

Teton County Historic Site Survey

1. Name of Property

historic name D & W Motel (#2)

other name/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 275 N. Cache ☐ not for publication

city or town Jackson ☐ vicinity

state Wyoming code WY county Teton code 039 zip code 83001

3. Ownership of Property

(check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

4. Category of Property

(check only one box)

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

5. Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
<u>1</u>	_____
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
	Total

Property Owner

name/title Max Kudar, Jr., and Helen Kudar, Trustees

street & number P. O. Box 1712 telephone _____

city or town Jackson state WY zip code 83001

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

National Register Status:

- ☒ Eligible ☐ Unevaluated
☐ Not Eligible ☐ District Potential

6. Function or Use**Historic Function**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: hotel

Current Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: hotel

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Commercial

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

roof unknown

other _____

Narrative Description

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

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 7

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

Areas of Significance

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

1955

Significant Dates

1955

Significant Persons

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Dean Driskell

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 8

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☒ Other Name of repository:

Teton County Historical Society

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 9

10. Geographical DataAcreage of Property less than 5 acres**UTM References**

(Place additional boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

1 1/2 5/1/9/1/9/2 4/8/1/4/4/7/9
Zone Easting Northing2 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing3 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing4 1/2 / / / / / / / / / /
Zone Easting Northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

☒ See continuation sheet(s) for Section No. 10**11. Form Prepared By**

Michael Cassity, Ph.D.
Historical Research and Photography
304 W. Albuquerque
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74011
Phone: 918 451-8378 • Fax: 918 451-8379
mcassity@valornet.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Maps**
- **Photographs:** Representative photographs of the property.

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Continuation Sheet

Section No. 7 Page 99

D & W Motel (#2)

Narrative Description

The D & W Motel (#2) is located on Cache, about two blocks north of the town square in Jackson, Wyoming. It was constructed in 1954 and 1955 and opened for business that year, and while the building has undergone some modification since then in the normal course of business, it continues to convey much of its original appearance.

This motel building contains nine lodging units and an office in a single integrated linear structure under one roof on an east-west axis. The rooms all open to the south facing a parking area immediately and the business district of Jackson ultimately. The office is located on the east end of the building and projects forward to the south slightly beyond the plane of the remainder of the building as it stretches to the west. The office originally included a large fixed light window opening onto Cache Street to the east but that window was filled at an unknown date. The matching large fixed light window opening to the south from the office remains immediately west of the office entrance at the corner of the building. Providing visual separation of the office from the remainder of the building is a decorative wooden fin that stretches from beyond the eave overhang in the front (south) all the way to the rear of the building. Originally an additional sign attachment was located on the flat roof between that fin and the front of the building. It advertised the Motel DW in neon on top of wood panels, with the letters arranged to overlap as if in a stylized cattle brand. The lodging units are arranged in mirror fashion so that the doors to the rooms are paired and so are the windows.

The building was originally clad with board and batten above ashlar (tan and rose) wainscoting. At some point the stone wainscoting was removed to allow for the installation of air conditioning units in each room. And the board and batten was replaced with clapboard siding; since both claddings carry a natural wood stain, the appearance has not been dramatically altered despite the shift from vertical to horizontal lines. The board and batten, in fact, remains on the north elevation, although the wainscoting on that elevation appears to be log plank. In addition a ramp has been provided in recent years to enable access by persons with disabilities.

The D&W Motel (#2) retains necessary integrity.

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D & W Motel (#2)



D & W Motel (#2), postcard postmarked 1956. Postcard from personal collection of Michael Cassity.

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D & W Motel (#2)



D& W Motel (#2), Jackson, Wyoming. East and south elevations, looking west. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2005.

Teton County Historic Site Survey Continuation Sheet

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D & W Motel (#2)



D&W Motel (#2), Jackson, Wyoming. East and north elevations, looking southwest. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2005.

