

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Historic District
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number P.O. Box 168 not for publication N/A
city or town N/A vicinity Yellowstone National Park
state Wyoming code 56 county Park code 029 zip code 82190

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
(___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
___	___ buildings
<u>2</u>	___ sites
<u>8</u>	___ structures
___	___ objects
<u>10</u>	<u>0</u> total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **RECREATION AND CULTURE**

LANDSCAPE

Sub: outdoor recreation

Sub: park, natural feature

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **RECREATION AND CULTURE**

LANDSCAPE

Sub: outdoor recreation

Sub: park, natural feature

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: **OTHER**

Sub: National Park Service Rustic

Mission 66

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, stone

roof n/a

walls concrete, stone, log

other _____

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.
- 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)

ARCHITECTURE
CONSERVATION
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1872-1966

Significant Dates 1872, 1916

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder National Park Service

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

See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

See 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 # WY-24, 87, 88

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 890 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1.	<u>12</u>	<u>541604 mE</u>	<u>4953000 mN</u>
2.	<u>12</u>	<u>543014 mE</u>	<u>4952382 mN</u>
3.	<u>12</u>	<u>541429 mE</u>	<u>4951655 mN</u>
4.	<u>12</u>	<u>539481 mE</u>	<u>4950230 mN</u>
5.	<u>12</u>	<u>539192 mE</u>	<u>4950645 mN</u>
6.	<u>12</u>	<u>539359 mE</u>	<u>4951555 mN</u>
7.	<u>12</u>	<u>540694 mE</u>	<u>4952207 mN</u>

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

See Continuation Sheet.

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

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert G. Rosenberg, Historian
organization Rosenberg Historical Consultants
street & number 739 Crow Creek Road
city or town Cheyenne state WY

date September 2010
telephone (307) 632-1144
zip code 82009

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Yellowstone National Park, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior
street & number P.O. Box 168
city or town Yellowstone National Park
state Wyoming
zip code 82190
telephone (307) 344-2156; (307) 344-2323

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

7. Description

Since the creation of Yellowstone National Park in 1872, the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone has been one of the Park's primary tourist attractions. Artist Thomas Moran first popularized the scenic wonders of the spectacular forty-mile long canyon in a series of watercolors painted in 1871 while accompanying the Hayden Survey. In fact, his paintings helped to persuade Congress to set establish the nation's first national park. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone is located in the north central portion of Yellowstone National Park. The Yellowstone River generally flows northward through the Park from Yellowstone Lake. However, as it enters the mouth of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, it turns northeast and continues to flow in that direction for the next 8.5 miles, then again turns north. Therefore, the terms "North and South Rims" are used to describe the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone in this area.

The geology of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone consists of rhyolite that has been exposed to hot liquids and steam percolating from the Yellowstone Caldera. The unique red, orange and purple hues of the canyon walls and the eroded rock formations (hoodoos and spires) are results of the hydrothermal alteration process. In addition to the colorful canyon walls and rock formations, the Yellowstone River spills first over the Upper Falls (109 feet) and then the Lower Falls (308 feet) as it enters the Canyon. The dense lodgepole pine forest of the Canyon plateau abuts the rim of the sparsely vegetated chasm.

Today, two scenic drives provide access to the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. They connect eight overlooks and associated parking lots that provide tourists the most advantageous points from which to view the natural wonders. Inspiration Point Road, which is now part of a larger loop road known as North Rim Drive, provides access to the North Rim and (from east to west) Inspiration Point Overlook, Grand View Point Overlook, Lookout Point Overlook, Red Rock Point Overlook, and Brink of Lower Falls Overlook. A separate short road provides access to Brink of Upper Falls Overlook. Artist Point Road, which crosses the Yellowstone River via the Chittenden Bridge,

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

provides access to the South Rim and Uncle Tom's Trail/Lower and Upper Falls Overlooks and Artist Point Overlook. Finally, the North Rim Trail and South Rim Trail also connect the overlooks via foot trails that provide the visitor with a more natural and introspective viewing experience removed from the summer crowds and vehicles at the developed viewpoints.

The descriptions of the two hiking trails often use UTM points to describe their specific physical attributes at these points. The reader is referred to the accompanying 7.5' USGS quadrangle maps to locate these points while reading the descriptions.

Inspiration Point Overlook (Site 48YE1854)

Inspiration Point Overlook consists of a paved oval-shaped loop parking lot (300' x 200') that is covered with asphalt. The east side of the lot is bordered by a log guardrail with a low rock wall. The overlook structure was started in August 1954 and completed in August 1956. It consists of a poured concrete walkway with steps and platforms leading to a poured concrete rectangular-shaped observation platform overlooking the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The total length of the walkway and viewing platform is approximately 125' N-S. The walkway (6' wide) is equipped with steel pipe railings on either side. The viewing platform is also enclosed with steel pipe railings and cyclone fencing. The walkway has nine sets of short concrete stairs with intervening relatively flat walkways. There are also three enlarged platforms with wooden benches. Damage from earthquakes in 1959 and 1975 resulted in the destruction of the south 100 feet of the viewing platform and walkway. Most of this section was never reconstructed.

Grand View Point Overlook (Site 48YE1855)

Grand View Point consists of a narrow asphalt parking area (reconstructed) that is essentially a widening of the road with a log guardrail along the east side. The path to the overlook has an asphalt covered walkway (10' to 12' wide) that is lined with large boulders on either side. There is an oval

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

“Picture Point” that is a widening in the trail (12’ to 15’ E-W x 25’ N-S). East of this feature, the trail becomes 8 feet wide and terminates at the viewing platform (40’ N-S x 15’ to 18’ E-W), also lined with large boulders overlooking the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The total length of the walkway and viewing platform is approximately 125’ E-W. At the west end of the walkway is a “Y” where the North Rim Trail branches south. The north branch of the walkway to the parking lot is about 60’ long. Features along the walkway consist of shaped stone benches with large flat backrests that extend in height above the stone retaining walls.

Lookout Point Overlook (Site 48YE1856)

Lookout Point Overlook consists of an elongated east-west trending asphalt parking area with a log railing along the south or canyon side. There is an extended asphalt-covered walkway along the log railing. The North Rim Trail leaves from the east and west ends of the parking lot. Two secondary overlooks are located near the east end and south side of the parking lot and feature natural stone parapets with asphalt decks. Lookout Point is accessed via an asphalt-covered walkway (8-12’ wide) that is lined with large boulders on either side that provide safety along the canyon side of the trail. Some segments of the walkway also have steel pipe handrails on the side opposite the canyon where the stone walls are lower. At the beginning of the trail there is a set of flagstone steps about 10-12’ wide that appear to be original. There is also an ADA ramp located north of the steps that provides a gradual descent to the trail from the parking area. The observation platform is located at the end of the walkway about 400’ from the parking area. It consists of an irregularly-shaped circular viewing area (about 100’ N-S x 60’ E-W) lined with large boulders and built-in stone benches. An “island” of trees (about 20’ in diameter) is located in the middle of the platform that is encircled by boulders. The walkway and observation deck are covered with asphalt. Excellent views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the Lower Falls are obtained from this viewing area. The walkway to Red Rock Point branches off from the Lookout Point walkway about 200’ from the parking area before the observation deck is reached.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Red Rock Point Overlook (Site 48YE1857)

Red Rock Point is a rock formation located about 500' below the North Rim of the Canyon that is reached via a foot trail; this trail branches off from the trail to Lookout Point about 300 feet southwest of the parking area. Where the Red Rock Point Trail diverges from the Lookout Point Trail, there is a set of six flagstone steps with a steel railing. A stone retaining wall (about 9' high) continues along the Lookout Point Trail that is composed of large loose boulders. The Red Rock Point Trail parallels the base of the stone wall for a short distance, then diverges as it heads downslope and away from the other trail. The trail is narrow (4-5' wide) and asphalt-covered. In many places it is lined with log segments, and the downslope side of the trail consists of stone retaining walls about 3' high. Some of the sections are unmortared, and others have been repaired with mortar. The grade of the foot trail has been eased by utilizing a series of eight switchbacks along its course.

At switchback 4, the trail crosses a small stream via a wooden foot bridge (10' long x 5' wide). It has a 2" x 6" wood plank deck with 4" x 4" railings supported by 3" x 12" horizontal timbers. There are natural stone benches adjacent to the bridge and there are two sets of five flagstone steps (7' maximum width) on the south side of the bridge, the second narrower than the first. The steps are built into a nearly sheer rock cliff on the upslope side. There is a natural stone bench near switchback 6. Each switchback is a dramatic nearly 180-degree shift in direction. At switchback 7, there is a natural stone bench that is 11' long, and a set of five stone steps just below the bench area. At switchback 9, there is a wooden bridge (17' x 5') with a 2" x 6" wood plank deck with railings supported by 3" x 12" timbers. The bridge has mortared stone abutments, and there is one stone step at the west end of the bridge. The remainder of the trail to the viewing platform consists of a continuous wood plank walkway with stairs and railings (5' wide). The walkway is divided into a series of segments as follows: 36' long deck with 12 risers 14' long; 35' long deck with 12 risers 14' long; 5' long curved deck with 12 risers 14' long; 24' long deck with 12 risers 14' long; 11' long deck with 12 risers 14' long; 10' deck with 12 risers 14' long; 5' long curved deck with 12 risers 14' long; and 4' long deck that completes the walkway to the viewing platform. An intervening short section of natural walkway is lined with boulders and has five

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

flagstone steps that lead down to the viewing platform. The viewing platform is circular-shaped with a nearly level asphalt-covered deck and log railings (22' N-S x 26' E-W). It is built on a natural stone outcrop with mortared stone support walls underneath walls that are 10' high on the north side and 12' high on the east side. It provides an excellent view of the Lower Falls to the west-southwest.

Brink of Lower Falls Overlook (Site 48YE1858)

Brink of Lower Falls Overlook is located on a natural rock formation about 600 feet below the north rim of the canyon that is reached via a switchback foot trail. The overlook is located directly above the Lower Falls of the Yellowstone River. The foot trail to the primary overlook leaves from a parking lot on the canyon rim that was constructed in 1951 and has recently been reconstructed. The south side of the parking lot is paralleled by a foot trail bordered by a rustic log fence that leads to two secondary overlooks with stone parapets. The main trail leaves from the west end of the parking area and is bordered by a log fence.

At the point where the log rail fence ends, there is an upslope corrugated steel culvert (12" dia.) that empties into a stone-lined trough. The trough, in turn, feeds into a similar culvert that goes under the trail and is also visible on the downslope side. The downslope side of the trail has a stone retaining wall that averages about 3' high. The trail (8' average width) is covered with asphalt that is badly eroded in places. About 100' west-southwest of the culverts, the foot trail curves gently and has a two-course log retaining wall on its upslope side. The trail continues with the two-course log retaining wall above and a low stone retaining wall on the opposite or downslope side. Near the north end of the wall, the two-log course becomes a four-course that is about 4' high and about 24' long. Regularly-spaced log ends are anchored into the ground slope creating this log cribbing feature. A two-log retaining wall then borders the trail for a distance of about 97' where two connected wood benches are located on the upslope side of the trail. This is also the end of the first switchback and the point where the North Rim Trail diverges from the Brink of Lower Falls Trail.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

On the opposite side of the trail there is a log and stone railing with seven mortared stone piers on the downslope side of the beginning of switchback 2. Each pier is about 3' high and spaced about 6' apart. The total length of the railing is about 38'. At this point the asphalt covered trail is about 6' wide. The second switchback trail has a single log retaining wall on the upslope side and a stone retaining wall that averages about 3' high on the downslope side. Along the second switchback, there is a 2' diameter corrugated steel culvert with stonework on the upslope opening. At the northeast end of the second switchback, there is a wooden bench. The downslope side of the beginning of the third switchback has a 22'-long log and stone guardrail. It is composed of 4 evenly-spaced mortared stone piers supporting a log guardrail on top. This structure is in need of maintenance. The wooden bench and guardrail rest upon a 6' high L-shaped stone retaining wall with earthen fill. Switchback 3 continues the pattern of an upslope single log retaining wall and downslope stone retaining wall. There is also a corrugated steel culvert located in this section.

At the west end of switchback 3, there is a 33'-long curved log and stone railing consisting of 5 mortared stone piers. The downslope side of the trail (beginning switchback 4) is supported by seven courses of log cribbing. Within this portion of switchback trail, there is a corrugated steel culvert. The downslope side of the trail also has log cribbing underneath and in addition to the stone retaining wall. At the east end of switchback 4, there is a small viewing platform with a poured concrete deck and tubular steel railings with cyclone fencing. It provides a view of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone to the northeast. On the next switchback, there is another stone and log railing with three stone pedestals about 14' long. Switchback 5 continues the same pattern with a single log course lining the upslope side of the trail, and a stone retaining wall on the downslope side. At the west end of the switchback, there is a wooden bench and a five-pedestal stone and log railing that is 24' long. Switchback 6 is more curved than the former switchbacks, but also exhibits a single log course on the upslope side and stone retaining wall on the downslope side.

At the east end of switchback 7, there is a wooden bench and a five-pedestal stone and log railing that is 25' long. The west end of switchback 7 also has a four-pedestal stone and log railing that is 21'6"

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

long. At this point the trail is directly above the Yellowstone River, which is clearly visible. At the east end of switchback 8, there is a small wooden bench and a five-pedestal stone and log railing that is 26' long. The following trail segment has a broken asphalt surfaced and log cribbing on its downslope side. At the west end of switchback 9, there is a wooden bench and a six-pedestal stone and log railing that is about 36' long. The trail then divides, and the upper segment leads to the smaller upper overlook. It has an eight-pedestal stone and log railing that is 79' long. The upper viewing platform has a poured concrete deck and is protected by tubular steel railings with cyclone fencing. This secondary overlook is about 14' E-W x 5-6' N-S. It has wooden benches set along the perimeter. The east side of the deck is supported by a mortared stone retaining wall. The lower branch of the trail leads to the larger primary viewing area. It is a roughly triangular-shaped structure (28' x 50') with a poured concrete deck and tubular steel railings with chain link fencing and wooden benches along the perimeter of the upslope side. The viewing platform is poised nearly adjacent to the brink of the lower falls.

Brink of Upper Falls Overlook (Site 48YE1859)

Brink of Upper Falls Overlook is located on a natural rock formation immediately adjacent to the falls. It is reached by a short trail that leads from the parking lot and a short section of the old highway, which is now part of the North Rim Trail. The parking area was reconstructed to accommodate 145 cars in about 1961. It is accessed from a newer highway alignment, and the old highway (nearer to the river) was abandoned except as a hiking trail (North Rim Trail). The expanded parking area was formerly the location of the Haynes Studio, a ranger station, and a stable, which were removed under an NPS program to restore the overall natural setting of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Pedestrians currently follow the route of the old highway from the parking area to a point where the foot trail diverges, and a set of four flagstone steps (30'6" wide) lead from the old road surface downward to the asphalt-covered foot trail. The foot trail is approximately 110' long and leads to the viewing platform. It is about 6' wide and has four sets of flagstone steps. The trail begins by paralleling the base of a high stone retaining wall along the east side of the old highway. There is a set of straight

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

flagstone steps with a steel handrail on the southeast side. The trail curves southeast down a second set of curving flagstone steps with a steel handrail. The trail then bears east-southeast via two more sets of flagstone steps with handrails with a short intervening level area. At the base of the second set of steps, there is a bridge with a wood plank deck (18' long x 8' wide) and full log handrails. The observation platform is located immediately east of the bridge and is shaped according to the contours of the rock cliff. It is approximately 55' long NE-SW x 16'6" at its widest. It has a crumbling concrete deck with mortared stone walls around the perimeter consisting of large boulders. The rock wall (1'6" thick) is capped by a steel railing. The observation platform is immediately adjacent to the Upper Falls of the Yellowstone River.

