

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 15 1980

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Whipple-Lacey House

AND/OR COMMON

A.H.E.P.A. Lodge #211, Cowboy Chapter

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 East 17th Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Cheyenne

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

Laramie

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___ DISTRICT

___ PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

___ AGRICULTURE

___ MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ COMMERCIAL

___ PARK

___ STRUCTURE

___ BOTH

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ ENTERTAINMENT

___ RELIGIOUS

___ OBJECT

___ IN PROCESS

___ YES: RESTRICTED

___ GOVERNMENT

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ NO

___ MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

A.H.E.P.A. Chapter, #211

STREET & NUMBER

300 East 17th Street

Wyoming

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cheyenne, Wyoming

___ VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Building

STREET & NUMBER

19th and Carey Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cheyenne,

Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission; Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

___ FEDERAL STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

604 East 25th Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Cheyenne

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Nov, 1979</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The mansion is located three blocks east of the center of downtown Cheyenne, situated on the southwest corner of the 300 block of East 17th Street, at the intersection of House Avenue. The house was built by I.C. Whipple, early Cheyenne banker, business entrepreneur, and stockman. Later, it was the home of Judge John W. Lacey, and presently, it houses the A.H.E.P.A. Chapter, #211.

The house was executed in a style that has been called Modernized French Villa, however, the Victorian predilection for the eclectic has prevailed and other styles are apparent. Built of red brick and trimmed with cut stone, the house is two and a half story in height. It faces south, and viewed from the front it is asymmetrical. On the left is a large wing running south to north, faced with a two story bay window on the front. Originally, the second floor bay window was topped by a small balcony with a trefoil arched millwork porch.

In the center of the facade is the main entrance, once surmounted by a three story tower-cupola, the roof of which was completed in a modified French Empire style. The window treatment of the cupola repeated the trefoil arch of the balcony to the west and has in its stone window cap, a Moorish effect. There was ornamental ironwork around the top of the cupola.

Across the front from the main entrance to the right (east) end of the house was a shallow, single-story porch of exceptional quality millwork. At the corners of the porch, the turned posts were in groups of three, the remaining supports being in groups of two. The corbel arches joining the posts were pierced and cut to duplicate the incising of the stone window and door caps on the front facade. The wooden panels between the porch's stone foundation pieces repeat the pierced cutwork of the corbels.

Generally speaking, the eaves and cornices of the roof are bracketed and some have a modified dentil pattern. The roofs are sharply peaked, and featured ornamental shingle work originally.

Possibly one of the most distinctive features of the old house is the pierced and coffered chimney pent on the west wall. When the brick was laid, a double flue was put in so that a stained glass window could be incorporated into the chimney. It gives the chimney grace and proportion and provides a striking base for the coffered portion of the upper pent and the diagonally placed chimney stacks and corbeled chimney pots.

Beyond the chimney is a single-story bay window facing west, projecting out of the dining room. At one time there was a small ballustrade on the bay window roof, forming a small balcony.

Because the house at one time had a rooftop cistern for collecting rain and snow water, it is thought that indoor plumbing was a feature of the house from its construction. Gravity drew the water from the cistern through pipes into appropriate rooms for household use.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1883 - present

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The significance of the house lies in several areas. Its certain importance is that it is associated with two of the most important pioneer figures in the history of southeastern Wyoming. Ithamar C. Whipple and John W. Lacey. Ithamar C. Whipple, the builder, was born in Chautauqua County, New York in 1839, and lived in various eastern and midwestern states until he immigrated to Colorado in 1867. From there, he moved to Cheyenne, where he spent the remainder of his long and active life. For about a year after his arrival in Cheyenne, he was employed by S.F. Nuckolls as a clerk in a general merchandise store. Nuckolls distinguished himself as the first Territorial Representative to Congress from Wyoming. Whipple then went into business for himself in the 1600 block of Carey Avenue in Cheyenne, prospering, until the fire of 1874 destroyed his store. Whipple rebuilt in the same business block and shared the building with two other pioneer merchantmen, Pease and Taylor. Eventually, Whipple, Pease and Taylor consolidated with Erasmus Nagle to form the Union Mercantile Company in 1884.

At the time of the merger, Whipple's long-time business associate had been Henry G. Hay, a civil engineer, with whom he had engaged both in the grocery and livestock business. The pair had ranched extensively in southeastern Wyoming under the name of the Laramie River Cattle Company. Both became members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association, and Hay for a while served as its Treasurer. From the time Hay, along with Joseph M. Carey and Thomas Sturgis formed the Stock Growers National Bank in Cheyenne in 1881, Whipple was affiliated with that institution. At various times, he served as both director and Vice President, and was considered to be an important shareholder at the time of his death.