Teton County Historic Site Survey Continuation Sheet

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D & W Motel (#2)



D&W Motel (#2), Jackson, Wyoming. West elevation, looking northeast. Photo: Michael Cassity, 2005.

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D & W Motel (#2)

Narrative Statement of Significance

The D&W Motel (#2) is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its historic significance and under Criterion B for its architectural significance.

The historic significance of the property derives from its association with the pattern of change in Jackson Hole generated by the ascendant tourist economy which replaced the former ranching-dominated economy and social structure.

This building was known simply as the D&W Motel, just as its predecessor was, and is here designated D&W Motel #2 because it was the second, and separate, component of the original D&W Motel located on Glenwood. After World War II, Dean Driskell and his nephew Glenn (Bob) Wiley, and their Driskell and Wiley Construction Company, built their first motel to the south and west—not adjacent—to this property. That motel represented an important addition to the Jackson tourist business and the two expanded their operation by building this structure. They purchased the land in 1953 (fulfilling a 1950 agreement) from Edna Ray Huff. The two parts were physically separate although at this point they were operated as a single business. The advantage was that now the motel could advertise that it was right on the main highway but also offer rooms “in annex off highway.”

The period of significance is brief because this motel was constructed at the late date of 1955, but it is important because it demonstrates the expansion of not only the tourist traffic but the tourist economy and the rise to prominence of the hoteliers in that economy. Dean Driskell would become, by virtue of the motel he operated, a key figure in the Chamber of Commerce and in guiding local economic development. When Driskell ultimately sold the motel, he appears to have sold it to the neighboring hotelier across Cache, Max Kudar, who withdrew from the family operation to run his own motel.

The building is also significant architecturally, not because it is a grand and imposing edifice, for clearly it is not, but because of where it fits in the unfolding pattern of lodging industry architecture. The early D&W Motel (El Rancho) was a motor court design, or, as it was known locally, the first “connected” motel in town—meaning its assembly of lodging units under a continuous roof—and it was arranged in a broad U configuration. This newer complex could be considered a reversion to an earlier form of “connected” motel since it was small and since it was in a straight line. Yet the newer complex was made to look more modern especially with the addition of the Art Deco-reminiscent fin breaking the horizontal line of the building and separating the office from the units. In addition, it also represented a precursor to the next stage of motel construction which abandoned the V and the U as old fashioned and uneconomical; the next stage of motel construction utilized exactly this linear form and then when it added on rooms did so by adding another such line to the back of the existing structure, in that way creating the center core structure (identified by motel historians John Jakle and others) with twin rows of units sharing a common back wall. Of course, the next stage would be the addition of units above on a second story, creating what came to be known as the motor inn structure

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D & W Motel (#2)

or even the highway hotel with multiple stories. In this way, this small and unpretentious motel that now may look dated to some who view it occupies a key position in the evolution of not only the tourist economy, but in the lodging industry's physical appearance, as well.

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Continuation Sheet

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D & W Motel (#2)

Bibliography

Belasco, Warren James. *Americans on the Road: From Autocamp to Motel 1910-1945* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979).

"Dean Driskell, 91, Lived Entire Life in Jackson Hole," *Jackson Hole News & Guide*, August 27, 2003.

"Dean Driskell's Hard Times and Laughs," *Jackson Hole Guide*, September 25, 2002.

"Iris Driskell," *Jackson Hole Journal*, 29 May – 4 June 2004.

Jakle, John A., Keith A. Sculle, and Jefferson S. Rogers. *The Motel in America* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996).

Land Records, Office of the County Clerk, Teton County, Wyoming.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf: 2000).

"Old Timers Celebrate a Lifetime of Marriage," *Jackson Hole Guide*, February 14, 2001.

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D & W Motel (#2)

Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

This property consists of lot 3, block 1, Simpson Addition, Town of Jackson.

Boundary Justification

This boundary includes the property historically associated with D&W Motel (#2).