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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2011



Menor's Ferry Historic District  
Grand Teton National Park

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**Contents**

Inventory Unit Summary and Site Plan

Concurrence Status

Geographic Information and Location Map

Management Information

National Register Information

Chronology and Physical History

Analysis and Evaluation

Condition

Treatment

Biography and Supplemental Information

## Inventory Unit Summary and Site Plan

### Inventory Unit

Cultural Landscape Inventory Name:	Menor's Ferry Historic District
Cultural Landscape Inventory Number:	890055
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Name:	Grand Teton National Park Landscape
Parent Cultural Landscape Inventory Number:	890193
Park Name:	Grand Teton National Park
Park Alpha Code:	GRTE
Park Org Code:	1460

### Landscape/Component Landscape Description:

The Menor's Ferry Historic District, which covers approximately 31 acres, is located within Moose, WY in Grand Teton National Park, just northeast of the Moose Headquarters Development Area and northwest of the intersection of the Wyoming Centennial Scenic Byway (US-26/US-89/US-189/US-191) and Teton Park Road.

The district spans the east and west banks of the Snake River and includes the settlements of Bill Menor, Holiday Menor, and Maud Noble, as well as cultural resources associated with Menor's Ferry (1894-1927) and events and conservation endeavors that lead to the development of Grand Teton National Park (1923-1953).

The first building on the site, the Bill Menor homestead cabin, was constructed between c. 1894 and c. 1912 by Bill Menor and was followed shortly by the Bill Menor smokehouse, storehouse, outhouse, and well in 1895, which were constructed on the west bank of the Snake River. By 1908, Bill Menor's brother, Holiday, homesteaded 160 acres on the east bank of the river, where he dry farmed and built a lime kiln. In 1918, the ferry operations and land of Bill Menor were transferred into the hands of Maud Noble, Frederick "Sydney" Sandell, and Mrs. Mary C. Lee, who constructed a cabin and storage shed south of the Bill Menor Homestead Cabin. The year 1927 marks the end of the significance of Menor's Ferry with the opening of a steel truss bridge across the Snake River. In 1923, a meeting was held at the Maud Noble cabin between Horace Albright and Jackson Hole valley residents to discuss the Jackson Hole Plan, a critical element in the formation of Grand Teton National Park. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. formed the Snake River Land Company in order to purchase the property in 1929 for the purpose of preserving the Menor's Ferry site and restoring the ferry. Around 1949, construction of the pole barn/pontoon shed and later, the transportation shed initiated.

Today, aside from 7 buildings and 9 structures, the historic district also includes a number of landscape features such as former ferry roads, the site of a former steel truss bridge, former bridge approach roads, a former oiled parking lot, the remnants of Bill Menor's irrigation ditches, and the sites of former gardens, cultivated fields, and pastures. The features are clustered together into three groups. Features associated with Bill Menor, Menor's Ferry, and Maud Noble are at the edge of a large sagebrush flat on the west river bank, while features associated with Holiday Menor are located between a steep terrace and the river on the east bank. The majority of buildings within the district are single-story western log vernacular style buildings built with native materials.

Menor's Ferry Historic District is significant at the national level under Criterion A for its association with broad patterns of exploration/settlement and transportation from 1894 to 1927 and politics/government and conservation from 1923 to 1953. Under Criterion B, the district is significant for its association with the lives of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Laurance Rockefeller and under Criterion C as an excellent example of western log vernacular architecture. Finally, the district is significant under Criterion D for its inclusion of several archeological sites likely to yield information important to early settlement and the Rockefeller restoration. The period of significance begins in 1894, the year the property was homesteaded and operated as a ferry crossing, through 1953, the year the property was acquisitioned by the National Park Service. The district retains integrity in accordance with the district's period of significance, 1894 to 1953, in terms of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and association.

Inventory Unit Size (Acres):	31
Property Level:	Component Landscape
CLI Hierarchy Description:	Menor's Ferry Historic District is one of several component landscapes within the larger Grand Teton National Park parent landscape.

## Site Plan Graphic Information



Site plan showing existing conditions at Menor's Ferry Historic District illustrating contributing and non-contributing features (GRTE GIS files).

## Concurrence Status

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

This CLI was based on the National Register nomination for Menor's Ferry Historic District, initiated by Sara Scott Adamson in 2007 and completed by Carrie Mardorf, Betsy Engle, and Katie Miller in 2011. Within the 2011 nomination, buildings, structures, and sites (which included cultural landscape features) were evaluated as contributing and non-contributing based on age and significance, condition, and integrity.

Park Superintendent Concurrence: (To be filled in upon Supt. concurrence.)

Date of Superintendent Concurrence (To be filled in upon Supt. concurrence.)

National Register Eligibility: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Eligibility  
Concurrence Date (SHPO/Keeper): (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Concurrence  
Explanatory Narrative: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

## Geographic Information and Location Map

### Inventory Unit Boundary Description:

To the west the boundary follows the edge of a terrace that parallels the 4 Lazy F Road to the northwest. To the south, the boundary heads toward Moose headquarters, crossing the river to the south of the Maud Noble cabin. On the east side of the river, the boundary follows the property line of a private park inholding, Dornan's, and then turns north along the edge of a terrace on the east river bank. The northern boundary extends to include former fields and pastures and follows the southern boundary of the 4 Lazy F Ranch, joining the east and west river terraces.

## Counties and States

State: Wyoming  
County: Teton

## Location Map Graphic Information



Location map showing Grand Teton National Park within the state of Wyoming.

## Boundary UTM

Boundary UTM Source	Boundary UTM Source Explanatory Natative	Boundary UTM Type	Boundary UTM Datum	Boundary UTM Zone	Boundary UTM Easting	Boundary UTM Northing
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523300.259	4834322.3
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523495.425	4834236.9
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523346.759	4833897.7
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523112.414	4833897.3
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523084.086	4833954.3



Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523052.948	4833958.4
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523047.862	4833978.7
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523037.69	4833991.2
Other	Taken from 2011 NR nomination	Point	NAD 83	12	523029.866	4834073

## Regional Landscape Context

### Physiographic Description:

Grand Teton National Park encompasses the majestic Teton Range and much of Jackson Hole, a large upland valley cloaked in sagebrush and surrounded by mountains and highlands. The Teton Range is approximately 9 miles wide and 40 miles long, with eight peaks over 12,000 feet in elevation. Jackson Hole ranges in width from 8 to 12 miles and 55 miles in length. The valley climate is extreme, characterized by short summers initiated in late June when heavy frosts recede and terminated by September snow. Ten-foot snowpack accumulations in the mountains are common, while the valley snow cover is generally limited to two to five feet. Despite this snowfall, the valley is semi-arid, with an average annual precipitation of 10 inches. Temperatures range from an average high of 81F in the height of summer to an average high of 25 F in the depths of winter.

The region's distinctive topographical features are the result of the geological forces of mountain building and glaciation. The Teton fault divides the range from the adjoining valley, which dropped in elevation as the mountains rose. Glacial activity created the moraines that formed the basins and sides of piedmont lakes—Leigh, Jenny, Bradley, Taggart, String, and Phelps. Located at the north end of the valley, Jackson Lake is a natural lake enlarged by a man-made dam. Forested ridges contrast sharply with surrounding gray-green sagebrush flats, a distinctive element of the landscape at Jackson Hole. The valley floor is covered with quartzite cobbles, another souvenir of the glacial eras.

The Snake River courses through Jackson Hole along a cottonwood and spruce-lined channel. It originates near the south boundary of Yellowstone National Park and flows into Jackson Lake. Below the Jackson Lake Dam, the Snake River flows east then abruptly turns to the southwest cutting a diagonal path through Jackson Hole to Idaho. Three important tributaries feed the Snake River from the east: Pacific Creek, the Buffalo Fork of the Snake, and the Gros Ventre River. Ditch Creek and Spread Creek also enter the Snake River above Moose, Wyoming. The river and its tributaries provide habitat for a wide variety of plants and animals. Beavers, otters, moose, bears, deer, eagles, ospreys, trumpeter swans, and trout are among the wildlife in the region. The ecosystem also supports the largest herd of elk in the world.

### Cultural Description:

Various cultural affiliations have defined the history of Jackson Hole. At least 18 tribal groups used that area now known as Grand Teton National Park for subsistence, trade, ceremonial, or other purposes, including the Crow, Blackfeet, Gros Ventre, and Shoshonis (Walker Research Group, Ltd., 2007). The land was used sporadically in the hospitable summer months yet

foresworn as a long-term habitation site. The rivers, streams, ponds, and willow thickets that define the Snake River and Gros Ventre watersheds once supported an abundant beaver population. Fur trapper John Colter is thought to have entered the valley in 1807, followed eleven years later by Donald MacKenzie of the British North West Company and by William Sublette, Jedediah Smith, and David Jackson of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company. The upper Green River basin proved a more convenient location for the annual trappers' rendezvous, and no trading post or fort was ever established in Jackson Hole. Resources associated with this period of the valley's history are thus intangible: these men trapped in the rivers, traversed and mapped the valleys and passes, and left a legacy of exploration and of nomenclature: most notably Les Trois Tetons (The Three Breasts) and Jackson's Hole, shortened in recent decades to Jackson Hole.

Circa 1865, prospectors followed the fur trappers, traveling through Jackson Hole to the Yellowstone Country along the Snake River. They found a region void of significant mineral deposits. The explorers of the "scientific frontier," U.S. Government scientists supported by congressional appropriations and charged with a study of the West's topography, geology, ethnology, found more of interest in the valley. Ferdinand V. Hayden, whose 1871 survey of the Yellowstone country contributed to creation of the first national park, traveled to Jackson Hole in 1872. Though widely disputed, Hayden and Nathaniel Langford claimed the first documented EuroAmerican ascent of the Grand Teton. However, most sources question the verity of this claim, and cite the actual first EuroAmerican ascent 25 years later by William O. Owen. Photographer William H. Jackson also took the first photographic images of the Teton Range from Idaho during this era.

Although spectacularly beautiful, these mountains isolated Jackson Hole from the primary travel routes of western settlement and fostered and held the heavy snow and bitter cold of Jackson Hole's long winters and corresponding short growing seasons. The first wave of western settlement was along the Oregon and California trails. Later, on the heels of Homestead legislation, settlers came in search of well-watered, fertile land. As productive farmland elsewhere became scarce, as railroads entered Wyoming and Montana, as auto roads mitigated Jackson Hole's isolation, and as Mormon pioneers moved east from the Salt Lake Basin, Jackson Hole witnessed a turn-of-the-century settlement boom.

Although a number of homesteaders settled in Jackson Hole in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, most ranching operations had little success due to harsh environmental conditions. As a result, a number of true farms and ranches became dude ranches early in the 20th century. Jackson Hole's spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and ranching culture engendered a tourist industry that, by the 1950s, accounted for more than 70% of the region's economy. In 1908, Louis Joy and Struthers Burt opened Jackson Hole's first dude ranch, the JY Ranch. The Bar BC, White Grass, Ramshorn, Double Diamond, STS, and numerous other ranches (some constructed as dude ranches, some representing converted homesteads) soon followed.

The tourist industry was sustained not only by Americans' fascination with the Old West but by the conservation of the region's biotic and scenic resources. In 1929, Congress set aside a portion of the present-day Grand Teton National Park, encompassing the Teton Range and piedmont lakes. With establishment of the national park came administrative responsibilities, including the management of concessioners, the development of appropriate architectural guidelines, and the construction of backcountry tourist and administrative trails, fire-guard and patrol cabins, administrative headquarters, and ranger stations.

#### Political Description:

Political actions have also affected the settlement of Jackson Hole. Executive Order Number 4685, issued by President Calvin Coolidge on July 7, 1927, (closing much of Jackson Hole to homestead entry) and a subsequent executive order issued by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on March 15, 1943, (creating Jackson Hole National Monument) dramatically affected



the area. The first date essentially marked the end of the homestead era; the second marked the end of the settlement era, with the important exception of continued private land transactions. Jackson Hole National Monument was later combined with Grand Teton National Park (established in 1929) in 1950. That same year, the park was expanded to include additional acres owned by the Snake River Land Company.

### Management Information

Management Category: Should be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 04/16/1969

Management Category Explanatory Narrative: Menor's Ferry was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1969, and therefore should be preserved and maintained.

### Management Agreement

Management Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date: NA

### NPS Legal Interest

Type of Legal Interest: Fee Simple

Fee Simple Reservation for Life: NA

Fee Simple Reservation Expiration Date: NA

NPS Legal Interest Explanatory Narrative: The National Park Service owns the Menor's Ferry Historic District in fee simple, no encumbrances.

### Public Access to Site

Public Access: Unrestricted

Public Access Explanatory Narrative: [The public has unrestricted access to the Menor's Ferry area. The majority of visitors park in the parking lot east of the Chapel of Transfiguration and walk to the area via asphalt paths.](#)

### National Register Information

National Register Landscape Documentation: Entered—Inadequately documented

National Register Explanatory Narrative: Menor's Ferry was listed on the National Register of historic Places on 04/16/1969; however, the resulting National Register property only included the ferry. . A subsequent nomination was drafted in 2007 by Sara Scott

Adamson and subsequently revised by Carrie Mardorf, Betsy Engle, and Katie Miller in 2011.

This CLI is based on the findings of the 2011 nomination, and expands the property boundary, changes the period of significance, and adds a number of new contributing and non-contributing buildings, structures, and landscape features.

National Register Eligibility: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Eligibility Concurrence Date: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Concurrence Explanatory Narrative: (To be filled in upon SHPO concurrence.)

National Register Significance Level: National

National Register Significance Contributing/Individual: Individual

National Register Classification: District

National Historic Landmark Status: No

National Historic Landmark Date: NA

National Historic Landmark Theme: NA

World Heritage Site Status: No

World Heritage Site Date: NA

World Heritage Category: NA

#### Statement of Significance:

The Menor's Ferry Historic District is significant at the national level under Criterion A for its association with the broad patterns of transportation, exploration/settlement, politics/government, conservation, and its significant contribution to those contexts outlined in the Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission. The district is also significant under Criterion B for its association with the lives of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Laurance Rockefeller and under Criterion C as an excellent example of western log vernacular architecture. Finally, the district is significant under Criterion D for its potential to yield information pertaining to early settlement and transportation within Jackson Hole. The period of significance begins in 1894, the year the property was homesteaded by Bill Menor and operated as a ferry crossing, through 1953, when the property was acquisitioned by the National Park Service. The ferry itself was an important mode of transportation that supported settlement throughout the Jackson Hole valley. Menor's Ferry is a rare remaining example of a once common and critical form of travel in the American west, a tool for the settlers of the area that the *New York Times* called "more important than were the covered bridges to the New Englanders." The buildings within the district are exceptional examples of the western log vernacular style of architecture, as rustic buildings constructed of local logs and mortar. The district is also significant for its major contributions to the establishment and development of Grand Teton National Park. Maud Noble Cabin is significant as the location where the 1923 Jackson Hole Plan was hatched in support of the establishment of a National Park. Although initial local support for the establishment of a park dwindled as the well-known philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and son Laurance became involved in the project, the preservation of the district by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. in 1949 and 1950 rekindled local interest. The Rockefeller preservation was conducted on a national scale with the involvement of Kendrew, the architect of Colonial Williamsburg, and drew national interest as a

tourist destination that was meant to capture early pioneer settlement not only of Jackson Hole, but of the American West. The events and efforts that took place at Menor's Ferry Historic District altered the course of the history of Grand Teton National Park in multiple eras, and deserve recognition on a national level.

***Criterion A—Exploration/Settlement and Transportation, 1894-1927; Politics/Government and Conservation, 1923 to 1953***

Under Criterion A, Menor's Ferry Historic District is significant for its role as a local transportation route during a period of homesteading in the American west. In particular, the initial thirty years of occupation at Menor's Ferry is an excellent representation of early settlement of the Jackson Hole region along the Snake River, as outlined in the *Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission* of 1998.

In the areas of transportation and exploration/settlement, the district is an important river crossing, where the braided Snake River narrows to one deep channel, forming a location conducive to ferry operations. In addition, the banks were low, allowing for access to the river at that location, but not so low the area was prone to flooding (Daugherty et al., 187). These natural systems and features not only allowed the establishment of the ferry, but also provided a natural gateway to the settlement of lands on the west side of the river. However, because of the poor rocky soils, the majority of homesteads developed on the west side of the river were established during the later period of the homestead era, and were eventually converted to dude ranches. In addition to homesteads, the ferry also allowed homesteaders on the east side of the river to harvest additional building materials, such as timber, on western lands.

The ferry location itself also became a homestead site with the development of the Bill Menor homestead in 1894 and the Holiday Menor homestead in 1908. The flat, un-forested nature of the land chosen by both Menor brothers provided ample land for gardens, fields, and pastures that required minimal effort to be cleared.

As an early transportation route, the district is important as a Jackson Hole cultural tradition for crossing the Snake River by way of boat. Menor's Ferry continued operation from 1894 until 1927, losing its importance with the construction of a steel truss bridge to the south of the ferry site. With the restoration of the ferry operations in 1949, the cultural tradition of crossing the Snake River by boat was revived—a local cultural tradition that continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Under politics/government and conservation, the district is significant for its role in the development of a plan which led to the development of Grand Teton National Park. In 1923, a meeting was held at the Maud Noble cabin between Horace Albright and Jackson Hole locals to discuss the conversion of Jackson Hole into a recreation area. Later to be referred to as the Jackson Hole Plan, the idea was to send representatives east to raise money from their wealthy connections to quietly purchase the privately owned ranches in the north part of the valley. The wealthy donors would purchase and hold the land until Congress appropriated funds to reimburse them and add the land to the national park system. The resulting park unit at Grand Teton was envisioned as a reserve or recreation area which would preserve the "Old West" character of the valley, a "museum on the hoof." Native wildlife would be protected or reintroduced, buildings would all be of log construction, roads would remain unpaved, and the town of Jackson would be preserved as a rustic western town. Above all, traditional activities, such as ranching and hunting, would continue. The locals who attended the meeting agreed to withdraw any objection to the creation of a park within the Teton Range (Thompson 21).

One major advocate of the Jackson Hole Plan was philanthropist John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Beginning in 1927, Rockefeller purchased a significant portion of land in Jackson Hole with the intention of donating it to the National Park Service for inclusion in Grand Teton National Park. During the period in which the Rockefeller family controlled Menor's Ferry, many attempts were made towards the preservation of the historic district including an evaluation of the district's

historic resources by Colonial Williamsburg architect A.E. Kendrew and the restoration of Menor's Ferry and surrounding lands during the late 1940s and early 1950s. In 1953, ownership of the land was transferred to the National Park Service. For a more complete history of the politics/government and conservation contexts within Jackson Hole, please refer to the 1998 *Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission*.

**Criterion B—John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Laurance Rockefeller**

Under Criterion B, the district is significant for its association with John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his son, Laurance Rockefeller, who are recognized for their conservation efforts in several well-known National Parks throughout the United States. Son of John D. Rockefeller, Standard Oil industrialist, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. was a philanthropist with a particular interest in conservation. Rockefeller purchased land for the purpose of donating it to the United States government for inclusion in several national parks including the Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah National Park, Yosemite National Park, Acadia National Park, and Grand Teton National Park. His son, Laurance Rockefeller, shared his interest in conservation, eventually taking over his father's responsibilities in Grand Teton.