Although his primary interests lay in commerce, Whipple found a bit of time for politics and was involved with most progressive activities in Cheyenne. He served in the Third Territorial Assembly in 1873 and acted as Mayor of Cheyenne in 1875. Another activity of note was his involvement in the Baptist Church of Cheyenne, and it is said that he was responsible for paying off most of their outstanding debts. During the Black Hills Gold Rush of the mid 1870s he had an interest in the Treasure Chest Mine. On the whole he relied upon banking, retail merchandising, and ranching to accumulate his fortune.

The Panic of 1892-1893 caused the reverses of many banking-connected fortunes, and while there is no evidence to indicate that Whipple suffered any losses, it is at about this time that he sold the house to John W. Lacey. Lacey had been born in

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ADDENDUM

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cheyenne, north, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,1,5,7,9,10 4,5,3,5,6,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

N/A

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William H. Barton, Senior Historian/Documents Supervisor

November, 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Wyoming State Archives Museums and Historical Department

(307) 777-7518

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Barrett Building

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Cheyenne

Wyoming

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE x

LOCAL x

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jan L. Wilson

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 25, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/15/80

ATTEST: *William H. Graham*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5.13.80

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The large double front doors are the original ones, and are Eastlake in design. In general, the interior has been greatly influenced by the Eastlake school. Beyond the front doors is a foyer with black and white parquet flooring and a brilliant glass transom. The main hall is not deep, but is ample nonetheless. A curving staircase with a landing that once graced the hall has been removed and a plainer one put in its place.

The main parlor is on the left of the hall and has a handsomely carved mantle that repeats the clustered column effect of the front porch. Above the mantle is the previously mentioned stained glass window with an arched top. The wood used for both the windowsill and mantle is black walnut. There is Eastlake woodwork around the windows and doors and an ornate gingerbread fretwork over the bay window opening. The wood has been painted for many years and the type used is not known. Behind the main parlor to the north is the dining room. The bay window projecting from this room is topped by a neo-classical arch, terminating in acanthus leaf corbels. The room has a fireplace with a carved mantle that has two locking cupboards about twelve inches high and eight inches wide. As well, it has a carved plate rail. Behind the kitchen to the north was the first kitchen.

Across the hall from the main parlor to the east is a second parlor or music room. There is another carved fireplace mantle, this one featuring a reed and ivy design. Glazed tiles depicting a pair of mid-eastern men, face the opening. Beyond the second parlor is the last room on the east, an oak paneled study or library added by the second owner. The room is primarily Edwardian and is indicative of how decorating styles changed in the years from 1880 to the early 20th century. The paneling is rich and tasteful, but decidedly more simple than the other woodwork in the house. There is a fireplace which backs that of the second parlor and while it is less ornate than the others in the house, it is aesthetically done in terra cotta tiles, molded in a Persian bird motif. The study is in harmony with the rest of the structure and suits the house.

Leading off the second parlor or music room to the north, is a large square room, possibly used as a bedroom. Since at least one description of the house states that there were two parlors and a music room, this room possibly was the one spoken of as the music room. It is simply decorated with deep base and ceiling moldings, and appears to have been part of the original structure. A bathroom is attached.

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The second floor has been greatly altered so that the present owners, the members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, could have a chapter room for their lodge meetings. However, the remaining floor boards reveal the configuration of some of the bedrooms planned for the house when it was built. One room, which was directly over the main parlor had a fireplace and bay window with window seat. The exact location of the bedrooms in the rear of the second floor or the first bathrooms cannot be determined because of the alteration in placement of walls.

Some of the detailing of the house includes cast brass hinge plates with a thistle and rose design. The door knobs are rather large by today's standards and are of cast or pressed brass in a stylized Eastlake floral design. The ceiling moldings are deep and neo-classic in appearance. With the exception of neo-classical arches over two bay windows, the woodwork door and window frames are Eastlake inspired. The hardware of old light fixtures remain in several rooms, but judging from the style used, they were added sometime around the turn of the century.

Generally speaking, many coats of paint and subsequent applications of wall-paper make it impossible to determine the original wall covering used. However, the interior reflects the tone and fashion originally intended by the builder.

In the last thirty years, the third floor balcony porch, the third floor cupola and the long form veranda have been removed. As well, the balustrade on the roof of the dining room bay window has been taken off. The roof cistern has been removed, and the ornamental shingles either removed or covered over. Nevertheless, the proportions and grace of the house remain. The ornamental brickwork and crisply incised stonework are as attractive today as when the house was built. The initial intentions of the architect are still clear and the configuration of both interior and exterior features can readily be determined.

