand Teton and Moose Quads, 1981**

Township **43N** Range **116W** Section **34** ¼'s **NESE** Template: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ ¼'s \_\_\_\_\_ Template: \_\_\_\_\_

Township \_\_\_\_\_ Range \_\_\_\_\_ Section \_\_\_\_\_ ¼'s \_\_\_\_\_ Template: \_\_\_\_\_

Elevation (ft.): **6,441** UTM Coordinates (center point is required; bounding UTM(s) required for sites > 200m in any dimension)

UTM: Zone **12N** E **520095.141 m** N **4832285.346 m** Datum used to calculate:  NAD 27  NAD 83

Bounding UTM: (1) E \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ (2) E \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

(3) E \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_ (4) E \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_

UTM source:  corrected GPS/rectified survey (<5m error),  uncorrected GPS,  map template,  other: \_\_\_\_\_

GPS Model/Software: **ARC 615 9.2**

Notes pertaining to access:

**3. NATIONAL REGISTER STATUS** (check all that apply in each category)

**ENROLLED STATUS**  Landmark/Monument,  Enrolled on NRHP

**FACTORS AFFECTING INTEGRITY** (check all that apply; indicate specific areas of disturbance and vandalism on a copy of the site map)

Disturbance/Vandalism:  none,  erosion,  vandalism,  collection,  structural damage,  manual excavation,  mechanical excavation,  vehicle traffic,  structural decay,  grazing,  construction/development,  defacement,  imminent destruction,  unknown

Percent of property badly disturbed as of this recording date, to nearest 10%): **N/A**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE**

Period(s) of significance: **1959; 1962-2004** Theme(s): **Exploration/settlement; Social History**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS** (check all applicable):

**Recorder NRHP Evaluation:**  Eligible under criteria  a,  b,  c,  d;  Not Eligible,  Unevaluated

Contributing Components:  Prehistoric,  Historic Associated person for criterion b property \_\_\_\_\_

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance; discussion of contributing components (indicate spatial extents on maps); and integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined)\*:

**The Wittmer Property was carefully evaluated for significance under Criteria A and C within the contexts of settlement, social history and vernacular architecture in Grand Teton National Park and the Jackson Hole area.**

\*Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

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**Criterion A:** The Wittmer Property is significant for its association with its residents. "The Bettys" ( as the owners of the Wittmer Property were called) were well known figures in Jackson Hole society for the period from 1962 to 2004. The Bettys built their house in 1959, and began living there year-round starting in 1962. They used part of the house (the studio) to publish their newsletter, Cabin Comments, a commentary on Jackson Hole residents and their activities. The house and surrounding property reflect a typical settlement pattern in the Jackson Hole region following World War II as individuals visited Grand Teton National Park, fell in love with the area, purchased property, and eventually retired there (Caywood and Hubber).

**Criterion C:** The property is fairly typical of 20<sup>th</sup> century, vernacular, rustic-style log buildings in the Jackson Hole region. However, the property has no outstanding features that make it significant enough to qualify for listing on the National Register under Criterion C.

**Conclusion:** Although the Bettys were important in the social scene of the Jackson Hole region, the importance of their impact on society or their significance as individuals has not been documented. The property retains integrity from the period of significance. However, the property itself does not convey significance in the settlement history of Jackson Hole nor the vernacular architecture of the area. Furthermore, the period of significance for the Wittmer property begins less than fifty years ago (in 1962). Therefore it was determined that the Wittmer Property is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

**Agency Determination:** \_\_\_ Eligible under criteria \_\_\_ a, \_\_\_ b, \_\_\_ c, \_\_\_ d ; \_\_\_ Not Eligible, \_\_\_ Unevaluated Date/initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification:

**SHPO Concurrence:** \_\_\_ Eligible under criteria \_\_\_ a, \_\_\_ b, \_\_\_ c, \_\_\_ d ; \_\_\_ Not Eligible, \_\_\_ Unevaluated Date/initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Justification:

#### 4. INVESTIGATIVE HISTORY (Check all that apply, use property narrative for additional information as appropriate)

Recorded by: **Mary Humstone and Katie Farrer** Organization: **University of Wyoming American Studies Program**

Field Dates: **June 4-8, 2007**

**DISCOVERY METHOD** (describe in site narrative description)

Construction discovery,  Documentary sources,  Informant

#### 5. PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

##### PHYSICAL DIMENSIONS

Length \_\_\_\_\_ m, Width \_\_\_\_\_ m, Area: **2.07 acres**, (  estimated \_\_\_ measurement method: \_\_\_\_\_ )

Boundary estimates based on:

property boundaries, \_\_\_ topography, \_\_\_ other, \_\_\_ unknown.