In 1926 when the Jackson Hole Plan to develop the region as a National Park Service unit was still in its infancy, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his family visited Jackson Hole and found the commercial development along the shores of Jenny Lake to be upsetting to the natural beauty of the area. As a result, Rockefeller agreed to anonymously purchase all land north of Jackson and Spring Gulch through the Snake River Land Company (an organization which he formed), for the purpose of donating it to the National Park Service as a contribution to the Jackson Hole Plan. In 1929, the Rockefellers supported the preservation of the then heavily deteriorated and abandoned Menor's Ferry. However, it wasn't until the 1940s when preservation efforts were first planned. In 1942, Laurence Rockefeller brought A.E. Kendrew, the architect in charge of the restoration of Rockefeller's Colonial Williamsburg, to the district for two months to evaluate the historic resources at the ferry site. Later in 1949, the restoration of the ferry and surrounding lands were carried out by Harold Fabian, Vice President of the Snake River Land Company, using drawings drafted by A.E. Kendrew. The heavily advertised restoration allowed for the ferry to be placed back in operation and returned the landscape to its early homestead appearance and character. Menor's Ferry Historic District was transferred over to the National Park Service in 1953. For further information concerning the significance of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and Laurence Rockefeller, please refer to the 1998 *Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission*.

**Criterion C—Western Log Vernacular Architecture**

The architecture of Menor's Ferry is typical of settlement-era resources in Jackson Hole. The buildings are built in the local vernacular of square-notched or hog-trough log construction, both styles that could be built quickly of local materials.

A number of buildings throughout the district, including the Bill Menor homestead cabin, smokehouse, and storehouse, as well as the Maud Noble cabin and storage shed, exhibit characteristics of western log vernacular architecture. These buildings and structures are characterized by a combination of local rock and stone building materials. Bill Menor constructed the single story L-shape cross-gabled homestead cabin between c. 1894 and c. 1912 with square-notched logs, framed board walls, and board and batten siding, and a mortared river rock foundation. In 1895, he constructed the smokehouse and storehouse as single story buildings with hog-trough (smokehouse) and square-notched (storehouse) logs daubed with concrete. The storehouse foundation consists of mortared river rock, while the smokehouse foundation is constructed of dry-laid river rock. It is unclear who constructed the Maud Noble cabin and storage shed, which was moved from a property north of the Menor's Ferry Historic District, but the single-story gabled buildings constructed of hog-trough (storage shed) and square-notched (cabin) logs daubed with concrete and chinked with thin branches and/or saplings are excellent examples of the architectural style. However, it is likely the architectural style of the Maud Noble

cabin was influenced by Noble's stay as a guest at the Bar BC dude ranch, which later influenced her use of traditional rustic, "Old West" ranch style. A full description and history of vernacular architecture in Jackson Hole can be found in the *Grand Teton National Park Multiple Property Submission* of 1998.

### **Criterion D—Archeology**

Menor's Ferry Historic District is also significant under Criterion D, as it is likely to yield information important to history relating to exploration/settlement and transportation within Jackson Hole. The Menor's Ferry Historic District was surveyed four times between 1988 and 2002 and only the Holiday Menor foundation was found to retain integrity. However, none of these surveys penetrated the ground surface, and to date, archeological surveys of the area have only focused on former building sites, not broader landscape features. Investigations of additional areas, such as the sites of former vegetable and flower gardens, may reveal additional information related to settlement patterns of the area. Additionally, surveys of the ferry site, former steel truss bridge site, and the sites of former ferry roads and bridge approach roads may reveal information pertaining to early transportation systems of the park. As a result, Menor's Ferry has the potential to contribute to the understanding of the history of settlement and transportation patterns of Jackson Hole.

### **Criteria Considerations B and E**

Some of the buildings and structures within Menor's Ferry Historic District fall under Criteria Considerations B and E for those features removed from their original locations and reconstructed buildings, objects, or structures. Several buildings have been removed from their original locations, including the Bill Menor smokehouse and outhouse, as well as the Maud Noble cabin and storage shed. Both the smokehouse and the outhouse were moved only a short distance away from the eroding river bank after gaining historic significance, while the Maud Noble cabin, and most likely the Maud Noble storage shed, moved to their current positions during the period of significance.

#### Criteria Consideration B

The smokehouse was moved in 1997 5' to the west. Although moved, the property is still eligible and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings."

From previous documentation, it appears the Bill Menor outhouse is not in its original location, but was moved approximately 20' to the southeast. Although moved, the property is still eligible, and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings."

The Maud Noble cabin was moved from its original location on Cottonwood Creek, but it was moved prior to the point at which it gained significance, and is therefore eligible despite having been moved, under Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*.

Photographic evidence indicates the Maud Noble storage shed was originally oriented to the south, and at some point was turned ninety degrees to face west. Although moved, the property is still eligible, and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings" according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*.

#### Criteria Consideration E

Menor's Ferry was listed on the National Register in 1969. The current ferry is a replica built in 1990, with 2001 pontoons; however, it remains eligible as a reconstruction under Criteria Consideration E according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*.

## NRIS Information

Park Alpha Code/ NRIS Name (Number): GRTE/Menor's Ferry (69000016)  
 Other National Register Name: NA  
 Primary Certification Date: 04/16/1969

## National Register Significance Criteria

National Register Significance Criteria:

- A – x
- B – x
- C – x
- D – x

## National Register Significance Criteria Considerations

National Register Criteria Consideration: B, E

## National Register Period of Significance

Start Year: 1894 AD  
 End Year: 1953 AD

## Historic Context Theme

Historic Context Theme:	Peopling Places
Historic Context Subtheme:	Other
Historic Context Facet:	NA
Other Historic Facet	Homesteading
Historic Context Theme:	Development of the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	Other
Historic Context Facet:	NA
Other Historic Facet	Transportation by Ferry
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	Rustic Architecture
Other Historic Facet	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Transforming the Environment
Historic Context Subtheme:	Historic Preservation
Historic Context Facet:	The Federal Government Enters the Movement, 1884-1949
Other Historic Facet	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme:	Social and Humanitarian Movements
Historic Context Facet:	Historic Preservation Movement

Other Historic Facet	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Creating Social Institutions and Movements
Historic Context Subtheme:	Recreation
Historic Context Facet:	Tourism
Other Historic Facet:	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	Agriculture
Historic Context Facet:	Subsistence Agriculture
Other Historic Facet:	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Expressing Cultural Values
Historic Context Subtheme:	Landscape Architecture
Historic Context Facet:	Protection of Natural and Cultural Resources
Other Historic Facet:	NA
Historic Context Theme:	Developing the American Economy
Historic Context Subtheme:	Transportation by Land and Air
Historic Context Facet:	Land Travel West of the Mississippi after 1840
Other Historic Facet:	NA

### **National Register Areas of Significance**

Area of Significance Category:	Exploration/Settlement Transportation Conservation Architecture Politics/Government Archeology – Historic - Non-Aboriginal
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### **Chronology and Physical History**

Primary Historic Function - Major Category:	Transportation
Primary Historic Function - Category:	Water-Related
Primary Historic Function:	Water-Related - Other
Primary Current Use - Major Category:	Education
Primary Current Use - Category:	Interpretive Landscape
Primary Current Use:	NA
Ethnographic Study Conducted:	No survey conducted.
Ethnographic Significance Description:	NA

### **Cultural Landscape Types**

Cultural Landscape Type:	Vernacular Landscape
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### **Other Current and Historic Uses/Functions**

Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Domestic
Other Historic Function – Category:	Single Family Dwelling



Other Historic Function or Current Use:	Cabin
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Historic
Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Domestic
Other Historic Function – Category:	Small Residential Landscape
Other Historic Function or Current Use:	NA
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Historic
Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Landscape
Other Historic Function – Category:	Leisure-Passive (Park)
Other Historic Function or Current Use:	N/A
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Both current and historic
Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Landscape
Other Historic Function – Category:	Scenic Landscape
Other Historic Function or Current Use:	View
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Both current and historic
Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Landscape
Other Historic Function – Category:	Functional Landscape
Other Historic Function or Current Use:	Pedestrian Circulation
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Both current and historic
Other Historic Function – Major Category:	Domestic
Other Historic Function – Category:	Secondary Structure
Other Historic Function or Current Use:	NA
Other Historic Function of Current Use Type:	Both current and historic

## Ethnographic Associated Groups

Ethnographic Associated Group Name: NA

Current and Historic Names

Current and Historic Name	Type of Current and Historic Name
Menor's Ferry	Both Historic and Current
Menor's Ferry Historic District	Both Historic and Current
Maude Noble Cabin	Both Historic and Current
Bill Menor Homestead	Both Historic and Current
Holiday Menor Homestead	Both Historic and Current
48TE0901	Both Historic and Current
48TE0925	Both Historic and Current

## Chronology

<a href="#">Start Year of Major Event</a>	<a href="#">Start Era of Major</a>	<a href="#">End Year of Major Event</a>	<a href="#">End Era of Major</a>	<a href="#">Major Event</a>	<a href="#">Major Event Description</a>

	<a href="#">Event</a>		<a href="#">Event</a>		
1894	AD	1894	AD	Homesteaded	July. Bill Menor homesteads on 148 acres on the west bank of the Snake River. He also builds and operates a pontoon ferry along the river at a point where the braided river contracted into a single channel.
1894	AD	1894	AD	Built	Shortly after establishing his homestead, Menor constructs a series of irrigation ditches, securing water rights from Cottonwood Creek. At one point (likely later in his tenure) he also constructs a water wheel to supply river water to the ditches.
1894	AD	1894	AD	Built	Menor builds a cabin out of logs, six to nine inches wide, and square notched.
1894	AD	1903	AD	Built	Menor builds a barn (no longer extant), a shed (possibly the extant smokehouse), a storehouse with root cellar, a shop (probably his blacksmith shop, no longer extant), an icehouse (no longer extant), and corrals (no longer extant), and fenced his land.
1894	AD	1911	AD	Established	Bill Menor is the only homesteader on the west bank of the river.
1894	AD	1918	AD	Built	Menor operates the ferry during periods of high water; wagons ford the river during the winter and other times of low water. When the ferry was not in operation, Menor used a platform cable car, which would carry three or four people at a time, to transport pedestrians across the river. In later years, Menor and his neighbors built a temporary log bridge each winter, which then was dismantled in the spring.

1894	AD	1918	AD	Established	In addition to the ferry, Bill Menor operated a store selling Bull Durham tobacco, overalls, tin pans, fish hooks; gloves, socks, overshoes, tea, sugar, coffee; honey, beans and rice, dry fruit, soda crackers, cheese, canned pork and beans, jam, canned fruit, sardines, candy, kerosene, axes, shovels, and knives.
1894	AD	1918	AD	Established	Menor's homestead cabin operated somewhat as a restaurant and boarding house, depending on high water flows.
1895	AD	1895	AD	Cultivated	Menor cultivates twelve acres.
1896	AD	1918	AD	Farmed/Harvested	Menor farms only five acres, raising vegetables in the truck garden, for his own consumption and for sale. The plants grown in the garden likely include currants, raspberries, radishes, strawberries, rhubarb, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, beets, rutabagas, onions, cauliflowers, and lettuce. He also grows flowers.
1903	AD	1903	AD	Established	Menor's improvements are valued at \$2500, which included the value of his ferry boat.
1905	AD	1905	AD	Settled	Bill Menor's brother, Holiday Menor, arrives in Jackson Hole and lives with his brother.
1905	AD	1905	AD	Altered	A frame addition (now the central section) is added to Bill Menor's cabin to the east.
1905	AD	1912	AD	Altered	A second addition (now the east section) with a front-gable and porch is added to Menor's cabin.
1908	AD	1908	AD	Developed	Bill Menor secures legal title to his land.
1908	AD	1908	AD	Homesteaded	Holiday Menor homesteads 160 acres on the east bank of the Snake River, where he dry-farms and builds and operates a lime kiln.
1908	AD	1908	AD	Cultivated	Holiday Menor cultivates twenty acres of wheat and barley, and harvests twenty-five tons of grain hay.
1908	AD	1912	AD	Built	Holiday Menor clears additional acreage for crops. He also builds a barn, three log cabins, a well, and a

					system of fences and corrals.
1908	AD	1918	AD	Cultivated	Holiday Menor establishes a vegetable and flower garden. Holiday becomes known for his pansies, which grow on the north side of his homestead buildings.
1908	AD	1918	AD	Built	Holiday establishes a lime kiln, burning and selling 250 bushels of lime each year. Lime from the kiln is used as an annual white-wash on Bill Menor's homestead buildings.
1909	AD	1909	AD	Cultivated	Holiday Menor cultivates forty acres of wheat and barley, and threshes it to produce 350 bushels of grain.
1910	AD	1910	AD	Built	Circa 1910. The ferry boat is replaced.
1911	AD	1911	AD	Developed	Jim Manges homesteads his property, also on the west bank of the river, ending Menor's occupation as the sole homesteader on that bank.
1912	AD	1912	AD	Cultivated	Holiday Menor cultivates eighty acres of wheat and barley, producing 1,200 bushels of grain.
1912	AD	1918	AD	Cultivated	Holiday raises wheat, barley and alfalfa, with an average yield of 900 bushels of grain and thirty-five tons of hay.
1915	AD	1915	AD	Settled	Maud Noble first comes to Jackson Hole and stays at the Bar BC Ranch. She begins making plans to stay in the area.
1916	AD	1916	AD	Built	A three room, L-shaped log cabin is built for Noble on the Bessette property, on the east side of Cottonwood Creek.
1918	AD	1918	AD	Purchased/Sold	Maud Noble, Frederick "Sydney" Sandell, and Mrs. Mary C. Lee buy Menor's ferry operation and homestead. Bill Menor moves to California.
1918	AD	1918	AD	Moved	Maud Noble's cabin is moved from Cottonwood Creek to the Menor's ferry area.
1919	AD	1919	AD	Purchased/Sold	Maud Noble and Sydney Sandell buy out Mrs. Mary C. Lee's portion of the ferry operation.

1919	AD	1919	AD	Established	Holiday Menor acquires official title to his homestead.
1919	AD	1929	AD	Farmed/Harvested	Noble grows a large vegetable and flower garden, which was irrigated by a waterwheel mounted on a floating platform in the river, contained by cribbing, which emptied into a trough that led to irrigation ditches.
1923	AD	1923	AD	Established	July 26. A meeting between Horace Albright and Jackson Hole valley residents occurs at Maud Noble's cabin. The meeting becomes the origin of the Jackson Hole Plan, which was a critical element in the formation of Grand Teton National Park.
1924	AD	1924	AD	Established	Holiday Menor pays taxes on 140 acres of non-irrigated but cultivated land, 24 acres of grazing land, two calves, two milk cows, two work horses, one saddle horse, saddles and carriages.
1924	AD	1924	AD	Developed	Summer. John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his family visits Yellowstone National Park, during which a trip is arranged for them to see the Grand Tetons at Jackson Hole.
1924	AD	1925	AD	Built	A 13-mile road is built between Jackson and Menor's Ferry.
1925	AD	1925	AD	Purchased/Sold	Noble and Frederick Sandell acquire additional water rights from Cottonwood Creek.
1925	AD	1925	AD	Land Transfer	Noble and Sandell donate approximately one acre of land to St. John's Episcopal Church for the site of the Chapel of the Transfiguration, west of the Maud Noble cabin and Bill Menor homestead.
1926	AD	1926	AD	Built	Construction begins on a steel truss bridge just downriver from Menor's Ferry and north of the Maud Noble cabin.
1926	AD	1926	AD	Purchased/Sold	Summer. Upset to see development within the Jackson Hole area, John D. Rockefeller helps the Jackson Hole Plan come to fruition by purchasing private lands within the valley.

1927	AD	1927	AD	Established	The steel truss bridge is opened; the ferry ceases operations. Noble and Sandell move to a ranch seven miles south of Wilson.
1927	AD	1928	AD	Established	Summers. Noble's cabin is used as a tea room.
1928	AD	1928	AD	Purchased/Sold	Holiday Menor sells his homestead and follows his brother to California.
1928	AD	1943	AD	Established	Rockefeller forms the Snake River Land Company, which later became Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., and purchase approximately 35,000 acres of land at a cost of \$1.4 million.
1929	AD	1929	AD	Removed	At some point after Holiday Menor sells his property, whatever remained of his homestead was removed, leaving only the lime kiln and a building foundation.
1929	AD	1929	AD	Established	The first Grand Teton National Park is formed, which encompasses only the Teton Range and a small portion of the valley at the base of the mountains. The park was mainly composed of land that was already Federally owned.
1929	AD	1929	AD	Purchased/Sold	Noble and Sandell sell the ferry, Menor homestead, and the Noble cabin to the Snake River Land Company. The Bill Menor homestead cabin is leased for use as a post office and for other commercial purposes.
1929	AD	1929	AD	Preserved	Remnants of the former ferry system are found and preserved with the idea that they would be restored in the future.
1929	AD	1929	AD	Moved	The Moose post office is relocated to the school building near Menor's Ferry. The area around Menor's Ferry becomes known as Moose.
1929	AD	1937	AD	Established	The Maud Noble cabin is rented to Reed Turner, then Jack Woodman.
1937	AD	1943	AD	Developed	Maud Noble's cabin is rented to Jim and Viola Budge. The open porch is enclosed for use as an extra bedroom. Another porch was enclosed and used as a wood shed and chicken coop.

1942	AD	1942	AD	Planned	Summer. At the suggestion of Laurence Rockefeller, A. E. Kendrew, architect in charge of the Rockefeller's restoration at Colonial Williamsburg is sent to Jackson Hole to evaluate which historic resources should be restored as potential interpretive sites. Kendrew produces measured drawings of the Bill Menor homestead buildings and the ferry, as well as of the other resources he had identified as significant.
1943	AD	1943	AD	Established	President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishes Jackson Hole National Monument.
1943	AD	1948	AD	Altered	Frank Carmichael and his wife (later Mrs. J. B. Moseley, an artist) live at Maud Noble's cabin. They make a number of changes to the building, including the addition of white fiberboard on the ceilings.
1949	AD	1949	AD	Restored	June. Using Kendrew's drawings from 1942 and remnants of the original ferry boat, Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. (the successor to the Snake River Land Company) reconstructs and restores the ferry operations. The Menor homestead buildings are also restored.
1949	AD	1949	AD	Restored	Photographs of the restoration work show workers installing north-south buck and rail fence west of the homestead cabin, installing east-west fencing south of the cabin, removing original ferry cable and deadman, restoration of the irrigation system, digging a well outside of the fenced area, watering and oiling parking areas, old road still visible.
1949	AD	1949	AD	Established	August 20. The restored ferry is formally dedicated and opened.
1949	AD	1949	AD	Established	Photographs of the dedication ceremony show post a rail fence with a large gate, parking, log benches.



1949	AD	1949	AD	Restored	Circa 1949. Specifications for the restoration notes the construction of fences and gates to be built of “native fir or pine rough sawn lumber.” The specifications also note parking areas with log bumpers to be installed (Specifications, circa 1949).
1949	AD	1949	AD	Built	A shed is constructed for a transportation exhibit at Menor’s Ferry.
1949	AD	1957	AD	Built	A pole barn/ pontoon exhibit shed is built to house the remnants of Menor’s Ferry pontoon.
1949	AD	1949	AD	Moved	1949 or after. The Menor outhouse is moved twenty feet to the southeast from its original location.
1949	AD	1951	AD	Restored	The Maud Noble cabin exterior is restored, while the interior is adapted for use as a tea room, called the “Ferry Ranch Inn”. As part of the restoration, the wall between the living room and southwest bedroom was removed, as were the boards from the semi-enclosed porch, restoring its original appearance. A small shed-roof addition housing a water heater was added to the rear of the house, which has since been removed. Josephine Fabian (wife of Harold Fabian, Vice President of the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.) operated the tea room from 1950 to 1951.
1950	AD	1953	AD	Established	President Harry S. Truman signs a bill creating a “new” Grand Teton National Park, which encompasses the first Grand Teton National Park (1929), and the Jackson Hole National Monument (1943).