Uncle Tom's Trail/Lower and Upper Falls Overlooks (Site 48YE1860)

Uncle Tom's Trail/Lower and Upper Falls Overlooks consist of trail segments and overlooks located on natural rock formations near the base of the Upper Falls and above the Upper Falls along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The Lower Falls Overlook is reached by a very steep switchback trail that includes over 300 steel stairs down the stone canyon face. Both trails are accessed from a large modern parking lot. Uncle Tom's Trail to the Lower Falls Overlook diverges from the South Rim Trail north of the parking lot. The first portion of the trail is a SE trending downslope switchback, asphalt-covered foot trail (5'6' wide) lined with natural boulders along its perimeter. At the end of this switchback is a trail junction, where there is a trailhead sign for the South Rim Trail as well as a wood-framed plexi-glass interpretive sign. From the junction, Uncle Tom's Trail proceeds northwest and downslope and is lined with stones (33' long) on the upslope side. It then crosses a culvert with a grate on the intake (upslope) side. At the end of this switchback, a short trail segment continues northwest to a canyon overlook that consists of a viewing platform (17' x 10'). The upslope side of the platform has a mortared stone retaining wall and a stone bench with a wood plank seat. The deck consists of poured concrete cut in a geometric pattern. The remainder of the deck is protected with a steel pipe guardrail with steel mesh fencing. Back at the junction (UTM 3), the switchback trail proceeds downslope in an east-southeasterly direction. There is a mortared stone retaining wall on the upslope side of the trail.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

On the opposite side there is a routed wood interpretive sign that gives a short history and warns the public that there are 328 steps and the climb back is strenuous. Along this switchback, there is a steel bridge (23' x 5' wide) with grip strut steel decking supported by I-beams. The bridge has a steel pipe railing on both sides. The trail crosses a culvert with a steel grate intake on the upslope side, then makes an abrupt 90-degree turn west where there is a set of concrete steps with steel pipe railings and an L-shaped stone retaining wall. The trail then descends via two sets of concrete steps with steel railings to a second steel bridge (27' long x 5' wide) similar to the first. In the intervening area between the steps and the bridge, the trail surface consists of patterned poured concrete. West of the bridge, stone retaining wall segments are located along the downslope side of the trail. The trail curves northeast, and approaches the steel stairway portion. The first set of stairs has 19 grip strut steel stairs. The trail then makes another abrupt 90-degree turn to the southeast. At this point there is a curved stone retaining wall on the cliff side of the trail and a patterned concrete landing. The trail then descends a set of 37 steel steps to another concrete landing. All of the stairs have pipe steel railing on both sides. The trail descends along a sheer stone cliff on its east side. It is anchored into the cliff by means of steel I-beam segments. The trail descends 30 steel stairs with a landing at the bottom, then 26 steel stairs to another concrete landing. It turns 90 degrees eastward with a short segment of three steel stairs and another concrete landing. In this area it is evident that loose rocks have fallen from the cliff and dented and damaged the steel treads of the stairway. The trail turns 90 degrees to the northeast and descends a series of 30, 26, 36, and 35 steel stairs with intervening concrete landings. The trail switchbacks east (UTM 5) then west and leads to the Canyon and Lower Falls Overlook, which is constructed with a grip strut steel deck with pipe railings and mesh fencing. This is the terminus of the trail, although the 1966 plans included an additional segment of trail to yet another "Terminal Overlook." This segment was never built, or it has been destroyed by landslides or an earthquake.

A short segment of the South Rim Trail is located below the parking lot on its north and west sides and links the Upper Falls Overlooks with the Lower Falls Trail. Uncle Tom's Upper Falls Overlooks are accessed from the west side of the same parking lot via a short nearly level trail (300-400' long). There are two small overlooks/observation platforms located about 20' apart. The northeast platform is

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

shaped like a trapezoid. The structure is open on the east or long side (26'). The parallel shorter side is 17' long, and the structure is 9' deep. The remaining three sides are fenced with steel pipe railings and cyclone fencing. The deck is constructed with poured concrete and rests on mortared stone retaining walls. The deck also has two wooden benches with steel support braces. The southwest platform is irregularly shaped, but the open end is 18' long, and the structure is 11' deep. It also has a poured concrete deck resting on mortared stone retaining walls. It is protected by steel pipe railing with cyclone fencing. There is a single long wooden bench supported by steel braces. The south end of the observation platform retains a portion of stone steps that once led down to a foot trail. One steel pipe hand railing remains in place. However, the old trail has since eroded away in this area and is no longer used.

Artist Point Overlook (Site 48YE1861)

Prior to the 1930s construction period, the Artist Point Road hugged the Canyon edge and terminated in a looped cul-de-sac at the base of the rock outcrop that was eventually developed as a formal overlook structure. Vehicles including horses, stages and automobiles turned around and parked in a small graded area at the base of the overlook. A 1930s design resulted in the creation of an intermediary pedestrian zone, or promenade, to separate the cars from the overlook area. After this 1930 design revision, the base of the overlook no longer served as a parking area and became a separate pedestrian zone – the lower platform. During the 1966 reconstruction, the parking area was reconfigured to include the vehicular drop-off area.

The pedestrian promenade follows the route of the earliest roadbed that led to the upper overlook at Artist Point; it was redesignated as a footpath during the 1930 redesign of the site. The establishment of a formal parking area created a more “natural” access experience by foot along a pedestrian walkway. A large stone bench has been constructed at the north end of the parking area as well as several split log benches along the perimeter at the entrance to the promenade. Occasional breaks in the lodgepole pine and Engelmann spruce trees along the walk afford glimpses of the falls and down

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

the steep Canyon walls. This walk is lined with large boulders approximately 3-4' high and wide and embedded in the earth. The boulder barrier helps to define the linear zone and provides a sense of security for the visitor traversing the Canyon rim. The wide walkway (10-12') is covered with asphalt and provides ample room for visitors traveling in both directions. Another natural stone bench is located along the east perimeter of the trail in this area. The layout of the former vehicle loop remains with a central island of mature pine and spruce lined with natural boulders. A steel railing encircles the outside of the boulder barrier. The visitor can either walk around this gentle loop grade to the lower platform area or take the more direct route down a set of stone stairs that diverges from the asphalt path. The stone stairs descend from the promenade to the lower platform. There are two sets of stairs consisting of twelve risers each with an intervening landing area. The steps are approximately 9'8" wide at the top of the stairs and decrease to 7'2" wide at the bottom. The stone steps have steel hand railings on each side. The lower platform area is also lined with large boulders and has built-in log benches and steel hand railings. Two groves of conifers and singular lodgepole pines precariously balanced on the Canyon rim frame the lower platform viewing area on the south side. The vertical and horizontal planes of the lower platform created by the trees encompass the space and accentuate the views across the Canyon. The elevated overlook is perched on a rock outcrop and is accessed by a set of stone stairs (25 risers) with steel hand railings. The elevated overlook is exposed, with no overhead plane and very little vegetation surrounding the structure. The stone parapet wall encloses the overlook platform and has built-in stone benches. It provides excellent views of the Yellowstone Canyon to the northeast and the Lower Falls to the southwest.

North Rim Trail (Site 48YE1862)

Segment 1: Inspiration Point to Grand View Point (5100' long)

This segment of the North Rim Trail begins at the southwest end of the parking lot (UTM 1) for Inspiration Point where there is a set of wood timber and log steps with asphalt riser surfaces that lead down to the earthen trail level. The trail has a natural earthen surface that averages 4-6' wide with no

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

asphalt or prepared surface. Near the beginning of the trail, it is eroded with many exposed tree roots. Several unofficial side trails have been established that lead to unprotected "social overlooks" along the canyon edge (UTMs 2-3). The trail swings northwesterly away from the canyon rim and passes through a stand of lodgepole pine (UTM 4). The trail follows the contours of a south facing slope. It is likely that when it was originally constructed it was excavated into the slope to create a flat path. However, natural erosional forces and vegetation have partially filled this cut, so that its perimeter on either side is now less well-defined (UTM 5-6). Windfall trees have been cut along the route as a part of routine yearly maintenance. The trail gradually curves in a southwesterly direction. Two sections of a clay tile drain (12" diameter) were found at UTM 7. The trail has eroded so that a large portion of the pipe has been exposed. Starting at UTM 8, the trail closely parallels an old roadway to the northwest. A 37-foot long 12-inch diameter corrugated steel culvert with concrete headwalls was found in association with the old roadbed. This is a part of the old highway that was realigned to the north after the mid-1970s. It appears that part of this old roadway in this area may have been destroyed by the 1975 earthquake. The new highway was reconstructed farther north away from the canyon rim. The trail continues in a southwesterly direction along the northwest side of the old roadway. At UTM 9, the old road diverges from the currently used trail. Just southwest of this point, another clay tile culvert was found under the foot trail. In this area, the trail weaves in and out of an old highway right-of-way. At UTM 10, there are remnants of an old stone retaining wall for the old highway. The retaining wall is sheered off on its northeast end from earthquake activity. The North Rim Trail and the old roadbed are essentially the same except where the roadway was destroyed by the earthquake in 1975. In this area, the canyon rim has shifted inward or north, leaving a wide eroded gap in the old roadbed. Here, the foot trail stays to the north of the damaged area. As the trail nears Grand View Point, the old and new highways converge. An asphalt-covered walkway and log railing are located at the trail's terminus.

Segment 2: Grand View Point to Lookout Point (1400' long)

Segment 2 of the North Rim Trail begins at the southwest end of the Grand View Overlook (UTM 12) and proceeds south-southwesterly to Lookout Point. It is a short segment of trail with an asphalt

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 13

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

surface and is lined on both sides with natural boulders. At UTM 14, the trail closely parallels the existing paved highway on the south side. It appears that the trail has been reconstructed in this area with long segments of log cribbing and fill and log guard railings on the canyon side. A stone retaining wall has been constructed between the highway and the trail. The reconstruction retains the early NPS Rustic style with natural materials that blend into the surroundings. At UTM 15, a secondary overlook has been constructed along the canyon rim on the east edge of the Lookout Point area. It is surrounded by a large boulder parapet. A small island of trees is located in the center of the observation platform and is surrounded by boulders. The overlook provides excellent views of the canyon and falls, and Artist Point is also visible to the east across the canyon. The North Rim Trail ends at the east end of the Lookout Point parking lot (UTM 16).

Segment 3: Lookout Point to Brink of Lower Falls Trailhead (1900' long)

The North Rim Trail resumes at the west side of the Lookout Point/Red Rock Point parking area (UTM 17). It is a narrow earthen trail (3-4' wide) that has been cut into a south facing ridge slope. Erosional forces and vegetation growth have rounded the trail edges, and the trail surface is also slightly canted downhill. This segment of the North Rim Trail trends nearly due west with the Grand Canyon on its south side. The trail passes through dense stands of lodgepole pine, partially screening the view of the canyon. Fallen trees across the trail have been cut and moved to either side (UTM 18). A 12" diameter corrugated steel culvert crosses under the trail at UTM 18. A loose stone retaining wall is visible on the downslope side of the trail extending a distance of about 65' east along the trail. At UTM 19, there is an excellent view of the Lower Falls to the southwest from an informal viewing point along the North Rim Trail. The trail crosses a small drainage via a log and plank bridge (10' x 4'). The deck of the bridge is composed of 3" x 12" planks covered with earth and a full round log horizontal member on each side. From UTM 21 it is possible to see the long wooden stairway on the nearby Red Rock Point Trail to the east-southeast. At UTM 21, there is a routed wooden interpretive sign on the south side of the trail with statistics on the dimensions of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The trail continues in a south-southwesterly direction through a dense stand of timber. At UTM 22, there is a wood plank footbridge

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 14

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

(29' long x 4' wide). The deck is composed of 2" x 6" planks. The bridge has log supports and piles and is in need of repair. Segment 3 of the North Rim Trail ends a short distance east of the parking area for the Brink of Lower Falls. Just northeast of the trailhead sign, there is a wood plank bridge (25' long x 4'6" wide) constructed with treated 2" x 6" planks. The trail is asphalt covered from this point west to the parking lot. It also has full round log railings on the downslope side.

Segment 4: Brink of Lower Falls Trailhead to Brink of Upper Falls Road (2300' long)

Segment 4 of the North Rim Trail begins at its junction with the trail to the Brink of Lower Falls (UTM 24). At this point the Brink of Lower Falls Trail switchbacks to the southeast, and the North Rim Trail continues in a southwesterly direction. There is a log guardrail supported by seven stone pillars on the downhill side of the switchback. The North Rim Trail is characterized as a narrow earthen footpath through a lodgepole pine forest. At UTM 25, the trail enters an open meadow, descends a slope, and crosses a bridge (6' wide x 24' long) with a 2" x 6" wooden deck. At UTM 26, the remnants of an old road/highway diverge northward. The trail then follows the route of the old road southwesterly. Some of the old asphalt is still visible on the surface of the roadbed. At UTM 27 a stone retaining wall is visible along the downslope side of the trail. In this same area, there is an informal or "social" viewpoint of the Upper Falls to the south. The trail gradually bends until it trends nearly due south. At UTM 28, the trail is 7'6" wide with a log guardrail on its downslope side. The logs that make up the guardrail average 8"-12" in diameter and are spiked to horizontal members sunk into the ground. Most of the logs are rotted and in need of repair. The guardrail feature extends about 340' on the downslope side. The trail continues downslope, and there is a rough stone retaining wall that extends about 300' on the downslope side. This wall is badly eroded and reaches a maximum of 6' high. The trail continues downslope through a stand of lodgepole pine. Trees encroach on the trail on the upslope side, which was formerly a vehicle road (north of UTM 30). At UTM 30, the trail crosses Cascade Creek via a log and plank bridge east of Crystal Falls. The bridge is 23'5" long with full log horizontal supports; there are also two steel I-beams for support. The bridge deck consists of 12"x 3" x 6" planks. Just northwest of the bridge, there is a dry laid stone retaining wall that is about 21' long and 5' high. It supports the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 15

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

downslope side of the trail as it switchbacks uphill. At UTM 31, there is an eroded stone retaining wall that extends for about 200' along the downslope side of the trail. The trail averages 7-8 feet wide in this area. At UTM 32, there is an informal viewpoint for Crystal Falls. Although the trail once continued beyond the overlook, it is now closed with no improvements. The viewpoint offers an excellent view of the falls to the northwest. At UTM 33, Segment 4 of the North Rim Trail terminates/begins on the east side of the road to the Brink of Upper Falls and near the west end of the parking area. This section retains a layer of old asphalt, but in a short distance it changes to gravel heading northeast.

Segment 5: Brink of Upper Falls Road to Crittenden Bridge (2400' long)

Segment 5 begins south of the Brink of Upper Falls parking area loop where it intersects the trail to the Upper Falls viewpoint (UTM 34). This segment of the North Rim Trail follows the former highway that was abandoned sometime in the 1960s and incorporated into the North Rim Trail. The original road location dates from 1892; however, portions were reconstructed, including the Canyon Bridge (HAER No. WY-87), a concrete arch bridge built in 1915 that replaced an 1895 wooden structure. A log and stone guardrail is still in place and serves to separate the old road from the Upper Falls Trail. South of UTM 34 and the log guardrail, there is a V-shaped, mortared low stone retaining wall that extends 93' on the east or downslope side of the road. UTM 35 marks the south end of a 217' long stone retaining wall consisting of stone walls, stone pillars, and log guardrails. The stone walls are intermittent, but the log guard rail is continuous throughout this section. The stone pillars are spaced 16 feet apart on center and are 14" x 24" x 24" high. The stone retaining walls vary in height from 13 to 20 feet and cant outward from top to bottom. At UTM 36, there is a 12" corrugated steel culvert located downslope and about 20' from the east edge of the road/trail. Near UTM 36, it is possible to see the Brink of Upper Falls viewing platform to the north. At UTM 37, the abandoned Canyon Bridge still stands over Jay Creek. There is an eroded stone retaining wall about 35' long and 6' high located at the north end of the bridge.

