

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming
COUNTY: Laramie
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Francis E. Warren Air Force Base

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Fort D. A. Russell; Fort Francis E. Warren

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Western edge of town

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
State

STATE: **Wyoming** CODE: **56** COUNTY: **Laramie** CODE: **021**

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
Department of Defense, Pentagon

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

STATE:
Wyoming

CODE:
56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
National Register; Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1969; 1974** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
National Register of Historic Places ; Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1100 L Street, N.W.;

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D.C.

CODE:
11

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. Francis E. Warren Air Force Base is situated along both sides of Crow Creek immediately west of Cheyenne and about 8,600 feet above sea level. None of the original Fort D. A. Russell structures are extant, but many of the 1885 buildings remain, as do some from the 1890's and most from the period 1900-10. These structures are located in close proximity to each other and are in good condition. The historic district contains several post-World War I edifices also, but the construction material throughout is red brick. Thus the buildings and the well-landscaped grounds, including six parades, present a pleasant panorama. Visitors may enter the base on locally arranged bus tours but are allowed to disembark only at the post museum. This restriction is a matter of traffic control rather than a security measure.

II. There are 19 surviving pre-1900 structures, and 17 are little altered externally. Most are still in use.

Officers Family Quarters (building 2). Erected in 1885, this two-story quarters was occupied briefly by Gen. John J. Pershing's family in 1912. Resting on a stone foundation, the structure consists of a 39- by 42-foot main block and a 23- by 24-foot rear wing. The main block has a truncated hip roof pierced by four interior brick chimneys, while the wing has a standard hip roof and one interior brick chimney. Scroll brackets support the cornice of the main section. A one-story, hip-roofed, balustraded veranda extends across the front of the house and along approximately three-fourths the length of the northwest side. Most of the windows are four-over-four sash and have stone sills and double-layered brick segmental arches. Hexagonal bays with three windows flank the double front door, above which is a segmentally arched transom. The only significant exterior alteration is a one-story frame addition appended to the northwest side of the wing.

Officers' Family Quarters (Buildings 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28). These identically rendered, two-story quarters were completed in 1888. Each stands on a low stone foundation and consists of a gable-roofed front transverse section that measures 34 by 28 feet and a gable-roofed rear wing that measures 17 by 27 feet. A single, corbeled, interior brick chimney pierces the roof of each section. Two gabled dormers adorn the front of the transverse block, while a single gabled dormer graces each side of the rear ell. The three-bay front is sheltered on the lower level by a full-length hip-roofed, railed veranda. All windows are four-over-four sash and have stone sills, and openings on the sides, rear, and first-story front are segmentally arched. The interiors

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(continued)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1867 to present**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Francis E. Warren Air Force Base enjoys the distinction of having evolved from a noteworthy frontier infantry and cavalry post into an important modern Air Force facility. Gen. Christopher C. Augur founded the post in 1867 to protect Union Pacific Railroad workers from hostile Indians, and today the installation is one of the Nation's six Minutemen intercontinental ballistic missile centers.

Nineteenth-century military activity at the post, which was known as Fort D. A. Russell until 1929, focused primarily on Indian affairs. The famous Pawnee scout battalion made its headquarters there during 1871, and a sizable portion of the garrison participated in the Sioux war of 1876 and the Ute campaign of 1879. In 1882 the War Department abandoned several smaller frontier posts and made Fort D. A. Russell a permanent installation because of its strategic location on the transcontinental railroad. Three years later the Army launched a massive rebuilding program at the post, and the erection of 27 red brick buildings helped establish a U.S. military construction pattern that continued until the beginning of World War II. Meanwhile Fort D. A. Russell served as a mobilization point during the Spanish-American War and the Philippine insurrection, as a major field artillery and cavalry training post during World War I, and as an officer and quartermaster training facility during World War II. The Air Force acquired the installation in 1947 and ceded it to the Strategic Air Command in 1958.