1950	AD	1950	AD	Restored	<p>Circa 1950. Existing features at Menor's Ferry include the homestead cabin with 2 museum rooms, store building, smokehouse, privy, well, garden, irrigation system, buck and pole fences, and carriage house. "The garden has been replaced in the place used formerly by the Menors, and contains currants and raspberry bushes, garden vegetables and flowers similar to those raised...The irrigation system which served the ranch has been restored; the headgates, laterals and ditches have been rebuilt and repaired; and the water from them is used to irrigate the garden, the vegetation and landscaping around the buildings, and the pasture... The buck and pole fences around the pasture and enclosing the outside perimeter are the typical fence of this region, made of native pine poles...The Carriage House is not old; it was built of logs to house the early-day vehicles which have been presented to the Restoration for museum purposes." (Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park, nd).</p>
1950	AD	1950	AD	Restored	<p>Circa 1950. Additional features on the east river bank, include the lime kiln and remnants of the old ferry boat operation. "Along the path, under the Snake River Bridge" is a waterwheel "which revolves from the force of the stream, dips up waters, spilling it into the trough with an outlet higher than the ditch into which it flows, using gravity to carry water to the grounds and garden of Miss Maud Noble's old cabin." (Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park, nd).</p>
1953	AD	1953	AD	Established	<p>Menor's Ferry is transferred into the hands of the National Park Service.</p>

1953	AD	1953	AD	Built	A partition wall is built in Maud Noble's cabin in the location of the wall that had been removed in 1949. The semi-enclosed porch was enclosed again.
1958	AD	1958	AD	Destroyed	Steel truss bridge is removed.
1960	AD	1960	AD	Established	July 19. Maud Noble cabin is used as a permanent employee residence. The NPS begins thinking about restoring the cabin and moving the transportation barn to a new location (Letter from Park Engineer to Assistant Superintendent, July 19, 1960).
1965	AD	1965	AD	Established	HABS drawings of Menor's Ferry, the Bill Menor buildings, and the Maud Noble cabin are produced as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program.
1969	AD	1969	AD	Established	April 16. Menor's Ferry is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
1972	AD	1972	AD	Established	An NPS management meeting is held and the following is agreed upon—(1) remove flagpole and old contact station, including the connected restrooms; (2) remove transportation shed; (3) replace Menor's barn by constructing a new one or moving in a historic barn from the area to take the place of the original; (4) restore the gardens at Menor's cabin and Maude Noble cabin; (5) restore the lane along the river between Maude Noble's cabin and Menor's cabin; (6) rehabilitate well at Menor's Ferry by making it operable so that one could draw a fresh bucket of water" (Historic Structures Report 1976, 23).

1976	AD	1976	AD	Established	A Historic Structures Report (HSR) is drafted for Menor's Ferry. Buildings and structures addressed in the report include the Menor cabin, storehouse/root cellar, smokehouse, privy, wellhead, cable head, and ferry boat. (HSR 1976, 19).
1976	AD	1976	AD	Established	The HSR notes a dirt footpath leading to the site. It also states, "there are no trees or bushes in front of the cabins, but there are some good-sized trees along the Snake River banks." The cabins rest on relatively flat ground surrounded by native grasses with the trees along the river providing the only shade. There is a new log rail fence under construction on both sides of the pathway approaching the homestead cabin (Historic Structures Report 1976, 1). "In conjunction with the ferryboat is an approach road, which has been covered with blacktop paving. In addition to the blacktop, someone has added steps in the roadway so that the visitor approaches the boat by way of blacktopped steps or low terraces in the roadway. This leads to the water's edge and down to the ferryboat deck" (HSR 1976, 19).

1982	AD	1982	AD	Established	A memorandum notes “the historic scene is non-existent” with powerlines, non-historic structures in the district, Mission 66 housing, and inholding on the east bank of the river. It also notes reconstructed facilities, including a wellhead, cableworks, and ferry.
1983	AD	1983	AD	Reconstructed	The 1949 ferry boat reconstruction is beached and no longer used.
1983	AD	1983	AD	Built	A walking tour interpretive brochure notes 11 interpretive stations within Menor’s Ferry.
1990	AD	1990	AD	Reconstructed	A replica ferry boat is built based on the 1949 ferry.
1997	AD	1997	AD	Moved	The Bill Menor smokehouse is moved five feet to the west to prevent it from falling into the river when the bank began eroding beneath it.
2001	AD	2001	AD	Reconstructed	New ferry boat pontoons are rebuilt by the San Francisco Maritime Museum.
2007	AD	2007	AD	Established	A revised National Register nomination is drafted by Sara Scott Adamson.
2009	AD	2009	AD	Rehabilitated	During the summer, repairs are made on several buildings and structures in the district, including the transportation shed, Bill Menor well, Bill Menor storehouse, Bill Menor homestead cabin, Bill Menor outhouse, and Bill Menor smokehouse.
2010	AD	2011	AD	Established	The revised National Register nomination is edited by Betsy Engle, Carrie Mardorf, and Katie Miller. Using the information within the nomination, a Cultural Landscape Inventory is completed.

## Physical History

### Introduction

Menor’s Ferry was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1969. The original nomination was limited to the ferry, which is listed as a nationally significant object. The nomination did not include structures, landscape features, a detailed history, or a description of the site and the period of significance was restricted to 1892-1927, highlighting the year it was believed Bill Menor first ran the ferry (later to be proven it was not until 1894), until a bridge was constructed across the Snake River in 1927. The amended nomination expands the district size to include 25 contributing resources, including 7 buildings, 11 sites, and 7 structures. The new nomination extends the period of significance from 1894 to 1953. The first period begins with the

year Bill Menor constructed his settlement, and ends with acquisition of the property by the National Park Service.

The Menor's Ferry Historic District extends across the Snake River and includes the settlements of Bill Menor, Holiday Menor, and Maud Noble, as well as cultural resources associated with Menor's Ferry (1894-1927) and John D. Rockefeller, Jr.'s procurement of the site (1929-1953). Aside from the contributing buildings, structures, and sites associated with these periods in time, the historic district includes contributing cultural landscape characteristics such as ferry roads, the site of a former steel truss bridge, bridge approach roads, an oiled parking lot, the remnants of Bill Menor's irrigation ditches, the sites of vegetable and flower gardens, cultivated fields, pastures, adjacent landscape features, spatial organization, and vegetation. Bill and Holiday Menor were among the earliest homesteaders in the Jackson Hole area; the ferry was a critical element in the Jackson Hole transportation system; the Maud Noble cabin was the site of an important meeting in the history of the conservation of the land that would become Grand Teton National Park; and the preservation of the homesteads by Rockefeller's Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. from 1929 until 1953 was an early effort to acknowledge and protect historic structures in the park and marked a significant turning point in public opinion regarding the establishment of Grand Teton National Park.

Bill Menor homesteaded on the west bank of the Snake River in 1894, and built and operated a pontoon ferry, which was the most important Snake River crossing for fifteen to twenty miles in either direction and one of three important river crossings in the valley. His brother, Holiday Menor, homesteaded across the river in 1908, where he dry-farmed and built and operated a lime kiln. The extant Menor resources include Bill Menor's homestead cabin [HS-0116], smokehouse [HS-0114], storehouse [HS-0115], outhouse [HS-0114A], well [HS-0116A], Menor's Ferry [HS-0110A], and the Bill Menor irrigation ditch—all on the west side of the river—and the Holiday Menor lime kiln [HS-0114B] and foundation at the site of his homestead on the east side of the river. One pontoon from the historic ferry is preserved, under the pontoon exhibit shed [HS-311] on the east shore.

Maud Noble and Frederick "Sydney" Sandell bought the ferry operation and Bill Menor's homestead in 1918. That year, Noble moved her cabin from Cottonwood Creek to the ferry area. In 1923, a meeting between Horace Albright and valley residents occurred in this cabin that was the origin of the Jackson Hole Plan, which was a critical element in the formation of Grand Teton National Park. In 1927, a steel truss bridge was constructed just downriver from Menor's Ferry and north of the Maud Noble cabin, and the ferry ceased operation. The extant resources associated with Noble and Sandell are the Maud Noble cabin [HS-0109] and storage shed [HS-0111].

In 1929, Noble and Sandell sold the ferry, Menor homestead, and the Noble cabin to the Snake River Land Company. In the summer of 1949, the ferry was reconstructed, and the homestead buildings were restored by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. (the successor to the Snake River Land Company). The restoration of the ferry and the homesteads drew significant national coverage, and marked a shift in relations between Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. and Jackson Hole locals. The transportation shed [HS-0110] was built at this time to house exhibits. In 1953, the property transferred to the National Park Service. Today, the site is used for interpretation.

### **The Menor Period: 1894-1928**

William Dean Menor (known as Bill) and Holiday Howard Menor were the sons of Armstrong Menor and his Dutch wife Rebecca Swasick Menor. Armstrong and Rebecca Menor had eight children—five boys and three girls—and lived in Ohio, possibly in Loudonville or Hillsborough. Bill

Menor was born in 1857 and was the second oldest. Jackson residents recalled that Holiday Menor was eleven years Bill's junior.<sup>1</sup>

Before he came to Jackson Hole, Bill Menor worked as a cowpuncher on the Kansas cattle trails, and worked for a railroad as a buffalo hunter. He spent his first ten days in the valley at the homesteads of Jack Shive and John Cherry on the Buffalo Fork, where he discussed with them the idea of building and operating a ferry on that river. The two men advised Menor to operate a ferry on the Snake River instead. He followed their advice and took up residence in July 1894 on 148 acres on the Snake, at a point where the braided river contracted into a single channel. He was the first homesteader on the west side of the Snake River in central Jackson Hole, and was the only homesteader on that side until Jim Manges homesteaded his property in 1911. He built a cabin, a barn (no longer extant), a shed (possibly the extant smokehouse), a storehouse, a shop (probably his blacksmith shop, no longer extant), an icehouse (no longer extant), and corrals (no longer extant), and fenced all of his land. By 1903, Bill Menor had built improvements valued at \$2500, which included the value of his ferry boat. He secured legal title to the land in 1908.<sup>2</sup>

Menor's Ferry was a "reaction" or "current" ferry. An overhead cable spanned the river, with cables from it to the ferry. In order to operate the ferry, these cables were controlled with a windlass on the ferry boat, which would position the boat at a diagonal, angling the pontoons to the current, causing the force of the current to move the ferry across the river. Stephen Leek's son Holly Leek recalled in 1949 that his father had helped build the original ferry. Leek was a boat builder and built his own boats which he used on Jackson Lake.<sup>3</sup>

Rivers limited travel through the valley, so ferries, bridges, and fords were critical elements of the valley's transportation network. There were three significant crossings on the Snake: the Wilson Crossing, Menor's Ferry, and Conrad's Ferry. T. M. Bannon's 1899 Survey shows fords at various crossings on the Gros Ventre and Snake, with only two along the Snake River: one at the Gros Ventre confluence, and one between it and Menor's Ferry. There were no fords shown between Menor's Ferry and Conrad's Ferry—which was downstream of the Oxbow—a distance of nearly 20 miles. The Gros Ventre had fords at several locations, and Pacific Creek and the Buffalo Fork also had fords near their mouths. Fords were only useful during periods of low water, however, and during periods of high water, ferries were crucial for travel.<sup>4</sup>

A ferry was operated for some years at the Wilson Crossing, known at one point as the Beckley Ferry, although gravel bars and snags made operation difficult. In 1915, a steel truss bridge was built at the Wilson Crossing. Two years later, the riprap on either side failed, leaving the bridge intact but useless in the middle of the river for five years while government agencies debated which should pay to repair it. During this period a cable car was installed at the crossing, and a ferry was built again to cross the river, but never operated reliably because of the shifting nature of the river at that location. Travelers often diverted to Menor's Ferry during this period to avoid crossing at Wilson.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Other brothers were: James Crawford Menor, John Armstrong Menor, and Oscar Orlando Menor. John and James were the only brothers to marry, and John the only one to have children. John moved to Salem, OR and built and operated a mill there, and James moved to Salinas, CA, where he built a flour mill, "The Central Milling Company." Oscar joined Holiday in Montana during his prospecting days, and died there in 1888. Bill and Holiday's sisters were Catherine Menor (Cox), Ann Menor (Buhl), and Mary Jane Menor. Armstrong and Rebecca Menor also had three other children who died in infancy.

<sup>2</sup> Daugherty et al., 95, 104, 115, 187, 197; Frances Judge, "Mountain River Men: The Story of Menor's Ferry," *Campfire Tales of Jackson Hole* (Moose, Wyoming: Grand Teton Natural History Association, 1960), 82; "Menor's Ferry Photo Index" (no author, no date) in Menor's Ferry file, Grand Teton National Park; "Introduction—Family Background and Brief Bill and Holiday Chronology," handwritten notes, no author, no date, probably Charles Convis, summer 1979, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, GTNP; Charley Menor, Chicago, Illinois, to Robert J. Menor, Boston, Massachusetts, 24 October 1953, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, GTNP.

<sup>3</sup> "Memo for Mr. Wallace and Mr. Wilson re Menor's Ferry."

<sup>4</sup> Daugherty et al. 185-186.

<sup>5</sup> Daugherty et al., 186, 187; Apple, 35.



Little is known about Conrad's Ferry, which was located at the northern end of Jackson Hole, between Jackson Lake and Pacific Creek. Harrison-Dunn & Company likely built the ferry in 1895 to transport their placer mining equipment and supplies to Whetstone Creek. Their supplies traveled over Teton Pass and up the west side of the river to the ferry. James M. Conrad, a disabled Civil War veteran and homesteader, was hired to operate the ferry. Jackson Hole residents recalled the Conrad Ferry as a square barge with no side rails, operated with a winch, and like Menor's, relying on the current to carry it across the river. Conrad's Ferry operated until 1897, when the mining operation shut down. In 1903, Ben Sheffield bought the ranch at the outlet of Jackson Lake, and built a toll bridge there. When the Jackson Lake Dam was finished in 1911, it replaced the toll bridge as the Snake River crossing in this area.<sup>6</sup>

The river at Menor's Ferry was an ideal location for a ferry because the Snake contracts into a single, deep channel a short distance upstream, and continues as one channel for approximately a mile. In addition, the banks were low, allowing for access to the river at that location, but not so low the area was prone to flooding.<sup>7</sup>

Menor's Ferry wasn't only important for those traveling through the valley, but it also allowed homesteaders on the east side of the river to harvest timber on the west side, and allowed for the homesteading of the west side of the valley. The land on the west side of the river was typically sagebrush flats, which had rocky soil poorly suited to agriculture. For that reason, most of the homesteads on the west side of the river were during the later period of the homestead era, and most homesteaders founded dude ranches.<sup>8</sup>

In the early years, Menor operated the ferry during periods of high water, and wagons had to ford the river during the winter and other times of low water. Menor used a platform cable car, which would carry three or four people at a time, to transport pedestrians across the river when the ferry was not operating. In later years, when traffic in the winter had increased, Menor and his neighbors built a temporary log bridge each winter, which then was dismantled in the spring. Evelyn Dornan, whose homestead was immediately south of Holiday Menor's, cooked for the crew that laid the bridge each year.<sup>9</sup>

Even Menor's Ferry, despite its ideal location, could be unreliable, because gravel bars would shift, or dead trees or "snags" floating down the river would block the channel or imperil the ferry. Menor refused to risk himself or the ferry during periods of extreme high water, when the river was said to be "in spate."<sup>10</sup> A snag once swept against the ferry, snapping the ropes and carrying the ferry downstream, and Bill Menor with it. The ferry stopped a short way downstream at a gravel bar, where Bill Menor stood cursing at the neighbors who arrived to rescue him.<sup>11</sup>

The ferry was not a charitable operation. Bill Menor made a living by it, and charged tolls. Accounts vary as to the price charged, but it was between fifty cents and one dollar for a wagon and team, and between twenty-five and fifty cents for a rider and horse. The ferry could carry a wagon and four-horse team, if the lead team was unhitched and rode to the side. By one account, a person on foot rode for free if a vehicle was crossing. During huckleberry season, Bill Menor charged "huckleberry rates" to pickers, who would pay for their ride over, and pay in huckleberries for the return ride. Holiday canned huckleberries, and was known for his home-brewed wine of berries, raisins, prunes, and beets.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Daugherty et al., 188; Interpretative staff guidelines for Menor's Ferry, no author, no title, no date, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, GTNP.

<sup>7</sup> Daugherty et al., 187.

<sup>8</sup> Nedward M. Frost, Wyoming Recreation Commission, "Menor's Ferry," National Register Nomination, 1969.

<sup>9</sup> Daugherty et al., 197; Judge, 87.

<sup>10</sup> Daugherty et al., 187.

<sup>11</sup> Judge, 84.

<sup>12</sup> Daugherty et al., 188; Judge, 82, 86.

In addition to the ferry, Bill Menor operated a store at his homestead. Accounts vary as to whether this was located in his cabin, or the storehouse. Various sources list the goods that might have been sold there: Bull Durham tobacco, overalls, tin pans, fish hooks; gloves, socks, overshoes, tea, sugar, coffee; honey, beans and rice, dry fruit, soda crackers, cheese, canned pork and beans, jam, canned fruit, sardines, candy, kerosene, axes, shovels, and knives. His blacksmith shop was probably used by travelers as well.<sup>13</sup>

Bill Menor's house operated somewhat as a restaurant and boarding house, although it is not documented that Menor was paid for his hospitality. When travelers reached the ferry at mealtime, they were often invited to dine at his house. If the river was high enough that Menor refused to cross it, travelers would spend a night or two at the cabin, and were provided meals. In return, guests were expected to be at table, "washed and combed" promptly at noon for lunch and six o'clock for dinner, and late sleepers were chastised. Bill Menor did not take well to those who arrived after six in the evening expecting a ferry ride, and as punishment, wouldn't offer them lodging.<sup>14</sup>

The storehouse might have been the store according some accounts, or it might have been used for storage. By one account, it was used to store kegs of horseshoes used in the blacksmith shop, nails, spare cable for the ferry, and a small inventory of items sold in the store. The cellar was used as cold storage for the root vegetables grown in the garden. In the main homestead house, the west room was used as Bill Menor's bedroom and sitting room. The middle room was a kitchen, and bedroom for Menor's hired hand. The east room might have been the sales room for the store; by other accounts it was a waiting room.<sup>15</sup>

Bill Menor was the first to secure rights to water from Cottonwood Creek and dug an irrigation ditch to irrigate his land. Menor was the first homesteader on the west side of the Snake River in central Jackson Hole when he settled his land in 1894, and was the only settler on that side until 1911, when Jim Manges homesteaded there, and also claimed water from Cottonwood Creek. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office records the date of Menor's appropriation as 1907, but he had been irrigating his land since soon after he homesteaded it in 1894, which makes Menor's ditch the oldest in this part of Jackson Hole. Records vary as to whether Menor's claim was for 1.85cfs or 2.2cfs. At one point he also drew water from the Snake with a waterwheel. The water wheel is no longer extant, and only traces of the irrigation ditch remain.<sup>16</sup>

In 1895, Bill Menor cultivated twelve acres, but farmed only five acres after that year. He raised vegetables in the truck garden, for his own consumption and for sale. The plants grown in the garden are not precisely documented. According to various sources, Menor grew currants, raspberries, radishes, strawberries, rhubarb, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, beets, rutabagas, onions, cauliflowers, and lettuce. Owen Wister's daughter recalls eating peas from Bill Menor's garden while she stayed at the JY Ranch in 1911. Holiday Menor also had a vegetable garden, and both brothers grew flowers. Holiday was known for his pansies, which grew on the north side of his buildings. The Menors timed their planting each year according to the level to which the snow had melted on the Tetons.<sup>17</sup>

Holiday Menor had come to Jackson Hole in 1905, and lived with his brother, until a disagreement between the brothers motivated Holiday to homestead his own land across the river. Holiday Menor had been a prospector in Montana prior to arriving in Jackson Hole, spending time near Chico and Bedford, according to family letters. With two other Menor

<sup>13</sup> Judge, 82; Charles Convis research, summer 1979, handwritten notes, Menor's ferry files, GTNP; Sheire.

