

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Sublette	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-49-0000	DATE 4/28/70
0010	

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Bonneville

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Section 30 R. 111 W. T. 34 N. 6th P.M.

CITY OR TOWN:
Pinedale

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49 COUNTY: Sublette CODE: 035

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic Site <input type="checkbox"/>
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Site <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Alvin (Ben) Pearson, Daniel, Wyo., and Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Sublette County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Pinedale STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .9

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer-Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

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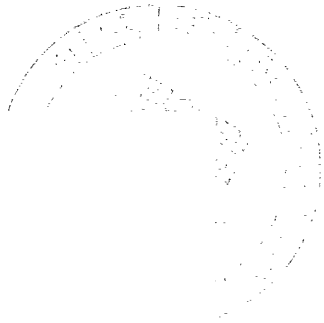
7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	
			Moved <input type="checkbox"/>		Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Fort Bonneville is on a sagebrush covered plateau near the right bank of the Green River. Bordering the site are groves of cottonwood trees, willows and other native vegetation. Nothing remains above the ground at the Fort Bonneville site relative to a physical structure. A large boulder monument marks the site with the inscription "Site of Fort Bonneville, 1832 - 1915." The latter date refers to the year the monument was erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution. A large depression near the marker is reportedly a place where a cache of goods was made during the Bonneville expedition's occupation.

Little is known of the exact dimensions and character of Fort Bonneville. Fragmentary descriptions indicate that it had a stockade built of 12 inch unhewn cottonwood logs placed upright in the ground close together. The stockade was approximately fifteen feet high and one hundred feet square. Blockhouses were set on two diagonally opposite corners. Archaeological investigation should reveal the general outline and construction of the fort.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1832

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | | | | |
|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> | Education | <input type="checkbox"/> | Political | <input type="checkbox"/> | Urban Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> | Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> | Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Other (Specify) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> | losophy | <input type="checkbox"/> | <u>Exploration</u> | |
| Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> | Science | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Art | <input type="checkbox"/> | Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sculpture | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> | Social/Human- | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> | itarian | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> | Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Theater | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |
| | | Music | <input type="checkbox"/> | Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | _____ | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Following in the tracks of the fur traders Captain Benjamin Bonneville, 7th U. S. Infantry, headed West with an expedition in May of 1832. Taking an extended leave of absence from the Army, Bonneville was interested in establishing new enterprises in the fur business. An additional and unofficial purpose of his expedition was to explore the region of the Rocky Mountains and report to the government about the natural features of the region as well as the conditions of the fur trade and the character and customs of the native Indian tribes. Backing for the venture was obtained through eastern financiers.

Leaving from Fort Osage on the Missouri, the party consisted of 110 men, about 20 wagons and an assortment of mules, horses and cattle. The wagons, loaded with supplies and trade goods, represented a relatively new mode of transportation for engaging in the fur business. The use of wagons meant that everything did not have to be unloaded at every camp as was the case with pack trains. However, the taking of wagons into an unchartered wilderness presented its own unique set of problems and made Bonneville's venture a courageous undertaking.

By August of 1832 Captain Bonneville's band had reached the Green River, or "Sisk ke dee" as it was then called by the trappers. In arriving at the Green River the Bonneville party had traversed South Pass and had achieved the distinction of being the first to take wheeled vehicles across the continental divide of the Rocky Mountains. Bonneville became apprehensive about the presence of hostile Blackfeet Indians in the vicinity and directed his men to construct a fortified winter camp on the right bank of the Green River. Designed primarily for protection the stockaded structure was completed August 9, 1832. In all probability Bonneville intended to also operate this "fort" as a fur trading center in the heart of the mountain trapping grounds. Nature intervened when the early and heavy fall snows caused Bonneville to change his mind and abandon the site, apparently believing the location to be a poor one. Before leaving the site the expedition abandoned their wagons. All evidence indicates that the wagons were dismantled and buried with the trade goods to prevent their theft or destruction.

The Bonneville party moved south and west from the Green River during the remainder of 1832 exploring many areas of what is now Wyoming.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Irving, Washington, The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, U. S. A. edited and with an introduction by Edgeley W. Todd (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1961).

_____, Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 2, No. 3 (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Historical Department, 1925) p. 43.

Ferris, W. A. Life in the Rocky Mountains. Ed. by Paul C. Phillips (Denver: Old West Publishing Company, 1940).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42 °	53 ' 36 "	110 ° 8 ' 24 "
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bill Barnhart, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Wyoming Recreation Commission** DATE: **Dec. 19, 1969**

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Cheyenne** STATE: **Wyoming** CODE: **49**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name *Paul H. Prescott*

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 19, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Alvin Casper
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 28 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Hinshaw
Keeper of The National Register

Date APR 2 1970

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COUNTY	
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70.4.49.0070	

Fort Bonneville

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance - page - 2

They spent the winter along the banks of the Salmon River in Idaho. During the next three years members of the expedition attended the rendezvous and scattered to trap and explore the wilderness. One group under the leadership of "mountain man" Joe Walker roamed as far as the Pacific Coast.

Captain Bonneville and most of his men returned east in 1835. Through Washington Irving's classic work The Adventures of Captain Bonneville, based upon Bonneville's accounts, the expedition's feats became widely publicized in later years. Through his maps and reports Bonneville personally made a significant contribution to the knowledge then available about the Rocky Mountain frontier.

The considerable amount of labor expended in constructing Fort Bonneville, followed by its almost immediate abandonment, led many to refer to it as "Fort Nonsense" or "Bonneville's Folly." Though Bonneville's post was of little lasting significance it was the first of its kind in the region and heralded the coming of the fixed trading post concept in the fur trade. Today, the site of Fort Bonneville is both a tangible and symbolic reminder of one of the most interesting undertakings in Western America's development.