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Indiana in 1848. Admitted to the bar in 1876, he practiced general law until 1884 when he was appointed chief justice of the Supreme Court of Wyoming Territory by President Arthur. He served in that capacity for two years and then went into private practice with other pioneer solons, W.W. Corlett and John A. Riner. Later, he was in practice with his brother-in-law Willis Van Devanter who eventually was appointed to the United States Supreme Court. Lacey was much esteemed in and out of Wyoming and acted as legal counsel to Harry Sinclair during the trials that followed the Teapot Dome scandal. He was referred to in the Wyoming State Tribune, February 11, 1936, p. 1 as, "...the most profound, learned and sagacious member of the Wyoming Bar." At the time of his death he was regarded as the grand old man of the legal profession and the nestor of the Wyoming Bar. His opinions were considered secondary only to those of the State Supreme Court.

It was Lacey who added the library/study to the house in a red brick that very closely matches the original. It is interesting to note that in the east wall of the library are three arched windows, very similar to those found in court rooms constructed during the era.

Lacey's Widow continued to live in the house until 1947 when it was sold to the Cheyenne A.H.E.P.A. Lodge. It has remained in the hands of the lodge members since.

The house is important not only because of its association with two of southeastern Wyoming's most prominent pioneer citizens, but because it retains much of its original beauty and charm. As well, it is a manifestation of the social and cultural environment in which it was built. It is more than just a dwelling, it is a reflection of life as it was lived by more than just a handful of people in Cheyenne. There was great wealth and taste in the Cattle Baron era of Wyoming, and the Whipple house was just one of nearly sixty impressive homes that rose on the windswept prairies. A meagre count remains. The Whipple house, along with a few others, is representative of the attitudes and thoughts that shaped the cattle-growing West. The house, which bespeaks a vivid past is one of the few remaining examples of our singular historic heritage. It is an echo of the ambition and pride that have always characterized this state's people. It is a survivor of a romantic period in our state's history.

Owing to a paucity of ornate Victorian dwellings remaining in Wyoming, the house is architecturally distinctive. Those that do remain have been altered to the point that the original configuration is lost to both serious researchers and casual observers. This is not the case with the Whipple-Lacey house. A good percent of the

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original structure remains, and as previously indicated, it is easy to see the intent of the architect and contractor in the existing structure. Most of the decorative exterior features remain, and a great many of the interior decorative features remain. Since the building functioned well as a lodge hall, there was no need to undertake vast exterior remodeling. Age and deterioration necessitated the removal of some embellishments such as the porch, balconies and cupola, but the base core structure is very nearly as it was when it was completed. Of all the really lavish houses built in the years from 1880 to 1890, possibly only one or two are in as nearly an original configuration as the Whipple-Lacey house. In its present state, it acts not only as an historic site, but as an architectural teaching tool for both techniques and styles employed nearly a hundred years ago.

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ADDENDUM: Major Bibliographical References

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Burroughs, John Rolfe, Guardian of the Grasslands, (Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing, 1971)

Erwin, Marie, Wyoming Historical Blue Book, (Denver: Bradford-Robinson, 1946) rev. ed.;
Trenholm, Virginia C., (Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing, 1974)

Morris, Robert C., Collections of the Wyoming Historical Society, Vol. I., (Cheyenne:
Sun-Leader Publishing, 1897)

Spring, Agnes Wright, Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage Routes, (Glendale, Calif.: Arthur
H. Clark Co., 1949)

Wyoming State Historical Society, Laramie County Chapter, Recapturing the Era from
1880 to 1890 in Cheyenne, Wyoming Through Stories and Pictures, (Cheyenne: Pioneer
Printing, 1962)

Cheyenne City Directories: 1884-1885, 1886-1887, 1892, 1895, 1904, 1911-1912

Wyoming State Tribune, February 11, 1936, p.1

Wyoming Tribune, January 31, 1912, p. 1

Informal interview November 13, 1979 with Mrs. Charles Bristol, Cheyenne, Wyoming

AHEPA LODGE 314 East 17th Street
Lot 5, Block 359 Original City

JOHN D. CONLEY HOUSE 718 Ivinson
E1/2 of Lots 3 and 4, Block 186 Original Town

ROCK SPRINGS CITY HALL 4th and B
Lots 6 and 7, Block 11 Original Plat

VALLEY SCHOOL - Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Valley School site is a circle which includes all the land within 100 feet of the school.

The boundary gives the building a reasonable margin of protection from encroachment, specifically defines the resource, and excludes two out buildings one of which is recent and the other altered.