<sup>14</sup> Judge, 81-89.

<sup>15</sup> Sheire, 10, Convis research.

<sup>16</sup> Daugherty et al., 95, 170, 227; The State of Wyoming Certificate of Appropriation of Water, Certificate Record No 44, page 716, August 27, 1925; The State of Wyoming Certificate of Appropriation of Water, Certificate Record No 31, page 88, May 28, 1910.

<sup>17</sup> Daugherty et al., 95, 170, 227; Apple 145; Convis; Judge, 85; Marion V. Allen, *Early Jackson Hole* (Redding, California, 1981), 173.

brothers, he visited Bill Menor a year after Bill had homesteaded his land, and the four brothers toured Yellowstone together. Holiday might have stayed to help Bill construct some of the buildings on his homestead before returning to Montana.<sup>18</sup>

Holiday homesteaded 160 acres across the river from Bill in 1908. In the first season, he cultivated twenty acres of wheat and barley, and harvested twenty-five tons of grain hay. The next year, he cultivated forty acres of wheat and barley, and threshed it to produce 350 bushels of grain. Each year he cleared more acreage, until 1912, he was cultivating eighty acres of wheat and barley, producing 1,200 bushels of grain. From 1912 to 1918, Holiday raised wheat, barley and alfalfa, with an average yield of 900 bushels of grain and thirty-five tons of hay. He did not list an irrigation ditch as an improvement on his homestead documents, and one is not evident today, and in 1924, he paid taxes on 140 acres of non-irrigated but cultivated land, all of which indicates he dry-farmed. He also paid taxes that year on twenty-four acres of grazing land, two calves, two milk cows, two work horses, one saddle horse, saddles and carriages. From historic photographs, the Holiday Menor homestead buildings and structures included a barn, three log cabins, a well, and a system of fences and corrals.<sup>19</sup>

Holiday Menor built and operated a lime kiln. Lime was needed for soap, plaster, whitewash, to deodorize outhouses, and to make daubing to chink log cabins. Holiday Menor burned lime once a year, and made enough to last the rest of the year. It took several days, with Holiday taking the day shift and a neighbor taking the night shift. About 250 bushels of lime were burned each year and sold for fifty cents a bushel. The lime came from nearby Blacktail Butte, from a quarry also owned by Holiday Menor. Many of the settlement era log cabins in the area were chinked with lime from this kiln in the years after it was built. The Bill Menor buildings got a yearly application of lime whitewash from his brother's kiln.<sup>20</sup>

Bill and Holiday Menor were well-known local personalities during their era, known for colorful language, quick tempers, and frequent quarrels with each other which resulted in periods when neither spoke to the other. Bill Menor retired to California in 1918, selling the ferry and homestead to Maud Noble, Frederick Sandell, and Mrs. Mary C. Lee. He was tired of "high water and low water ... fog, rain, wind, snow, and sunshine on the Snake." He moved to San Diego. Holiday Menor sold his land ten years later, in 1928, and followed Bill to California. The two men died in San Diego, within a year of each other. In 1919, Noble and Sandell bought out Lee and operated the ferry until 1927.<sup>21</sup>

### **The Noble and Sandell Period: 1918-1929**

Maud Noble was born in 1867 in Philadelphia, where she was at one point a neighbor of the Dornan family (the Dornans homesteaded immediately south of Holiday Menor). Frederick "Sydney" Sandell was born in 1864 in England, and by several accounts had been Noble's father's horse groom in Philadelphia, although this seems unlikely based on census records. By the time Noble was thirteen, her mother, Mary E. Leavitt, was widowed, and she did not marry again.<sup>22</sup> 1880 and 1910 census records record Noble living with her mother and two branches of her family, the family of Leavitt's brother Fred Backus in 1880, and Noble's cousin James L. Batterson and his family in 1910. Sandell might have been employed by one of these families, possibly the Backus family, who are listed with three servants living in the house, rather than the Battersons, who had eight boarders and no servants and so were probably less affluent. Sandell immigrated around 1890, and by the time of the 1910 census was married to Mary (or Marrie) Sandell, who was an American. They had one child, Frederick C. Sandell. By the time of the 1920

<sup>18</sup> "Menor's Ferry Photo Index"; Judge, 81-89; "Introduction—Family Background and Brief Bill and Holiday Chronology."

<sup>19</sup> Daugherty et al., 131; Apple, 154; Historic photographs.

<sup>20</sup> Apple, 154; Robert M. Cox, "Historic Structures Report: Menor's Ferry, Architectural Data," (Denver: NPS, Denver Service Center, Historic Preservation Division, 1976), 1.

<sup>21</sup> Daugherty et al., 139, 188; Erwin N. Thompson, "Maud Noble Cabin: Historic Structures Report, History Section," (Washington, DC: NPS: Office of History and Historic Architecture, Eastern Service Center, 1970), 5; Judge, 81-89.

<sup>22</sup> It is unclear why Noble's mother's surname is different from her children's.

census, Mary Sandell lived alone with her son, and Frederick Sandell was living with Maud Noble, but both Sandells were still listed as married.<sup>23</sup>

Noble first came to Jackson Hole as a guest of Mrs. George Woodward at the Bar BC in 1915, at which point Noble was around forty-eight years old. Struthers Burt and Horace Carncross, the first owners of the Bar BC, were also from Philadelphia, and many of their earliest guests were from there, creating a strong tie between Jackson Hole and that city. Noble began making plans to stay in the area soon after her arrival. She went into partnership with Frank Bessette on his homestead on Cottonwood Creek that first year, in 1915. Bessette was from Princeton, New Jersey, and had been a chef at the Bar BC. The next year, Harry Clissold built a three room, L-shaped log cabin for Noble on the Bessette property, on the east side of Cottonwood Creek. Sometime between 1916 and 1918, Sandell arrived in Jackson Hole. After he and Noble had bought the ferry operation, Clissold dismantled Noble's cabin for her in 1918, and moved it to its current location.<sup>24</sup>

Noble and Sandell lived together but were not married, a major taboo according to the social code of that time. There is no clear indication as to the nature of their relationship, however, and it is not known whether it was romantic or purely business related. Noble had never been married, and Sandell's marriage had apparently ended when he moved west, since his wife and son never followed him. Both Sandell and Noble were in their fifties when they bought the ferry operation together. Their living arrangements are not thoroughly documented, but what had been the kitchen in the Noble cabin before it was moved from Cottonwood Creek, which was in the ell, was converted to a bedroom, possibly for Sandell, and Noble is said to have used the southwest room as her bedroom. Noble and Sandell used the west room of the Bill Menor homestead cabin as a dining room, the middle room as their kitchen, and the east room was used as a store. By several accounts, Sandell's bedroom was this east room in the homestead cabin, where he slept behind the sales counter in the store. After they sold the ferry, the two continued to live together on their ranch south of Wilson, where on the 1930 census, Noble's relationship to Sandell is listed as "partner."<sup>25</sup>

Noble grew a large vegetable and flower garden, which was particularly renowned. A waterwheel was used to supply water to it, which was mounted on a floating platform in the river, contained by cribbing, and emptied into a trough that led to irrigation ditches.<sup>26</sup> None of this equipment is extant. In 1925, Maud Noble and Frederick Sandell acquired rights to an additional 7.7 cfs from Cottonwood Creek using the J. C. Ditch, which they enlarged from a 1914 appropriation for 1.61 cfs. It is not clear which of the extant ditches was the Bill Menor Ditch and which was the J. C. Ditch.<sup>27</sup>

When they bought the ferry, Noble and Sandell immediately doubled the prices, capitalizing on the increase in tourist traffic in the valley by charging one dollar for cars with Wyoming license plates, and two dollars for cars with out-of-state plates. As automobile travel became more common, the ferry carried cars as well as horses and wagons across the river. With so many cars, efforts to improve roads increased, and a 13-mile road was built between Jackson and

<sup>23</sup> Thompson, 5-6; *1910 US Federal Census*, Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Roll: T624\_1396, Page 17B, Enumeration District 447, Image 693; *1880 US Federal Census*, Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Roll T9\_1181, Family History Film 1255181, Page 463-4000, Enumeration District 453, Image 0560; *1910 US Federal Census*, Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Roll: T624\_1396, Page 4B, Enumeration District 426, Image 96; *1920 US Federal Census*, Springfield, Montgomery, Pennsylvania, Roll T625\_1605, Page 7B, Enumeration District 177, Image 1033; *1920 US Federal Census*, Teton, Lincoln, Wyoming, Roll T625\_2026, Page 17A, Enumeration District 68, Image 811.

<sup>24</sup> Battle, 3; Daugherty et al., 117, 119; Thompson, 3-5; *1880 US Federal Census*.

<sup>25</sup> Apple, 65-68; Sheire, 6, 10; Daugherty et al., 188; Judge, 88; Thompson, 5, 6; Battle, 6; *1930 US Federal Census*, Election District 4, Teton, Wyoming, Roll 2625, Page 3A, Enumeration District 05, Image 235.0.

<sup>26</sup> Thompson, 5, 6; Battle, 10.

<sup>27</sup> The State of Wyoming Certificate of Appropriation of Water, 1925; The State of Wyoming Certificate of Appropriation of Water, 1910.

Menor's Ferry in 1924 and 1925, and in 1926, construction began on a steel truss bridge just below the ferry. The bridge was operational by 1927, ending the era of Menor's Ferry.<sup>28</sup>

In 1927, Noble and Sandell moved to a ranch seven miles south of Wilson. During the summers of 1927 and 1928, a niece of Noble's is believed to have operated a tea room in the Noble cabin. Noble and Sandell sold the property to the Snake River Land Company in 1929. One source gives the sale price as \$52,500. Noble and Sandell lived at their ranch until 1943, when they both left Jackson Hole. Noble returned to Philadelphia, where she died in the early 1950s.<sup>29</sup> Sandell's whereabouts after he left Jackson Hole and his place of death are unknown.

In 1925, Noble and Sandell donated approximately one acre of their land to St. John's Episcopal Church for the site of the Chapel of the Transfiguration, which is located to the west of the Maud Noble cabin and Bill Menor homestead. The Western Craftsman-style chapel was built that year to serve the employees and guests of the outlying dude ranches. It was patterned after Our Father's House in Ethete on the Wind River Reservation and was designed, built, and furnished by local craftsmen using funds donated by the dude ranchers.<sup>30</sup>

The town known today as Moose was known as Menor's Ferry throughout the years the ferry was operational. The Moose post office had first been established April 30, 1923 on William Grant's homestead on Sawmill Ponds, south of present day Moose. It was moved to the school building near Menor's Ferry in 1929, at which point the area became known as Moose.<sup>31</sup>

### **1923 Meeting and the Jackson Hole Plan**

The Maud Noble cabin is significant as a resource that contributes to the history of Menor's Ferry, but its primary significance is as the location of a historic meeting in 1923 that was critical to the formation of Grand Teton National Park.

The idea of a park in the Tetons did not originate at this 1923 meeting. Preserving the area as a park had been discussed by Federal agencies other than the National Park Service as early as 1897. The National Park Service goals included adding the Teton Range and Jackson Hole to the park system from the year it was created, 1916, when the future director of the National Park Service, Stephen T. Mather, and his assistant, Horace Albright, visited the area from Yellowstone National Park. In 1917, the creation of a park in the Tetons was one of "seven urgent needs facing the Park Service." A bill was introduced in Congress in 1919 by Wyoming representative Frank Mondell to extend Yellowstone to include Jackson Hole and the Tetons. The bill narrowly missed passing when Idaho sheep farming interests killed the bill.

The idea was controversial from the beginning, with opposition from Forest Service employees, ranchers, dude ranchers, and Jackson businessmen. Opponents disliked the monopolistic practices of the National Park Service in Yellowstone concerning concessionaires. They also opposed the limitations on personal freedoms in that park, embodied by ubiquitous signs reading "Please stay on the path;" Jackson residents cherished the pioneer atmosphere of their valley. Albright mistakenly thought promising new roads for the area would win allies, and this ploy further alienated park opponents, who did not want Jackson Hole "over-civilized." However, the threat of dams on Leigh and Jenny Lakes and Two Ocean and Emma Matilda Lakes, which the Park Service opposed and the Forest Service supported, won more allies for the park concept, especially among dude ranchers. Albright allied himself with Jackson residents who he knew shared the National Park Service's goal of protecting the valley from commercialization, including dude ranchers, and eventually won their support. And he promoted the park idea to visitors and influential people, including politicians and nationally known journalists, at every opportunity.

<sup>28</sup> Sheire, 5-6; Daugherty et al., 188; Judge, 88.

<sup>29</sup> Thompson, 7-8.

<sup>30</sup> Clayton Fraser, "Chapel of the Transfiguration," National Register Nomination, entered 10 April 1980.

<sup>31</sup> Daugherty et al., 115; Elizabeth Weid Hayden and Cynthia Nielsen, *Origins: A Guide to the Place Names of Grand Teton National Park and the Surrounding Area* (Moose, Wyoming: Grand Teton Natural History Association, 1988), 28.

The advent of the automobile and “tin-can tourists” who stayed only briefly in the valley, while on driving tours, encouraged the proliferation of cheap tourist accommodations. In 1922, dude rancher Struthers Burt, who had been one of the most vocal opponents of park extension, wrote to Congressman Mondell after meeting with Albright in Washington, DC, “Albright’s ideas coincide absolutely with ours.” Other Jackson Hole residents eventually came to the conclusion that neither the National Forest Service nor the residents themselves were likely to effectively protect the valley from development.

The decline of local opposition led to the most significant meeting between the National Park Service and Jackson Hole residents, which occurred at the Maud Noble cabin on July 26, 1923. Struthers Burt invited Albright to the meeting, which was attended by dude ranchers Burt and Horace Carncross, businessman Joe Jones, newspaperman Dick Winger, cattle rancher Jack Eynon, and Maud Noble, as well as Albright and his assistant, Joe Joffe.<sup>32</sup>

Winger recalled the 1923 the events that led up to the meeting. Winger had opposed the park extension idea since he had first heard of it in 1917. In the spring of 1923, Burt told Winger about a meeting he had earlier that winter with Albright, and told Winger that Albright’s plans aligned with his own wishes for the valley, since Albright’s proposal to him at that point was to preserve the land as it was, not to “open it up and create new loop roads.” Winger later discussed the issue with Eynon, and the two agreed they were opposed to park extension, but they discussed ways of preserving the valley for the benefit of the wildlife, despite the fact the valley had already been settled. The two men then talked to Jones, who was a local merchant who favored park extension. The men then talked again to Burt, who suggested and arranged the meeting.

In 1960, Winger recalled that in 1923 he, Jones, and Eynon drove to the ferry in a Model T Ford after dinner. They crossed the ferry with Sandell at the helm. Winger recalled the meeting started between seven and eight o’clock at night and ended between ten and eleven. It is not known for certain why the location at Menor’s Ferry was chosen; possibly it was chosen for its remote location, in order to keep the meeting secret, or because it was part way between Jackson and Yellowstone, where Albright was then superintendent, and therefore meant a shorter trip for him. Maud Noble’s level of participation in the meeting is not known. She might have served as a hostess, served food and drinks, and might not have been an active participant in the meeting, but there is no clear account of her activities that night. Burt said later that the plans formed at the meeting originated with: “Mr. Jones, Mr. Jack Eynon, Mr. Winger, my partner, Dr. Carncross, who is now dead, and Miss Noble,” giving Noble a role in the meeting. There is no mention that Sandell attended the meeting, although he operated the ferry that night.

The local men at the meeting also represented a few other ranchers who had not been able to attend. They told Albright their group favored the preservation of Jackson Hole as a recreation area, but did not want to see the boundaries of Yellowstone extended to include the valley, because they wanted hunting, grazing, and dude-ranching to continue on the land. They were in favor of some kind of zoning to protect the land. What became known as the Jackson Hole Plan was hatched at this meeting. The plan was to send representatives east to raise money from their wealthy connections there to quietly purchase the privately owned ranches in the north part of the valley. The wealthy donors would hold the land until Congress appropriated funds to reimburse them and add the land to the national park system. The resulting park unit was envisioned as a reserve or recreation area which would preserve the “Old West” character of the valley, a “museum on the hoof.” Native wildlife would be protected or reintroduced, buildings would all be of log construction, roads would remain unpaved, and the town of Jackson would be preserved as a rustic western town. Above all, traditional activities, such as ranching and hunting, would continue.

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<sup>32</sup> Robert W. Righter, *Crucible for Conservation: The Struggle for Grand Teton National Park* (Moose, WY: Grand Teton Natural History Association, 1982), 1-42; Daugherty et al., 302-323.

In a 1967 interview, Albright said that although the men's proposal was not exactly what he had hoped for, he was pleased to have gotten as far as he had with the group, and was sure that if the land became a recreation area, it would someday become a national park. That the local men had come to Albright for help was a major advance in his campaign. Jones and Winger recalled that Albright asked for their support of the inclusion of the Teton Range and the lakes at their base as a park, in order to protect them from commercialization during the time it would take the men to raise the private funds they were seeking for the rest of the land. The men at the meeting agreed to withdraw their objection to the creation of a park in the Teton Range.

Jones and Winger's memory was that after the meeting, some of the participants met again the same night at his house in Jackson, where they pledged to pursue their plan. The group emphasized that they wanted the plan carried out in only one way: to interest wealthy easterners in buying the properties. The men also agreed to keep the plan secret until they knew whether it was feasible.<sup>33</sup>

The meeting led to a petition, which was signed in 1925 by ninety-seven property owners in Jackson Hole, agreeing to sell their land in order for it to become a recreation area or preserve.

Burt and Albright raised \$2000 to send Winger and Eynon east to try to interest families such as the Whitneys, Morgans, and Vanderbilts in the plan. The two men did travel east, but returned unsuccessful and discouraged, and many of the men gave up the idea.

Although it wasn't the intention of the group for their plan to lead to the preservation of the valley as a national park, this meeting set into motion the events that led to the involvement of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and the formation of Grand Teton National Park.

The next summer, in 1924, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his family visited Yellowstone National Park, during which Albright arranged a trip for them to Jackson Hole to view the Tetons, making no mention of his hopes for the area. On a second trip, in 1926, Albright accompanied the Rockefellers to Jackson Hole. The Rockefellers were upset to see commercial development had grown along the shores of Jenny Lake, and Rockefeller requested that Albright send him a list of private lands in Jackson Hole that could be purchased to protect the views of the Tetons. Feeling he had found the benefactor he had been seeking, Albright told the Rockefellers about the Jackson Hole Plan that had been devised at the Maud Noble cabin in 1923. They stopped at a scenic viewpoint, Albright recalled:

We could see in both directions all over the valley. Clear down to Blacktail Butte and beyond; a gorgeous day; we could see everywhere very clearly. I can remember we could see the haystacks in or near the May property over at the edge of Blacktail Butte. And while we stood there, all of them more or less breathless at the beauty and vast extent of the country, I told them about our plan. I was talking about the 1923 plan but I added, of course, that some day it should be a national park. I was honest with them; I told them the recreation plan, exactly what we did at Mrs. Noble's cabin.

The strategy for forming Grand Teton National Park emerged out of this trip: Rockefeller would buy all the land north of Jackson and Spring Gulch and donate it to the National Park Service.

In 1929, the first Grand Teton National Park was formed, which encompassed only the Teton Range and a small portion of the valley at the base of the mountains. This park was mainly composed of land that was already federally owned and did not protect the lands in the valley.

Rockefeller formed the Snake River Land Company to purchase land anonymously, in order to avoid driving up land prices and alerting opponents. Between 1928 and 1943, the Snake River

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<sup>33</sup> Thompson, 16-21.