#### RECORDS INVENTORY (check all appropriate attachments associated with this recording)

##### Required attachments\*:

- (7) Site Narrative Description
- (8) Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix
- site map w/scale,orientation,.,key
- location map (USGS 1:24,000 base)
- photographs/images

##### Additional Attachments:

- (8F) historic architecture description
- \_\_\_ (8I) historic structure/object description

#### 6. PREHISTORIC/HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE SETTING, TOPOGRAPHY, DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENT\*

*N/A: Section 6 is not required for urban and rural buildings, structures, objects, or historic districts*

#### 7. SITE NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

##### Methodology

The property was documented and photographs taken of all buildings and major landscape features. Research was conducted at the Teton County Land Office, the Teton County Assessor's Office, and the Jackson Hole Historical Society and by interviews with informants.

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### Site Description

The Wittmer Property is located 2.8 miles south of Moose, Wyoming, approximately one-half mile east of the Moose-Wilson road at the end of a gravel driveway. The property is located on a flat, sage-brush meadow in the Snake River Valley. The property boundary is delineated with a buck-and-rail fence. To the east of the house, the ground slopes steeply down to the level of the Snake River. A path lined with a pipe railing leads down the slope to the river. Previous residents, "The Bettys," planted daffodils on the slope in 1965 (The Bettys, 99). Aside from the daffodils, vegetation at the site is native, and comprised of sage and other low shrubs.

The log house and attached studio are described in Attachment 8F.

### History

The Wittmer Property was home to "The Bettys" from 1962 until 2004. Betty Anderson, Babette "Betty" Lemon, and Helene "Witty" Wittmer, former schoolteachers from the Milwaukee-Downer Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, moved to their property near Moose, Wyoming, upon their retirements. Anderson began coming to the Tetons in the 1920s as a teacher at a camp in Jackson Hole and fell in love with the region. She encouraged her friends to visit the West, and Wittmer and Lemon first visited in the 1940s.

Betty Anderson purchased approximately 2 acres of land from V.B. Nichols and Harry Barker, Sr., in 1957 (Teton County Land Office). The original cabin was built in 1959 and contained only a living room, kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, and basement library. It was built by the Kranenberg Brothers, who also built the furniture for the house (Dornan). In 1964, wings were added to the north and south of the house. The southern addition contained a dining room and greenhouse, and the northern addition contained two bedrooms and a bathroom (The Bettys, 62-65). In 1968, The Bettys added a small studio to the north of the main cabin, connected by a breezeway. The studio was to be used primarily for painting, but it was also used to publish The Bettys' newsletter, Cabin Comments.

Cabin Comments was a newsletter that the Bettys sent to friends and family to tell them about their experiences living in Wyoming. Betty Lemon was the chief author of the newsletter, Betty Anderson did the illustrations, and Helene Wittmer was the editor. It grew out of a column entitled "Around the Valley" that Betty Anderson and Betty Lemon wrote during the summer of 1962 in The Jackson Hole Guide. The editor of the newspaper, Floy Tonkin, nicknamed Anderson and Lemon "The Bettys" and the name held, even when Wittmer joined them full time in 1964. (The Bettys, preface). Following the death of Betty Lemon from cancer in 1977, Anderson and Wittmer published a collection of the newsletters in a book called Cabin Comments.

The Bettys kept burros at their house during the summer. They were named for companies the women had purchased stock in, such as AT&T, Fidelity (Fidelity Fund), Esso, Fica (FICA and Social Security) and TIAA (Teachers' Insurance Annuity Association). They also had two horses, Dividend and Royalty, and a few dogs (The Bettys, 58-60; 71). The driveway leading from the Moose-Wilson Road to their house was not plowed from October until April. The Bettys kept a vehicle at the road and used snowmobiles for transportation when necessary. Although the women did not move to the Jackson Hole region until later in life, they were thoroughly integrated into the social scene there. They entertained friends and former students from all over the world in their house and were known locally for their formal teas (Dornan).

