

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED MAY 10 1976  
DATE ENTERED SEP 30 1976

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 Libby Lodge, Snowy Range Lodge  
AND/OR COMMON Snowy Range Lodge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *nw of Centennial on WY 30*  
NE 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 29, T16N, R78W  
CITY, TOWN Centennial VICINITY OF X  
STATE Wyoming CODE 56 COUNTY Albany CODE 001  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: unused

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Jean M. Linde  
STREET & NUMBER 963 North 9th Street  
CITY, TOWN Laramie VICINITY OF STATE Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Albany County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER 6th Street and Grand Avenue  
CITY, TOWN Laramie STATE Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments  
DATE 1967 (1973 revised) FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Wyoming Recreation Commission  
CITY, TOWN Cheyenne, STATE 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      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Snowy Range Lodge is located within the Medicine Bow Range, a northern prong of that part of the Rocky Mountains extending north into southern Wyoming from Colorado. Bordered on the north by the Carbon and Laramie basins, the Medicine Bow Range in Wyoming is about 45 miles long from north to south, and about 35 miles wide at its widest point. Its highest elevation is Medicine Bow Peak (elevation 12,006) in the Snowy Range, the latter being a local name for bald peaks located along the backbone of the range about ten miles west of the town of Centennial. Forest ranger J. H. Mullison in 1909 described the Medicine Bow Range as a simple one, topographically. Canyons and gorges are not frequent, slopes are easy, and as a rule streams are slow and traverse broad basins rather than valleys. The range is within the boundaries of the Medicine Bow National Forest, one of nine national forests found wholly, or in part, in Wyoming. Seven districts, including that of the Thunder Basin National Grassland, fall within the jurisdiction of the Medicine Bow National Forest, and together the districts contain more than 3,200,000 acres of Federal, State and private land.

Within the forest's Centennial Ranger District, at an elevation of 8,700 feet above sea level, is the Snowy Range Lodge. It is less than three miles west of Centennial, a little town at the east foot of the mountains, and can be reached via State Highway 130, and the Dugway Road which branches from Highway 130 at Libby Creek Campground. The lodge is about a mile west of that junction, just south of the Dugway Road and just north of the small trout stream called Libby Creek. Flowing east toward the Laramie Plains, Libby Creek is one of many streams, on both sides of the range, whose waters eventually join the North Platte and Missouri Rivers, and are thus a part of the Mississippi River system.

The lodge is situated on National Forest property in a valley that is barely wide enough to accommodate the functions of a guest resort. Lodgepole pines cover the steep slopes of the young valley, reaching down to the narrow flood plain of Libby Creek. Lining the banks of the creek are willows, some grass, and both aspen and pine trees. The slopes of the valley's hills bear a thin cover of cobbly, granitic loam, but much of the valley floor itself is a poorly-drained swamp, covered with a peat-like soil. The high water table of the stream's flood plain and nearby bench land is supported by the creek and by Lake Rosemary, a beaver pond north of the creek that laps at the base of the lodge's west wall. The pond is supplied by a spring emitting from the base of a ridge to the west.

The lodge itself is a two-to-three-story-log structure, rustic in appearance and blending comfortably with its sylvan environment. Its basic design is rectangular, although the southeast face is situated at an oblique angle to the east-west plane of the central portion of the lodge. A short leg extends north about twenty feet from the northwest corner of the lodge; three other, but smaller, additions--two extending north and one extending west--are one story in height. Running the full, three-story height of the east face is a cobblestone chimney resembling a massive pilaster, or buttress. Along the length of both the south and southeast face is

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY Recreation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT National Forest Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Travois trails and artifacts are evidence that aborigines visited or inhabited the Medicine Bow Range of southern Wyoming, probably for many years before the white man saw those mountains.\* Among the tribes whose presence there has been noted are the Arapaho, Cheyenne, Snake or Shoshone, Bannock, Ute, and more recently the Sioux. The forest provided these peoples with lodge poles and food. The presence of multitudes of game--buffalo, elk, deer, antelope, and other wild animals--in and around the Medicine Bow Range is documented well enough to suggest that the region was an excellent hunting ground. Buffalo, essential in so many ways to the Indian economy, could be found in the Laramie Plains, the North Platte River Valley and North Park, but buffalo skulls and skeletons, and projectile points, found at altitudes of more than 10,000 feet indicate that hunting was not limited to the grasslands, and that Indians followed their food supply to alpine pastures.