Land Company, which later became Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., purchased approximately 35,000 acres of land at a cost of \$1.4 million. The plan did not go smoothly, especially once Rockefeller's identity and intentions were revealed, and there was strong opposition which resulted in the determination in 1942 that the Wyoming delegation would not support, and Congress would not pass, a bill to extend the park to include the Snake River Land Company holdings. In 1943, in order to bypass Congress, President Franklin D. Roosevelt used the Antiquities Act of 1906 to set aside the land as a National Monument. By the late 1940s, resistance to the park plan had abated, and in 1950, President Harry S. Truman signed a bill creating a "new" Grand Teton National Park, which encompassed the first Grand Teton National Park (1929), and the Jackson Hole National Monument (1943).<sup>34</sup>

### **Rockefeller Period and Fabian Restoration: 1929-1953**

Son of John D. Rockefeller, Standard Oil industrialist, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. was a philanthropist with a particular interest in conservation. Rockefeller purchased land for the purpose of donating it to the United States Federal government for inclusion in several national parks including the Great Smokey Mountains, Shenandoah National Park, Yosemite National Park, Acadia National Park, and Grand Teton National Park. His son, Laurance Rockefeller, shared his interest in conservation and took over his father's responsibilities towards the inclusion of Menor's Ferry Historic District in Grand Teton National Park.

Despite rocky relations with locals who protested Rockefeller's involvement in the area, Snake River Land Company, and later Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., persevered in their efforts to expand the national park and successfully implement the Jackson Hole Plan. After the Snake River Land Company bought the Menor's Ferry property from Noble and Sandell in 1929, it leased the Bill Menor homestead cabin for use as a post office and for commercial purposes. The Maud Noble cabin was also rented, first to Reed Turner, then Jack Woodman, then Jim and Viola Budge, who lived there from 1937 until 1943. Viola Budge was the Moose postmaster. Frank Carmichael and his wife (later Mrs. J. B. Moseley, an artist) lived there from 1943 until 1948. Mrs. Carmichael also served as Moose postmaster. A Mrs. Rush then lived there briefly.<sup>35</sup>

In the early 1929 the old ferry was found on the river's edge below the bridge where it had been left to disintegrate when it ceased operation two years earlier. The ferry was retrieved by Harold Fabian, vice president of the Snake River Land Co. Fabian, who had the foresight to have the pontoons and the other elements of the ferry system moved under cover and preserved with the idea that they would be restored in the future. It was Harold and Josephine Fabian's interest in Menor's Ferry that led to the restoration efforts that materialized in the summer of 1949. Their interest in the project, however, began many years earlier, and was supported by the Rockefeller's.

In the summer of 1942, at the suggestion of Laurance Rockefeller, A.E. Kendrew, the architect in charge of the Rockefeller's restoration at Colonial Williamsburg, was sent to Jackson Hole for two months to evaluate which historic resources should be restored as potential interpretive sites. Kendrew's report on historic structures recognized that the earliest years of settlement in Jackson Hole were relatively recent, "and well within the memory of many living persons." He continued to state, however, that, "in relation to the exploratory and pioneer period of the northwest, as time goes on it can be assumed with certainty that they [the early years of settlement] will be closely identified with the earliest historical events of this country's development." The buildings Kendrew identified, based on their age and architectural interest, were: the Cunningham cabin, the Manges cabin, the Chapel of the Transfiguration, and the Menor's Ferry complex, including the Maud Noble cabin. That summer, he directed the installation of a new roof and the demolition of the Bill Menor barn on the site, which was mistakenly believed to be a modern addition. Kendrew

<sup>34</sup> Righter, 1-42; Thompson, 16-21; Daugherty et al., 302-323.

<sup>35</sup> Daugherty et al., 214; Battle, 4; Thompson, 8; "Menor's Ferry Restoration."



produced measured drawings of the Bill Menor homestead buildings and the ferry, as well as of the other resources he had identified as significant.

With funds provided by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., in the summer of 1949 the ferry was reconstructed using Kendrew's drawings. Discussion on the restoration were initiated in June, and on August 20<sup>th</sup> a dedication attended by former Wyoming governor Leslie A. Miller, Jackson town mayor Harry Clissold, Harold Fabian, C.E. Menor (grandnephew of Bill and Holiday), and a throng of locals was held celebrating the launch of the reconstructed ferry boat. The next year, under the guidance of the Fabians and Goodrich and Wilkins Associate Architects, the Bill Menor homestead buildings were restored. Photographs and the memories of locals who had known Bill Menor and ridden the ferry were relied on to make design decisions about the original layout of the cabin and complex. A pamphlet on the restoration of Menor's Ferry published soon after the completion of the restoration stated that the homestead cabin, the smokehouse, the store building, the privy, the well, the irrigation system, and the buck and pole fences enclosing the pasture and the outside perimeter were all restored to appear as they did in Menor's era. In addition, Menor's garden was replanted with currants and raspberry bushes, garden vegetables, and flowers similar to those raised by Menor. Across the river, the original pontoon boats and ferry devices were placed under protective covering near the lime kiln.

The shed for the transportation exhibit was built circa 1949 as part of this restoration in order to better interpret the role of transportation in the valley. In addition, a water wheel was constructed behind the Maud Noble cabin, and although not historically accurate, was used to water the flower beds planted at the cabin and enhance the pioneer feel of the operation. As the Jack Goodman writing for the *New York Times* commented in an article from April 23, 1950 titled "Ferry of Wyoming Pioneers Once More in Service", "Probably nowhere else in the West will the casual sight-seer or the serious student of the America-that-was be able to feel so close a link with the era of pioneer migration." At that time, Goodman recorded that the old road, "cut by the covered wagons and stagecoaches." was still visible. The preservation and interpretive efforts focused on the Ferry and Menor's homestead cabin and outbuildings, and while the exterior of the Maud Noble cabin was restored, the restoration was less for historic interest and more in order to adopt the interior for use as a tea room, called the "Ferry Ranch Inn," which Josephine Fabian operated in 1950 and 1951.<sup>36</sup> While the historic interest of the 1923 meeting was acknowledged through the placement of a plaque at the door, the real draw of the cabin was the tea room inside. At some point after Holiday Menor left for California, whatever remained of his homestead was removed, leaving only the lime kiln and a foundation.

The restoration of Menor's Ferry drew national attention, and was a significant turning point in the relationship between Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. and local ranchers. When the restoration was complete, the *New York Times* published a lengthy article on the front page of the Arts & Leisure section titled "Ferry of Wyoming Pioneers Once More in Service," in which the author wrote:

Bill Menor's flatboat ferry is afloat on the Snake River again, having been returned to public use at formal dedication ceremonies here late last year. Motorists on transcontinental tours this summer who include the ferry in their itineraries will find that the historic landmark in Wyoming's wild Jackson Hole country has been faithfully restored. Funds for the project were made available by the Rockefeller sponsored Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.

The article outlined the importance and success of the restoration, praising the accuracy of the effort as well as the reconstructed ferry's ability to carry travelers not only across the river, but back in time as well. Of the homestead structures, buildings that were "gathering places for cross-country travelers as well as the local settlers," the author wrote: "Under the cottonwoods on the west bank, Bill Menor's homestead cabin and lean-to have been painstakingly restored nail by

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<sup>36</sup> Thompson, 9, 34; Sheire, 8, 9; Righter, 130-131; Kendrew, "Report on Owned Structures of a Historic Character"; Kendrew to Fabian, 1942; "Menor's Ferry Restoration."

nail.” Rockefeller’s first priority was Menor’s Ferry, the author explained; a project so significant he turned to his architects at Colonial Williamsburg to ensure work was accurate. He went on to predict that the ferry and homestead would be an attraction for tourists similar to that of Colonial Williamsburg.

Local interest in the project was also noted, both in the *New York Times* article, but also by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. officials as well. “The favorable reaction among local residents to the reconstruction may mean speedy action on other contemplated projects nearby,” the *New York Times* concluded, while a Jackson Hole Preserve Inc. employee, writing the history of the trust, merely noted: “1949—JHP, Inc. restored Menor’s Ferry—made local friends in process.”<sup>37</sup> With the significant distrust that had grown between locals and the National Park Service, local approval on the project marked a shift towards better relations. The project changed the complexion of things, as Harold Fabian explained in an interview. Locals viewed the preservation of Menor’s Ferry as an expression of interest on the part of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., which bought the company significant local support for future efforts in the area.

In addition to alterations and restoration work completed on the buildings and structures within Menor’s Ferry Historic District, several alterations of cultural landscape features were made as a result of an interest in land conservation and restoration. In 1942, the woven wire cabin was removed due to instability after recommendations were made by A.E. Kendrew. At this time, the cable was coiled and stored inside one of the buildings, while the hand-hewn parts of the wooden cable braces and supports were also removed and stored. At this period, fences were constructed around the property and surrounding the lime kiln in order to prevent trespassing and accidents.

In 1949, oral histories were conducted that revealed that several landscape characteristics which had been present during the Menor period were non-extant during the Rockefeller period, including a slab woodshed with a lumber roof, approximately ½ pitch, 12x14’, situated approximately 6’ north of the northwest corner of the Maud Noble cabin. One interviewee noted on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, “There was also a long ice house, liked with slabs and sawdust-filled. This was right close to the river, a little north of the root cellar...access to which [a refrigerator] was through a small door facing the river. The cellar under the little store room was used as a root cellar... the well was operated by a rope on a wheel pulley. There were two buckets, one on each end.”

During the restoration of the ferry, construction workers installed a buck and rail fence, running north to south, west of the homestead cabin and fencing south of the cabin. Specifications from 1949 stated that all fencing be constructed of “native fir or pine rough sawn lumber.” Historic photographs taken at the time revealed that the irrigation system was restored, a well was excavated outside just outside of the fence, the parking areas were oiled and watered, and the old road was still visible. At some point after 1949, the Bill Menor outhouse was relocated 20’ to the southeast from its original location on the edge of the Snake River bank.

A publication, “Menor’s Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park,” dated 1950 notes that the head gates and laterals had been repaired and the water from them was used to irrigate the garden of currants, raspberry bushes, garden vegetables and flowers similar to those originally planted, vegetation, pasture, and landscaping around the buildings. It states that the “buck and pole fences around the pasture and enclosing the outside perimeter are the typical fence of this region, made of native pine poles.” The publication also reveals that a waterwheel was constructed, “which revolves from the force of the stream, digs up waters, spilling it into the trough with an outlet higher than the ditch into which it flows, using gravity to carry water to the grounds and garden of Miss Maud Noble’s old cabin.”

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<sup>37</sup> Chronology of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., from Rockefeller Archives Center, Sleepy Hollow, NY: IV 3B 12, GTLC folder.

In 1953, the Menor's Ferry Historic District was transferred into the hands of the National Park Service.

### **National Park Service Era: 1953-2011**

The National Park Service acquired the property and incorporated it into Grand Teton National Park, making several alterations to the cultural landscape between 1953 and 2011. As soon as the NPS acquired the property, several changes were made to Maud Noble's cabin. In the interior, a partition wall was constructed in the same location in which a wall was removed in 1949 and the semi-enclosed porch was fully enclosed in 1953. By 1958, the steel truss bridge running across the Snake River was removed. In 1965, HABS drawings of Menor's Ferry, the Bill Menor buildings, and the Maud Noble cabin were produced as part of the National Park Service's Mission 66 program.<sup>38</sup>

In 1976, a Historic Structures Report, drafted by Robert Cox of Denver Service Center, documented the condition of the landscape within the Menor's Ferry Historic District during that period in time. Cox describes a dirt footpath leading to the site; a relatively flat topography upon which the cabins rest, which are surrounded by native grasses and trees along the river providing the only shade; a new log rail fence under construction on both sides of the pathway that approaches the Bill Menor homestead cabin. The report also states, "In conjunction with the ferryboat is an approach road, which has been covered with blacktop paving. In addition to the blacktop, someone has added steps in the roadway so that the visitor approaches the boat by that of blacktopped steps or low terraces in the roadway. This leads to the water's edge and down to the ferryboat deck."

By 1983, the ferry boat, constructed in 1949, was removed from use, but maintained on the river bank. Seven years later, a replica of the ferry was constructed and in 2001, new ferry boat pontoons were rebuilt by the San Francisco Maritime Museum.

Once it was acquired by the National Park Service in 1953, Menor's Ferry and the Bill Menor homestead continued to be open to the public as an interpretive site. The Maud Noble cabin was used for some years as seasonal employee housing, and then became an interpretive site, in part due to urging from Josephine Fabian in the late 1960s.<sup>39</sup> Since the 1970s, the site has undergone changing attempts and interest in its interpretation. Several studies have been conducted with interpretive suggestions, and some implemented. The district that remains today is a layering of these attempts, the most visible being an attempt in the late 1970s that resulted in the installation of the existing paved loop path through the district.

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<sup>38</sup> Sheire, 9.

<sup>39</sup> Battle, 4; Thompson, 8.

## History Graphic Information



1896 photograph looking across the river at the Bill Menor homestead revealing fencing extending down to the original pedestrian ramp, cleared western river bank, a teepee, three covered wagons, barn, and the blacksmith shop (Photo by Frank A. Hadsell, 1896; Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum: 2003.0073.009).



Photograph taken before 1910 of Menor's Ferry with a view across the river towards the Bill Menor homestead (Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum: 1958.1539.001).



View looking towards the western bank of Menor's Ferry crossing the Snake River in 1915 (Jackson Hole Historical Society and Museum: 1958.0490.001).



Photo taken August of 1948 with a view looking northwest from the steel truss bridge across the Snake River (GRTE Archives).

## Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity

The seven qualities of integrity assessed in accordance with National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Although the integrity of each period in Menor's Ferry Historic District history is analyzed below, the district retains overall integrity in location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, and association.

### Location and Setting

Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred, while setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Boundary demarcations, small-scale elements, vegetation, and the evidence of responses to natural systems and features add to the location and setting. Overall, the Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in location and setting.

#### Menor's Ferry and Homesteading Period

The site for Menor's Ferry was originally chosen for its relationship to the Snake River as a functional river crossing, but also served as an ideal property for homesteading based on its relatively flat terrain, views of the Teton Range, and proximity to a body of water. Integrity of location and design are retained; key structures and landscape elements retain their original locations with functional relationships for the most part intact.

Today, views remain similar to those of the historic period with panoramic expanses toward the river and mountains to the east and west. Views within the ferry site are relatively enclosed along the river edge due to the terrain and vegetation, whereas views surrounding the Bill Menor homestead complex are more open with a lack of over story vegetation. To the south near the Maud Noble cabin, views are enclosed with dense vegetation. Views within the site have changed with the removal and addition of buildings, paths, gardens, fences, and other landscape features.

Historic adaptations to the topography are limited to Holiday Menor's excavation of the lime kiln area (at the edge of the steep terrace) and Bill Menor's irrigation ditch. The construction of buildings throughout the district also likely changed the natural topography somewhat, although the degree of change is unknown. During the 1949 ferry restoration, topography may have been changed with the restoration of the irrigation ditches and the addition of a parking area at the ferry site. Additional changes in topography also likely occurred throughout the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the removal of the bridge and road in the 1950s and with the construction of the existing pedestrian circulation system in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Today, the topography at Menor's Ferry remains flat, but exhibits the accumulation of topographic changes over time. Portions of Bill Menor's irrigation ditches remain as remnants, while other segments have been entirely lost.

#### The Restoration Period

The Snake River Land Company (Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.) initially purchased Menor's Ferry to preserve the land for inclusion in what was to be Grand Teton National Park, rehabilitating almost all buildings, structures, and sites associated with the Menor and Noble homesteads, but also constructing two new buildings between 1949 and 1957 for interpretation purposes. Since the restoration period, the irrigation ditches restored by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. have grown in significantly, returning the topography to a more level state. Despite the construction of a paved pedestrian circulation system in the late 1970s and early 1980s, integrity of location and design are retained; key structures and landscape elements retain their original locations with functional relationships for the most part intact.

## **Design**

Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. Patterns of spatial organization, circulation networks, and clusters directly relate to integrity of design and strongly influence cohesiveness of a landscape. Overall, the Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in design.

### Menor's Ferry and Homesteading Period

Since Menor's Ferry Historic District was first designed, there have been a few alterations in its organization. The district's design by Bill Menor was based upon functionality and western vernacular log construction. Throughout the Menor's Ferry and homesteading period, circulation remained simplistic, with a single road running west to east across the district. Circulation patterns associated with this period have lost integrity with the re-routing of the main road in 1927 in accordance with the construction of the steel truss bridge and with subsequent alterations in 1949 with the construction of an oiled parking lot, in 1958 with the construction of an additional bridge downstream, and in 1983 with a paved pedestrian circulation system. Although alterations in circulation have been made, former ferry roads and bridge approach roads retain integrity as archeological sites.

Surviving features and cluster arrangements of the landscape outweigh the missing features dating to the Menor's Ferry and homesteading period. Buildings and structures removed before the period of significance do not alter the original cluster arrangements and therefore, do not take away from the integrity in design. While the absence of Bill and Holiday Menor's fencing, corrals, wash basins, etc., have compromised the integrity of the district, the integrity of Bill Menor's gardens, fields, and pasture is retained as archeological sites. Despite missing small scale features dating to the period of significance and the introduction of updated circulation patterns, as a whole, the Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in design.

### The Restoration Period

With the exception of repeated alterations in the circulation system, the Menor's Ferry Historic District has not physically changed in terms of its restoration-period design. Although a few features that gained significance during the period are now missing, they were replaced with significant archeological sites such as the site of the steel truss bridge flanked by blue spruce and the site of the 1949 oiled parking lot. The Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in design.

## **Materials and Workmanship**

Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property, while workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Buildings and structures, vegetation, small-scale features, and land uses all reflect materials and workmanship. Overall, the Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in materials and workmanship.

For the most part, the original character-defining materials of Menor's Ferry Historic District are intact. The majority of the buildings and structures in the district are constructed with wooden logs and planks, mortar, and river rock, in the western log vernacular style of architecture. As they have required maintenance or repair, features are replaced with in-kind materials. Much of the historic vegetation has been maintained in the district, including cottonwoods, aspen, and other native species, which have marked the river's edge since Bill Menor first arrived. Other vegetation dating to the period of significance includes a stand of cottonwoods east of the Bill Menor homestead cabin, cottonwoods surrounding the ferry site on the east bank, blue spruce flanking the former bridge location, and the large cottonwood used during the dedication ceremony remain

from 1949. Other materials include contemporary pathways paved with asphalt. Despite the modern walkway materials, Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in materials.

Expressions of workmanship can be seen in the design and construction of the district's buildings and structures. Most buildings on the site, particularly the Bill Menor homestead cabin, storehouse, and smokehouse; the Maud Noble storage shed, and cabin, exhibit western log vernacular construction with chinked and daubed hog trough log walls and local materials. The quality of workmanship is evident in the rustic details of these buildings.

### **Feeling and Association**

Feeling is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time, while association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. Continuing or compatible land uses and activities enhance integrity of feeling and association. The Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in association with the Menor's Ferry and homesteading period, as well as the restoration period. While the Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in association, it lacks integrity in feeling.

Although integrity in association with agriculture at the Menor's Ferry Historic District is compromised with the absence of former gardens, agricultural fields, barns, and fencing, the district retains integrity in association with ferry operations and the preservation work of the Snake River Land Company (Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.). Menors Ferry has been in operation from 1894 until the present day with the exception of a 12-year span when the ferry sat onshore. The restoration of the Menor's Ferry Historic District by the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. in 1949 retains integrity in association with the extant pole barn/pontoon shed, Menor's Ferry, Menor's Ferry pontoons, and the transportation shed. Repairs and maintenance are carried out within the district by the National Park Service, continuing the effort that the Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. began in the mid-twentieth century. These aesthetics, including the extant buildings, structures, and sites relating to the periods of significance, contribute to the integrity of association.

The removal and deterioration of several small-scale features associated with the Menor's Ferry and homesteading period including buck and rail fences, post and pole fences, trash dumps, corrals, hitching posts, wooden crates and barrels, and metal tubs, and wash basins has compromised the district's integrity of feeling. Although the buck and rail fences had been restored during the 1949 restoration of the site, these too were removed by 1964. The introduction of new structures after the period of significance, such as modern circulation routes, have also detracted from the overall feeling of the district.