The women spent a great deal of time outside during the summer, gardening and hiking. Although the hillside east of the house was not on their property, Wittmer decided she would like to plant flowers on it. Wittmer was born in Lyon, France, and lived there until she was 18. In France, it was common to see daffodils in the mountains, and since the Bettys were living so near the Tetons, she thought the hillside was an appropriate location for daffodils as well. The Bettys sent away for nearly 2,000 daffodils and Wittmer and Betty Lemon planted them on the hill. The leftover bulbs were planted in the front yard of the house (The Bettys 99; Love; Dornan).

The Bettys sold their property to the National Park Service in 1967 for \$50,000 on a lifetime lease that let the Bettys stay there for as long as the last remaining Betty was alive.

### Site Conditions and Threats

Overall, the site is in good condition.

### Major Bibliographic Resources

Caywood, Janene and Ann Hubber. *Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission*. National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park, 1997.

Dornan, Tricia. Personal Interview. 7 Jun. 2007.

Long, Patrick. "Witty—Helene Wittmer" on "Jackson Hole Journal." Copyright 1995 by Ambassador Media Group.

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Love, Johanna. "Yellow legacy." Jackson Hole News and Guide. <http://www.jacksonholenews.com/Archives/FeatureArchive/2004/050411-feature.html> 2005.

The Bettys, Cabin Comments: A Journal of Life in Jackson Hole. Jackson, WY: Teton Bookshop, 1980.

Teton County Assessor's Office records.

Teton County Land Office records.



Wittmer Property, view northeast (Mary Humstone, 2007)

**8. Prehistoric/Historic Site Matrix** (attach (8A) "Artifacts Associated with Prehistoric Component", (8B) "Features Associated with Prehistoric Component", (8C) "Artifacts Associated with Historic Component", (8D) "Features Associated with Historic Component" as appropriate). Check boxes for "yes" as appropriate.

HISTORIC						Building(s)/ Structure(s)
Unknown Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Early Historic	___	___	___	___	___	___
Pre-territorial	___	___	___	___	___	___
Territorial	___	___	___	___	___	___
Expansion	___	___	___	___	___	___
Depression	___	___	___	___	___	___
WWII Era	___	___	___	___	___	___
Post WWII	___	___	___	___	___	___
Modern	___	___	___	___	___	<b>1</b>

Periods of Significance – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919) Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940-1946); Post-WWII (1947-1955); Modern (1956-present)

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

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**8F. HISTORIC ARCHITECTURE COMPONENT DESCRIPTION**

Common name: **Wittmer Property**

Historic name: **“The Bettys’ Place”**

Type of building: **House**

Number of associated resources: **1**

Historic District Smithsonian Number (if applicable) **N/A**

**OWNERSHIP** – Property owner and address:

**Grand Teton National Park, PO Drawer 170, Moose, WY 83002**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES SIGNIFICANCE** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form; the following applies to the individual building)

Period of significance: **1959-2004**

Theme: **Exploration/settlement; Social History**

Periods – Protohistoric (1720-1800) Early Historic (1801-1842) Pre-territorial (1843-1867) Territorial (1868-1889); Expansion (1890-1919); Depression (1920-1939) ; WWII-era (1940 to 1946); Post-WWII (1947 to 1955); Modern (1956-present); use exact dates if known.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATION** (discuss as appropriate in narrative and in core form):

If eligible, is this building \_\_\_ contributing or  non-contributing

Justification: (Include in justification a statement of significance for building; integrity (location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association); discuss how significant periods and themes were determined): **See core form**

**CONSTRUCTION HISTORY** (use “unknown” as appropriate)

Dates of construction/major modification (use more lines as appropriate)

Date	Circa y/n	Date source
<b>1959: residence</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Teton County Assessor’s Office</b>
<b>1964: remodel</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Teton County Assessor’s Office</b>
<b>1964: addition</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>The Bettys, Cabin Comments. Jackson, WY: Teton Bookshop, 1980</b>
<b>1969: studio</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>The Bettys, Cabin Comments. Jackson, WY: Teton Bookshop, 1980.</b>

Architect(s): **Unknown**

Builder(s): **Kranenberg Brothers (Tricia Dornan)**

Building moved? (yes/no/unknown) **no** Date(s) moved: \_\_\_\_\_, Moved from: \_\_\_\_\_

Current use(s) **GTNP Seasonal Housing**

Historic use(s): **Vacation home/Residence**

**DESCRIPTION**

Style/Type: **Vernacular Cross-gable House**

Number of stories: **X** 1, \_\_\_ 1-1/2, \_\_\_ 2, \_\_\_ 2-1/2, \_\_\_ multiple, \_\_\_ don’t know, \_\_\_ other (describe):

**ARCHITECTURE KEYWORDS: log**

**ADDITIONAL NARRATIVE**

\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.