The earliest penetration of the region by the white man can be traced to the first decade of the nineteenth century, when Ezekiel Williams and a party of fur trappers followed the North Platte River to its source in North Park, Colorado. Mountain man Jim Bridger related that Jacques LaRamie was in the region about 1817. LaRamie, against the advice of others, in 1820 went up the river that today bears his name, and was never seen again. Fellow trappers later heard that LaRamie had been killed by Indians, and his body stuffed under the ice of a beaver pond. Although fur trappers had no doubt thoroughly explored the inner recesses of the Medicine Bow Range, seeking pelts and working ice-cold mountain streams for beaver, there is no record of an exploration of the region until 1825. In March of that year a party of trappers led by General William H. Ashley rounded the north end of the Medicine Bow

\*There are at least several explanations of the name, "Medicine Bow" which has been given to a range of mountains, a stream, a forest and a town in southern Wyoming. One relates that Indians made good bows from mountain mahogany, and it became the custom for friendly tribes to assemble annually in the forest to make them. At these assemblies ceremonies were performed for the cure of disease, and the words "making medicine" somehow combined with those of "making bows." Another, but partial, explanation of the name is that the word "bow" may have developed from the French word "bon" which is equivalent to the English word "good". Lieutenant F. T. Bryan, in the report of his 1856 trip to Bridger's Pass, called Elk Mountain, at the northern head of the Medicine Bow Range, "Medicine Bon Butte."



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a log porch, and extending from the second story of the southeast face is another porch. On the south face of the lodge is the main entrance, opening to a large lobby on the right and a dining room on the left. Off the dining room, in the building's northwest leg, are a kitchen, washroom, and storeroom. The second floor of the lodge contains fifteen dormitory rooms, and a three-room suite. A third floor, located on the southeast portion of the building, contains a large room and a smaller, low-ceilinged room.

Presently, both the exterior and interior of the lodge are in a state of deterioration. The electrical system is inadequate and cannot meet the requirements of the State Fire Marshal, and sanitation facilities cannot meet the requirements of the Wyoming State Department of Public Health. Settling of the lodge foundation is causing the gradual separation of the main floor from the walls, a separation hastened by the presence of ground water, and the surface water of Lake Rosemary. Privately owned, the lodge building has not been in use for several years, and generally the building has not been maintained during that period of inactivity. Until action is taken to arrest deterioration, the lodge will continue to suffer the vagaries of a mountain environment.

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Range, trapping as they moved to a rendezvous on the Green River. Ashley's account of that trip has survived for us to read. Perhaps the earliest settlers of the region were the "squaw men" of fur trappers and traders who, following the period of the fur trade, settled down there to a semi-nomadic existence with their Indian wives.

By 1843, the year that explorer John Charles Fremont arrived on the scene, the Western American fur trade period had nearly ended.\* Less than half a dozen years later a new period in the history of the West, one of migration, was underway. The settlement of Oregon Country, California and the Salt Lake Valley took place rapidly, as thousands of people each year moved west through central Wyoming. In 1850 Captain Howard Stansbury was sent west to make a reconnaissance of the Salt Lake Valley, and to establish a practical transportation and communication route through the Rockies. Guided by Jim Bridger, Stansbury moved east from Salt Lake City, crossed the Great Divide Basin, and rounded the northern end of the Medicine Bow Range. Stansbury followed, in part, a trace left by Cherokee Indians who had moved from Oklahoma to California. Following the Stansbury route the stagecoaches of Ben Holladay rumbled across southern Wyoming, beginning in 1862. Taking its name from Ben Holladay's stage line, the route became known as the Overland Trail. The Overland Trail corridor was later followed by the Union Pacific, the eastern portion of the nation's first transcontinental railroad completed in 1869. A transcontinental air mail route, and automobile highways U. S. 30 and Interstate 80 also followed the route at later dates.