The Canyon Bridge, completed in 1915, is located between UTM 37 and 38. The bridge is 210' long

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 16

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

and has an 18.5' wide deck and a 145' arch. Both sides of the bridge feature concrete railings (10" wide x 2'6" height) and 5' piers spaced 15'5" apart. A concrete pier (UTM 38) is located on the east side of the south end of the bridge and has a plaque simply inscribed "The Canyon Bridge." At UTM 39-40, south of the bridge, there is a 373' long stone retaining wall, which varies from 9-12' in height. It is located about 25' east of the edge of the trail and about 100' west of the river. At UTM 41, there is another rough stone retaining wall and an 18" diameter corrugated steel culvert, which extends 24' under the trail/roadway. Near its south end, the trail is 12' wide and exhibits signs of the former roadway, such as 3-5' of older asphalt along the east edge. The south end of this segment (UTM 42) is located at the west end of the Chittenden Bridge. A gate prohibits vehicular traffic but is open to pedestrians.

South Rim Trail (Site 48YE1863)

Segment 1: Chittenden Bridge to Uncle Tom's Upper Falls Viewpoint (2900' long)

This segment of the South Rim Trail begins at the east end of the Chittenden Memorial Bridge (UTM 1) and proceeds north-northeast along the east side of the Yellowstone River. The Chittenden Memorial Bridge is an open-spandrel, reinforced concrete arch bridge that was constructed in 1962-63 and replaced the 1903 Chittenden Bridge. The trail in this area is covered with a 4-foot wide crumbling asphalt surface. At UTM 2 the trail gradually climbs the slope and is lined with loose boulders along its downslope side. At UTM 3 there is a low stone retaining wall on the downslope side of the trail that is about 95' long (N-S) and a maximum of 4' high. At UTM 4, there is a switchback in the trail lined with rocks on the downslope side. The trail remains asphalt-covered at this point and hugs the east bank of the Yellowstone River. From this area the hiker has an excellent view to the west across the river of the Canyon Bridge, which is located on the North Rim Trail. At UTM 5, three sections of stepped log cribbing about 130' long are located on the downslope side of the trail where it is located steeply upslope from the river. There is also a small amount of dry-laid stone near the middle of the feature. North of this point the trail continues to closely parallel the east bank of the river and is covered with

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 17

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

patchy asphalt. At UTM 6, the trail begins to diverge from the river bank and ascend a steep slope. Northeast of this point, the trail exhibits cracked and broken asphalt as it climbs above and away from the river. Between UTM 6 and 7, there is a branch of the trail that is now closed and appears to lead to an informal viewpoint of the Upper Falls. At UTM 7 there is a small wood plank bridge that is 19' long x 4'6" wide. The bridge has 4" x 4" timber railings and a wood plank deck that rests on full round logs. At UTM 8 there is a larger log and timber plank bridge that is 49' long x 7' wide and has a wood plank deck that is supported by steel I-beams. It has full round log railings. From this area, there is an excellent view of the Upper Falls and the Brink of Upper Falls Viewpoint on the north side of the river. A second wood plank bridge in the immediate area has been closed due to safety concerns, and the trail is eroded with asphalt damage and protruding tree roots as it ascends a steep slope. At UTM 9 there is a curved wood plank bridge that is 63' long and 6' wide with 2x6" railings and a deck consisting of 2x6" treated planks and a wood trestle base. At UTM 10, there is another wood timber bridge with railings (6' wide by 12' long) located about 100 yards west of the road to Artist Point. At UTM 11, this trail segment ends just south of Uncle Tom's Upper Falls viewing platforms in a forested area at the top of the ridge.

Segment 2: Uncle Tom's Lower Falls Trail to Artist Point (2850' long)

Segment 2 of the South Rim Trail begins at UTM 12 where there is a routed wood sign. The trail trends northeast to the Artist Point parking lot. About 50 feet northeast of this point, there is a buried corrugated steel culvert 18" in diameter under the trail. It has a small stone headwall on the upslope or south side of the trail. At UTM 13 there is a wood plank and log bridge (15' long by 5.5' wide). The bridge has a wood plank deck of 2x12" planks with log railings. The deck is supported by full round logs with stone abutments and is about 7' above the drainage. The trail on the east side of the bridge is lined with large boulders, and the asphalt is eroded.

At UTM 14, there is a triangular-shaped viewing platform (10' x 20' x 5') for the Lower Falls that has a concrete deck supported by 3' high mortared stone foundation walls on the cliff sides. It is enclosed

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 18

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

with steel chain link fencing with tubular steel railings. The viewing platform has a single wood plank bench supported by steel supports. There is a set of poured concrete steps on the south side of the platform. UTM 15 marks the midpoint of a 44' long eroded stone retaining wall that averages 2-3' high on the north or downslope side of the trail. At UTM 16, there is a 12" diameter steel culvert that is 6.5' long with stone facing on both ends.

At UTM 17, there is a second semi-circular viewpoint for the Lower Falls (16.5' N-S by 12' E-W) with a concrete deck. Chain link fencing with tubular steel railings borders the circular portion, and the east side of the platform is open. There is a mortared stone foundation along the outside base of the deck, and a single wood plank bench with steel supports on the platform. East of UTM 17, the trail is wide and partially covered with broken asphalt. At UTM 18 there is an 81' long boardwalk constructed of 2x12" planks. There is also a 24" diameter corrugated steel culvert located at the southwest end of the boardwalk. At UTM 19, a long switchback section of trail ascends a steep slope and features several stone retaining walls. This curved section of wall is 21' long. The switchbacks and stone retaining walls continue upslope to the east of UTM 19. At UTM 20, there is a mortared stone retaining wall that reaches a height of about 5' and is 44' long on the upslope side of the trail and 20' long on the downslope side. At UTM 21, there is an "L" shaped mortared stone wall at a switchback. The north wall is 16' long and the west wall is 11' long and about 1' thick.

At UTM 22, there is a wood frame guard rail that is 58' long with 8 posts and two 2x6" rails. A large erosion hole is evident at the third post from the west end. From this point, Red Rock Point and the wooden stairway leading to the overlook is visible across the canyon to the northwest. At UTM 23, there is an informal overlook of the Lower Falls that has no platform that is protected by a 3-pole log rail fence (29' long). At UTM 24, there is an 18" diameter x 6' long corrugated steel culvert with rough stone facing. The trail continues to be covered with eroded asphalt. At UTM 25, a stone retaining wall consists of large boulders (32' long by about 4' high) on the south side of the trail. There is a wooden railing along the north side. UTM 26 marks the end of Segment 2 at the east edge of the Artist Point parking lot.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 19

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Segment 3: Artist Point to Point Sublime (6100 feet)

The trail begins at UTM 27 at the east end of Artist Point viewing area and leads to Point Sublime and Ribbon Lake. This trail does not have any prepared surface. At UTM 28, there is a small wood plank deck bridge without railings. At UTM 29, there is a set of weathered log steps embedded into the trail slope. In the same area, three long logs form an informal platform near the edge of the canyon, creating a more level travel surface near the eroded canyon edge. About 300' from UTM 29, a drainage feature has been constructed using logs to form a trough-like feature. At UTM 30, there is an informal "social" viewpoint that offers a views but without physical protection. There are several such informal viewpoints located along this trail segment including one at UTM 31. The trail climbs a wooded slope about 200' northeast of UTM 31, where several embedded diagonal logs stem erosion. At UTM 32, there is a trail junction with signs. Another trail diverges north and leads to several lakes south of the canyon. A series of embedded erosion logs are located on a steep slope of the trail east of UTM 32. At UTM 33 and 34, there are informal viewpoints that provide excellent views of the canyon. Northeast of UTM 34, the trail narrows and exhibits more exposed rocks and boulders. The South Rim Trail ends at Point Sublime, an overlook that has never been formally developed. It consists of a flat earthen area bordered by a deteriorating log pole fence. Inspiration Point can be seen across the canyon to the west-northwest.

Integrity

Overall, the eight overlooks and two trails retain very good integrity. They all retain integrity of location. The Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are rated as good. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to their continued use as observation points and interconnecting hiking trails on the North Rim and South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is rated as good, because the overlooks and trails continue to provide the original essential views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and the Upper and Lower Falls.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 20

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Individually, **Inspiration Point** retains integrity of location. However, an earthquake in 1959 destroyed the platform on the east end. A second earthquake on June 30, 1975, resulted in the destruction of the most southerly 100' of the observation platform. As a result, the viewing platform remains shortened due to the precarious nature of the remaining canyon wall. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good; however, the observation platform, stairs, and walkway were reconstructed in 1956 and repaired in 1959 and 1975. The original wooden stairs and platform (1925) were changed to textured concrete with tubular steel railings in 1956. The viewing platform is also protected with cyclone fencing. Stairways were shortened and intervening platforms with wooden benches were also reconfigured in 1956. Under the Mission 66 program, the rustic appearance was sacrificed for added safety and durability. Mission 66 refers to a ten-year program of improvement intended to revitalize the Park by 1966. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as only fair to good due to 1956 alteration and 1959 and 1975 earthquake damage.

Grand View Point Overlook retains integrity of location. Although the first viewing platform was located a short distance to the north, it did not provide as good a view of the Canyon. Grand View Point and the parking area was reconstructed by the NPS in 1950-51 and completed in 1952. The new location provided a better overall view of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Despite the date, it was constructed using NPS Rustic Style Construction Era (1916-1941) elements. A picture point area was provided a short distance west of the overlook at the east end nearest the canyon. Material was removed east of the viewing platform to discourage informal use of the natural point beyond to the south. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good, and the structure appears to retain its 1952 elements. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as good. The Grandview Overlook continues to provide the original essential views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Lookout Point Overlook retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good. The observation platform and walkway were reconstructed in 1938-41.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 21

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Although they replaced a wooden platform constructed in 1920, this was the first attempt to create a lasting structure at this location. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is rated as good because the site still retains its essential rustic character as built in 1941. The overlook still provides the original essential views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Red Rock Point Overlook retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good. The trail/walkway was reconstructed in 1938-1941. The integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is rated as good because most of the trail still retains its essential rustic character as built in 1941. The overlook continues to provide the original essential views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Brink of the Upper Falls Overlook retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good. The observation platform and walkway were reconstructed in 1957, replacing an earlier 495-wooden step structure. The integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is rated as good because the majority of the site (walkway/trail) still retains its essential rustic character. The overlook continues to provide the original essential views of the Lower Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Brink of Upper Falls Overlook retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship is rated as good. The observation platform and walkway were reconstructed in 1936-37, replacing a wooden structure from 1906. The integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is rated as good because the site still retains its essential rustic character as built in 1936-37. The overlook continues to provide the original essential views of the Upper Falls of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 22

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Uncle Tom's Trail/Lower and Upper Falls Overlooks retain integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are rated as fair. The steel stairways, constructed in 1966, replaced earlier wooden steps and ladders. Some Rustic elements of the trail such as stone retaining walls and benches and asphalt surfaced trail were retained. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point for both the Lower and Upper Falls on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as good. The site continues to provide the original essential views of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and the Lower and Upper Falls, in particular. It is the only trail that provides a perspective from near the bottom of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.

Artist Point Overlook retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are rated as good. The recent reconstruction of the overlook structure and the parking area strives to maintain the NPS Rustic design philosophy by utilizing natural stone and timber materials as much as possible, blending built and natural features, and attempting to conform to the 1930s layout. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as an observation point on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as good. Artist Point continues to provide the original essential views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and the Lower Falls.

The North Rim Trail retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are rated as good. Although the various viewpoints along the North Rim were renovated over time, the North Rim Trail received fewer significant modifications other than necessary trail maintenance. The trail layout strove to maintain the NPS Rustic design philosophy by utilizing natural stone, timber and earthen materials as much as possible, and blending built and natural features. The North Rim Trail was laid out to take maximum advantage of canyon views and established viewpoints while maintaining a reasonable grade for hiking. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as a connecting trail between the established North Rim viewpoints along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as good. The North Rim Trail

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 23

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

continues to provide the original essential views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and the Lower and Upper Falls in a less crowded and more natural setting than the developed overlooks.

The **South Rim Trail** retains integrity of location. The integrity of design, materials, and workmanship are rated as good. Although the viewpoints along the South Rim were renovated over time, the South Rim Trail received fewer significant modifications other than necessary trail maintenance. The trail layout strove to maintain the NPS Rustic design philosophy by utilizing natural stone, timber and earthen materials as much as possible, and the blending of built and natural features. The South Rim Trail was laid out to take maximum advantage of canyon views and established viewpoints while maintaining a reasonable grade for hiking. Integrity of setting is rated as good due to the site's continued use as a connecting trail between the established South Rim viewpoints along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Integrity of feeling and association is therefore rated as good. The South Rim Trail provides the essential views of the Yellowstone River Canyon and the Lower and Upper Falls in a more natural setting than the developed overlooks.

Summary Paragraph

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Historic District, with its eight overlooks and connecting North and South Rim Trails, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as a nationally significant district under Criteria A and C. It is significant under the themes of Architecture, Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture. The District is associated with historical events that occurred in the period from 1871-1872 and that led to the preservation of the Yellowstone region. In 1871, the views from the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone gained significance when recorded by the painter Thomas Moran and the photographer William Henry Jackson. Works that were generated by these artists were instrumental in persuading Congress to preserve the Yellowstone region as the country's and the world's first national park in 1872, a pivotal event in the history of the United States and the conservation movement. The overlooks and trails that comprise the district are eligible under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. Landscape features

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 24

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

constructed at the viewpoints during the NPS Rustic Style Construction Era remain historically significant as records of the handcrafted workmanship and the use of natural materials that characterize the NPS Rustic style. They are also representative of the aesthetic preferences and design philosophy of these Rustic Era landscape architects. The design, materials and workmanship of the stone masonry and other trail features are identifiable standards of the NPS Rustic style that characterizes the district's contribution to the field of landscape architecture. The period of significance for the district extends from 1872, when Yellowstone National Park was created to ca. 1966, when the Mission 66 program was completed. Under this ten-year program of improvement intended to revitalize the Park by 1966, the NPS Rustic style philosophy was generally abandoned in order to make extensive physical improvements to roads and facilities in the Park to accommodate increased public use after World War II. Several overlooks were reconstructed from 1956 to 1966 that represent a blending of the two styles, but stressed increased safety to park visitors over aesthetic qualities.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 25

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Historic Contexts

History of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Overlooks and Trails

Long before the Yellowstone country became America's first national park in 1872, explorers, prospectors and government survey parties passed through the region and noted the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. Jim Bridger described many of the natural wonders of the Yellowstone country to Lieutenant John W. Gunnison of the Corps of Topographic Engineers while guiding Captain Howard Stansbury's survey expedition to Utah in 1849-50. He accurately described Yellowstone Lake, the geysers and hot springs, and the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and its falls.¹

The Phelps-Davis prospecting party followed the Yellowstone River northward through what would become Yellowstone National Park in 1864. The party split, and Phelps and two men traveled along the east side of the river and the canyon, while Davis and his partners crossed the Yellowstone River above the falls and followed the west side.² (In the study area, the river temporarily runs more east-west and the terms North and South Rim are now used.) A. Bart Henderson kept a diary of his travels through the Yellowstone country with a prospecting party in August 1867. This party crossed the Yellowstone River from the east to west side on September 2 to avoid a large party of Blackfoot Indians. On September 3, Henderson stood on the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and looked down on the thin white ribbon of the river at the bottom of the canyon, a site that would "cause anyone to shudder."³

The Cook-Folsom Party also explored portions of the Yellowstone country in 1869. The party already knew about the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone and that it could not be crossed until the Upper Falls, so they proceeded on a more circuitous route away from the river. On the morning of September 19, the party reached the brink of the canyon in the notch between Artist and Sublime Points. Cook stated that "I sat there in amazement, while my companions came up, and after that, it seemed to me it was five minutes before anyone spoke." The party moved southwest along the rim of the canyon and