Although Menor's Ferry Historic District retains integrity in feeling for its natural systems, vegetation, topography, views, buildings, structures, and sites dating to the period of significance, adjacent sites to the district affect the property's integrity to varying degrees. Situated east of the district, the in-holding, "Dornan's," was established in 1916 as a homestead site that developed into a service area by the 1940s. While "Dornan's" does not affect the integrity of feeling at the Menor's Ferry Historic District, the construction of the Moose Headquarters Development Area during the Mission 66 era has compromised the integrity of feeling. Once an isolated district serving needs of travelers and conservationists, the area is now congested just beyond the district's southern border with housing developments and offices. Established in the in the 1930s, aircraft landing at Jackson Hole Airport does not affect the integrity of feeling of the site, as the airspace above the Menor's Ferry Historic District had been used since the period of significance. Although jet-engine aircraft was introduced to the airport in the 1970s, the airport maintains restrictions on loud engines to accommodate visitors and residents of Jackson Hole, and therefore does not affect the integrity of the district.

Due to missing small-scale features associated with the period of significance, along with the affect of adjacent properties such as the Moose Headquarters Development Area, which was



constructed after the period of significance, the Menor's Ferry Historic District lacks integrity in feeling.

## Landscape Characteristics

### 1. ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES:

The Menor's Ferry Historic District was surveyed four times between 1988 and 2002 and only the Holiday Menor foundation was found to retain integrity. However, none of these surveys penetrated the ground surface, and to date, archeological surveys of the area have only focused on former building sites, not broader landscape features. Investigations of additional areas, such as the sites of former vegetable and flower gardens, may reveal additional information related to settlement patterns of the area. Additionally, surveys of the ferry site, former steel truss bridge site, and the sites of former ferry roads and bridge approach roads may reveal information pertaining to early transportation systems of the park.

### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Holiday Menor Foundation, c. 1908 (LCS 624182; HS-0116B)  
Potential archeological sites dating to the period of significance (ferry roads, bridge site, bridge approach roads, oiled parking lot, gardens, etc.)

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA



View looking north of Holiday Menor Foundation. Lime Kiln is visible on the hill to the right (National Park Service, July 2010).

## 2. BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES:

With the exception of a toilet building constructed c. 2000, all extant buildings within the Menor's Ferry Historic District are contributing, including the Bill Menor homestead cabin, Bill Menor smokehouse, Bill Menor storehouse, Bill Menor outhouse, Maud Noble cabin, Maud Noble storage shed, and the transportation shed. Historically, all buildings associated with Bill Menor and Maud Noble relate to domestic use, while the transportation shed relates to interpretation. While generally similar in their rustic design and use of local materials, they each have individual character. In the summer of 2009, repairs were completed on six of the buildings within the Menor's Ferry Historic District including the transportation shed, Bill Menor storehouse, Bill Menor homestead cabin, Bill Menor outhouse, and Bill Menor smokehouse, which followed the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation. Those buildings known to have been part of the district historically, but are now gone include: the Bill Menor barn, the Bill Menor blacksmith shop, several other Bill Menor outbuildings, the Holiday Menor barn, three Holiday Menor log cabins, and the Maud Noble outhouse.

Contributing structures associated with the Menor's Ferry Historic District include the Bill Menor well, Menor's Ferry pontoon, Holiday Menor lime kiln, Menor's Ferry, pole barn/pontoon shed, Bill Menor irrigation ditch remnants, Menor's Ferry boat ramp, and Menor's Ferry cable works. Structures considered non-contributing to the district due to significant alterations or construction after the period of significance include the contemporary path system and Menor's Ferry pedestrian ramps. Those structures known to have been part of the district historically, but are now gone include fences and corrals associated with the Bill Menor barn, a slab woodshed, a log icehouse, fences that once delineated the boundaries of Bill Menor's property, the Holiday Menor well, and a system of fences and corrals associated with Holiday Menor's property.

### **Bill Menor Homestead Cabin, constructed c. 1894-c. 1912 [HS-0116]**

The Bill Menor homestead cabin is the primary resource in the Bill Menor homestead cluster, which also includes the Bill Menor smokehouse, outhouse, storehouse, and well. It is a one-story, residential, L-shaped Western Log Vernacular style building, constructed of square-notched logs and framed board walls. The ell is made up of a front gable log building with a porch to the east, and a side-gable wing to the west consisting of two portions: a log building and frame with a board and batten middle section. The building is approximately 45' long, 28' wide, and 8' high. The cross gable roof is supported by log purlins covered in broad, rough-sawn wood planks. The building is whitewashed with a mortared river rock foundation.

According to historic photographs of the house in various phases of construction, the west section was built first, probably around 1894, when Bill Menor homesteaded the site. The central framed board section was built next, possibly in 1905 when Holiday Menor moved to Jackson Hole and moved in with his brother. The addition might have been needed once there were two people occupying the cabin. The east section with the front-gable and porch was built last, most likely between 1905 and 1912.<sup>40</sup>

The original west cabin is built of 6" to 9" wide square-notched logs with daubing, which consists of mortar sheathed with strips of wood. The middle section consists of a wooden frame sheathed with wide vertical planks. The east section is built with 10" to 13" wide square-notched logs with daubing consisting of mortar and strips of wood nailed beneath a second layer of mortar. The gable roof is supported by two wooden squared columns and projects several feet over a porch made of 12" planks. The gable end above the porch is sheathed with four horizontal planks. Three wooden steps and a paved ADA ramp lead to the entrance.

The south elevation has two 6/6 double-hung wood windows; the east elevation has one 6/6 double-hung wood window; the north elevation has one 4/4 double-hung wood window; and the

<sup>40</sup> J. Sheire, "Menor's Ferry Historic Structures Report: Historical Data Section," June 1972, 7.

west elevation has two 6/6 double-hung wood windows, with one on the main building and another on the wing. The front entrance door located under the south-facing porch consists of wooden tongue-and-groove vertical boards with a six-light fixed window and a white porcelain door knob. The rear wooden tongue-and-groove matched board door with a fixed light is located on the north wall of the frame at the middle section of the house. The house maintains two stovepipes.

The interior is currently used as a display area for interpretive purposes. Each of the log walls are chinked with split saplings. In the center and western sections of the house, the frame walls are exposed, while the log walls of the eastern section are covered by boards. This configuration coordinates with the chronology of construction. The roof structure is exposed on the interior and the walls and ceilings are whitewashed, with the exception of the ceiling of the east section. The wood plank floors throughout the building vary in width and the central and western sections of the house lay two steps lower than the east section.

In 1949, the Bill Menor homestead was restored by Harold Fabian, the Vice President of Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., and his wife, Josephine, to its configuration during the Menor era, a project that included returning a double window to a single, and a door opening back to a single window opening, both on the western portion of the house, and removing porch additions, all of which were changes that had been made during the Noble and Sandell era.

In 1949 when Josephine Fabian interviewed residents who remembered Menor's Ferry during its years of operation, her notes indicate that the central section of the cabin was historically divided into two rooms, with a wall running east to west, and the south room was used as a bedroom.<sup>41</sup>

During the summer of 2009, repairs were made to the Bill Menor Homestead Cabin that did not affect the historic integrity of the building. The Western Center for Historic Preservation Completion Report for the Menor's Ferry Historic District states the most serious issues with the building:

*The single wall wood stove flue did not have the proper clearance passing through the ceiling and board roof. This was corrected as it was a safety issue. After dismantling the exterior north wall of the connecting addition foundation and structural support issues were determined to be a hindrance to putting the wall back together and corrected to provide adequate support and stability to the building.*

The work completed included replacement of designated sill logs and half wall log replacement, the re-chinking of all logs, a complete lime-washing of the exterior, replaced rotting board siding, the realignment of the connecting addition north door, repair of the mortared river rock around the base of the sill logs, replacement of the top layer of wood roofing boards, and all new in-kind logs and boards were treated with boracare and X-100 wood preservative.<sup>42</sup>

### **Bill Menor Smokehouse, constructed c. 1895 [HS-0114]**

The smokehouse is located northeast of the Bill Menor homestead cabin, within 10' of the Snake River bank. It is a rustic, one-story square building constructed of hog-trough logs daubed with concrete and a dry-laid river rock foundation. The building is approximately 9' long, 9' wide, and 7' high. The front gable roof is supported by log purlins and is covered in broad rough-sawn wooden planks. The building has no windows, with one centered plank door on the south elevation. The interior consists of one room, a dirt floor, and one wooden vent pipe projecting from the roof. The exposed rafters maintain saplings with nails for hanging meat.

<sup>41</sup> "Memo for Mr. Wallace and Mr. Wilson re Menor's Ferry," no author, [Josephine or Harold Fabian], 22 July 1949, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, Grand Teton National Park.

<sup>42</sup> WCHP Project Completion Report, Menor's Ferry Historic District, Grand Teton National Park, no author, Fiscal Year 2010.

The smokehouse retains material integrity, but was moved in 1997 5' to the west, to prevent it from falling into the river when the bank began eroding beneath it. Although moved, the property is still eligible, and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings."

In the summer of 2009, a few repairs were made to the smokehouse that did not affect the historic integrity of the building, including the stabilization after verification that the building was leaning to one side, re-chinking of the entire building, and replacement of the top layer of roof boards.<sup>43</sup>

#### **Bill Menor Storehouse, constructed c. 1895 [HS-0115]**

The storehouse is located immediately east of the Bill Menor homestead cabin, within 20' of the river bank. It is a rustic, one-story rectangular whitewashed building constructed of square-notched logs daubed with concrete and supported by nailed split saplings and lath. The building is approximately 15' long, 13' wide, and 7' high. The gabled roof of the façade is sheathed in broad rough-sawn wooden planks and supported by log purlins. One of the character-defining features of the building includes a mortared river rock basement. The building retains one 1/1 double-hung wooden window on the east (rear) elevation and one centered plank door on the west elevation. The interior consists of one whitewashed room with a wooden floor. The root cellar is reached through a trap door in the floor with a flight of stairs. The root cellar is approximately 3' longer than the house footprint and the difference is covered by a low lean-to at ground level with a lapped-plank roof. The building has a wood vent pipe that extends from the root cellar through the roof.

In the summer of 2009, repairs were made to the storehouse that did not affect the historic integrity of the building, including the replacement of loose log chinking, a lime wash of the entire building, the replacement of the north sill log, a replacement of the east elevation cellar covering boards, the replacement of the top layer of roofing boards, and the treatment of all new logs and boards with boracare and X-100 wood preservative.<sup>44</sup> The storehouse has not been significantly altered and retains an excellent level of integrity.

#### **Bill Menor Outhouse, constructed c. 1895 [HS-0114A]**

The outhouse is located northeast of the Bill Menor homestead cabin and storehouse, southeast of the smokehouse and immediately adjacent to the banks of the Snake River. It is a rustic one-story building of frame construction sheathed and roofed by log slabs. It is approximately 4' long, 3' wide, and 7' high. It has one log slab door centered on the western elevation. The interior has a single hole-bench across the eastern wall.

The building retains material integrity, but from drawings of the site made by A. E. Kendrew in 1942 and from historic photographic evidence prior to the 1949 restoration, it appears as if the outhouse is not in its original location, but was moved approximately 20' to the southeast. However, like most outhouses, it had probably been moved several times during the period of significance. Although moved, the property is still eligible, and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings."

By the summer of 2009, the support system for the outhouse was failing, as it sits on the edge of the western bank of the Snake River. It was at this time that in-kind repairs were made in order to

<sup>43</sup> WCHP Project Completion Report, Menor's Ferry Historic District, Grand Teton National Park.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

avoid further damage to the building, including the rebuilding of the log post and dimensional lumber underlying the support system and the treatment of new in-kind lumber with boracare and X-100 wood preservative.<sup>45</sup>

### **Maud Noble Cabin, constructed 1916, moved to site 1918 [HS-0109]**

The Maud Noble cabin is the primary resource in the Maud Noble cluster that is comprised of the Maud Noble cabin and storage shed. The cabin is located south of the Bill Menor Homestead cluster. It is a rustic, one-story, residential, L-shaped building, constructed of square-notched logs. The building is approximately 40' long, 32' wide, and 8' high. The cross gabled roof is supported by log purlins and is covered in rolled asphalt roofing. The foundation is constructed of mortared river rock.

The logs are daubed with concrete and chinked with thin branches or saplings. The cabin has one porch with a shed roof extending from the roof edge supported by two log posts, with built-in wood benches beneath. A shed roof addition is located in the crook of the ell, and is clad in artificial log siding. To the right of the front entrance, a brass plaque placed by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. commemorates the 1923 meeting at the cabin (see Statement of Significance).

The northwest, or front elevation has two double sliding wooden windows with six-light sashes and one single-pane fixed window; the northeast elevation retains two 6/6 double-hung wood windows and one double sliding wood window with six-light sashes; the southeast elevation has two double sliding wooden windows with six-light sashes; and the southwest elevation has one single-pane fixed window, and one six-light awning window, both on the shed roof addition. Tongue-and-groove Dutch doors pierce both the façade under the porch and the southwest elevation. The rear, or southeast entrance, to the shed roof addition retains a five-panel door. The house has one river rock chimney on the northeast elevation.

The interior is currently used as a display area for interpretive purposes. The cabin has three rooms including one large room in the main section of the house created from what were originally two rooms; a rear room in the ell; and a small room in what was originally a semi-enclosed porch. The shed roof addition contains the remains of a bathroom and kitchen that were added after the period of significance. The interior log walls are varnished and chinked with split saplings. The roof structure is exposed on the interior, but the ceiling boards have been covered with white fiberboard. Floors throughout the building consist of tongue-and-groove matched boards. The river rock fireplace in the living room has a wood mantle and arched brick opening.

During Noble and Sandell's era, the house had three rooms: a living room, Noble's bedroom in the southwest end of the house (off of which was a semi-enclosed porch), and Sandell's bedroom in the ell (off of which was a piazza, or open porch). When Jim Budge and his wife lived in the cabin in 1937, they enclosed the piazza as an extra bedroom, which is the shed roof addition. It is unknown if the original piazza structure is preserved under the walls of the addition. The porch was enclosed and used as a wood shed and chicken coop. In 1943, Frank Carmichael and his wife moved into the house and made a number of alterations that have since been reversed. The Carmichaels were responsible for the white fiberboard that still covers the ceilings. In 1949, during the Fabian restoration, Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. removed the wall between the living room and southwest bedroom (the logs were carefully numbered and stored, but were lost in later years) and removed the boards from the semi-enclosed porch, restoring its original appearance. A small shed-roof addition housing a water heater was added to the rear of the house, which has since been removed. The Fabian work was accomplished in order to operate the cabin as a tea room, called "The Ferry Ranch Inn." The brass plaque was installed to the right of the front entrance at this time. After the National Park Service acquired the house in 1953, a partition wall

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<sup>45</sup> WCHP Project Completion Report, Menor's Ferry Historic District, Grand Teton National Park.

was constructed where it had been removed four years earlier. Since then, the wall has been removed and the semi-enclosed porch was fully enclosed with logs.<sup>46</sup>

The Maud Noble cabin was moved from its original location on Cottonwood Creek, but it was moved prior to the point at which it gained significance. Despite having been moved, the cabin is eligible under Criteria Consideration B according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*. Overall, the cabin retains integrity.

Three spruce trees, two on each side of the house and one to the northeast, and a modern wellhead constitute the extent of the landscape features associated with the cabin.

### **Maud Noble Storage Shed, constructed 1918 [HS-0111]**

The storage shed is located southeast of the Maud Noble cabin, within 30' of the river bank. It is a rustic one-story rectangular building constructed of hog trough logs daubed with concrete and chinked with small diameter saplings. The building is approximately 21' long, 13' wide, and 8' high. The front gable roof is supported by log purlins and is covered in rolled asphalt roofing. The foundation is constructed of mortared river rock. The building has one, triple sliding wood window with six-light sashes on the northeast elevation and one double sliding wood window with six-light sashes. There is one centered board and batten door on the front, or northwest elevation, and one five-panel wood door that dates from the period when the National Park Service added a later addition to the shed.

The storage shed retains material integrity, but has been moved. Photographic evidence indicates this shed was originally oriented to the south, and at some point was turned ninety degrees to face west. Although moved, the property is still eligible, and does not need to meet Criteria Consideration B, because it is "part of a complex but is of less significance than the remaining (unmoved) buildings" according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*. A shed-roof addition housing power equipment was added to the shed after the period of significance, which has since been removed. A five-panel door that connected the shed to this addition remains, however.

### **Transportation Shed, c. 1949 [HS-110]**

The transportation shed was circa 1949 by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. during the Fabian restoration. It is located between the Maud Noble cabin and the Bill Menor homestead cabin, within 30' of the banks of the Snake River. It is a rustic one-story rectangular building constructed of saddle-notched logs chinked with split poles with beveled crowns. The building is approximately 35' long, 29' wide, and 15' high. The front gable roof is supported by log purlins with beveled ends and is covered in rolled asphalt roofing. The foundation is constructed of concrete piers. The building has a large double door at the east end, constructed of cross-braced planks. The other elevations are open above a low wall. Openings are fitted with wood shutters, which are removed during the summer season when the shed and the wagon exhibit within it are open to the public.

In the summer of 2009, a few repairs were made to the transportation shed that did not affect the historic integrity of the building, including the replacement of the sills on the north and south elevations, the purlin ends on the east and west elevations, and five log crowns on the north elevation. Also, all replaced sections were treated with boracare and wood preservative and stained to match existing logs. Despite the few recent repairs made on the shed, the building retains integrity.

### **Pole Barn/ Pontoon Shed, constructed between 1949—1957 [HS-0311]**

<sup>46</sup> David G. Battle, "Historic Structures Report: Maud Noble Cabin," (San Francisco: Western Service Center, Office of History and Historic Architecture, National Park Service, 1971), 3.

The pole barn/ pontoon exhibit shed was built sometime between 1949, when Menor's Ferry was restored by the Fabians and Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc., and 1957. It was built to house the remaining Menor's Ferry pontoon. In an album of photos of the restoration, assembled in 1957 by the Fabians, photos of the east landing show no shed at this location, but a note in the album reads, "pontoon is housed in a shed across the river" indicating that by 1957, the shed was in place. There is no evidence as to which organization built the shed, Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc. or the National Park Service. It is built in a different style from the transportation exhibit shed, which was built by Jackson Hole Preserve, Inc.

It is a one-story, rectangular building with a gable roof, covered in rolled asphalt roofing, and is supported by log posts, each of which has from two to three knee braces and rests on concrete piers. The roof structure is board trusses and any exposed log ends have flat, not beveled, ends. The gable ends are clad in board and batten. The sides are open, and the Menor's Ferry pontoon is housed beneath it.

### **Menor's Ferry Pontoon, constructed c. 1910**

All that remains of the historic Menor's Ferry is one pontoon, which is preserved under a shed on the east side of the river, by the ferry landing. It is not clear if this pontoon was built by Menor, or for Noble and Sandell, but it was part of the last ferry to operate during the period of significance. It was used as a model for constructing the 1949 ferry.<sup>47</sup> The pontoon is built of wood planks and structural ribs. The bottom of the pontoon is flat. Remnants of the cotton and tar used to seal the joints between the planks survive as does a coat of green paint on the exterior.

Although fairly deteriorated, the pontoon retains sufficient integrity to communicate its significance.

### **Holiday Menor Lime Kiln, constructed c. 1908 [HS-0114B]**

The lime kiln consists of an excavated circular pit approximately 7' in diameter at the edge of the second terrace above the east bank of the Snake River, across from the Bill Menor homestead site. The pit is lined with a layer of stone and brick. Two piles of limestone and debris are located at the bottom of the terrace edge, the white piles clearly visible from the Bill Menor homestead on the west side of the river.