None of the original Fort D. A. Russell structures are extant, but most of the 1885 and later red brick quarters, offices, and stables survive and are in good condition. Bus tours enable visitors to view the historic building exteriors and the attractively landscaped grounds and to tour the well-maintained post museum.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(continued)

Kendall, Jane R. "History of Fort Francis E. Warren," Annals of Wyoming, XVIII (January, 1946), 3-66.

Larson, T. A., History of Wyoming (Lincoln, 1965).

National Register "Inventory-Nomination Form" for Francis E. Warren Air Force Base. Prepared by Nedward M. Frost of the Wyoming Recreation Commission and submitted to the National Register on July 9, 1969.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	41° 10' 03"	104° 52' 28"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	41° 08' 59"	104° 50' 19"				
SE	41° 08' 20"	104° 50' 22"				
SW	41° 09' 11"	104° 52' 28"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **circa 630 acres**

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:
George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION: **American Association for State and Local History** DATE: **Sept. 1, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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7. Description (cont'd.)

of these residences are arranged in a side-hall plan and are altered considerably. The dwellings continue to serve as quarters.

Noncommissioned Officers' Family Quarters (buildings 274, 275). Originally measuring 22 by 27 feet, these small, rectangular-shaped, one-story residences were erected in 1885. They rest on stone foundations, have hipped gable roofs, single interior chimneys, and full, front, hip-roofed, three-bay, railed verandas. Each dwelling has received a frame extension and small ell at the rear. Windows in the original portion are two-over-two sash set in segmentally arched openings, while those in the newer rear portion are six-over-six sash set in rectangular-shaped openings. The transom over the single front door of each house has been filled in with brick. At present these quarters stand vacant.

Enlisted Men's Barracks (buildings 212, 213, 214, 216). Constructed in 1885, these one-story, U-shaped, gabled-roofed buildings have been converted into child care, recreation, and supply facilities. Each structure consists of a front transverse section 104 feet long and 34 feet deep and two rear wings, each measuring 80 by 30 feet. A veranda supported by square posts extends across the front of each barracks, and each has segmentally arched window openings with stone sills.

Base Museum. (building 210). This 2 1/2-story structure was completed in 1894 for use as the principal post administrative facility, and today it serves as the base museum. The building rests on a stone foundation and has a parapet gabled roof, transversely situated. A single-story, five-bay-wide, hip-roofed veranda with Doric columns and turned balusters graces the front of the edifice. Three pairs of windows adorn the lower level of each side and the upper level front, and each opening has nine-over-nine lights, a stone sill, and a flat stone arch with keystone. At the upper level of each end, similar pairs of windows flank a double window that has nine-over-nine lights and is topped by a semicircular fanlight and stepped stone arch. Above that, each gable end features a semicircular, three-light window with a similarly shaped stone arch.

Double windows flank the centrally located front entrance. It is a single door set in a double-size opening

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7. Description (cont'd.)

and topped by a semi-elliptical fanlight. Inside, a central hallway divides the first floor into two wings of three rooms each. An open, triple-flight stair leads from the hall to the partitionless second floor, which was used formerly as a ballroom and is utilized presently as an exhibit area. The building has a full attic and basement and is in good condition.

Old Hospital (building 31). Completed in 1887, this now-vacant medical facility consists of a two-story, 40- by 42-foot central block; two single-story, 46- by 26-foot side wings; one centrally placed, two-story, approximately 15- by 45-foot rear ell; and two end-situated, single-story, approximately 20- by 45-foot rear ells. Each section has a hipped roof of slate. All windows have been boarded up, and the front entrance has been altered considerably, as has the interior. The structure appears fairly sound structurally, though, and is rendered especially interesting by the segmentally arched, brick hoodmolds that adorn every window opening.

III. Between 1900 and 1911, the Army continued to erect red brick buildings with stone foundations at Fort D. A. Russell. Almost all family quarters constructed during those years are still used for housing purposes. Indeed, few structures of any kind from that era stand vacant at present, but many have been altered internally over the years to conform to changing needs.