The relation of this multi-faceted transcontinental traffic to the history of the Medicine Bow Range is that some individuals, who were a part of the great wave of human traffic funneled through the Rockies, paused to utilize the resources of forest and foothills. Prior to even the Wyoming Territorial period these individuals began to settle along stream and river valleys, harvested game, timber, and coal, and turned mountain stream water over hay fields. Some were rancher-farmers who raised hay and stock to supply stage stations and military posts along the Overland

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\*In 1844 Fremont crossed the Sierra Madre Range from west to east, descending into the valley of the North Platte River. On June 14 he halted temporarily on a river that he called Potter's Fork, and in the evening encamped beside a stream where many trees had recently been cut down by beaver. He wrote in his journal: "We gave to this the name of Beaver Dam Creek, as now they are becoming sufficiently rare to distinguish by their name the streams on which they are found."

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Trail. Some were tie hacks who cut building logs, props for coal mines, and railroad ties. One tie camp, operated by a man named Gregory during the winter of 1868-69, was located on the site of the present Snowy Range Lodge.\*

A member of Sir George Gore's pleasure-hunting expedition to the Rocky Mountains is reported to have found gold in the Medicine Bow Range in 1854, perhaps along a tributary of the North Platte River, but not until about the last quarter of the nineteenth century were serious mining attempts made in the range. Tie hacks and rancher-farmers were then joined by prospectors and miners who searched, and found in limited quantities, such minerals as gold, silver, copper and platinum.

Until at least the turn of the century the resources of the Medicine Bow Range were being utilized with very little government regulation, but on May 22, 1902 President Theodore Roosevelt proclaimed the Medicine Bow Forest Reserve, and gradually the unregulated exploitation of forest resources was abated, and conservation policies initiated. Initially, the forest boundaries included the area along the entire length

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\*According to a forest ranger of the Centennial District, a fight took place at the camp between Indians and tie hacks.

"One spring morning about the time the snow began to patch out in the woods and bare spots turned up, making horse travel possible, the band was attacked by a group of mounted Indians, who had made their way up from the plains. The tie hacks abandoned their cabins and took to the woods, figuring that the snow and thick timber would stop pursuit. Apparently all of the men got away and no one was killed. However the Indians set fire to the camp and burned all of the buildings including Gregories (sic) office and commissary cabin, which stood on the same ground that is now occupied by the kitchen of the Snowy Range Lodge. The camp was never rebuilt. The blackened sill logs of the Gregory cabin were evident on the site for a long time. Other cabins of this camp were strung out along the North side of Libby Creek. We recall seeing the remains of one of these cabins in 1946 before the present Libby Lodge Summer Home Group was established. The cabin had a rock heap in one corner which served as a fire-place. Smoke being released through a hole in the roof.

A sharps rifle, which could have belonged to one of these men who took to the hills, was found along about 1890, in a cleft in the rock cliffs on the N. side of Libby Creek. Approximate location NE $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 24, T16N, R79W. The rifle was found by Ed. Halls (sic) father and Ed. still has it."

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of the Medicine Bow Range as far south as Boulder, Colorado. However, through the years various presidential proclamations and executive orders, and acts of Congress, have altered the boundaries until today the Medicine Bow National Forest contains a total area of more than 3,200,000 acres of Federal, State and private land.

