

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Carbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 7014.49-0005	DATE 4/28/70

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Halleck

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: ~~NE 1/4~~ 20 20 81
NW 1/4 ~~NE 1/4~~ NE 1/4, Section ~~30~~: T. ~~10~~ N., R. ~~11~~ W.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49 COUNTY: Carbon CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP			STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>	
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>		
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>		
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)					
Agricultural <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>		
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>			
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Palm Livestock Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Elk Mountain STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Rawlins 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 and 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <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"/>	

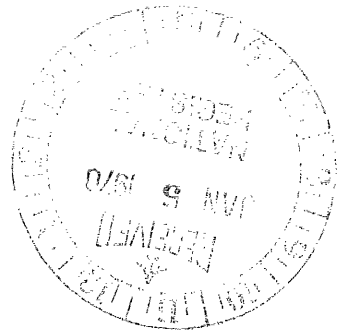
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Contemporary observers described Fort Halleck as consisting of a collection of log structures, huts and dugouts flanking a small parade ground. Three minor streams ran through the grounds. These combined with the surrounding mountain meadows and the towering Elk Mountain in the background gave the site a very picturesque setting. Native materials from the nearby mountains were used in the post's construction and some of the structures were made by placing logs upright in the ground close together and then adding a sod roof. The majority, however, were the conventional low profile "log cabin" style. There is no evidence, based upon present available sources, that the Fort ever had a stockade surrounding it.

None of Fort Halleck's original buildings are definitely known to still be in existence but one small log building at the site is thought to have been either in use at the Fort or else constructed of leftover materials from one of the Fort's original structures.

Today, the site of Fort Halleck is used as a ranch headquarters by the Palm Livestock Company. A modern ranch house along with barns, corrals and various outbuildings occupy the original Fort grounds. This Company also owns and uses most of the area that comprised the Fort Halleck military reservation.

A stone marker is located in the abandoned Fort Halleck cemetery, now a hay meadow. The inscription on the marker reads "Fort Halleck, U.S. Military Post, July 20, 1862 - July 4, 1866. This monument was erected by the State of Wyoming and the Jacques LaRamie Chapter of the D. A. R. in 1914.



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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) **1862 - 1866**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

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

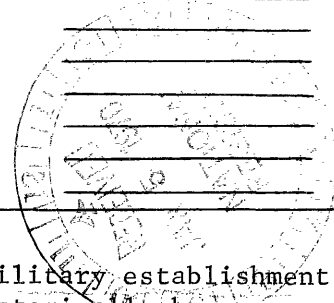
Fort Halleck represents the single and strategic military establishment located along the transcontinental thoroughfare historically known as "The Overland Trail". The building of the Fort was prompted by the hostile Indian warfare existing on the Plains during the early 1860's and its primary purpose was to aid in keeping the line of transportation open between the East and the West.

At the beginning of the Civil War military strength in the West declined to a point that made it difficult and sometimes impossible to keep Indian depredations in check. Along the Oregon - California Trail the stages carrying the United States mails could not be taken through certain areas. Ben Holladay, proprietor of the Overland Stage line contracted to deliver the mail, appealed to the federal government to alleviate the situation. The decision was made to move the route south along a thoroughfare then known as the "Cherokee Trail" or "Bitter Creek" route. This roadway followed up the South Platte River, skirted the Medicine Bow mountains and then headed west across Bridger's Pass and on to Fort Bridger.

Fort Halleck was established about midway on the Overland at the base of Elk Mountain on the northern extremity of the Medicine Bow range. The Fort went into operation on July 20, 1862 at the same time as the stage line was being rerouted. Soldiers of Company A of the 11th Ohio Cavalry constructed the post and named it in honor of Major General Henry W. Halleck of Civil War fame.

The relocation of the stage route meant increased use of the Overland Trail by emigrants, freighters and other travelers. Dr. J. H. Finrock, acting surgeon at Fort Halleck, recorded the passing in 1864 of 4,264 wagons, 17,584 men, women and children, and an estimated 50,000 head of livestock. Contrary to expectations the Indians harassed the users of the new route with the same vigor as elsewhere and Fort Halleck found itself in the center of the most dangerously threatened sector of the trail. From Fort Halleck troops of the 11th Ohio Cavalry and other volunteer units patrolled up and down the trail, both east and west, providing protection and escort. The soldiers experienced hard duty, Indian fighting represented an everyday hazard, and isolation, disease and the elements constituted additional hardships. On occasion the Indians managed to run off or capture all the livestock from the stage stations for several miles and in some instances pillaged and

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 33, No. 1, (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, 1961) p. 97.
 Finrock, J. W., Diary (Laramie, Wyoming, Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming).
 Frederick, J. V. Ben Holladay, the Stage Coach King (Glendale, California: Arthur H. Clark Co., 1940).
 Hafen, L. R. The Overland Mail 1849 - 1869. (Cleveland: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1926).
 Root, F. A. and Connelley, W. E. The Overland Stage to California (Topeka, Kansas: Published by the Authors, 1901).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41 ° 41 ' 53 "	106 ° 30 ' 55 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Bill Barnhart, Assistant 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. Westcott

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 19, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 28 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Harbottle
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 2 1970

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70.4.49.0009	

Fort Halleck

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance - page - 2

burned the stations. When this happened the Trail became impassable, civilians congregated at the Fort for protection and huge quantities of mail would accumulate, unable to be taken further. Such conditions required the loading of several large government wagons with mail and under heavy cavalry escort "running the gauntlet" through the disputed region.

The year of 1865 marked the high point of Indian disturbances along the Overland Trail. With the end of the Civil War and the increased migration to the Montana gold fields the scene shifted to the Bozeman Trail. The establishment of three new protective forts along this route diverted the hostile Indians attention northward. Fort Halleck was officially abandoned by the military on July 4, 1866. Captain Henry R. Mizner, Commanding Officer, dismantled the Fort and removed the usable materials and supplies to Fort Buford (later Sanders), a newly located post on the Laramie Plains established in anticipation of the forthcoming construction of a transcontinental railroad. The four year period in which Fort Halleck was in existence represented a critical time in American history. Although short-lived, the Fort filled a vital need in serving the interests of the United States government when maintaining contact with the Western states became an important consideration in the nation's survival.