Officers' Family Duplexes (buildings 12, 14, 16, 18, 20). Every one of these 1900-vintage, U-shaped, 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed residences contains about 5,200 square feet of floorspace. On each, a centrally located, gabled pavilion juts from the front of a transverse main block, and two ells extend from the rear. Most of the windows have stone sills and flat brick arches. The central pavilion gable features a Palladian-type window, however, and each transverse gable end displays a small elliptical window. The front of each dwelling is graced by a full-length, single-story, balustraded gallery with two sets of front steps.

Officers' Family Quarters (building 47). Gen. Billy Mitchell is believed to have occupied this 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed dwelling in 1912. Erected in 1906, it is

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7. Description (cont'd.)

comprised of a 42- by 23-foot central block and a 27- by 22-foot rear wing. A flat-roofed, single-story veranda supported by Doric columns extends across the front and part of the southeast side. The main entrance is a double, transom-topped door, and most of the windows are six-over-two sash with stone sills and flat brick arches.

Officers' Family Quarters (buildings 36, 38, 40, 50, 52, 56, 60). These two-story, U-shaped residences were constructed in 1905-6 on and immediately east of Staff Circle. Each contains 6,800 square feet of floorspace.

Officers' Family Quarters (buildings 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 91, 93, 94, 96, 108, 110, 112, 114, 116, 117, 118, 120, 122, 124, 126, 128, 131). These two- and three-story dwellings were erected along Warren Avenue east of Staff Circle between 1908 and 1911, and they exhibit a variety of designs and roof styles. Included are single quarters, duplexes, and quadruplexes, plus both hip and gable roofs. Some of the residences are topped with slate and others with tile. Some are rectangular shaped, while others have rear wings. Despite differences in design, the quarters are linked visually by common red brick exteriors, white-painted trim, and the tree-lined street. All the houses are occupied.

Commanding Officer's Quarters (building 92). Erected in 1910, this two-story, gable-roofed structure is believed to be one of only three such quarters constructed on U.S. military bases. The dwelling consists of a transversely situated main block that measures 62 by 28 feet and a rear wing that is 37 by 30 feet. Both sections have red tile roofs, and together they exhibit four interior brick chimneys. Particularly distinctive exterior features include a denticulated roof cornice; brick quoins at each corner; flat, alternating stone and brick arches above first-story windows in the main block; and a two-story, pedimented portico supported by four fluted Ionic columns and two fluted Ionic pilasters. Underneath the portico, the front entrance is a double door flanked by side lights and topped by a semielliptical transom and stone hoodmold. Immediately above the entrance, another double door with side lights opens onto a small semielliptical balcony with a black-painted ornamental iron railing. The building appears to be in excellent condition.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Noncommissioned Officers' Duplexes (buildings 374, 376, 378, 380, 382, 384). The Army built these 37- by 27-foot, two-story residences in 1910. Each has a gable roof with plain boxed cornices and returns; an interior chimney on both slopes; a one-story, full-length, enclosed, rear shed; and a one-story, balustraded, front gallery. The front porches rest on stone piers and have two sets of access steps. Except for a half-round fanlight in each gable end, all openings are segmentally arched.

Nurses' Quarters (building 44). This elegant, two-story, L-shaped, 118-foot-long structure was erected in 1908 to house nurses. Currently it serves as a bachelor officers' quarters. The building has a hip roof; a bracket-supported, decorated box cornice; and a two-tiered, balustraded gallery that extends across the front facade and is supported by wooden Doric columns. An off-center, two-story, pedimented portico shelters the main entrance. Of particular interest are the flat, stone arches that top double windows on both stories.

Enlisted Men's Barracks (buildings 220, 222, 226, 228, 236, 238). Constructed between 1906 and 1910, each of these two-story, U-shaped, gable-roofed edifices consists of a main transverse section measuring 150 by 29 feet and two rear ells of varying lengths. Two-tiered verandas extend fully across the front facades and are supported by white-painted wooden Doric columns linked by black-painted iron rails. Windows are four-over-four sash with stone sills and segmental brick arches.