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The Wittmer property is a single-story house with a partial basement. The house is oriented towards the northwest, but for the purposes of this narrative, the façade will be referred to as the west elevation. The house is sited in the Snake River Valley, on a sage-brush flat. It is located approximately one-half mile east of the Moose-Wilson Road, at the end of a gravel driveway. The façade of the house faces the Teton Mountains, and the Snake River runs to the east of the property. A steep slope leads from the house to the river. The slope has been planted with daffodils.

The house was built in 1959 for three retired school teachers from Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who were known locally as "The Bettys" (Teton County Assessors Office). Betty Anderson, Babette "Betty" Lemon, and Helene Wittmer lived in the house from 1962 until their deaths. The last Betty to pass away was Wittmer, who died in 2004.

The house is comprised of a large main cabin connected by a breezeway to a small studio apartment. The main cabin is cross-shaped, with a large, central, gable-roofed section and lower, set back, eave-front wings extending to the north and south. The central section has open eaves with exposed rafter tails, and is the original cabin. The north and south wings are later additions. The house is approximately 156 feet long and approximately 10 feet wide, except for the original cabin section, which is approximately 30 feet wide, creating projections on both the east and west elevations. The exterior walls of the cabin and adjoining studio are constructed of logs. Tops and bottoms of the logs have been squared off for a tight fit, with no chinking. There is some caulking between the logs in the main cabin.

The façade of the central section has two large, picture windows in the lower portion, and a double-hung window in the gable end. The gable end is finished with board-and-batten siding. The north and south elevations of the central projecting section both have large picture windows as well. The windows are trimmed with 1-by-4 boards and have wood sills. The roof is covered with gray, asphalt, rolled roofing and a brick chimney rises from the ridge of the center section of the cabin.

The south wing extends approximately 24 feet. A wood door is on the façade south of the projecting center section. It features nine lights over a panel divided into four sections with crossed boards, and has a wood screen door. The south-wing façade also features a stationary sash with a casement window on each side. The window opening is trimmed with stock window trim.

A small greenhouse extends approximately 10 feet from the south elevation of the wing. The lower greenhouse walls are log on the west elevation and are sided with board and battens on the south elevation. The rest of the walls are glazed, with the south-elevation glazing sloping inward slightly toward the top. A ten-foot-wide deck constructed of 2-by-4s borders the façade of the house; the deck is in poor condition.

The north extends approximately 36 feet. Its façade features a door matching the door on the south wing. A two-part window comprised of a stationary sash with a casement window is framed in 1-by-4 boards. The ten-foot-wide deck on this section of the house is in fair condition.

There are two 2-part windows (as described above) on the northwest and southwest corners of the north elevation of the house. The north elevation is also where the breezeway is attached to the main house.

The east elevation of the house features a projecting central gable that matches that of the façade. There is a standard, two-part window in the northeast corner of the east elevation, and a three-part window (stationary sash flanked by casement windows) just south of the projection. The rolled roofing on the east slope of the roof is peeling back. A concrete-block basement built into the hillside is also visible on this elevation. A wood door with two upper lights and with a wood screen door is on the south elevation of the basement projection. The east elevation of the basement features three large picture windows. The window openings are framed with log headers and 1-by-4s. A path lined with a pipe railing extends down the hillside to the Snake River.

A 40-foot-long breezeway extends between the main cabin and a small studio apartment to the north. The breezeway roof is sheathed in plywood and features an open roof structure. Six-by-6 posts support a 6-by-6 beam and 2-by-6 rafters. Two-by-4s have been laid in a diagonal pattern to form the deck. The breezeway is attached to the south elevation of the studio and the north elevation of the main house.

The studio is rectangular (42' by 21') and has a west-facing gable roof. The roof is sheathed in reddish, asphalt, rolled roofing. The entrance is on the south elevation (through the breezeway) and the door matches the doors of the main cabin. Two stationary windows are in the north and south corners of the west elevation. A louvered vent is in the west-elevation gable end and the east and west gable ends are covered with board-and-batten siding. On the east elevation, a picture window is in the north corner and a double casement window is in the south corner. The Bettys used the studio as an art studio and as a place to assemble their newsletter, "Cabin Comments." The studio and the breezeway were added to the main house in September 1968 (The Bettys, 166). The studio is now used as a bedroom and bathroom.