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 26

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

passed both falls. They camped on a grassy bench on the east bank of the river above the current Chittenden Memorial Bridge. The next day they attempted to measure the height of both falls by lowering twine on a stick. They measured the Upper Falls at 115 feet in height, quite close to the accepted figure of 109 feet. But the mist and turbulence at the Lower Falls prevented its measurement.⁴

Ferdinand V. Hayden, head of the U.S. Geological Survey of the Territories, received funding from Congress for the 1871 working season, which was to be devoted to exploring the sources of the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers. Among the participants was William H. Jackson, an Omaha photographer, and artist Thomas Moran who was a guest in the interest of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.⁵

Meanwhile General Philip H. Sheridan ordered two officers of the Corps of Engineers to make a reconnaissance of the Yellowstone region. Captain John W. Barlow and Captain David P. Heap, started out only one day behind Hayden's expedition. The two expeditions entered what was to become Yellowstone National Park from the north and camped at Mammoth Hot Springs. The two expeditions followed an Indian trail over the Washburn Range to the Falls of the Yellowstone. Thomas Moran painted the canyon and falls in a watercolor sketch that he later used for his famous oil painting. But he freely admitted that its beautiful colors "were beyond the reach of human art." The two parties continued their explorations for nearly a month, then left Yellowstone in late August retracing their route.⁶

Agents of the Northern Pacific Railroad initiated the project to create a national park encompassing the wonders of the Yellowstone country. The legislative model was based on the earlier Yosemite Grant, whereby the federal government ceded the area to the state of California, and drafted by Delegate William H. Claggett of Montana. The idea was not new and had been previously suggested by several individuals including Acting Governor Thomas Francis Meagher of Montana Territory in 1865, David E. Folsom to Surveyor General Washburn in 1869, Cornelius Hedges at a campsite at the Madison

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 27

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Junction on September 19, 1870, and Judge William D. Kelley through a letter from A.B. Nettleton to Dr. Hayden dated October 27, 1871. Hayden created a display in the rotunda of the Capitol with geological specimens, photographs by Jackson and sketches by Moran. Copies of Nathaniel P. Langford's article in *Scribner's Monthly* entitled "The Wonders of Yellowstone" were circulated to all the senators and representatives. The bill to create Yellowstone National Park was passed by both houses of Congress and signed by President Ulysses S. Grant on March 1, 1872. As a result, the first national park was created "for the benefit and enjoyment of the people" under federal management.⁷

National Park Service Rustic Architecture

The National Park Service (NPS) was created in 1916, and took charge of the seventeen national parks and twenty-two national monuments in 1917. Its twofold mission was to protect the resources of the national parks and at the same time make them accessible. During its formative years from 1916 to 1942, "...landscape architects, architects, and engineers forged a cohesive style of landscape design which fulfilled the demands for park development while preserving the outstanding natural qualities for which each park had been designated. This style subordinated all built features to the natural, and often cultural, influences of the environment in which they were placed."⁸

On May 13, 1918, Secretary of the Interior Franklin Lane approved a statement of policy to guide the administration of the National Park Service. It set forth the following three fundamental principles: "First, that the national parks must be maintained in absolutely unimpaired form for the use of future generations as well as those of our own time; second, that they are set apart for the use, observation, health, and pleasure of the people; and third, that the national interest must dictate all decisions affecting the public or private enterprise in the parks."⁹ The statement also set forth the principle of harmonizing improvements with the landscape. The most important item in the program of development required the National Park Service to employ trained engineers and landscape architects who appreciated the esthetic value of park lands.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 28

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

The term *rustic* is difficult to define, but Albert “Ab” Good, an architect from Akron, Ohio, who was experienced in the design of park and recreational facilities, was a member of the editorial board for the publication of *Park Structures and Facilities* in 1935. This book represented a comprehensive index of national park principles and practices for naturalistic landscape design and rustic architecture. In discussing the committee’s goal, Good defined rustic design as a style that “through the use of native materials in proper scale, and through the avoidance of rigid, straight lines, and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past.”¹⁰

From 1918 to 1933, when massive park development began, NPS landscape architects and engineers developed a cohesive style of park design rooted in the philosophy that landscape must be preserved, and that all construction harmonize with nature.¹¹ Charles P. Punchard, the first landscape architect of the National Park Service, felt that his primary responsibility was protecting the landscape. To Punchard, preservation meant maintaining existing natural conditions and keeping views free of artificial intrusions. Designing park buildings was another important function, and as early as 1917, landscape engineers recognized that the best approach for designing harmonious park structures was to use native materials. In August 1, 1920, Daniel Hull was hired to assist Punchard, and he became the senior landscape engineer in November 1920. Hull was a Harvard graduate influenced by many leaders of the landscape architectural profession including Henry Hubbard, James Sturgis Pray, John Nolen, and Frederick Law Olmstead, Jr. From 1920 to 1927, Hull served the NPS, exerting a lasting influence on park design. Landscape engineers assumed a leading role in the development of park roads and trails and developed a technique of stonemasonry which incorporated native materials and achieved an informal appearance that harmonized with nature. Under Hull’s supervision, the national parks began to develop comprehensive plans to guide all future improvements. Thomas C. Vint, a graduate of the University of California, Berkeley, first assisted Hull then replaced him in 1927 and was soon given the title of chief landscape architect. He organized a staff of landscape architects who resided in the various parks during the summer and worked on drawings and plans at the headquarters in San Francisco during the winter. Vint’s organizational skill transformed the Landscape Division into a

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 29

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

design office with an increasing emphasis on general planning. He stated that the primary purpose of his office was to obtain a "logical well-studied general development plan for each park, which included the control of the location, type of architecture, planting, and grading, in connection with any construction project."¹²

As the park road systems were developed in the 1920s to accommodate the growing number of motor vehicles, scenic overlooks with spectacular and panoramic views were planned in order to provide a stopping and resting place for visitors. Overlooks were derivatives of the terrace form used by landscape architects and were incorporated into the park road system. The first overlooks were built on plateau-like promontories of land and were often bounded by parapet walls conforming to the natural shape of the feature. Walkways with protective guardrails that followed scenic rims of canyons were also built. Such guardrails constructed with masonry piers and log cross timbers were constructed along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone as early as 1920. These walkways developed into promenades and were equipped with viewing bays and dust-free walkways connected to parking lots.¹³

In 1926, landscape architect Harold Caparn visited Yellowstone National Park and recommended that the wooden observation decks, stairways, ramps, and railings installed in 1920 be replaced with earthen paths and masonry parapets of native stone in order to blend in with the natural surrounding rockwork. Landscape architect Ernest A. Davidson conferred with naturalist Ansel Hall, who became the chief of the Educational Division by the late 1920s, to develop an interpretive program at Artist Point, Grand View Point, Lookout Point, and Inspiration Point. Davidson sketched plans and elevations to replace the old wooden structures at the overlooks with natural masonry guardrails, stone steps, and flagstone flooring for the observation platforms and stairways. The entire Canyon area was considered from a "landscape standpoint" and received considerable attention in the next few years and throughout the New Deal era. As a result, "...some of the concessionary and NPS facilities were removed from the canyon and the observation points, trails, and access roads were slowly redeveloped to replace wooden stairways and platforms with more naturalistic and harmonious construction of masonry and walls and flagstone. The master plans continued to encourage the improvement of this area."¹⁴

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 30

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

In 1932, the term “master plan” was introduced and developed for each national park. These plans were revised annually and represented an integral approach to park planning and management. As defined by Thomas C. Vint, “The Master Plan of a national park fills the same function as a city plan or a regional plan. Its use is to steer the course of how the land within its jurisdiction is to be used. Nothing is built directly from it. Each project, whether it be a road, a building, or a campground, must have its construction plan approved. In the course of approval it is checked as to whether it conforms with and is not in conflict with the Master Plan.”¹⁵

Master Plans identified “sacred” areas, which were to be protected from development or other forms of disturbance. These areas were selected for their pristine condition. The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone was a particularly perplexing area, since it had already been overdeveloped with hotels and related facilities and campgrounds located close to the Canyon rims. As a result, the 1929 plan designated a sacred area one-eighth mile (660 feet) back from both rims and outlined the imperative need for this zone citing the intention of the legislation that founded the park:

The present Canyon area development has violated, and continues to violate this Act to a considerable degree, to the detriment of the area and to the exclusion of thousands of tourists enjoying the area to the greatest possible degree. The present concentration of development about the Upper and Lower Falls is gradually breaking down the natural conditions so that within a comparatively short while the area will be barren. Except for those who visit the lodge, it is not readily accessible to the other tourists without the intimate knowledge of the area or without a guide...The object of such improvement would be eventually to remove all of the development away from the edge of the Canyon to an area better suited to such development and yet allow expansion on a well ordered scale.¹⁶

The boundary of the sacred area was loosely depicted on maps accompanying the Master Plan, and it is this boundary (660 feet from both rims) that has been used to establish the National Register District boundary for the current nomination.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 31

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Mission 66

The Mission 66 program resulted from increased visitor usage of the nation's national parks after World War II. The popularity of the automobile and population explosion resulted in fifty million visitors in 1955 to the national parks, which were equipped to accommodate half that number. The National Park Service responded with Mission 66, a multi-million dollar program to modernize the parks by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS. "The Mission 66 program was intended to improve and expand visitor services by funding greater staff, improving the interpretation program, constructing modern facilities, and upgrading existing roads, trails, campgrounds, and other facilities in national parks."¹⁷

Mission 66 assumed that the grand old hotels of 1910-20 and rustic cabins of the 1920s-1930s no longer appealed to modern Americans. Mission 66 "unequivocally emphasized use over preservation and endeavored to enhance the quality of the visitor's experience through the development of modern facilities."¹⁸ Modern methods of landscape and architectural design were employed that rejected the rustic designs of the 1920s and 1930s, and economics also played a role in their abandonment. Education and interpretation were emphasized, resulting in centrally located visitor centers. The buildings had an open design with wide, floor-to-ceiling plate glass windows to view the natural landscape, gradually graded ramps and wide entry walks to facilitate the movement of large numbers of people. Park road systems were upgraded to eliminate steep grades and sharp curves with turnouts, parking areas, and overlooks.

Mission 66 resulted in numerous changes to the area of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The old hotels and related facilities and campgrounds were removed from the Canyon rim. The area's native vegetation was restored, and trails were developed along with the overlooks to make the spectacular scenery more accessible to park visitors. The ultra-modern Canyon Village was constructed, far removed from the Canyon. It was designed by the Los Angeles architectural firm of Welton Becket and Associates at a cost of over eight million dollars. It could accommodate 4,000 visitors in campgrounds, motel-type cottages, stores, food concessions, and gas stations. Public safety was also a primary

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 32

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

concern under Mission 66, and as a result, some of the overlooks were equipped with walkways and protective railings constructed from standardized stonemasonry and tubular steel with steel mesh fencing that did not blend in with the environment.¹⁹

The growth of the wilderness movement and environmental era in the 1960s led to a sweeping reevaluation of park policy. Conservationists widely criticized Mission 66 as a trend to accommodate the increasing number of park visitors and the destruction of wilderness values. To them, it represented a departure from the mandate of the 1916 act to preserve parks unimpaired.²⁰ Recent trends within the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone indicate a return to the more traditional rustic style such as the design of improvements at Artist Point, while still being able to accommodate large numbers of visitors and vehicles.

Inspiration Point Overlook

The first improvement at Inspiration Point was a wooden observation platform built in 1906. The Acting Park Superintendent Pitcher reported the following improvements:

At Inspiration Point, which was almost inaccessible on a rainy day or bad weather, on account of the nature of the soil, a long flight of stairs, provided with landings and seats, was constructed, and at the extreme end a suitable platform together with necessary benches. At the head of the stairs, a small unloading platform was also constructed.²¹

Most of the canyon overlooks were reconstructed that year, and the Superintendent described their common features in detail:

All stairways are constructed of heavy plank and 4 feet wide, with very easy rises, in order to allow people to ascend and descend who can not go unassisted. The greater part of these places heretofore were inaccessible to those people who could not climb

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 33

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

over rocks and did not feel secure unless they knew they were standing on a well-built foundation. It is hoped that before the season is over all the stairways along the canyon can be so stained as to blend in with the surrounding rocks, in order that they may not detract any from the beauty of the canyon.²²

The Inspiration Point Overlook was improved again in about 1925. In August 1935, the overlook structure was mapped by E.R. Dye by means of a plane table survey. At that time it consisted of a walkway with five sets of steps and intervening rest areas with benches and a wooden viewing platform with benches at the terminus (NPS plan Yel. 8576 dated 9/23/35).

In 1942, a preliminary plan (NP-YEL-2536) was prepared for approval, but it was listed under "Plans on the Shelf and Project Construction Programs" in notes of a meeting held on August 19-20, 1942. Apparently the project was cancelled or delayed due to World War II.²³ In 1956, the overlook structure at the Inspiration Point was replaced by a new concrete structure (NPS plan Yel. 2395 dated May 1954) described by Merrill D. Beal as follows:

The present observation platform was started in August 1954, and completed in August 1956. The total cost was slightly over \$18,000. The platform is a heavy reinforced concrete mat over the entire surface of the point. A non-slip abrasive in ceramic binding was used in the surfacing of concrete stair and ramps. The safety fencing is good, but we have discovered it should include portions of the stairway. Several large fissures in the rock were discovered when the point was leveled off prior to building, and an engineering geologist was called in to inspect the building from the standpoint of safety before construction continued.²⁴

The geologist, Wallace Hansen, confirmed that there were several large vertical fractures that extended down from the top of the overlook to a depth of one hundred or more feet in the cliffs below, but believed that they were very old fractures that had remained unchanged for years. He also felt that

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 34

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

sealing the top of the point with concrete would strengthen it by keeping water out of the fractures. Nevertheless, the geologist also noted that an earthquake could result in a collapse of part or all of the point, and recommended that Inspiration Point be kept under surveillance during the tourist season to observe any changes in the rock formation.²⁵

Just three years after construction, a portion of the Inspiration Point Overlook was destroyed by the 1959 Yellowstone earthquake. Based on historic photographs, it appears that the stairway remained unchanged, but the platform was rebuilt and did not extend as far out toward the edge of the point as the original platform.²⁶

On June 30, 1975, another earthquake resulted in the destruction of the south 100 feet of the viewing platform and walkway. Most of this section was never reconstructed due to the precarious nature of the rock formation along the edge of the cliff.

Grand View Point Overlook

Grand View Point was named by the Hayden Survey of 1871-72. Historian Aubrey Haines suggests that the view of the lower falls from here was used by Thomas Moran in his great painting, *The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*, rather than the more accepted location at Artist Point. However, it is more likely that Moran created the painting as a composite of a series of views from around the canyon.²⁷

In his 1906 Report, Acting Superintendent Major John Pitcher stated that, "At Grand View a walk some 150 feet in length was made, and at the extreme end a small platform with seats was provided."²⁸ This may have been the first formal structure constructed at the overlook, and it was located a short distance north of the location of the current structure.