Old Post Headquarters (building 65). This large 1909-vintage structure is the 4th Air Division Headquarters building. The two-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed edifice is distinguished by a full, ground-level basement, an arcaded first story, heavy brick quoins, a stone belt course above the second-story windows, and a decorated box cornice.

Stables (buildings 315, 316, 317, 318, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 333, 336, 340). Erected between 1906 and 1909, these rectangular-shaped, one-story structures measure 67 feet wide and vary in length from 150 to 200 feet. The roofs are gabled, but the crest portions are elevated to provide ventilation. Each building has two large, segmentally arched double doors in each end and one near the center of each side.

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7. Description (cont'd.)

Six-over-six sash windows with stone sills and segmental brick arches line both sides of each building. Together these structures represent perhaps the largest extant aggregate of early 20th-century Army stables. They have been altered considerably internally, as they are used currently as shops and warehouses. The exteriors are little changed, however.

Veterinary Stable (building 329). This T-shaped, 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed stable was built in 1908 and is the only one remaining on the base with stalls intact. It retains the original black slate roof also. Entrance to the transverse front section is through a large, board-and-batten double door with semicircularly arched transom. Inside there is a large central passageway with four offices on the right and an operating room and observation gallery on the left. From the passageway, two large sliding doors lead to the rear area, where along either side of another passageway, there are a grain room, a hay room, a workroom, isolation stalls, regular stalls, and dog kennels. Above these is a hayloft. All windows are set in segmentally arched openings. The office area has six-over-six, double-hung sashes; the operating room eight-over-eight, double-hung sashes; and the stable area four-light sliding sashes.

Riding Stable (building 314). Constructed in 1907, this cross-shaped, parapet-gabled arena contains approximately 28,000 square feet of floorspace. Large, segmentally arched, double doors provide access at each end and on each side. At present the building houses the base commissary.

Stable Guardhouses and Warehouse (buildings 292, 310, 312). These are three of several such 1 1/2-story, gable-roofed structures erected between 1906 and 1909. With about 2,000 square feet of floorspace, they were used initially as support buildings for the cavalry operations, but today they are utilized primarily for storage. They display the same segmentally arched openings found in many of the other period structures.

IV. Cemetery. This facility is located on the northern edge of the historical district and contains graves that date back to 1867, as well as graves of German and Italian prisoners who died at the post during World War II.

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Boundary (as indicated in red on the accompanying maps and including the site of Cheyenne Depot and the Crow Creek Indian campground at the western end of the base). Beginning near the principal entrance to the base, at the intersection of East E Street and North Randall Avenue, a line running westward along North Randall to West A Street; thence northward along West A to Warren Avenue; thence westward along Warren to West B Street; thence northward along West B to the access road immediately behind buildings 130 and 131; thence westward along the access road as it proceeds curvingly in a westward direction behind buildings 131 to 66 and to Fifth Street; thence northward along Fifth to the base cemetery; thence counterclockwise around the cemetery and back to Fifth; thence southward along Fifth to the access road immediately north of building 65; thence westward along that access road and passing behind the buildings that front onto Staff Circle and behind the base hospital and quarantine building to the access road behind buildings 1 through 12; thence southward along that access road to Randall Avenue; thence westward along Randall about 400 feet to the base campground entrance; thence due northwestward approximately 150 yards to an unmarked point; thence due southwestward across Crow Creek to a dirt road immediately below a high northwest-southeast ridge; thence southeastward approximately 500 yards along the dirt road to an unmarked point near a large northward bend in Crow Creek; thence due northeastward to the Colorado Southern Railroad tracks; thence southeastward along the railroad tracks to the eastern end of the base; thence northward along the base boundary and parallel to the freeway (Interstate 25) to the starting point near the principal base entrance.

This boundary includes most of the historic structures erected between 1885 and 1910. All are similarly constructed and situated in close proximity to each other.