By 1910 the forest was becoming more accessible to people for recreational purposes. In that year, wrote forest historian Robert Keady Bruce, a 1910 vintage Franklin automobile was driven to Brooklyn Lake. According to George A. Duthie, Supervisor of the Medicine Bow National Forest from 1913 to 1916, prior to 1914--the year that the United States Forest Service began to develop the recreational potential of the Medicine Bow National Forest--only a few fishermen and campers were visiting the range for recreation. But as trails through the mountains became roads, and as roads were improved, more and more people began to visit the range for recreational purposes, particularly that area of perpetual snow called the Snowy Range. Not until the 1920's did forest reports include estimates or actual counts of people using forest facilities for recreation and then, after several years, reports reveal an almost geometric progression in annual recreation use. The traffic of recreationists prompted the construction of a number of lodges and other facilities which catered to these visitors. The Medicine Bow Lodge, on the west side of the range at Ryan Park, was built in 1919, but the lodge was inaccessible to automobiles driven up the east slope of the range. As roads were built into the timber on the east slope, other lodges were built, including Sand Lake Lodge, Brooklyn Lake Lodge, and Libby Lodge or the Snowy Range Lodge. In 1915 a road was graded to Brooklyn Lake and Libby Flats from the east base of the range, but probably it was very rough. From September, 1920 to July, 1921 the first leg of a Federally-funded, graded highway through the forest, extending from the town of Centennial to the approximate present location of the Snowy Range Lodge, was constructed. However, not until the summer of 1925 was the last link of that forest highway completed, connecting Laramie on the east side of the range with Saratoga on the west, and not until 1937-38 was the road paved.

In an article in the Laramie Republican-Boomerang, dated June 20, 1925, it was reported that construction of Libby Lodge was practically completed. "At any rate," stated the reporter, "a few days work with a force of men would finish up the odds and ends and also put the ground and surrounding terrain in good order, but there isn't a stick of furniture in the place." With the addition of cabins to the property, the lodge owners were eventually able to accommodate 76 people, 44 in cabins and 32 in the lodge. Today, more than fifty years later, many people who visit the Medicine Bow Range bring along their own accommodations and supplies, and Libby Lodge--today known as the Snowy Range Lodge--is no longer in operation and is apparently obsolete. Unused and in a state of deterioration, the building and nearby cabins pose a number of problems for Forest Service administrators.



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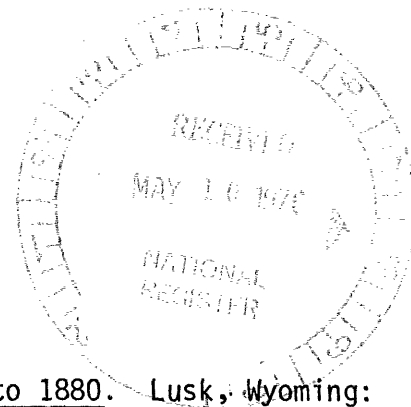
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Nevertheless, the lodge building itself is worthy of recognition, and preservation, because of its architecture and because of its history. Its size and design call attention to this unique log structure, few of which remain in the Medicine Bow National Forest, or elsewhere in Wyoming, for the public to view. The association of the lodge site with historical developments in the forest is also important. Its location is one upon which was an early tie operation, an operation that was a part of one of the most significant historical developments in the forest, as well as a part of the development of the American West. Record books in the office of the Albany County Clerk show that mining claims were registered in the vicinity, and it is possible that the site of the lodge could have been the location of a small mining camp. Going further back into time, perhaps it was the location of a seasonal Indian camp, although an archeological reconnaissance needs to be done before such an idea can be verified. Finally, the Snowy Range Lodge itself has been a focal point for recreationists, beginning as early as 1925. As such, the lodge has played a role in the cultural development of southern Wyoming, and is inextricably a part of the multiple-use concept of National Forest administration.

ADDENDUM: BIBLIOGRAPHY



BOOKS:

- Homsher, Lola. The History of Albany County, Wyoming to 1880. Lusk, Wyoming: The Lusk Herald, 1965.
- Jackson, Donald. The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970.
- Morgan, Dale. The West of William H. Ashley. Denver, Colorado: The Old West Publishing Company, 1964.