Although badly deteriorated, the lime kiln retains sufficient integrity to communicate its significance.

### **Menor's Ferry, reconstructed 1990, pontoons reconstructed 2001 [HS-0110A]**

Menor's Ferry is located in the Snake River during the summer months, and on the banks of the Snake River during the winter. It is a wooden ferry boat constructed of two flat-bottom pontoons with pointed upstream ends, and squared downstream ends, which are bridged by a wooden deck. The ferry is attached to a cable works while in operation.

The pontoons are open where not covered by the deck, which has a hinged apron, or ramp, on either side, used for loading and unloading vehicles. There are rails on the downstream side of the deck, the upstream side of the deck, and between the upstream rail and the vehicle area. Centered on the upstream side of the deck, between the two rails, is the windlass used to control the ferry.

After the Snake River Land Company bought the Menor's Ferry property from Noble and Sandell in 1929, the old ferry was found and preserved with the idea that it would be restored in the

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<sup>47</sup> Russel A. Apple, "An Interpretive Prospectus for Post-Fur Trade History, Grand Teton National Park," December 1960, GTNP archives, 153.

future. In the summer of 1949, the ferry was reconstructed. The ferry used as a model for the 1949 replica was likely a second or third generation ferry. Photographic evidence indicates that Bill Menor rebuilt his ferry at least once around 1910 and it is likely Noble and Sandell had to replace the pontoons and possibly the whole boat from the wear and tear associated with the operation of the ferry. No records indicate how many times the parts on the 1949 ferry replica were replaced or rebuilt by the National Park Service. The replica of the 1910 ferry was beached in 1983 for safety reasons. The ferry was again reconstructed in 1990, and in 2001, new pontoons were rebuilt by the San Francisco Maritime Museum, using the extant ferry pontoon as a model. The current ferry resembles as closely as possible the ferries of Menor, Noble, and Sandell's time. The major difference is the configuration of the railings, which today have vertical balusters spaced four inches on center, for safety reasons, on the two railings containing the vehicle area, whereas the historic ferries at various times had railings with from one to two horizontal rails, similar to the railing on the upstream side of the deck today.<sup>48</sup> In addition, a removable solar powered water pump is located at the back of the ferry between the pontoons.

Menor's Ferry was listed as an object on the National Register in 1969. As a reconstruction of a c.1894 structure, Menor's Ferry remains eligible as a structure under Criteria Consideration E according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*. It meets all three requirements for a reconstruction: "A reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment *and* presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan *and* when no other building or structure with the same associations has survived."

#### **Menor's Ferry Cable Works, constructed c. 1894, reconstructed 1949**

An overhead steel cable spans the Snake River, anchored by cable works on either side. The cable works consist of a log framework constructed to support the steel cable in tension and height. The cable is anchored by a "deadman," or log, buried beneath the ground surface. Rising from the earth, the cable is wrapped several times around a raised log set across the framework, which can be turned to either release or create cable tension. A "traveler," or two pulleys separated by a wooden spacer, runs along this cable, with cables attached to the ferry.

The first recorded alteration to the original 1894 cable works occurred in 1949 during the Fabian restoration of Menor's Ferry. All components of the original structure were removed and replaced in-kind. The original components are currently housed in the Grand Teton National Park museum collection.

As a reconstruction of a c. 1894 structure, Menor's Ferry cable works remain eligible as a structure under Criteria Consideration E according to *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria*. It meets all three requirements for a reconstruction: "A reconstructed property is eligible when it is accurately executed in a suitable environment *and* presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan *and* when no other building or structure with the same associations has survived."

#### **Menor's Ferry Boat Ramp, constructed c. 1894, altered c. 1980, c. 2005**

Since approximately 1894, Menor's Ferry was launched from a dirt and stone ramp located 64 yards south of the Bill Menor homestead cabin. In 1980, improvements were made to the ramp, although it is unclear what type of work was completed. In 2005, skid rails (18"-24" in diameter

<sup>48</sup> John Daugherty, Stephanie Crockett, William H. Goetzmann, and Reynold G. Jackson, *A Place Called Jackson Hole: A Historic Resource Study of Grand Teton National Park* (Moose, WY: Grand Teton National Park, 1999), 188; A. E. Kendrew, "Report on Owned Structures of a Historic Character: Suggestions for Future Tourist Accommodations," RG 79, Box 1054, National Archives, College Park, MD; A. E. Kendrew to Harold P. Fabian, 23 September 1942, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, GTNP; "Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park," no author, no date, Menor's Ferry file, Park Historian's files, GTNP; Rich Fedorchak to author, 12 July 2007.



logs) were installed perpendicular to the river, which are used with log rollers to launch and retrieve the ferry. Although these improvements were made, the ramp retains much of its historic character.

#### **Bill Menor Well, reconstructed 2009 [HS-0116A]**

The well is located east of the Bill Menor homestead cabin and south of the storehouse, and is within 10' of the banks of the Snake River. It is a square, wooden wellhead, approximately 3' by 3', and 3' high, with a hinged cover and two logs posts supporting a beam from which a pulley would have been hung to access the well. The below-grade stone walls of the well itself are also extant.

In the summer of 2009, the well "was found to be in such deterioration it was rebuilt with in-kind material to the same dimensions as the original structure and treated with boracare and X-100 wood preservative. In large part the rebuild was done because of a concern for visitor safety since the supporting base was beyond repair and the well box cover was rotted to the point someone standing on it could have fallen through and into the well."<sup>49</sup> The well has not been significantly altered and retains an excellent level of integrity.

#### **Bill Menor Irrigation Ditch Remnants, constructed c.1894**

There are two main ditches leading from Cottonwood Creek to Menor's Ferry. The eastern ditch runs south, then along the Four Lazy F Road, where it crosses at the entrance to the Four Lazy F, and runs along the west bank of the Snake to the Bill Menor homestead site, where it splits into two smaller ditches. The ditch system that once irrigated the fields surrounding the Bill Menor homestead has been obscured by the development of the site as an interpretive area. The other ditch, which runs to the west of the first ditch, crosses a large National Park Service ditch twice, and forks once, with the two ditches coming back together before they run to the homestead site. This ditch now terminates at the modern parking lot at the Chapel of the Transfiguration, although it must have once flowed to the homestead.

Bill Menor was the first to claim water rights on Cottonwood Creek when he settled his land in 1894. Shortly thereafter, he dug irrigation ditches from the creek to his homestead to irrigate his garden and fields located west and south of his cabin. Later on, he also had a waterwheel that drew water from the Snake River into the irrigation ditches. Menor was the only settler on the west river bank until 1911, when Jim Manges homesteaded there. Manges also claimed water from Cottonwood Creek. The Wyoming State Engineer's Office records the date of Menor's appropriation as 1907, but he had been irrigating his land since soon after he homesteaded it in 1894. Records vary as to whether Menor's claim was for 1.85cfs or 2.2cfs. In 1925, Maud Noble and Frederick Sandell acquired rights to an additional 7.7 cfs from Cottonwood Creek using the J. C. Ditch, which they enlarged from a 1914 appropriation for 1.61 cfs. It is not clear which extant ditch was the Bill Menor Ditch and which was the J. C. Ditch.

During Maud Noble's tenure in the 1920s she continued to use the irrigation ditches to water her garden, though supplied water through a waterwheel along the Snake River. It is unknown if the water wheel was the same wheel used by Bill Menor. Later in 1949, during the ferry restoration, the irrigation ditches west and south of the Bill Menor homestead were reconstructed to irrigate the restored gardens. A waterwheel was also present "[a]long the path, under the Snake River Bridge...to carry water to the [irrigation ditches and] grounds and garden of Miss Maud Noble's old cabin."<sup>50</sup> Though the ditches were in operation in 1949, today they no longer function, though portions of the original alignment remain through subtle changes in topography.

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<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> "Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park," Grand Teton Cultural Resource files, nd)

As part of the broader district, the ditches retain sufficient integrity to be eligible. As an archeological resource it contributes to the understanding of the site. Portions of the ditch are perceptible on aerial photographs and can be traced on the ground with difficulty. Sagebrush, cottonwoods, and aspens have grown up through the ditches, while erosion and has altered the original profile. The remaining irrigation ditches are only visible in limited sections, most of which are west of the homestead cluster. Those south of the homestead have been removed and are no longer extant.

The boundaries of the extent of the ditch are as follows:

Northern UTM: E 523158 N 4835289      Southern UTM: E523205 N4833826  
Western UTM: E 522882 N 4834584      Eastern UTM: E523407 N4834110

Average top width: 60cm  
Average bottom width: 40cm  
Height or depth: 0-20cm  
Length of Segment: 1500m

#### **Toilet Building, constructed 2000**

A toilet building was constructed at the site in 2000 at the southwestern corner of the intersection of the road from Moose to 4 Lazy F Ranch and the contemporary pedestrian path leading from the Chapel of Transfiguration to Menor's Ferry. The building is non-contributing due to its age.

#### **Menor's Ferry Pedestrian Ramps, constructed c. 1972**

Ramps are located on either side of the Snake River, approximately 40 yards south of the Bill Menor homestead cabin. From about 1894 until 1972, the dirt pedestrian ramps terminated at the shoreline with either small piles of stone or a single log. The National Park Service paved the roads c. 1972 and constructed a platform for pedestrian at shoreline of the west bank ramp. Although the pedestrian ramps on either side of the river have been used since the ferry first began operations in c. 1894, the introduction of new materials has severely diminished the integrity of both ramps and therefore, are not considered contributing structures to the Menor's Ferry Historic District.

#### **CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Bill Menor Homestead Cabin, c. 1894-c. 1912 (LCS 052234; HS-0116)  
Bill Menor Smokehouse, c. 1895 (LCS 052231; HS-0114)  
Bill Menor Storehouse, c.1895 (LCS 052233; HS-0115)  
Bill Menor Outhouse, c. 1895 (LCS 052232; HS-0114A)  
Maud Noble Cabin, 1916, moved 1918 (HS-0109)  
Maud Noble Storage Shed, 1918 (HS-0111)  
Transportation Shed, c. 1949 (HS-110)  
Pole Barn/Pontoon Shed, c. 1949-1957 (HS-0311)  
Menor's Ferry Pontoon, c. 1910  
Holiday Menor Lime Kiln, c.1908 (LCS 051930; HS-0114B)  
Menor's Ferry, reconstructed 1990, pontoons reconstructed 2001 (LCS 052230; HS-0110A)  
Menor's Ferry Cable Works, reconstructed 1949  
Bill Menor Well, reconstructed 2009 (LCS 052235; HS-0116A)  
Bill Menor Irrigation Ditch Remnants  
Menor's Ferry Boat Ramp, c. 1894, altered c. 1980, c. 2005

#### **NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Toilet Building, 2000  
Menor's Ferry Pedestrian Ramps, c. 1972



View looking northeast of Bill Menor Homestead Cabin c. 1894-c. 1912  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking north of Bill Menor Smokehouse c. 1895  
(National Park Service, March 2011).



View looking northeast of Bill Menor Storehouse c. 1895  
(National Park Service, March 2011).



View looking east of Bill Menor Well reconstructed 2009  
(National Park Service, July 2010).





View looking east of Menor's Ferry cable works reconstructed 1949  
(National Park Service, March 2011).



View looking northeast of Menor's Ferry boat ramp constructed 1894,  
altered c. 1980, c. 2005 (National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking east from Menor's Ferry west bank pedestrian ramp c. 1972  
(National Park Service, July 2010).

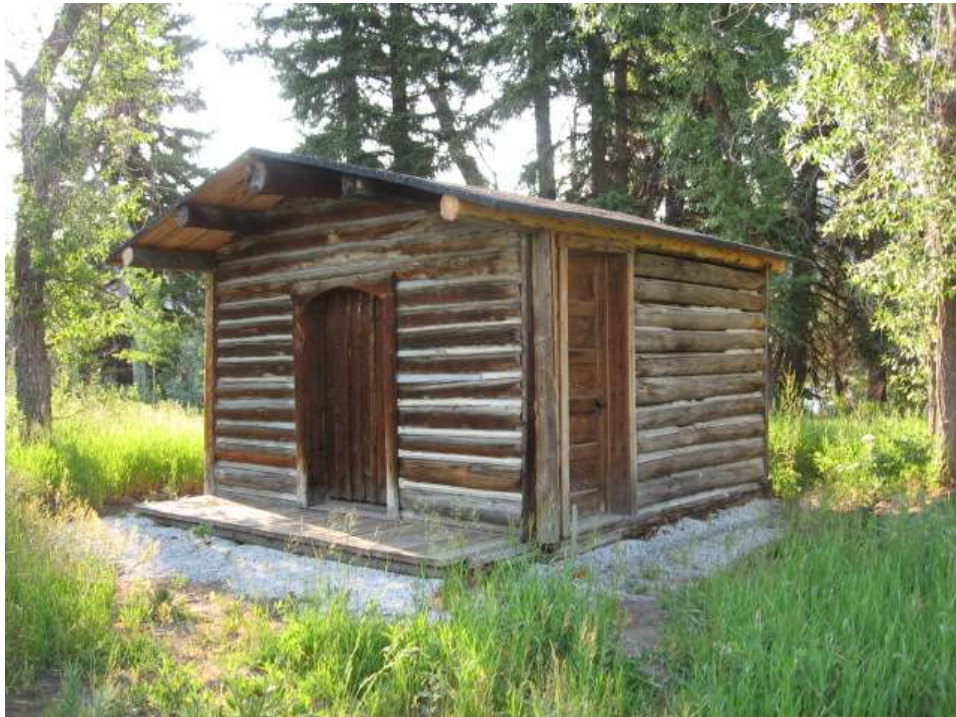


View looking northwest of the transportation shed c. 1949  
(National Park Service, March 2011).





View looking northwest at the Maud Noble cabin 1916, moved 1918  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking northeast at the Maud Noble storage shed 1918  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking east of Menor's Ferry reconstructed 1990, pontoons reconstructed 2001  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



1901 Pontoon, which is stored in the pole barn/pontoon shed  
(National Park Service, July 2007).





View looking north of pole barn/pontoon shed c. 1949-1957  
(National Park Service, July 2010).

### 3. CIRCULATION:

Circulation played an essential role in the development of Menor's Ferry over time. The ferry site was originally selected because it was located adjacent to one of the few river crossing sites along the Snake River that could serve as a desirable ferry location. Historically, the area included one ferry site with a main road on the west bank and a main road on the east bank of the river. The east bank road approached the ferry site from the southeast before turning west to the ferry. Similarly, the west bank road approached the ferry from the southwest, aligned to the angle of the Bill Menor barn before turning east to connect to the ferry. These curvilinear roads seemed to respond to the natural topography of the ground and built features of the area. The two roads provided access to the ferry from either direction, and served the ferry site until 1927 when a steel truss bridge opened just downstream from the ferry.

The construction of the 1927 bridge altered circulation patterns within the area, shifting the road and vehicular movements to the south, away from the ferry site. New road segments were constructed to connect the bridge to portions of the original ferry roads. In contrast to the earlier curvilinear ferry road, the new road segments were more linear in character. On the west bank, the road approached the bridge straight on from the west. On the opposite bank, the road continued straight, curving only to connect to the former ferry road.

In 1949, circulation patterns throughout the Menor's Ferry area were changed as part of Rockefeller's restoration of the ferry. The original ferry cable and equipment were removed and replaced with a replica, and a parking area was created and oiled for the dedication ceremony. Historic photographs show that the parking area was south of the Bill Menor homestead and ferry, likely just north of the road that crossed the steel truss bridge. It is unknown how long this parking lot was maintained; however, by 1964, parking had shifted farther west, in a lot designed as part of Mission 66 efforts just east of the Chapel of Transfiguration.

Circulation routes changed again in 1958 when a second bridge was constructed farther downstream to cross the river. At that point, the 1927 steel truss bridge was removed, as was the road segment that ran through the Menor's ferry site. Although the road had been removed, by 1964, the alignment was still visible through the adjacent fence alignment that surrounded Maud Noble's cabin and road segments that became access roads to Dornan's on the east bank and Chapel of the Transfiguration on the west bank of the river.

Historically, pedestrian circulation routes throughout the area were characterized by numerous footpaths and social trails. These routes generally followed the "path of least resistance" and connected the various land use areas and buildings. First efforts to create a formalized circulation network were laid out in 1964 as part of an interpretive plan for the area. Plans show an existing walk extending from the Mission 66 parking lot at the Chapel of Transfiguration to the Bill Menor homestead. Proposed walks are also shown extending along the historic alignment of the ferry road from the parking lot to an existing comfort station in the center of the site. From there the proposed walks loop north to a proposed transportation exhibit then east to the Bill Menor homestead, then south to the ferry and Maud Noble cabin, before looping back to the comfort station. Interestingly, the segment of the path along the historic ferry road alignment is X-ed out on the plans. Despite these 1964 planning efforts, the formalized circulation paths weren't established until the late 1970s or early 1980s. Evidence shows that by 1983, the southern portions of the loop path (extending from the Bill Menor homestead complex to the ferry and Maud Noble cabin) had been constructed.

Today, modern visitor circulation patterns have obscured historic circulation patterns, and the site is currently laced with paved pedestrian paths similar to those from 1983. The only change to the configuration is a narrow path that extends westward from Maud Noble's cabin to the path leading to the Mission 66 parking lot and the addition of a contemporary boat ramp to launch the ferry. Intact circulation patterns that date to the period of significance are the passage of the ferry from one bank to the other. Though the historic roads are no longer evident, their locations serve as archeological sites with the potential to contribute to the understanding of the history of settlement and transportation patterns of Jackson Hole.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Menor's Ferry Site and Ferry Roads (east and west banks), c. 1894  
 Former Bridge Site and Approach Roads Flanked by Blue Spruce Trees, 1927  
 Oiled Parking Lot, 1949  
 Road from Moose to 4 Lazy F Ranch  
 Menor's Ferry Boat Ramp, constructed c.1894, altered c.1980, c.2005

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Contemporary Path System, c.1983  
 Menor's Ferry Pedestrian Ramps, c. 1972



View looking southeast of Menor's Ferry pedestrian ramp c. 1972  
(National Park Service, October 2010).



View looking southeast of contemporary pathway c. 1983  
(National Park Service, July 2010).





View looking east towards the entrance to Menor's Ferry Historic District  
(National Park Service, October 2010).



View looking west down the path leading to the Maud Noble cabin  
(National Park Service, October 2010).

#### 4. CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT:

The district has three distinct clusters: the Bill Menor homestead, the Holiday Menor homestead, and the Maud Noble cabin cluster. The Bill Menor homestead buildings are clustered around the west ferry landing, with the homestead cabin oriented north-south and facing the ferry landing, and the outbuildings oriented to the homestead cabin. Historically, the site had a higher density of buildings and features, including a barn, blacksmith shop, and several other outbuildings, and fences along the perimeter of all 148 acres and separating the road, blacksmith shop, and barn from the residential and agricultural area. The site also was historically oriented to the road that crossed at Menor's Ferry, which ran between the homestead cabin and the barn and blacksmith shop. In the evolution of the district as an interpretive site, the road was removed. The Maud Noble cluster is distinctly separate from the Bill Menor cluster, which gave the cabin more privacy from the ferry traffic. The Maud Noble cabin is oriented with views of the Tetons, rather than the river. Fences that once surrounded the Maud Noble cabin are now gone. The Holiday Menor resources are clustered on his homestead, and represent only a remnant of what was once a dense cluster of landscape and archeological features, including three cabins and a substantial barn, as well as fences and livestock corrals.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Bill Menor Homestead  
Holiday Menor Homestead  
Maud Noble Cabin Cluster

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

NA



View looking north of the Bill Menor homestead cluster (National Park Service, March 2011).