9. Major Bibliographical References (cont'd.)

Utley, Robert M., Frontier Regulars: The United States Army and the Indian: 1866-1891 (New York, 1973).

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

History

The history of Fort D. A. Russell is linked inseparably with that of the first transcontinental railroad. In 1862 the Railroad Act provided Federal subsidies for construction of a cross-country line and prescribed the location of a division point at the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains. Track laid beyond that point was to earn greater Federal assistance for the builder. Because the Government had a vital interest in the construction and successful operation of the line, the Army was charged with protecting railroad work gangs and property against hostile Indians. Accordingly, on July 4, 1867, when Gen. Grenville M. Dodge, chief engineer for Union Pacific, designated Cheyenne as that company's mountain region headquarters, Gen. Christopher C. Augur established Fort D. A. Russell about 3 miles to the west. Named in honor of an 8th Infantry officer killed during the Civil War, the post adjoined Crow Creek and rested strategically halfway between the Canadian and Mexican borders and only a few hundred miles closer to Los Angeles than to New York.

Detachments of the 30th Infantry and 2d Cavalry formed the first garrison at the new fort. For a brief time the troops lived in log huts and tents, but during the winter of 1867-68, both officers and enlisted men moved into frame quarters. These were situated in the shape of a diamond, which opened to the east and had axes measuring 800 and 1,040 feet. To supply Fort D. A. Russell and other military installations in the vicinity, and Army erected Cheyenne Depot immediately southwest of the new post. Known popularly as Camp Carlin (sic) in honor of its founder Col. Elias B. Carling, the depot grew eventually into one of the largest supply bases in the West and came to employ an average of 285 civilians.

Until completion of the railroad in 1869, troops from Fort D. A. Russell and other area posts guarded every surveying party and construction gang. After the railroad was finished, the Indians left it alone, but they continued to harass travelers and emigrants and thus kept the soldiers busy performing escort duty and tracking stolen livestock. In 1868 the Government and the Sioux signed a treaty that created a large reservation in Dakota Territory and set aside lands north of the North Platte River and east of the Big Horn

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Mountains as a hunting reserve for the Indians. This agreement did not bring peace, though. Under terms of the document, the Army had to abandon three forts in the hunting region, and no white person could enter it. The area became, therefore, a haven from which the Sioux could raid passersby and settlers in the thinly populated country between the Union Pacific Railroad and the North Platte. As a result of these conditions, Fort D. A. Russell soldiers carried out numerous scouting expeditions in present-day Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, and Nebraska.

During the late 1870's post units participated in major campaigns against both the Sioux and the Utes. For years whites had been growing increasingly interested in prospecting for gold in the Black Hills, but that region lay within a large Sioux reservation created in 1868. Recognizing that whites could not be kept out of that area, the United States tried to persuade the Indians to sell it. They refused, so in 1875 the Government decided to force all Sioux hunting bands onto the reservation and thereby end their raiding activities and diminish their ability to resist white penetration into the Black Hills. Ultimately this policy led to the ill-fated Sioux campaign of 1876 and the Battle of Little Big Horn. During this operation and the action that immediately preceded and followed it, cavalry and infantry from Fort D. A. Russell formed part of Gen. George Crook's command.

Three years later trouble occurred with the Utes, and Capt. J. Scott Payne and a 5th Cavalry detachment from Fort D. A. Russell figured prominently in that conflict. The difficulty began when Indian Agent Nathan C. Meeker tried to force the Utes, who occupied a reservation in western Colorado, to abandon their hunting customs and become farmers. Because white Coloradans were clamoring already for the tribe's removal to Indian Territory, Meeker's demands forced the Utes to the brink of revolt. Alarmed, the agent requested military assistance to restrain the Indians, and in September Maj. Thomas T. Thornburgh of the 4th Infantry gathered a command of about 155 men, including Payne's detachment, and proceeded to the vicinity of White River Agency on the Ute Reservation. There, unsuccessful efforts to arrange talks precipitated a full-scale battle and a series of depredations that left Thornburgh, Meeker, 10 soldiers, 9 agency employees, and at least 23 Indians dead. Having assumed command upon

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

Thronburgh's death, Payne requested reinforcements, and Col. Wesley Merritt brought them quickly from Fort D. A. Russell. News of these events alarmed the entire Nation and resulted in the assembling of hundreds of troops in western Colorado, but fortunately Ute leaders and Indian Bureau officials achieved a peaceful settlement of the crisis.

