

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Johnson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-4-49 <del>0004</del> 0006	DATE 4/28/70

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Fort Reno

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Connor

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
SE 1/4 SE 1/4 NW 1/4, Section 33: T. 45 N., R. 78 W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cheyenne

STATE Wyoming	CODE 49	COUNTY: Johnson	CODE 019
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**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	State Historic <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:  
State of Wyoming, administered by the 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.:  
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cheyenne

STATE:  
Wyoming

CODE:  
49

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *.2 acres 14.7 acres*

**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:  
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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 checked="" 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"/>

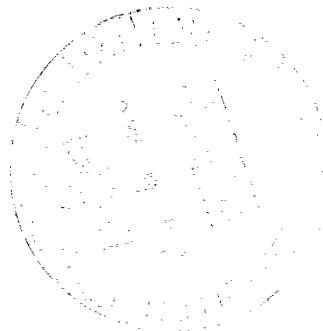
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Fort Reno is on a high bench located on the left bank of the Powder River. Only artifactual debris remains at the site relative to the physical structure of the Fort. The grounds that comprise the Fort site have generally returned to a natural prairie sod cover.

A granite monument marks the site with the inscription "Fort Reno, U.S. Military Post - Established August 28, 1865, abandoned August 18, 1868 - This monument erected by State of Wyoming and the citizens of Johnson County 1914."

Throughout its existence Fort Reno experienced numerous additions, improvements and modifications in its physical layout. Connor's men first built a small stockade of cottonwood logs about 120 feet square. The eight to ten inch logs were set four feet deep in a trench leaving a wall about eight feet high. Inside the stockade was built a quartermaster's and commissary storehouse. Other buildings put up outside the stockade during the fall of 1865 included two barracks, two officers' quarters, a post hospital, shops, teamsters' quarters, and two sutler's buildings. Under Carrington's command in 1866 a log stockade was placed around the unprotected garrison buildings complete with log bastions on the "northwest" and "southeast" corners. A sturdy adobe commander's quarters was also built during 1866. In 1867 Commander Van Voast relocated the entire west stockade line, tore down the old bastions, and built three new hexagonal blockhouses, a new square bastion, and relocated several of the gates. The construction of a guardhouse, additional warehouses, and the completion of new sinks rounded out the improvements. Apparently no further building was done at Fort Reno prior to abandonment in 1868.

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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)

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"/>	Overland migration	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape		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.)

Westward expansion began with renewed vigor at the close of the Civil War. The discovery of gold in southwestern Montana resulted in great numbers of emigrants, miners, and adventurers seeking a direct route to the diggings. From Fort Laramie on the North Platte River, parties heading for the Montana gold fields began to use a new trail that went north along the eastern base of the Big Horn mountains and then turned west to Virginia City. This route became known as the Bozeman Trail, named after John M. Bozeman who had guided a number of emigrant parties over it in 1863 and 1864.

The new road cut directly through the heart of a region regarded by the Sioux as a sacred hunting grounds. Resenting the intrusion of the whites the Indians began to wage a relentless war against any who ventured north of the Platte. Forced to provide protection for travelers the government established, in direct contradiction to the wishes of the Indians, a chain of military forts along the Bozeman Trail. They included Fort Reno (originally Fort Connor), Fort Philip Kearny and Fort C. F. Smith.

During the summer of 1866, Colonel Henry B. Carrington of the 18th U. S. Infantry led a force of 700 men into the Powder River country to begin construction of the new posts. Carrington's party reached Fort Reno (Connor) on June 28, 1866. The Fort was located on a high plateau on the banks of the Powder River near the mouth of Dry Fork. Fort Connor had been established on August 14, 1865 by General Patrick Connor during the Powder River Expedition of that summer. November 11, 1865 the Fort's name was changed from Connor to Reno in honor of General Jesse L. Reno, killed September 14, 1862 at the Battle of South Mountain. The post was a crude affair with a warehouse and stables surrounded by a rough cottonwood log stockade and the quarters of both the officers and men were without protection. The buildings possessed earth covered roofs and dirt floors. Company C and D, 5th U. S. Volunteers and Company A, Omaha Scouts, garrisoned Fort Connor during the winter of 1865-66 but upon Carrington's arrival they were mustered out of the service and departed "without a single regret".

The two years that followed saw troops from Fort Reno engaging in the routine duties of garrison life interspersed with more exciting moments involving Indian warfare. The Fort never came under direct attack from the Indians but encounters with them occurred regularly throughout the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Murray, Robert A., Military Posts in the Powder River Country of Wyoming 1865 - 1894 (Lincoln : University of Nebraska Press. 1968)

**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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 49' 39"	106° 14' 22"	
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. Oresick

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 Casper  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 28 1970

ATTEST:

William J. VanAntwerp  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: APR 13 1970

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STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Johnson	
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70-449-0008	

(Continuation Sheet)

Fort Reno

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - page - 2

area and along the trail to the north and south. The Indians frequently ran off stock, both civilian and military, harassed the emigrant trains, and killed a number of individuals who had wandered from the safety of their respective groups. Unlike her sister post Fort Phil Kearny, Fort Reno never gained widespread publicity, notoriety, or folklore fame. This was due in large part to the fact that troops from Fort Reno never participated in any major encounters such as the Wagon Box or Hayfield fights and never experienced a major disaster such as the Fetterman Massacre. Fort Reno's role consisted primarily of insuring that the southern section of Bozeman Trail was kept open and passable -- a difficult task that was accomplished without undue fanfare.

Garrison strength during the twenty-eight months that Fort Reno was active averaged around 200 men. Numbers varied from 104 in the spring of 1866 to 300 in the fall of 1867 and down to 125 in the summer of 1868. Unit complements stationed at the Fort at various times included those of Companies A, B, C, E, F and G, 18th Infantry and Companies B, D, F and I, 27th Infantry. Captain Joseph L. Proctor, Lt. Col. Henry W. Wessels, Major James J. Van Voast, Major Benjamin F. Smith, 2d Lt. James M. Stembel, 1st Lt. Jacob Paulus and 1st Lt. Goerge M. Templeton.

In accordance with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868, Fort Reno was abandoned in August of the same year. Shortly after the military left, the entire post was destroyed by fire. Bodies left in the post cemetery were later reinterred and placed at the Custer Battlefield National Cemetery during the 1880's.