View looking north of the Maud Noble homestead cluster (National Park Service, March 2011).

##### 5. CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES:

A number of constructed water features were built during the period of significance. Bill Menor was the first person to claim water rights to Cottonwood Creek, and he dug irrigation ditches from it to his homestead to irrigate his garden and fields located west and south of his cabin. He also had a waterwheel that drew water from the Snake River that provided water for the irrigation ditches. On the east bank of the river, there are no known constructed water features associated with the Holiday Menor homestead. It is likely that a well was dug to provide water to the complex.

During Maud Noble's tenure she continued to use irrigation ditches to water her garden, though supplied water through a waterwheel along the Snake River. It is unknown if the water wheel was the same wheel used by Bill Menor.

In 1949, during the ferry restoration, the irrigation ditches west and south of the Bill Menor homestead were reconstructed to irrigate the restored gardens. A waterwheel was also present. A publication from the time period noted the waterwheel stating, "Along the path, under the Snake River Bridge" is a waterwheel "which revolves from the force of the stream, dips up waters, spilling it into the trough with an outlet higher than the ditch into which it flows, using gravity to carry water to the grounds and garden of Miss Maud Noble's old cabin."<sup>51</sup> It is unknown whether the waterwheel referred to is the original or a reconstruction.

Today, the only remaining constructed water feature is the well at Bill Menor's homestead. The waterwheel has been removed (likely in 1958 with the removal of the steel truss bridge). Menor's

<sup>51</sup> "Menor's Ferry Restoration in Grand Teton National Park," Grand Teton Cultural Resource files, nd)



irrigation ditches are only visible in limited sections, most of which are west of the homestead cluster. Those south of the homestead have been removed and are no longer extant.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Bill Menor Well, reconstructed 2009  
Bill Menor Irrigation Ditch Remnants

**NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA**

**MISSING FEATURES:**

Waterwheel along Snake River (missing)



View looking east of Bill Menor Well reconstructed 2009  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking north of Bill Menor irrigation ditch remnants  
(National Park Service, June 2007).

#### 6. CULTURAL TRADITIONS:

The Menor's Ferry district is typical of settlement-era resources in Jackson Hole. The buildings are built in the local vernacular of square-notched or hog-trough log construction, both styles that could be built quickly of local materials, and which for Maud Noble followed the tradition of rustic, "Old West" ranch structures she had seen as a guest at the Bar BC dude ranch.

The Menor's Ferry area has also become the focus of some cultural traditions associated with the local Jackson Hole community. With the restoration of the ferry operations in 1949, the cultural tradition of crossing the Snake River via boat was revived—a cultural tradition that continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Revival of crossing the Snake River via ferry boat

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

NA





View looking east at Menor's Ferry crossing the Snake River (National Park Service, 2010)

## 7. LAND USE:

Historic land uses at Menor's Ferry include transportation, residential, subsistence agriculture, and commercial activities. Transportation operations included the use of the area as a crossing point for the Snake River, first through ferry operations from 1894 to 1927 and then through a steel truss bridge from 1927 to 1958. Ferry operations were restored in 1949 and still continue seasonally today. Residential, agricultural, and commercial use of the site began in 1894 when Bill Menor first homesteaded the west river bank. He raised a five acre truck garden and later opened a store on the premises. These uses continued through the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the establishment of the Holiday Menor homestead on the east bank in 1908 and the relocation of the Maud Noble cabin in 1918. Holiday Menor dry-farmed on a substantial scale, while Maud Noble had a vegetable and flower garden. After Maud Noble moved out of her cabin in 1927, the building was steadily leased to tenants through 1948. During that time it was also briefly used as a tea room from 1927-1928. Later in 1950-1951, the building operated as the "Ferry Ranch Inn." Once the National Park Service acquired the property in 1953, residential use of the area continued, as the Maud Noble cabin was used as an employee residence in 1960.

Today, little evidence of the historic land use survives. While the ferry has been reconstructed, the road that once crossed at Menor's Ferry is no longer extant. The 1927 steel truss bridge was constructed in the middle of the district, with the road running east/west between the Maud Noble Cabin and the transportation shed on the west side of the river, and to the south of the Holiday Menor homestead on the east side of the river. This road was removed when a new concrete bridge was built a short distance downriver in the mid-1950s. Additionally, modern paved paths are oriented differently, making visualization of the former circulation features difficult.

Sagebrush growth has obscured any traces of the former gardens and agricultural fields, and no fences remain to delineate their boundaries. Similarly, any areas used for livestock pastures or pens are no longer apparent, with the loss of the historic barns on both Menor homesteads, and

the related corrals and fencing. Some traces of the Bill Menor irrigation ditch remain; however, the ditch is also obscured by sagebrush.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Transportation

**NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

NA

**MISSING FEATURES:**

Residential/subsistence agriculture (missing)  
Commercial activities (missing)

**8. NATURAL SYSTEMS AND FEATURES:**

The natural systems and features of Menor's Ferry are reflected in nearly every aspect of the area. Initial site selection of the area as a place of inhabitation and human use, the arrangement of structures, and the selection of building materials are results of the natural systems and features of the Snake River and surrounding landforms and valley.

The Snake River is the most important natural feature to the cultural landscape of Menor's Ferry. The district's history as an important river crossing and its significance in the area of transportation is tied to its location at a point where the braided river narrows to one deep channel, a location conducive to ferry operation. In addition, the banks were low, allowing for access to the river at that location, but not so low the area was prone to flooding.<sup>52</sup> The flat, un-forested nature of the land chosen by both Menor brothers relates to the district's significance in the area of settlement: both brothers farmed their land, and chose land that would not need to be cleared.

These natural systems and features not only allowed the establishment of the ferry, but also allowed homesteaders on the east side of the river to harvest timber on the west side, and allowed for the homesteading of the west side of the valley. The land on the west side of the river was typically sagebrush flats, which had rocky soil poorly suited to agriculture. For that reason, most of the homesteads on the west side of the river were during the later period of the homestead era, and most homesteaders founded dude ranches.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Snake River  
Surrounding landforms and valley  
Rocky soils

**NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

NA

**9. SMALL SCALE FEATURES:**

During the Bill and Holiday Menor tenure, the landscape included a number of small-scale features that ranged from buck and rail fences, post and pole fences, trash dumps, and the ferry cable and cribbing. Several other small-scale features were likely present that related to the

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<sup>52</sup> Daugherty et al., 187.

agricultural and residential use of the site, such as corrals, hitching posts, wooden crates and barrels, and metal tubs and wash basins.

As use of the site changed, many of the small-scale features, especially fences, deteriorated or were removed. By 1949, no fences remained at the Bill Menor homestead. As part of the ferry restoration plans, buck and pole fence was erected to encompass the homestead property. One segment of the fence ran north-south along the road to 4 Lazy F Ranch, while another segment ran east-west from the road to the river. Additional fences were erected to delineate the parking area south of the homestead cabin. Gates were also built in the fences—one gate along the north-south section of fence and a larger gate in the fence along the parking area.

By 1964, the buck and rail fence surrounding the Bill Menor homestead had been removed. However, a fence surrounded the north, west, and south sides of the Maud Noble property; the date of this fence is unknown.

Today, contemporary small-scale features at Menor's Ferry include interpretive signs and utility poles and boxes. Contemporary buck and pole fencing lines the path from Maud Noble's cabin to the Mission 66 parking lot.

**CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

NA

**NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:**

Interpretive signs  
Utilities

**NON-CONTRIBUTING / COMPATIBLE FEATURES:**

Contemporary buck and pole fencing

**MISSING FEATURES:**

Historic buck and rail fences with gates surrounding Bill Menor homestead  
Post and rail fences surrounding Bill Menor garden

**10. SPATIAL ORGANIZATION:**

Throughout the period of significance, the spatial organization of Menor's Ferry has substantially changed. The original development of the Bill Menor homestead included a central cabin with a series of at least seven outbuildings arrayed to the north, east, and south. The vegetable and flower garden was located to the west surrounded by post and pole fencing. An irrigation ditch supplied water to the garden, dividing the area into smaller sections. The ferry operation was located just south of the main cabin, and was accessed by a road that weaved through the building complex.

The Holiday Menor homestead, established in 1908, was organized in a similar manner. Homestead buildings and outbuildings were mainly clustered together in a level area east of the river and west of a steep terrace. The terraced slope was used for the lime kiln and to access a large barn. A second barn was constructed on top of the terrace. The entire homestead complex was enclosed with buck and pole fencing and was accessed from the south by a dirt two-track road.

In 1918, the spatial organization of the Bill Menor homestead was altered with the addition of the Maud Noble cabin. The cabin, previously constructed on the Bessette property was moved to a

location south of the homestead complex. With the relocation of the cabin, Noble also established a garden in an unknown location.

The spatial organization of Menor's Ferry remained relatively unchanged from 1918 to 1927 as ferry operations continued. The construction of a steel truss bridge in 1927 resulted in the ferry closing and an addition of a new road that divided the land between the Bill Menor homestead and the Maud Noble cabin. Despite these changes, the buildings and other landscape features remained.

In 1929, Noble sold the property to the Snake River Land Company. Between 1929 and the 1940s the spatial arrangement of the west bank of the river remained similar to that of the 1927 character. However, sometime after 1929, the buildings of the Holiday Menor homestead on the east bank of the river were removed.

During the 1940s, substantial changes were made in the spatial arrangement of the development on the west river bank. During the summer of 1942, architect A. E. Kendrew visited Menor's Ferry as part of proposed restoration efforts funded by the Jackson Hole Preserve (successor to the Snake River Land Company). During his visit, Kendrew documented what he believed to be the significant Bill Menor homestead buildings and made recommendations for improvements. His trip report states that "A modern but dilapidated barn located on the north side of the main building [Bill Menor's cabin] was torn down and some of the material salvaged..."<sup>53</sup> Kendrew goes on to recommend the removal of the "woven wire [ferry] cable which now extends across the Snake River and is insecurely anchored. The cable should be coiled and stored inside one of the buildings. The hand-hewn parts of the wooden cable braces and supports are to be taken down and stored inside one of the buildings. A fence is to be built around the property following lines pointed out to Mr. Winger to prevent trespass on the property by campers, picnickers, etc. A fence is to be built around the lime kiln on the east side of the river to obstruct trespassers and prevent accidents."<sup>54</sup>

During the summer of 1949, many of Kendrew's recommendations were carried out as part of the ferry restoration. The majority of Bill Menor's outbuildings were removed from the landscape, while Menor's garden and irrigation ditches were restored. A buck and rail fence was erected surrounding the property. In addition a parking lot was watered and oiled in the area south of Bill Menor's homestead cabin. The restored ferry and landscape was officially dedicated on August 20, 1949.

Changes to the landscape continued into the 1950s with the construction of the transportation barn, improvements at Maud Noble's cabin, and the removal of the steel truss bridge and associated road through Menor's Ferry. By 1960, Menor's Ferry landscape was a fragment of what it had been. Alterations in the 1970s and 1980s focused on visitor access and interpretation of the site.

Today, the west bank of the river features the remaining Bill Menor homestead buildings (cabin, smokehouse, storehouse, well, outhouse, ferry), the Maud Noble cabin and storage shed, and the transportation barn. On the opposite side of the river, remains of the former Holiday Menor homestead include a foundation, lime kiln, and various archeological features. Nearby to the south rest the east ferry landing, pole barn/pontoon shed, and ferry pontoon.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

##### Bill Menor Homestead

<sup>53</sup> Letter to Harold P. Fabian from A. E. Kendrew, Sept 23, 1942. Rockefeller Archives, Chorley Papers, Series IV 3A 3.1, Box 8, Folder 61.

<sup>54</sup> Letter to Harold P. Fabian from A. E. Kendrew, Sept 23, 1942. Rockefeller Archives, Chorley Papers, Series IV 3A 3.1, Box 8, Folder 61.

Holiday Menor Homestead  
Maud Noble Cabin Cluster

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:  
NA

MISSING FEATURES:

West bank spatial organization from Bill Menor era  
East bank spatial organization from Holiday Menor era  
West bank spatial organization from Maud Noble era  
West bank spatial organization from Jackson Hole Preserve era

#### 11. TOPOGRAPHY:

The topography of the site is flat due to its location in the prehistoric river bed of the Snake River, along the banks of the present-day river. The elevation of the site is approximately 6,460 feet. The lowest areas of topography are along the river, with the highest points along the east site boundaries along a steep terrace. Historic adaptations to the topography are limited to Holiday Menor's excavation of the lime kiln area (at the edge of the steep terrace) and Bill Menor's irrigation ditch. The construction of buildings throughout the district also likely changed the natural topography somewhat, although the degree of change is unknown. During the 1949 ferry restoration, topography may have been changed with the restoration of the irrigation ditches and the addition of a parking area at the ferry site. Additional changes in topography also likely occurred throughout the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century with the removal of the bridge and road in the 1950s and with the construction of the existing pedestrian circulation system in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Today, the topography at Menor's Ferry remains relatively flat, but exhibits the accumulation of topographic changes over time. Portions of Bill Menor's irrigation ditches remain as remnants, while other segments have been entirely lost. Topographic changes continue to occur through the deposition and erosion of the river banks.

CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Relatively flat topography  
Steep terrace east of river  
Changes in topography related to irrigation ditches

NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:  
NA



View looking west from the Bill Menor outhouse at the relatively flat topography of the district (National Park Service, October 2010).



View looking south from the Bill Menor homestead at the relatively flat topography of the district (National Park Service, July 2010).

## 12. VEGETATION:

Historic vegetation of Menor's Ferry was both natural and planted, which reflects attempts by human inhabitants to shape the landscape. Early accounts of the Menor's Ferry landscape note that Bill Menor planted a five-acre garden with a variety of vegetables and flowers that were watered through irrigation ditches. The plants grown in the garden likely included currants, raspberries, radishes, strawberries, rhubarb, carrots, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, beets, rutabagas, onions, cauliflowers, and lettuce. Historic photographs of the area show the garden located west of the homestead cabin. Later, Holiday Menor also planted a vegetable and flower garden with pansies, in addition to cultivating wheat, barley, and alfalfa. Additional acreage was also likely cleared for pasture.

Natural vegetation included stands of cottonwoods, aspens, evergreens, and native shrubs and grasses along the river edge. In the vicinity of the ferry, much of the river edge was kept clear and free of vegetation. Some vegetation was also likely removed for use in constructing the buildings and fences and building fires.

When Maud Noble came to the site in 1918, she also established a large vegetable and flower garden, which was irrigated by a waterwheel, although most of the vegetation likely continued to be native stands of deciduous and evergreen trees.

In 1949, vegetation remained similar to that of the previous decades, though with some substantial changes brought about by the ferry restoration. Bill Menor's garden had been lost over time, having not been actively cultivated since his departure from Jackson Hole in 1918. As part of the restoration efforts, Bill Menor's garden was replanted with currants, raspberries, and garden vegetables and flowers similar to those Menor had raised. Bill Menor's irrigation system was also restored to water the garden, vegetation around the buildings, and the pasture. The garden restoration was likely short-lived, as plans were made to restore the garden again in 1972.

Other vegetation present during 1949 included native stands of cottonwood, aspen, and evergreens along the river. One large cottonwood in the area between Bill Menor's homestead cabin and Maud Noble's cabin was also used for shade during the dedication ceremony.

Today, cottonwoods, aspen, and evergreen continue to mark the river edge—some of which remain from the period of significance. Particularly the stand of cottonwoods east of the Bill Menor homestead cabin, cottonwoods surrounding the ferry site on the east bank, blue spruce trees flanking the former bridge location, and the large cottonwood used during the dedication ceremony all remain from 1949. All traces of the gardens have been lost, and dense sagebrush has encroached on the area, though they serve as archeological sites. Other notable vegetation includes a thicker stand of trees around the Maud Noble cabin, where three spruce trees, two of which flank the front door of the cabin, appear to be the only intentionally planted vegetation remaining. The date of this planting is unknown.

### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

Native stands of trees, shrubs, and grasses along the river edge

Bill Menor Gardens, Fields, and Pasture, c.1894

Stand of cottonwoods east of the Bill Menor homestead cabin

Cottonwoods surrounding the ferry site on the east bank

Blue Spruce trees flanking the former bridge location, 1927

Large cottonwood located at the northwest corner of the transportation barn (present at dedication ceremony)

### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

NA





View looking northeast at the former bridge location, flanked by blue spruce trees (National Park Service, March 2011).



View looking northeast at the large cottonwood that was present during the Menor's Ferry dedication ceremony (National Park Service, March 2011).



### 13. VIEWS AND VISTAS:

The location of Menor's Ferry on the sagebrush flats along the Snake affords views of the river, of Blacktail Butte and the Gros Ventres Mountains to the east, and of the Teton Range to the west. The only historic vista in the district is from the east ferry landing between the cottonwood trees, looking at the ferry and the Bill Menor homestead cabin, with the Tetons in the background. This vista was documented in a well-known professional photograph taken after the 1949 ferry restoration.

Today, views remain similar to those of the historic period with panoramic expanses toward the river and mountains to the east and west. Views within the ferry site are relatively enclosed along the river edge due to the terrain and vegetation at the river edge, whereas views surrounding the Bill Menor homestead complex are more open with a lack of overstory vegetation. To the south near the Maud Noble cabin, views are enclosed with dense vegetation. Views within the site have changed with the removal and addition of buildings, paths, gardens, fences, and other landscape features.

#### CONTRIBUTING FEATURES:

- Views of the Snake River
- Views east to Blacktail Butte
- Views east to the Gros Ventres Mountains
- Views west to the Teton Range
- Vista from east river bank to ferry and Bill Menor homestead cabin through cottonwood trees
- Enclosed views along the river edge
- Open views around the Bill Menor homestead

#### NON-CONTRIBUTING FEATURES: NA



Views west to the Teton Range, the ferry and Bill Menor homestead cabin (National Park Service, July 2007).



Open view looking south from the Bill Menor homestead  
(National Park Service, July 2010).



View looking east towards the Gros Ventres Mountains  
(National Park Service, March 2011).

## Condition Assessment

Condition Assessment Fair  
 Assessment Date April 13, 2011  
 Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative: The landscape of Menor's Ferry is in fair condition. While the buildings and structures have been recently stabilized, other landscape features are in need of repair. In particular, the pedestrian path system has deteriorated and is somewhat confusing for visitors.

## Impacts to Inventory Unit

Impact Type: Adjacent Lands  
 External/Internal: Internal  
 Impact Explanatory Narrative: Dornan's, a private inholding on the east river bank, has developed and increased its facilities, thus altering views from the west river bank to the east.

Impact Type: Impending Development  
 External/Internal: Internal  
 Impact Explanatory Narrative: As of 2011, plans are underway to construct residential houses within the Moose Headquarters area. New buildings adjacent to the district have the potential to alter views and the integrity of setting and feeling.

Impact Type: Operations on Site  
 External/Internal: Internal  
 Impact Explanatory Narrative: Large equipment is needed annually to set up and launch the ferry into the river. Use of such equipment has caused soil compaction and a loss of groundcover in several areas on the west bank of the river.

Impact Type: Deferred Maintenance  
 External/Internal: Internal  
 Impact Explanatory Narrative: Deferred maintenance on a number of landscape features in the area have resulted in a deteriorated appearance. In particular, the pedestrian path system is in need of repair and resurfacing.

Impact Type: Erosion  
 External/Internal: Internal  
 Impact Explanatory Narrative: Continuous flooding of the Snake River has resulted in the erosion of the river banks forcing the National Park Service to continuously move buildings and structures farther inland.

## Treatment

Approved Landscape Treatment: Undetermined  
 Approved Landscape Treatment Completed: No.

Approved Landscape Treatment Explanatory Narrative: As of 2011, no treatment has been determined for Menor's Ferry.  
 Approved Landscape Treatment Document: None.  
 Approved Landscape Treatment Document Date: NA

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