On the interior of the house, the logs have been hewn to create a flat interior wall surface. The western projecting gable forms a large living room that features a stone fireplace constructed from narrow ashlar stone. The eastern projecting gable consists of a bedroom, bathroom, closet, and the kitchen. The south wing is a dining room with an entrance into the greenhouse. The north wing features two bedrooms and a full bathroom. The central gable-roofed section also forms the boundaries for the basement. The western section of the basement consists of a large storage and utility room, and the eastern section is a bedroom/library. The basement ceiling is finished with rough logs and a log staircase connects the basement to the main floor of the house.

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Wittmer House and Studio, west and south elevations (Mary Humstone, 2007)



Wittmer House, north and west elevations (Mary Humstone, 2007)

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Wittmer House, east elevation (Mary Humstone, 2007)



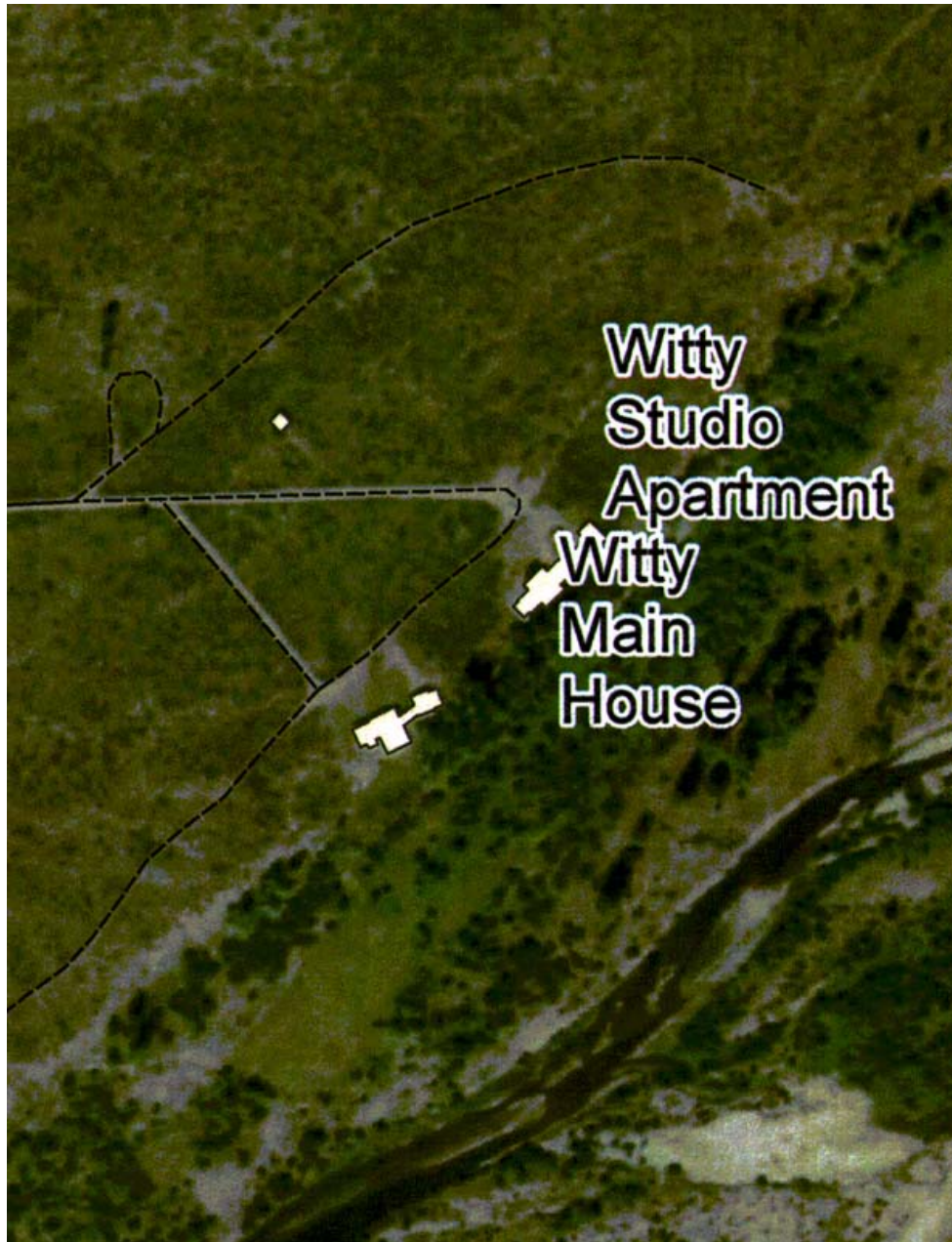
Wittmer Studio, west and north elevations (Mary Humstone, 2007)