The current structure was completed in 1952 and used the NPS Rustic Style (see attached plans). Plans for the new overlook had been drawn up in 1942 (NP Yel. 2176-A), but apparently had never

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 35

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

been acted upon, perhaps due to World War II. New plans were drawn up in 1950 (NP-YEL-2362). As stated in a cover letter from the Park Superintendent to the Regional Director dated May 10, 1950, "This plan proposes the use of the point geographically named Grand View Point during the early surveys. The point is a much more spectacular view than the present roadside overlook with the small wooden platform, as it affords views of breadth and depth which are obscured from the present platform."²⁹

The initial plans included two flights of steps, and the viewing platform was located very near the edge of the point. The Superintendent stated it might be necessary to modify these two features in the interests of cost and safety when the site was more carefully studied. He also stated that additional parking would be needed in a subsequent project. The parking area was modified in plans drawn up in 1951 (NP-YEL-2367A). Also, the two flights of steps were eliminated, and a stone wall around the observation point was added to prevent visitors from continuing onto a natural point that was considered hazardous. A possible walkway and platform resting on that point were eliminated from the plans. According to Merrill D. Beal, "Some of the stone used in its construction weighed up to three tons. This point provides a wonderful view of the canyon itself; no falls can be seen."³⁰

Work was begun on the platform in July 1950 and completed in June 1952. The parking area was also constructed, and the final cost of the project was \$14,000. The large boulders used to outline the walk and platform were hauled from a rock slide seven miles east of West Yellowstone.³¹ On June 30, 1975, an earthquake resulted in the destruction of portions of the road leading to Grand View Point. Portions of the old road and partially crumbled stone retaining walls can be seen along the North Rim Trail northeast of Grand View Point.

Lookout Point Overlook and Red Rock Point Overlook

The original wooden platform at Lookout Point was built in about 1920. It was described by Philip H. Wohlbrandt, Associate Engineer, as being "...in almost constant need of repair, and had a very

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 36

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

irregular, narrow trail leading to it. This, in spite of the fact that it was in one of the most advantageous points to be reached by old and young, being close to a highway and without steps, as at other points.”³² Historic photographs reveal that the overlook consisted of a flimsy log railing and a platform that consisted of the natural stone outcrop (see attached historic photos).

In 1938, plans were drawn up under Job 584, utilizing Drawing No. 5363, and the trails to Lookout and Red Rock Points were reconstructed. Improvements were also made to the viewing platform at Lookout Point. Work began in the fall of 1938 after an allotment of \$7,000 was received. Wohlbrandt described the plan for improvements in the Final Report for the project as follows:

The plan was to build good steps from the highway to the trail, a parking area being adjacent to this section, then make the trail a uniformly graded one with proper width. A step approach was to be built to the Red Rock trail. The platform was to have a rock wall surrounding the view point harmonizing with the natural rock; none of the rock in the original platform to be disturbed.³³

The plan followed the concept of the National Park Service Rustic design and used natural materials to blend in with the surrounding area. Rock for the platform was hauled from sites at Mesa Road and the Madison Road, a distance of 25 and 21 miles, respectively. The rock for the steps was hauled from the vicinity of Norris Junction. Rock, sand, and gravel for fills were hauled from near the Virginia Cascades. Some of the rocks weighed as much as two tons. They were doweled and cemented together to form a rock parapet about 30 inches high. In addition, a rock wall was built around a group of trees in the center of the platform forming an island to which small fir trees were added. The approach walks were constructed with a 5-foot wide oiled surface that was sealed with “bitumals and chips.” The work was completed in August 1941 at a cost of \$6,981.35.³⁴ There is no mention in the report of any improvement to the viewing platform at Red Rock Point, but it was reconstructed at the same time.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 37

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Plans were also drawn up in 1940 to improve the existing parking lot by realigning the road to the north. This created a 23-car capacity parking lot that was 32 feet wide, a 26-foot wide realigned roadway, and a 5-foot wide walkway on the south side of the parking area (NP-YEL 5474). It is not known when the work on the parking lot was actually completed. Although the parking lot has been improved and two secondary overlooks constructed, it does not appear that the trail and Lookout Point viewing platform have changed substantially since construction, only that the asphalt trail surface has been replaced.

The Red Rock Point trail was closed in about 1968 due to downed trees and erosion making it unsafe for tourists. A survey was conducted in 1970, and it was decided to reopen the trail for public use in 1971. However, trail maintenance was needed the following spring before the trail could be reopened. The Park Superintendent stated in a memo to the Chief of Maintenance that "...eventually as erosion continues, more extensive work will be required on the open ridge near the observation platform. Plans to include this work in the construction program are being worked up with Jon Larson."³⁵ Therefore, it is likely that the current sets of wooden stairs were constructed sometime after that date.

Brink of Lower Falls Overlook

In 1906, Acting Park Superintendent Major John Pitcher reported to the Secretary of the Interior that at the Brink of Lower Falls his men had completed "...a stairway 360 feet in vertical height and some 700 feet long, provided with numerous landings..."³⁶ The wooden structure at Brink of Lower Falls may have been improved/reconstructed in about 1920. The current natural walkway, associated stonework, stone and log railings, and viewing platforms were completed in 1957. They replaced "...a series of 494 steps with a gentle switchback trail and two platforms which provide one with breathtaking views of the canyon and brink of Lower Falls."³⁷ Plans were drawn up for the construction of a new overlook structure in 1952 (NP-YEL-2557), when funds became available for the construction of a parking area at the Canyon Rim in front of the Canyon Hotel and adjacent to the 495-step wooden stairway (NP-YEL 2370). Acting Superintendent Johnson commented in a memorandum that "This stairway is used intensively during the main tourist season and, because of its steepness and physical condition, it is a

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 38

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

distinct hazard to park visitors.” He recommended that the trail to Brink of Lower Falls be improved at the same time since its estimated cost was only \$20,000.³⁸ However, Acting Superintendent Joseph Jaffe commented that Park Engineer Wohlbrandt did not like the great number of switchbacks, one above the other, and recommended that further study of the location should be made.³⁹ Due to Wohlbrandt’s concerns and lack of specific information for determining the actual cost of construction, the rebuilding of the stairway to Brink of Lower Falls was subsequently removed from the parking area project.⁴⁰

Apparently funding became available in 1957, and new plans were drawn up for the trail and overlook structure at Brink of Lower Falls (NP-YEL-2491). Construction was carried out, but the questionable switchbacks were retained due to the steep topography. Two overlook platforms were built (Main Lower Falls Overlook and Secondary Overlook). Each platform had a reinforced concrete deck with 3’6” high steel pipe rails with chain link fencing for safety purposes. However, natural mortared stonework supports the concrete platforms. The switchback walkway still reflects the NPS Rustic Style, while the viewing platforms are more utilitarian and do not blend as well into the surroundings.

Brink of Upper Falls Overlook

In 1906, Major John Pitcher, the Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park reported to the Secretary of the Interior that “Some of the old pole and log stairways and landings along the canyon were replaced by neat, substantial structures, having numerous resting places provided with seats. At the Upper Falls two stairways were built leading directly from the unloading platform down to the falls. At the foot of the stairways large platforms were built with suitable benches to permit sightseers to view the falls.⁴¹ The construction techniques used at the Brink of Upper Falls were similar to those used on the other overlooks at this time.

On June 6, 1936, John W. Emmert, Acting Superintendent of Yellowstone National Park sent a telegram to the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., that stated the following:

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 39

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Wooden steps and viewing platform upper falls of Yellowstone in Canyon Area completely demolished by snowslide and wash. Essential it be replaced at early date. Estimated cost six thousand dollars using concrete and steel in accordance approved plans for observation platform this area. Time required approximately sixty days. Request PW or emergency funds be made available for this reconstruction.⁴²

Howard W. Baker, Landscape Architect, Yellowstone National Park, reviewed the plans for the Upper Falls platform (Plan NP-YEL-8877) drawn by Sanford Hill, Resident Landscape Architect. He found the plans to be "very satisfactory" but commented that "The construction of the stairs leading down to the observation platform and the placing of the boulders along the side of the stairs should be carefully handled in order to create as naturalistic an effect as possible." He stated that the six-foot width of the stairs should be varied "...to break the straight line." He also commented that "The parapet wall surrounding the observation platform should be constructed of uncut, weathered stones, and I believe it would be preferable to vary the height of the wall to eliminate the straight line shown on this plan."⁴³

C.A. Lord, Park Engineer, wrote the final report on the reconstruction of the Brink of Upper Falls Observation Platform (Project F.F. 601). He stated that the Branch of Plans and Designs first conducted a study "...on which to base an estimate for the work and from which final plans could be prepared." In the interim, a small viewing platform was constructed from salvaged material from the old platform, and a rough trail was provided so that park visitors could view the falls. The final plans were approved by July 23 and \$6000 was provided from the allotment to Emergency Reconstruction and Fighting Fires. Work was conducted from August 21 to November 11, 1936, and then suspended due to weather conditions. By October, the work was described as 50 percent completed with the platform done, and the crew had started on the second set of stairs. The Chief Architect reported that "the general appearance of the platform wall has been fairly well worked out although it is not entirely satisfactory. This perhaps is due to the fact that they were unable to view the outside appearance of the wall without traveling one and one-half miles by way of Chittenden Bridge."⁴⁴

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 40

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Work resumed on May 11, 1937, and the platform and trail were completed in time for the official park opening that year. Lord stated the "...the principal aim was to provide a structure that would blend with the Canyon rim and walls." In order to find the proper stones, it was necessary to haul the boulders 25 miles from Gibbon Canyon. Many of the boulders weighed 2500 to 3000 pounds. Lord stated that "Quantities handled were comparatively small, but the work as a whole was a matter of trial and error, placing and replacing the rock work until a satisfactory blending was obtained."⁴⁵

Today, the entire structure still reflects the NPS Rustic style. The finely-crafted stone retaining wall and guardrail along the old highway adds to the rustic nature of the setting of the trail.

The Brink of Upper Falls parking lot was constructed in 1961 as part of the Chittenden Bridge construction by the Bureau of Public Roads (NP-YEL-3821). In addition, the old existing road (Route 16) from the parking area to Chittenden Bridge was to be retained as part of the North Rim Trail, in opposition to obliterating the road and building a new trail. The new parking lot was located on the site of the old commercial development, all of which had been removed except for the Haynes Picture Studio and the District Ranger Station. The Haynes building was to be removed by the concessioner, and the Ranger station to be used by the bridge contractor and then demolished. The parking lot accommodated 146 cars and had an adjacent picnic area.⁴⁶

Uncle Tom's Trail/Lower and Upper Falls Overlooks

Uncle Tom's Trail refers to Thomas Richardson who acted as a guide in Yellowstone National Park prior to the construction of the Chittenden Bridge over the Yellowstone River. "Uncle Tom" guided parties of tourists to a view of the Lower Yellowstone Falls on the South Rim of the canyon. He rowed each party across the river where it was calm, then the party hiked through forest to a point where he had built a series of wooden ladders and ropes that descended the steep canyon walls to a point near the bottom of the falls. As described by historian Aubrey Haines, "this allowed the tourist to stand in a misty realm overawed by thundering waters and everpresent rainbows."⁴⁷ Uncle Tom then treated his

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 41

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

clients to a dinner cooked over a campfire and rowed them back across the river. For his labors Uncle Tom earned about \$1000 per season from 1898 to 1903, when the Chittenden Bridge was completed and his permit to guide visitors was revoked. In 1906, the Army Corps of Engineers constructed a stairway with rest platforms to replace Richardson's ladders.

In 1912, an office memo summarized the history of operations of H.F. Richardson ("Uncle Tom") and was filed in the Office of the Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park. Previous to 1904, Richardson was employed by the Wylie Company in the Canyon. Before the 1903 concrete bridge was built above Upper Falls, the company was authorized to keep row boats on the river at that location and ferry people across. Uncle Tom was employed to row them across. He constructed a rough trail to the foot of the Lower Falls and guided parties into the canyon. In 1904, he applied for a regular permit to conduct that business, which was granted by Acting Superintendent Major Pitcher and was revocable at the pleasure of the Secretary of the Interior. He was authorized to charge no more than \$1.00 per person. In 1905, his permit was renewed, and he stated that he had guided 1147 people the previous year. On June 15, 1905, Major Pitcher reported that the bridge across the Yellowstone River and a road leading down along the river had been completed. Pitcher recommended that a properly constructed trail be built into the canyon by the Engineer Officer and opened to the public. Richardson stated that he had employed one assistant the previous year and would require two during the 1905 season. Because it was necessary for him to conduct considerable trail maintenance each spring, he did not consider his fee excessive. In 1906, he stated that he would reduce his fee to 50 cents a person because the Engineering Department had improved the trail. His permit was again granted by Major Pitcher, but he was no longer allowed to charge a fee for people to use the trail, only those that desired to employ his services. His permit was renewed for the 1906 season, and he stated that 2248 people had used the trail the previous year. The Engineering Department improved the trail by building substantial steps over a portion of it and would complete work that summer if funds were available. Richardson's permit was revoked sometime prior to 1911, although the exact date is unclear.⁴⁸ He continued to attempt to regain his park concession, and as late as 1913, Richardson was frankly rebuffed when he wrote Chester A. Lindsley, who served as a civilian clerk at the army headquarters at

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 42

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

the Park, and offered him a one-quarter interest in the enterprise if he would use his influence to secure Richardson a permit.⁴⁹

People continued to write park officials with schemes to construct an elevator to the base of the falls or convert Uncle Tom's Trail into a burro trail, but all were rejected by Acting Superintendent Lieutenant Colonel Brett, who felt that the existing foot trail was sufficient and did not want to "mar the scenic beauty and lead to requests for other approaches" and that "...to make Uncle Tom's Trail safe for burro travel would necessitate cutting a decided gash in the Canyon, which would disfigure it."⁵⁰

In 1927, Uncle Tom's Trail was rebuilt by the Ranger Department of Yellowstone National Park, supervised by Sam T. Woodring, Chief Ranger. A total of \$2,321.63 was allotted under Project No. 515. The trail began at a point behind the Canyon Lodge on the South Rim. It was described in detail in a 1930 report as follows:

Four sections of stairways were constructed in order to make the descent possible. Six platforms were built, including one which was built at the end of the trail in 1930. Each section of stairs is safeguarded by guard rail and at three other places along the trail guard railing of a cable type has been placed at hazardous points. One of these sections of cable guard rail was placed around the platform at the end of the trail after its construction in 1930.

The trail is used as a guide trail, and is approximately three-quarters of a mile long. There is approximately 1,500 feet difference in the elevation between the top and bottom of the trail. Ordinarily there are two guided trips over the trail each day during the park season, but many people use the trail in addition to the guide parties. In 1930 approximately 6,500 people made use of Uncle Tom's Trail, 4,413 of which were accompanied by a guide.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 43

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

In 1928, \$100 was spent on improvement of the trail. In 1929, \$200 was spent for the same purpose. In 1930, \$250 was spent for improvement of the trail and construction of a platform at the trail's end. The total amount of money spent on Uncle Tom's Trail to date is \$2,871.63.⁵¹

Uncle Tom's Trail was closed during the summer of 1959, because the wooden structures had become rotten and dangerous, and the earthquake of 1959 also damaged the trail and structures so that they were unsafe for public use. Reconstruction of this popular trail became a high priority of the Park, but it was deferred from the 1962 program to the 1963 program due to the delay in construction of the new Chittenden Bridge. The Park intended to reconstruct the trail utilizing heavy steel stairways anchored in rock, and therefore it requested the U.S. Geological Survey to provide a structural geologist to study the conditions and make a report prior to construction. The field investigation was carried out by Robert M. Lindvall on October 10, 1960. Preliminary plans (NP-YEL-3803) were drawn up at an estimated cost of \$90,450 with \$117,600 funded for construction. The projected route was staked in the field during the early summer of 1961.⁵² However, the Park ran into unexpected opposition when Thomas C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction for the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., stated the following in a memorandum:

It is the consensus in this office that this trail would be a conspicuous and intrusive development on one of the most important and impressive natural features in the Park. Mr. Scoyen requests that consideration be given to the removal of the present trail as well as the deletion of this trail construction project.⁵³

Park Superintendent Lemuel A. Garrison wrote an impassioned reply to the Regional Director, Region Two, soliciting his help to retain the project:

The trip into the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone using Uncle Tom's Trail affords a delightful opportunity for Park visitors to get out of their cars and venture away from the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 44

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

crowded car stops—a type of visitor use we wish to encourage. As expressed by Assistant Secretary Carver, the visitor not only enjoys being there, he also enjoys getting there.