During the 1880's the Army abandoned many of its older Indian-fighting posts. Fort D. A. Russell was retained, though, because it sat strategically on the transcontinental rail route. In 1885 the War Department ordered the post rebuilt to serve eight infantry companies, so in place of the old frame structures the Army put up 27 red brick buildings. These included barracks and both noncommissioned and commissioned officers' quarters. A similarly constructed hospital reached completion in 1887 and an administrative building in 1894. The erection of these brick edifices helped establish a U.S. military construction pattern that continued until the beginning of World War II.

Unfortunately none of the new barracks at Fort D. A. Russell were spacious enough to house a full company comfortably, and for several years morale remained low. Moreover, in 1890 the War Department dismantled Cheyenne Depot and thus removed additional luster from the larger parent installation. The fort could boast, however, of having the Army's most thoroughly drilled mule pack train. From it cadres traveled to other military stations to activate similar units.

In 1898 the Spanish-American War brought renewed importance to the post. Soon after President William McKinley sent a war message to Congress in April, the 8th Infantry departed from Fort D. A. Russell en route to Cuba. Later the Wyoming National Guard was mustered into service at the post and readied for duty in the Philippines. When the war ended, the United States found itself in possession of island territories and constrained therefore to continue maintaining an alert armed force. Thus in 1901 the Army underwent reorganization, and in 1905 Secretary of War William H. Taft recommended that Fort D. A. Russell be made a brigade-size post. A major expansion program resulted in the construction of a large number of red brick quarters, offices, and stables between 1902 and 1910. During that same period, various post units served as part of the American

(continued)

41.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	Wyoming
COUNTY	Laramie
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

Warren AFB

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

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8. Significance (cont'd.)

occupation and pacification forces in both Cuba and the Philippines. From 1913 to 1916 other post outfits performed patrol duty along the United States-Mexican border, and during World War I the fort served as a mobilization point and training facility for field artillery and cavalry groups.

With the end of the war in Europe there came another Army reorganization. Fort D. A. Russell underwent few changes, though, and during the 1920's, it housed cavalry and artillery units almost entirely, along with hundreds of the Army's finest horses and mules. In this period of peace, post personnel devoted much of their time to beautifying the fort and to either playing or watching polo. The installation had two polo practice fields, a polo exhibition field, and a 28,000-square-foot indoor riding arena.

The next decade brought a new name for the post. On January 1, 1930, it became Fort Francis E. Warren in honor of Wyoming's senior U.S. Senator, who had died a short time earlier after 37 years in office. Few other changes occurred at the fort during the 1930's, but the coming of World War II produced a myriad of them. Between December 1940 and December 1941, the Army erected 387 new buildings on the post reservation and turned it into a quartermaster training center for more than 20,000 men. In 1942 an officers candidate school was established at the fort and in 1943 a prisoner-of-war camp. Some of the prisoners died there and are buried in the post cemetery.

Two years after the war ended, the Army relinquished Fort Francis E. Warren to the Air Force, and the post became Francis E. Warren Air Force Base. Initially the Air Force used the base as a training facility for its aviation engineer, administration and supply, and fixed wire schools, but in 1958 the Strategic Air Command assumed control of the base. The technical schools moved away, and the following year SAC organized the Nation's first solely tactical intercontinental ballistic missile wing at the base and deployed Atlas missiles there. In 1963 the 90th Strategic Missile Wing took charge of the installation and deployed approximately 200 Minuteman missiles in blast-resistant, underground launch sites within a 150-mile radius of Cheyenne. This operation remains the primary mission at the base.