INTERVIEWS:

- Dennis Robertson by Mark Junge. 31 March, 1976.
- Paul McKillip by Mark Junge. 31 October, 1975.

JOURNALS:

- Kendall, Jane R., "History of Fort Francis E. Warren," Annals of Wyoming, XVIII, 1 (January, 1946), 3-66.
- Spence, Clark C., "A Celtic Nimrod in the Old West," Montana Magazine, IX, 2 (April, 1959), 56-66.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- "Abstract of Lands Records for Township 16N, Range 78W," Office of the County Clerk, Albany County Courthouse, 6th Street and Grand Avenue, Laramie, Wyoming.
- Bruce, Robert Keady, "History of the Medicine Bow National Forest, 1902-1910," Unpublished MA Thesis, Laramie: University of Wyoming, June, 1959.
- "Environmental Analysis Report: Snowy Range Lodge," Correspondence and materials from Forest Service Files, Medicine Bow National Forest, 605 Skyline Drive, Laramie, Wyoming.
- "Forest Highway Route 12 - Snowy Range Road - Forest Highway Construction Record," Federal Highway Administration Files, P. O. Box 1127, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- "Plans for Proposed Project 12-A-4 to 12-E-4 Incl., Route 12 Centennial-Saratoga Highway," Federal Highway Administration Files, P. O. Box 1127, Cheyenne, Wyoming.
- "Sage Creek Station Site," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, Wyoming Recreation Commission, 604 E. 25th Street, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

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MISCELLANEOUS Cont.:

"2720-Special Uses, Freytag, Robert H.; Resort (Snowy Range Lodge)," Correspondence and materials from Forest Service Files, Medicine Bow National Forest, 605 Skyline Drive, Laramie, Wyoming.

"The Medicine Bow National Forest Collection," (Acc. No. 3654), Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming

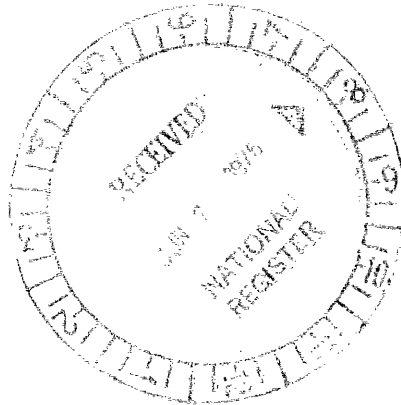
Wilkerson Biographies, MSS 551A (or microfilm No. H-113), Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

NEWSPAPERS:

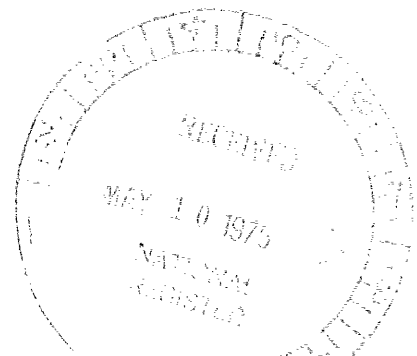
"Libby Lodge Should be Opened This Season," Laramie (Wyoming) Republican-Boomerang, (June 20, 1925), 2.

4. Additional Information, Libby Lodge, Snowy Range Lodge Nomination.

The Libby Lodge site is less than one acre in size, and map coordinates are fixed upon the lodge itself. The federal government owns the land upon which the lodge is situated, and that land is administered by the federal government by the United States Forest Service and specifically, by officials of the Medicine Bow National Forest. However, the lodge structure itself is owned by Jean M. Linde of Laramie, Wyoming. Presently, the latter party is attempting to obtain a special usage permit from the Forest Service in order to utilize the lodge as a recreational facility.



ADDENDUM: BIBLIOGRAPHY



BOOKS:

- Homsher, Lola. The History of Albany County, Wyoming to 1880. Lusk, Wyoming: The Lusk Herald, 1965.
- Jackson, Donald. The Expeditions of John Charles Fremont. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1970.
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