...Several spectacular views from vantage points on the trail downward are climaxed by the tremendously impressive and moving experience at the base of the Lower Falls.... Here one can feel for himself the power of the great waterfall as it shakes the ground upon which he stands. Here the visitor can see the effects of water spray upon the rocks, upon the surrounding plant life and in combination with the sun upon his own senses in the form of rainbows and coronas. Above all, the visitor feels first hand through all his senses his insignificance in relationship to the great falls and other forces of nature around him.⁵⁴

The Regional Director supported Garrison and actually used portions of his prose in a letter to the Director in Washington, D.C. However, the project was eliminated from the program by the Director. This decision was reversed by the Director on September 5, 1962, and approved by Director Wirth on October 13, 1962, under the condition that sufficient study be conducted to present a set of plans that would fit the stairway into the terrain.⁵⁵ Actual reconstruction was planned for the 1966 fiscal year. Field investigations were conducted from July 11-13, 1963, once again to determine the feasibility of rebuilding the trail and the possibility of relocating portion of it. In addition to Park Service personnel, William Rosenberg, Western Office, Design and Construction, John Good, Chief Park Naturalist, Ed Clancey, Park Landscape Architect, and R.L. Bolmer, Mining Engineer, Bureau of Mines, attended the field reconnaissance. As a result of this field inspection, it was the consensus that the existing trail should be utilized as the most efficient and cost effective route except that the final 50 feet of trail and lowest observation platform should be removed as they were visible from the North Rim. A new viewing platform could be built within the lower limits of the timber, and the remainder of trail and structures on Uncle Tom's Trail would be at least partially screened by trees. The majority of the trail above and below the rock cliff portion of the stairways could be easily upgraded to a standard type of improved

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 45

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

public trail. Rock bolts were recommended to anchor the new steel stairways into the stone cliff face. In regard to the stairway, "An open-grating type of stairway tread with no riser would permit water, small rocks, and much of the snow and ice from being trapped on the structure."⁵⁶

Final plans (NP-YEL 3803C) were drawn up, and the project was awarded to Wallace Diteman, Inc, Bozeman, Montana. Work was begun on July 19, 1965 and suspended on November 19, 1965, and resumed on June 22, 1966. The project was completed on August 26, 1966 with a total cost of \$118,999.95.⁵⁷ Today, Uncle Tom's Trail closely reflects the 1966 reconstruction plans. The current parking lot is located on the site of the former parking area for the old Canyon Lodge that was abandoned after the 1956 season. It was reconstructed in 1965-67 when the Artist Point Road was widened and given a bituminous surface. It is an oval-shaped parking lot with a barbell-shaped area of planted grass and trees and restrooms.

Artist Point Overlook

The first road to Artist Point was completed in 1903 after the Chittenden Bridge was built over the Yellowstone River, providing access to the South Rim. The road terminated in a looped cul-de-sac at the base of the Artist Point Overlook. In 1906 the Artist Point Road was widened to eighteen feet, and a turn-around for horse-drawn coaches was constructed below the overlook at Artist Point. In 1907 a wooden overlook platform elevated by scaffolding with wooden access stairs was built. In 1919 the Artist Point Road and parking area were re-graded and resurfaced with gravel and oil.⁵⁸

In 1927, Worth D. Ross, Bureau of Public Roads highway engineer, surveyed the Artist Point Road and reported that it was inadequate for modern traffic as it was too narrow with excessive grades, poor alignment, and little space for parking or turning around at Artist Point. He suggested a one-way loop road that would continue beyond Artist Point to Point Sublime, turn south, and eventually return to the main road.⁵⁹ In 1928 a more detailed survey was conducted by highway engineer C.F. Capes, and he suggested two alternatives, both eliminating the concept of a one-way loop road. The selected

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 46

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

alternative stopped vehicles at a parking lot built short of Artist Point so that tourists walked one hundred yards out to the point. The new parking area was 900 feet long and 75 feet wide to accommodate 250 cars. The looped cul-de-sac at the base of the overlook was adapted for pedestrian access. The work was begun in June by the Morrison-Knudson Company of Boise, Idaho, and completed by October 1930.⁶⁰

The 1932 Yellowstone National Park Master Plan called for the redevelopment of Artist Point and recommended a rustic style that included stonemasonry features designed to blend into the natural scenery. Acting Superintendent J.W. Emmert agreed with this concept stating "It is desirable to replace the unsightly, flimsy and somewhat dangerous timber platforms and stairways with a good type of permanent construction suitable to the surrounding of Canyon."⁶¹ In 1938 Emmert sent a memorandum to C.A. Lord stating that "Mr. Rogers would like to have all of the wooden structures used for lookout points around the Canyon Area inspected by an Engineer and a written report filed as to their safety for this coming year."⁶²

In 1938-39, the Artist Point Overlook was reconstructed to replace the wooden structure. Preliminary drawings (Nos. YEL 2522 and YEL 2522-A) were forwarded from Howard W. Baker, Acting Regional Landscape Architect, Omaha, Nebraska, to the Regional Director for dissemination to Yellowstone National Park. The plans called for stone walls and steps. Baker stated that "It will probably be necessary to secure stone of various types and colors to blend with the color of the Canyon; however, since the outside walls will be backfilled with excavated material very little of the construction work will be exposed. The Platform walls should be laid up rough and similar to the Upper Falls Platform and should be worked out to blend with the stone work on the steps."⁶³ C. Max Bauer, Park Naturalist, visited the construction site on August 3, 1938, meeting with Resident Landscape Architect Sanford Hill and Chief Engineer Lord. The men concluded that the height of the parapet wall should not be 36 inches but between 27 and 30 inches. By lowering the wall, it could be set out farther toward the edge of the point. Bauer stated that the rock obtained from near Norris at the Virginia Cascades was not very suitable, and that better rock could be obtained from the talus slope on the south side of Elephant Pack

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 47

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Mountain at the rear of the Lake Hotel. He also preferred that the wall be irregular on top. "I hope that these conclusions will be carried out because I am especially interested in seeing the structure appear wholly natural from the far side of the canyon and also do not want to see any large pieces of rock dumped into the canyon at this point, for they will be sure to scar the canyon walls or uproot some trees down below."⁶⁴ Ultimately, suitable stone was found in a stock pile near the Mud Volcano/Geyser for construction of the Artist Point platform.

In September 1938, Sanford Hill reported on the progress at Artist Point:

The Artist Point platform has been progressing very satisfactorily and will be completed probably this fall before winter shuts down the work. Mr. Somerville has been working on this project with Fred Bloom, Mr. Lord's foreman, and they have worked out a very satisfactory solution for the platform and lower area. The plan now includes finishing up the rock wall around the roadway and path from the main parking area. This will complete the entire area and should provide satisfactory solution for Artist Point.⁶⁵

Other improvements included a second set of stone stairs descending from the promenade to the lower platform and rhyolite boulder edging along the lower platform and the promenade. The materials were collected onsite or from nearby Park stockpiles.⁶⁶

In 1965-67, the Artist Point Road was reconstructed, widened and resurfaced. In 1966-67, the Artist Point parking area was improved to include a log rail fence, a large concrete retaining wall, and concrete steps that led to the pedestrian promenade. Concrete curb and gutters replaced the stone curbing (NP-YEL-6306). This construction reflected the Mission 66 design approach and was utilitarian in scope. In 1970, the parking lot was modified to include a one-way traffic pattern, a vegetated traffic island at the east end of the parking lot, the separation of parking areas for buses and cars, and new sidewalks. In 1977, an asphalt ramp was constructed beside the concrete stairs to provide universal

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 48

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

access to the promenade. A log-cribbing wall was installed to stabilize the eroding slope along the ramp and the promenade's eastern edge. In 1980, a log-cribbing wall was constructed to retain eroding slopes along the eastern edge of the promenade. In 1995, a wayside placard was installed in the lower platform area. The exhibit interpreted the natural processes that led to the formation of the Canyon. In 1995, steel tube hand railings were added to the overlook and lower platform stairs.⁶⁷

In 2007-2008, the parking lot, promenade, and overlook areas were repaired and rehabilitated using NPS Rustic style elements. Essential changes consisted of the reconstruction of the parking lot and drop off area to improve drainage and overall circulation. The promenade had been converted from a vehicular route to a pedestrian walkway in the 1930s, and the historic character and craftsmanship of the promenade were preserved by retaining and repairing the boulder barrier on its west side. The boulders were reset, replaced where necessary, and oriented to reestablish the boulder barrier with reconstructed foundations. The timber crib wall constructed in the 1980s along the east side of the promenade was replaced with a boulder rockery to stabilize erosion along the cut slope. A boulder bench was incorporated into the rockery similar in design to boulder benches found at the Grand View and Lookout Point Overlooks on the North Rim. A slide area of severe erosion caused by drainage from the parking lot was repaired by constructing a Mechanically Stabilized Earthen (MSE) Wall that supports and stabilizes the boulder barrier and promenade.⁶⁸

The Lower Viewing Platform had been converted to a viewing area from a vehicular turnaround in the 1930s. During recent rehabilitation, the original stone stairs were retained, handrails were added, and the stairs were lined on both sides with boulders. The boulder barrier at this location had been undermined by erosion, and a Mechanically Stabilized Earthen wall was constructed to stabilize and support the barrier while maintaining the alignment of the viewing platform. In addition, native trees and shrubs were transplanted from the Yellowstone National Park nursery. Existing asphalt layers were removed to the original sub-grade, and a new aggregate base and asphalt deck were installed to the Lower Platform.⁶⁹

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 49

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

The Upper Viewing Platform was also rehabilitated due to severe erosion undermining portions of the historic boulder wall. Boulders were planted into the slope to secure the eroding soil and act as anchors for the stabilized soils. Soil was mixed with a soil stabilizer (white Portland cement) and backfilled to the historic mortar line on the boulder wall. A new steel reinforced concrete slab/deck was constructed replacing the old deck.⁷⁰ In summary, the 2007-2008 rehabilitation restored the essence of the 1930s Rustic style while improving practical issues, such as safety and drainage.

North and South Rim Trails

A rudimentary trail system was first developed within Yellowstone National Park by the U.S. Army Administration to transport supplies to the patrol cabins that were constructed in remote areas and for horse patrols in the backcountry. The trails often followed old game trails, open meadows, and water courses, and Native American trails. They were purely utilitarian with a minimum of construction and improvement and with little regard to scenic values. When Superintendent Philetus W. Norris began his administration in 1877, there were 32 miles of roads and 108 miles of trails. When he concluded his tenure, there were 153 miles of roads and 204 miles of trails. Some of trails later became a part of the road system of the Park.⁷¹

After 1900, a small number of horseback parties began to ride into the wilderness areas away from developed roads for recreation. Soon such wilderness guides as Howard Eaton began to organize large parties with saddle horses and pack animals carrying camping equipment for extensive backcountry tours of Yellowstone National Park. These knowledgeable guides developed additional routes to scenic and unusual points of interest. From these early sources, Yellowstone's first trail network began to develop. However, it was not until the Park was transferred to the National Park Service that a systematic program of trail development was adopted.⁷²

One of the earliest concerted efforts to establish a system of trails in the Park was conducted by Mrs. Robert C. Morris, a New York woman who owned a ranch on the borders of the park and spent the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 50

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

summer of 1917 riding horseback 1500 miles, mapping and blazing a system of trails. She created three circular trails, one of which connected the principal hotels; the second, a series of circular trails that radiated like spokes from the hotels for short trips; and the third, an outer circle through the wilderness to the borders of the Park. The latter was based on existing "fire lanes." Her work was published in an official report entitled "Map and Description of the Trails in and about Yellowstone Park" and "Notes on Trail Study in Yellowstone Park," which offered suggestions for connections and complete trail marking.⁷³

The Howard Eaton Trail was developed by joining abandoned roads, foot trails, and game trails to form a single 157-mile long trail with guide posts and signs. This trail generally followed the course of the main loop highway and connected points of outstanding interest. It was officially dedicated on July 19, 1923, at Sheepeater Cliff.⁷⁴

However, throughout the 1920s little funding was available to construct new trails or adequately maintain the existing ones. In 1930, a map was drawn up depicting all the existing trails, and proposed development was shown on the Master Plan map for Yellowstone National Park. Although estimates were submitted each year for trail construction, funds were not available until the summer of 1934. The funding resulted from the Roosevelt Administration's New Deal to fight the Great Depression. In that year, \$9,000 became available through Public Works Administration (PWA) funds to construct fire protection trails. During the summer of 1934 and the spring of 1935, about 30 miles of new fire protection trails were constructed and about 20 miles of existing trails were reconstructed. In addition, surveys were conducted for 65 miles of trails. However, no trail work was accomplished by Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) labor until the summer of 1936.⁷⁵

In October 1934, the Engineering Division of the National Park Service published its first standards for foot and bridle trails. These standards were used for national park trails for several decades. They included a standard width of 4 feet by cutting into the slope or by benching the supporting ground with a dry-laid wall of large stones. Stone retaining walls could be built on the downhill side of the trail to

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 51

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

retain soil and rocks on steep slopes or uphill to retain material and prevent slides. The grade of the trail was limited to 15 percent except in extreme cases. Detailed diagrams and instructions guided the construction of drainage features, switchbacks, and dry rubble walls. Dips and water breaks were constructed at regular intervals, and culverts and bridges were built only where simpler solutions proved inadequate. Linda McClelland describes early trails in her book on historic landscape design and construction in the National Parks:

Trail builders were asked to make sure that all evidence of construction outside the trail prism was held to a minimum to preserve the natural setting. The ground was to be cleared to provide a ten-foot clearance above the trail, and no more than one foot to either side of the trail or the cut or filled areas. The trail was to be routed around large trees, and no large trees were to be cut unless this was impractical. The walls, culverts, and other features were to be constructed to harmonize with the natural setting and to avoid the destruction of natural features.⁷⁶

During the winter of 1935-36, a plan was developed for Yellowstone National Park, allowing reconstruction of trails undertaken through Emergency Conservation Works (ECW) projects without detailed engineering surveys, since technical or experienced personnel necessary for such surveys were not available. Maintenance projects were set up and approved for all trails proposed for reconstruction, but especially for the reconstruction of the Howard Eaton Trail. CCC camps were established throughout the Park, and crews worked on different sections of the Howard Eaton Trail and re-established trail segments that had been eliminated through developed areas and by new highway construction around the Loop road. By the end of the 1936 season, 45 miles of trail were reconstructed by CCC crews and for the first time in years it was possible for saddle horse parties to ride the entire circuit of the Howard Eaton Trail without using main traveled highways.⁷⁷

Trails located in high use areas such as the Canyon area were oiled to hold down an excessive amount of dust and to help bind the trail surface. The oil was applied using a two-wheel hand cart holding a 55-

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 52

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

gallon oil drum and equipped with a hand pump and sprayer. The trail surface was then raked with hand rakes for penetration. Trails were marked with 3" x 3" metal plates painted bright orange to eliminate the practice of blazing trees, and directional and distance signs were restricted to trail junctions.⁷⁸

The North Rim Trail links by foot trail the developed North Rim Overlooks: Brink of Upper Falls, Brink of Lower Falls, Lookout/Red Rock Points, Grand View Point, and Inspiration Point. Prior to the late 1950s, the North Rim area also contained numerous developed tourist facilities including the first Canyon Hotel (1886-1890), a second hotel constructed opened in 1890 or 1891 to replace the first building, stores, warehouses, housekeeping cabins (established in 1926), a public campground, a soldier/ranger station (reconstructed in 1921), a gas station, a cafeteria and delicatessen, a Haynes photo shop (1924), and a Wylie tent camp. In addition, the original road alignment and junction for the Canyon to Norris road passed through the area.⁷⁹ This resulted in extensive foot traffic from these developed areas along the North Rim. It is likely that portions of the North Rim Trail developed as a result of this late nineteenth-early twentieth century tourist activity. Then, as funding and manpower became available during the Great Depression Era, the North Rim Trail was formally established and developed to national park standards. It has been incorporated into the various developed overlooks, generally entering and leaving the parking areas, but in some places it is partially incorporated into the short trails linking the parking areas to the overlook structures. In about 1961, the abandoned segment of Route 16 was incorporated into the North Rim Trail between Chittenden Bridge and Brink of Upper Falls. It was decided that the obliteration of the road and reconstruction of a new trail of uniform width on the same alignment was costly and unneeded.⁸⁰

The South Rim Trail represents the logical linking by foot trail of the developed South Rim Overlooks: Uncle Tom's Trail and Upper Falls Overlook, Artist Point, and Point Sublime. Prior to the late 1950s, the South Rim area also contained numerous developed tourist facilities, including Canyon Lodge and associated cabins built on the location of the current Uncle Tom's Trail parking lot. After the Chittenden Bridge was built across the Yellowstone River in 1903, it provided vehicular access to Uncle Tom's Trail

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 53

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

and Artist Point. This resulted in extensive foot traffic from these developed areas along the South Rim. It is likely that portions of the South Rim Trail developed as a result of this late nineteenth-early twentieth century tourist activity. Then, as funding and manpower became available during the Great Depression Era, the South Rim Trail was formally established and developed to national park standards. It has been incorporated into the various developed overlooks, generally entering and leaving the parking areas, but in places it is partially incorporated into the short trails linking the parking areas to the overlook structures.