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WITTMER PROPERTY – SITE PLAN



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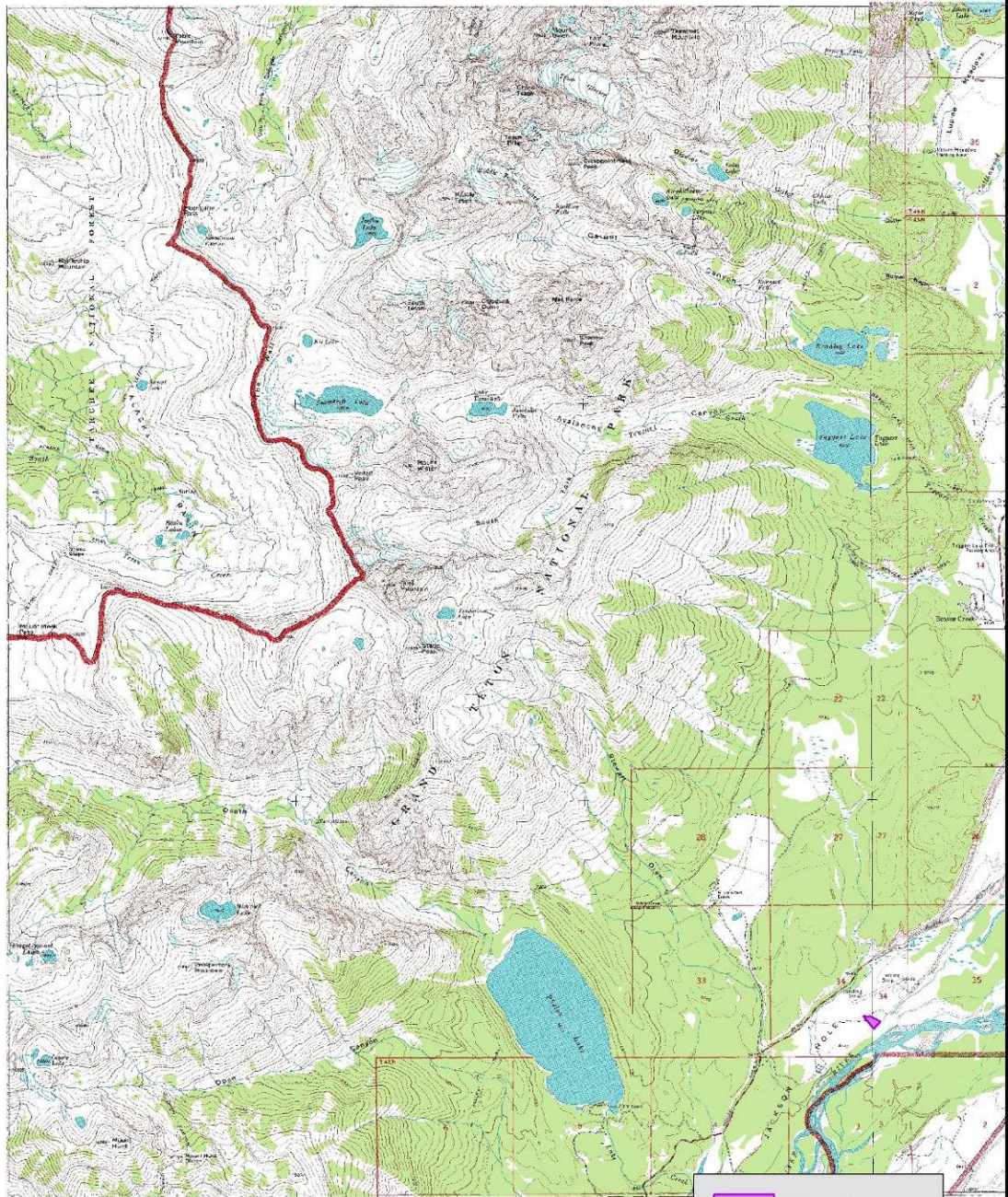
Smithsonian # N/A

Grand Teton National Park  
Wyoming

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

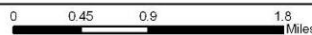


# Witty Property - Grand Teton & Moose Quads



 Witty Property

GRTE GIS Office



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\* Continue narrative as needed on separate page or by expanding section on word processor.