Point Sublime is a feature of the South Rim Trail, reached only by foot trail from Artist Point. In the 1920s, plans were considered that would link Point sublime to the other South Rim lookouts by a vehicular loop road. However, this plan was discarded in 1928; otherwise Point sublime would likely have been developed much like the other overlooks. Point Sublime was named in the early 1920s by park employee Beulah Brown, and Park Superintendent Horace Albright agreed. The name may have referred to David Folsom's description of the canyon on September 21, 1869, during the Cook-Folsom expedition.⁸¹

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 54

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Historical Significance

Summary

The Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The district is nationally significant in the areas of Architecture, Conservation, Entertainment/Recreation, and Landscape Architecture. The period of significance is from 1872, when Yellowstone National Park was created, through ca. 1966. By that time, Yellowstone National Park was completing the ten-year, multi-million dollar Mission 66 program that represented the National Park Service's response to increased visitor usage of the nation's national parks after World War II. The goal of Mission 66 was to modernize the parks by 1966, the fiftieth anniversary of the NPS. Modern methods of landscape and architectural design were employed that rejected the rustic designs of the 1920s and 1930s. Several overlooks were reconstructed from 1956 to 1966 that represent a blending of the two styles, and also stressed increased safety to park visitors over aesthetic qualities.

Criterion A. The historic district is associated with historical events that occurred in the period from 1871-1872 and that led to the preservation of the Yellowstone region as the country's and the world's first national park in 1872, a pivotal event in the history of the United States and the conservation movement. In 1871, the views from the rim of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone gained significance when recorded by the painter Thomas Moran and the photographer William Henry Jackson, accompanying the Hayden Survey. Works that were generated by these artists were instrumental in persuading Congress to preserve the Yellowstone region as the country's first national park. The park concept was not new but rather evolved from the city level with the creation of New York's Central Park in 1851, then to the state level with the establishment of the Yosemite Grant in California in 1864. The creation of Yellowstone National Park was due to the recognition that the only way to preserve the natural wonders of the region and withhold it from settlement was to place it directly under federal control.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 55

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Criterion C. The landscape features and trails constructed at the eight viewpoints during the NPS Rustic Style Construction Era (1916-1942) remain historically significant as records of the handcrafted workmanship and the use of natural materials that characterize this style. They are representative of the aesthetic preferences and design philosophy of these early national park designers -- landscape architects, architects, and engineers. They were the heirs of the nineteenth-century naturalistic tradition of landscape gardening, which valued scenic views, variations in topography, and natural features. They also drew on popular architectural styles such as the Shingle style, the Adirondack style, the Prairie style, and vernacular forms used by pioneer settlers and indigenous culture. The Arts and Crafts movement at the turn of the century embraced all of these influences and promoted an appreciation of the rustic ethic. The design, materials and workmanship of the stone masonry and other features in the district are identifiable standards of the NPS Rustic style, enabling these overlooks and trails to contribute to the field of landscape architecture.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 56

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Anderson, Charles A. Letter dated November 4, 1960, from Charles A. Anderson, Chief Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, to P.E. Smith, Supervisory Engineer, Western Office, Design and Construction, National Park Service, San Francisco, California concerning geological survey of Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-241 (File D30, Book #16, 7/1960-61), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1960.
- Bauer, C. Max. Memorandum dated August 5, 1938 from C. Max Bauer, Park Naturalist to the Superintendent, YNP concerning Artist Point inspection tour. Box D-17 (File 4 – 1936-1940), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1938.
- Beal, Merrill D. *Statements Concerning Inspiration Point for Park Development conference – September, 1957*. Typewritten manuscript (3 pages). Yellowstone National Park Library, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1957.
- Bolmer, R.L. Memorandum dated July 30, 1963, from R.L. Bolmer, Mining Engineer, Bureau of Mines, to Stanford Hill, Chief, Western Office, Design and Construction, NPS, concerning feasibility study of Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-71, File "Reconstruction Uncle Tom's Trail, Canyon", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1963.
- Culpin, Mary Shivers. *The History of the Construction of the Road System in Yellowstone National Park, 1872-1966, Historic Resource Study Volume I*. No. 5, Selections from the Division of Cultural Resources, Rocky Mountain Region, National Park Service, 1994.
- Haines, Aubrey. *The Yellowstone Story: A History of Our First National Park, 2 Vols*. Niwot, Colorado: University of Colorado Press, 1996 (originally published in 1977).
- Hansen, Wallace R. "Report on a Geological Examination of Inspiration Point, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming." United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Yellowstone National Park Library, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1955.
- Kinsey, Joni Louise. *Thomas Moran and the Surveying of the American West*. Washington and London: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992.
- Lord, C.A. *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project F.F. 601*. Box K-30, File D66-"Signs, Markers, Memorials" Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1937.
- Massey, Rheba. *Wyoming Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan*. Prepared for Archives, Museums and Historical Department, Wyoming SHPO, Cheyenne, 1989.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 57

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

McAlester, Virginia, and Lee MacAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1994.

McClelland, Linda. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

McClure, Nancy. *Historic American Engineering Record Addendum to HAER No. WY-24, Yellowstone Roads and Bridges*. Report by the Historic American Engineering Record for the Department of Transportation, National Park Service, and Yellowstone National Park, 1999.

National Park Service. *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation, National Register Bulletin No. 15*. U.S. Department of the Interior. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1991.

No Author. "Yellowstone Trails Blazed by New York Woman." *The New York Times Magazine*, 10 February 1918. Box L-8, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1918.

Office of the Superintendent, YNP. *Final Construction Report on Uncle Tom's Trail, Project No. 515 (dated December 18, 1930)*. Office of the Superintendent, YNP, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1930.

Pitcher, Major John. *Acting Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior*. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906.

Shapins Associates. *Artist Point Yellowstone National Park*. National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory, September 2003 (Level II Cultural Landscapes Inventory conducted by Shapins Associates, Boulder, Colorado), 2003.

Skinner, Curtis K. *Special Trail Report Yellowstone National Park*. Written by Curtis K. Skinner, Acting Assistant Chief Ranger and dated March 25, 1937. Box L-8 "Special Trail Report", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1937.

Whitacre, Christine, *Historic Context and Determination of Eligibility of the North and South Rim Roads along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone*. National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office, Denver, Colorado, 2000.

Whittlesey, Lee H. *Brief History of the Brink-of-Upper-Falls Developed Area in Yellowstone National Park*. Mammoth, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 2002.

_____. *Yellowstone Place Names*. Wonderland Publishing Company, 2006.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 58

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

Wohlbrandt, Philip H. *Final Report, Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584*. Report dated January 5, 1943, Box L-8, File Project No. 584. Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1943.

_____. *Completion Report: Trail Terminus Grand View Point, Canyon, Acct. 323.03*. Report dated December 31, 1952, Box D-236, File 600-02 Master Plan (Project Construction Program), January 1, 1951 to December 31, 1953. Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1952.

Yellowstone National Park Foundation. *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park*. Yellowstone National Park Foundation, November 2007.

ENDNOTES

1. Haines, Aubrey. *The Yellowstone Story: A History of Our First National Park, Vol. I* (Niwot, Colorado: University of Colorado Press, 1996; originally published in 1977) p. 85.
2. *Ibid.*, p. 68.
3. *Ibid.*, p. 79.
4. *Ibid.*, pp. 97-98.
5. *Ibid.*, pp. 141-142.
6. *Ibid.*, pp. 145-146.
7. *Ibid.*, pp. 172-173.
8. McClelland, Linda. *Building the National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction*. (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998) p. 1.
9. *Ibid.*, p. 134.
10. *Ibid.*, Albert Good quoted in McClelland, p. 434.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 136.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 200.
13. *Ibid.*, pp. 211-214.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 236.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 59

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

-
15. *Ibid.*, Thomas C. Vint quoted in McClelland, p. 304.
 16. *Ibid.*, pp. 307-308.
 17. *Ibid.*, pp. 462-463.
 18. *Ibid.*, p. 463.
 19. *Ibid.*, p. 470; Haines, *The Yellowstone Story*, Vol. II, p.376.
 20. *Ibid.*, pp. 472-474.
 21. Pitcher, Major John. *Acting Superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park to the Secretary of the Interior*. (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1906) p. 14.
 22. *Idem.*
 23. *Plans-on-the-Shelf and Project Construction Programs Discussion, Yellowstone National Park, August 19-20, 1942*. Box D-236, File 600-02 Part 2 (1940-1943), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1942.
 24. Beal, Merrill D. *Statements Concerning Inspiration Point for Park Development conference – September, 1957*. Typewritten manuscript (3 pages). Yellowstone National Park Library, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1957.
 25. Hansen, Wallace R. "Report on a Geological Examination of Inspiration Point, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming." United States Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey. Yellowstone National Park Library, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1955.
 26. McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, p. 469.
 27. Kinsey, Joni Louise. *Thomas Moran and the Surveying of the American West*. Washington and (London: Smithsonian Institution Press, 1992) p. 5.
 28. Pitcher, *Acting Superintendent of YNP to Secretary of Interior*, p. 14.
 29. Rogers, Edmund B. Memorandum dated May 10, 1950, "Plan, Trail Terminus, Grand View", from Edmund B. Rogers, Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park to Regional Director, Region Two. Box D224, File "640 Trails", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1950.
 30. Beal, *Statements Concerning Inspiration Point*.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 60

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

-
31. Wohlbrandt, Philip H. *Completion Report: Trail Terminus Grand View Point, Canyon, Acct. 323.03*. Report dated December 31, 1952, Box D-236, File 600-02 Master Plan (Project Construction Program), January 1, 1951 to December 31, 1953. Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1952.
 32. Wohlbrandt, Philip H. *Final Report, Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584*. Report dated January 5, 1943, Box L-8, File Project No. 584. Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1943.
 33. *Idem*.
 34. *Idem*.
 35. Anderson, Jack. Memorandum concerning the Red Rock Trail from Jack Anderson, Superintendent, to Chief of Maintenance, dated December 4, 1970. Box D-30, File D-199 (1962-1978). Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1970.
 36. Pitcher, *Acting Superintendent of YNP to Secretary of Interior*, p. 14.
 37. Beal, *Statements Concerning Inspiration Point*.
 38. Johnson, Fred T. Memorandum dated February 7, 1952, from Fred T. Johnston, Acting Superintendent, YNP to Regional Director, Region Two. Box D 224, File "640 Trails", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1952.
 39. Jaffe, Joseph. Memorandum dated February 26, 1952 from Joseph Jaffe, Acting Superintendent, YNP to Regional Director, Region Two. Box D 224, File "640 Trails", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1952.
 40. Hall, Robert G. Memorandum dated March 4, 1952 from Robert G. Hall, Assistant Regional Director to Superintendent, YNP. Box D 224, File "640 Trails", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1952.
 41. Pitcher, *Acting Superintendent of YNP to Secretary of Interior*, p. 14.
 42. Emmert, John W. Telegram dated June 6, 1936 from John W. Emmert, Acting Superintendent, Yellowstone National Park to the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. Box D-17 (File 4 1936-40), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1936.
 43. Baker, Howard W. Letter dated July 30, 1936 from Howard W. Baker, District Landscape Architect, YNP, to Thomas C. Vint, Chief Architect, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 1936.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 61

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

-
44. Hill, Sanford. *Monthly Narrative Report to Chief Architect from Sanford Hill, Landscape Architect, October 1-25, 1936.* Box L-56, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1936.
45. Lord, C.A. *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project F.F. 601.* Box K-30, File D66-“Signs, Markers, Memorials” Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1937.
46. Aiten, John F. Memorandum dated April 26, 1961 from John F. Aiton, Acting Regional Chief of Operations, Region 2, to Chief, Western Office, Design and Construction. Box D-241 (File D30 Box #17, Jan-May 1961). Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1961; Krueger, Charles E., Memorandum dated May 5, 1961, from Charles E. Krueger, Acting Supervisory Landscape Architect, Western Office, to D.C. Harrington, Federal Highway Projects Engineer, Bureau of Public Roads, Region Nine, concerning the Upper Falls Parking Area. Box D-241, File D30, Box 18, May-July 1961, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1961.
47. Haines, *the Yellowstone Story, Vol. 2*, pp. 131-133.
48. No Author. Memorandum of Operations of H.F. Richardson, (“Uncle Tom”) in Yellowstone Park. Memo dated February 4, 1912 in the Office of Superintendent, YNP. LB 21, Item 42, Folder 2 of 2, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1912.
49. Richardson, H.F. Letter dated March 28, 1913 from H.F. Richardson to Chester A. Lindsley concerning YNP concession. LB 21, Item 42, Folder 2 of 2. Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1913; Lindsley, Chester A. Letter dated April 2, 1913, from Chester A. Lindsley to H.F. Richardson concerning YNP concession. LB 21, Item 42, Folder 2 of 2, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1913.
50. Brett, Lieutenant Colonel L.M. Brett. Letter dated August 29, 1913, from Lt. Col. L.M. Brett, Acting Superintendent, YNP, to J. Calvin Webb, Twin Falls, Idaho concerning use of saddle burros on Uncle Tom’s Trail. LB 21, Item 42, Folder 2 of 2, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1913; Letter dated October 18, 1913, from Lt. Col. Brett, Acting Superintendent, YNP, to the Secretary of the Interior, concerning the letter of W.H.C. Smith, Godfrey, Illinois, concerning a stairway into Grand Canyon of Yellowstone. LB 21, Item 42, Folder 2 of 2, Heritage Research Center, YNP.
51. Office of the Superintendent, YNP. *Final Construction Report on Uncle Tom’s Trail, Project No. 515 (dated December 18, 1930).* Office of the Superintendent, YNP, Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1930.
52. Anderson, Charles A. Letter dated November 4, 1960, from Charles A. Anderson, Chief Geologist, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, to P.E. Smith, Supervisory Engineer, Western Office, Design and Construction, National Park Service, San Francisco, California,

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 62

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

-
- concerning geological survey of Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-241 (File D30, Book #16, 7/1960-61), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1960; Bean, Glen T. Letter dated December 9, 1960, from Glen T. Bean, Acting Superintendent, YNP, to Regional Director, Region 2 concerning reconstruction of Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-241 (File D30, Book #16, 7/1960-61), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1960.
53. Vint, Thomas C. Memorandum dated May 9, 1961 from Thomas C. Vint, Chief of Design and Construction, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., to Regional Director, Region 2, NPS, concerning deletion of Uncle Tom's Trail from reconstruction program. Box D-241 (File D30, Box 18, May-July 1961), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1961.
54. Garrison, Lemuel A. Memorandum dated May 17, 1961, from Lemuel A. Garrison, Superintendent, YNP., to Regional Director, Region 2, NPS, concerning deletion of project to reconstruct Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-241 (File D30, Box 18, May-July 1961, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1961.
55. Gastellum, Luis A. Memorandum dated January 14, 1963, from Luis Gastellum, Acting Superintendent, YNP, to Chief, Western Office of Design and Construction, NPS, concerning reconstruction of Uncle Tom's Trail, 1963.
56. Bolmer, R.L. Memorandum dated July 30, 1963, from R.L. Bolmer, Mining Engineer, Bureau of Mines, to Stanford Hill, Chief, Western Office, Design and Construction, NPS, concerning feasibility study of Uncle Tom's Trail. Box D-71, File "Reconstruction Uncle Tom's Trail, Canyon", Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1963.
57. Yellowstone National Park. *Unit Price Contract for Reconstruction of Uncle Tom's Trail dated November 18, 1966. Box D-71, File "Reconstruction Uncle Tom's Trail, Canyon", Heritage Research Center, YNP.*
58. McClure, Nancy. *Historic American Engineering Record Addendum to HAER No. WY-24, Yellowstone Roads and Bridges.* Report by the Historic American Engineering Record for the Department of Transportation, National Park Service, and Yellowstone National Park, 1999:168-169.
59. Shapins Associates. *Artist Point Yellowstone National Park.* National Park Service Cultural Landscapes Inventory, September 2003 (Level II Cultural Landscapes Inventory conducted by Shapins Associates, Boulder, Colorado), 2003: Part 2a, pp. 3 of 5 and 4 of 5; Whitacre, Christine, *Historic Context and Determination of Eligibility of the North and South Rim Roads along the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone.* National Park Service, Intermountain Support Office, Denver, Colorado, 2000:10-11.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 63

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

-
60. Whitacre, *Historic Context of North and South Rim Roads*, pp. 11-12.
61. Shapins Associates, *Artist Point*, Part 2b, page 1 of 6.
62. Emmert, J.W. Memorandum to Mr. C.A. Lord dated May 28, 1938, from J.W. Emmert, Assistant Superintendent, YNP. Box D-17 (File 4 – 1936-1940), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1938.
63. Baker, Howard W. Memorandum dated February 8, 1938 from Howard W. Baker, Acting Regional Landscape Architect, NPS, Omaha, Nebraska, to the Regional Director concerning preliminary drawings for Artist Point. Box D-17 (File 4 -1936-1940), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1938.
64. Bauer, C. Max. Memorandum dated August 5, 1938 from C. Max Bauer, Park Naturalist to the Superintendent, YNP concerning Artist Point inspection tour. Box D-17 (File 4 – 1936-1940), Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1938.
65. Hill, Sanford. *Report on Yellowstone National Park* dated September, 1938. Box L-56 (File 601-15.1- Sept.-Oct. 1938). Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1938.
66. Shapins Associates, *Artist Point*, Part 2b, page 3 of 6.
67. *Ibid.*, Page 5 of 6 and 6 of 6.
68. Yellowstone National Park Foundation. *Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, Yellowstone National Park*. Yellowstone National Park Foundation, November 2007.
69. *Idem.*
70. *Idem.*
71. Haines, *The Yellowstone Story*, Vol. 1:240-246.
72. Skinner, Curtis K. *Special Trail Report Yellowstone National Park*. Written by Curtis K. Skinner, Acting Assistant Chief Ranger and dated March 25, 1937. Box L-8 “Special Trail Report”, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1937.
73. No Author. “Yellowstone Trails Blazed by New York Woman.” *The New York Times Magazine*, 10 February 1918. Box L-8, Heritage Research Center, YNP, 1918.
74. Skinner, *Special Trail Report*, pp. 1-2.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 64

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

75. *Ibid.*, p. 2.

76. McClelland, *Building the National Parks*, p 242.

77. Skinner, *Special Trail Report*, p. 4.

78. *Ibid.*, p. 9.

79. Whittlesey, Lee H. *Brief History of the Brink-of-Upper-Falls Developed Area in Yellowstone National Park*. Mammoth, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 2002.

80. Aiten, John F. Memorandum dated April 26, 1961.

81. Whittlesey, Lee H. *Yellowstone Place Names*. Wonderland Publishing Company, 2006.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 65

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is a 660-foot margin of land measured back from the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. The extent of the southwest and northeast boundary was established by providing a 660-foot buffer around Chittenden Bridge on the southwest and Point Sublime on the northeast end of the district.

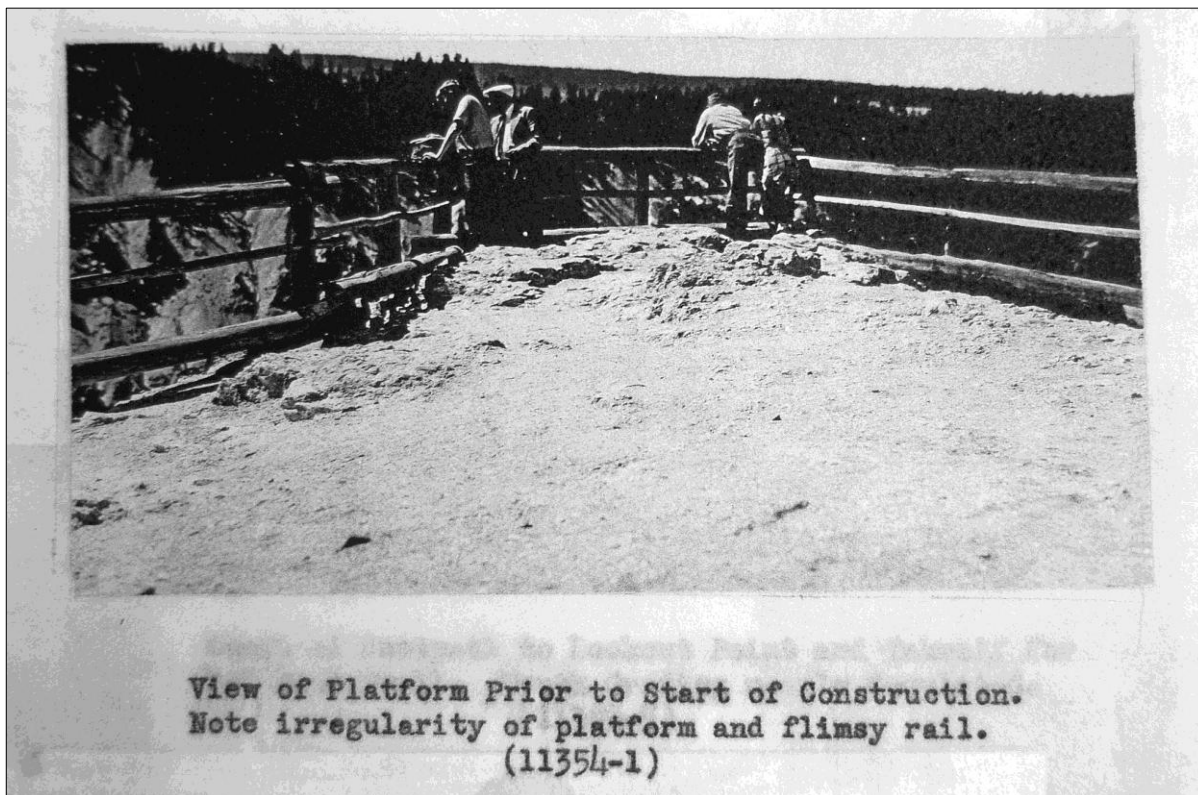
Boundary Description

The boundary is based on historic Yellowstone National Park Master Plans dating from as early as 1927 that designated a "sacred area" for a one-eighth mile (660-foot) margin of land along the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, to be protected from development or other forms of disturbance. It includes all overlooks, associated parking lots, and the portions of the North and South Rim Trails that connect the various overlooks.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 66

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

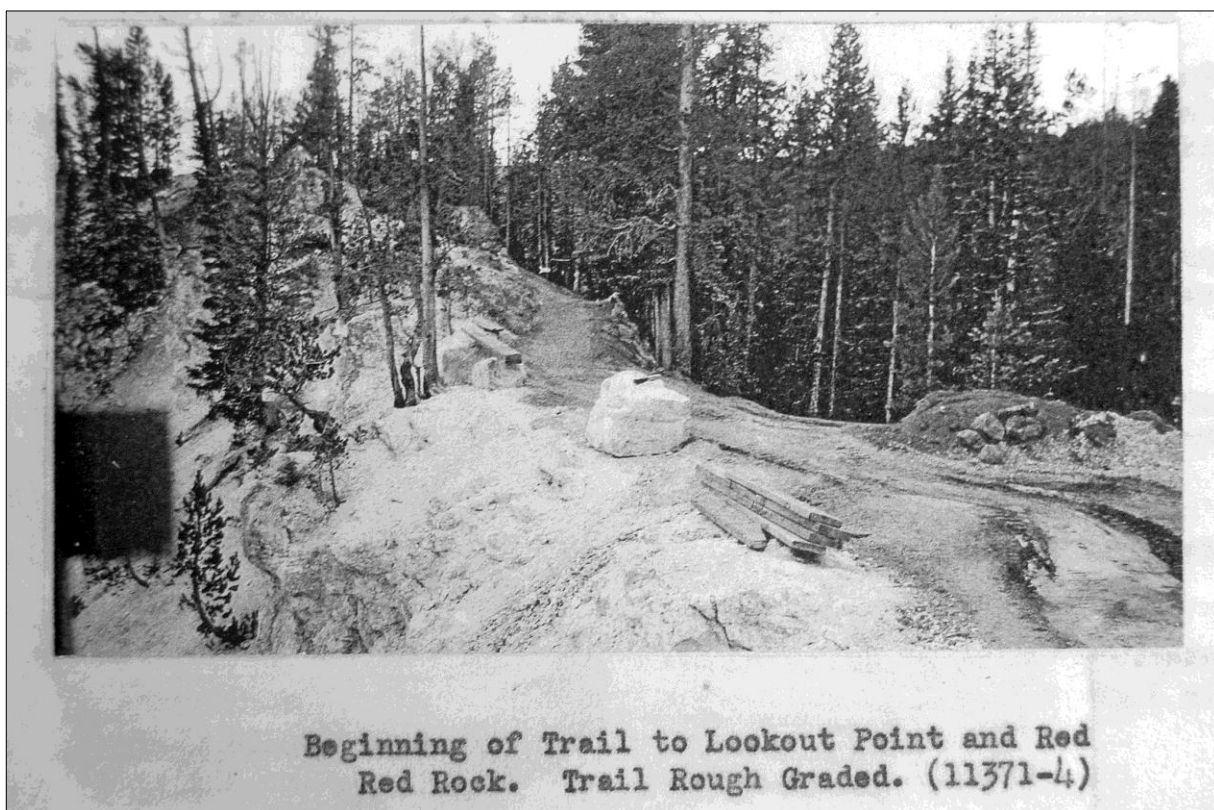


Lookout Point Overlook (Source: *Final Report Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584; Box L-8, by Phillip Wohlbrandt, 1943. Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park.*)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 67

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**

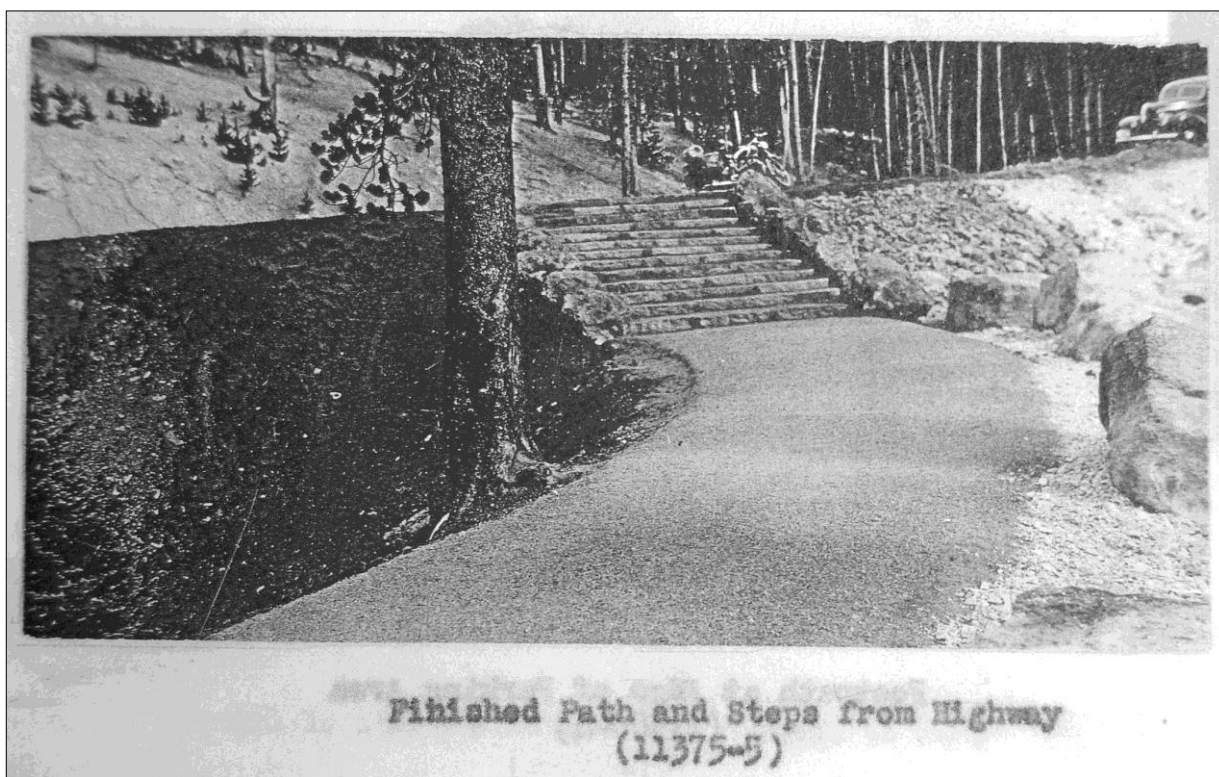


Lookout Point Overlook (Source: *Final Report Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584; Box L-8, by Phillip Wohlbrandt, 1943. Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park.*)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 68

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Lookout Point Overlook (Source: *Final Report Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584; Box L-8, by Phillip Wohlbrandt, 1943. Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park.*)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 69

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Lookout Point Overlook (Source: *Final Report Point Lookout Trail – Canyon, Project No. 584; Box L-8, by Phillip Wohlbrandt, 1943. Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park.*)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 70

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Brink of Upper Falls Overlook. "Project site before start of construction." During the winter of 1935-1936, massive snow slides demolished much of the two wooden walkways that led to views of the Upper Falls, and they were soon replaced. Today's stone retaining wall is visible at upper left and center; the steps at center have been replaced, and the steep staircase and rickety platform at the bottom right were eliminated. (Source: *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project FF 601*, by C.A. Lord, Park Engineer, 1937. Box K-30, File D66, Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 71

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Brink of Upper Falls Overlook. "Project site before start of construction." At center is the steep staircase that was not rebuilt after the snow slide in 1936. (Source: *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project FF 601*, by C.A. Lord, Park Engineer, 1937. Box K-30, File D66, Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 72

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Brink of Upper Falls Overlook. "Trail bridge constructed and preparing site for parapet and platform." (Source: *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project FF 601*, by C.A. Lord, Park Engineer, 1937. Box K-30, File D66, Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 73

**Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone
Historic District
Park County, Wyoming**



Brink of Upper Falls Overlook. "Completed Project." (Source: *Final Report Reconstruction of Observation Platform – Canyon, Project FF 601*, by C.A. Lord, Park Engineer, 1937. Box K-30, File D66, Heritage Research Center, Yellowstone National Park)