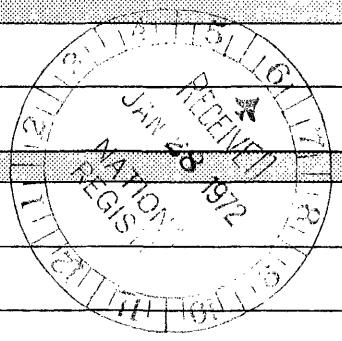
Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming
COUNTY: Albany
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER | DATE
FEB 23 1972



1. NAME

COMMON: Ivinson Mansion and Grounds
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ivinson Mansion and Grounds

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Lots 1-8, Block 178
CITY OR TOWN: Laramie

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Wyoming	56	Albany	1

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☐ Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☐ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☒ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☐ Entertainment	☐ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Trustees Protestant Episcopal Church
STREET AND NUMBER: 310 University Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Laramie
STATE: Wyoming
CODE: 56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Clerk's Office - Albany County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER: Fifth Street and Grand Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Laramie
STATE: Wyoming
CODE: 56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of historic sites, markers & mon.
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 & continuing ☐ Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Wyoming Recreation Commission
STREET AND NUMBER: 604 East 25th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne
STATE: Wyoming
CODE: 56

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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

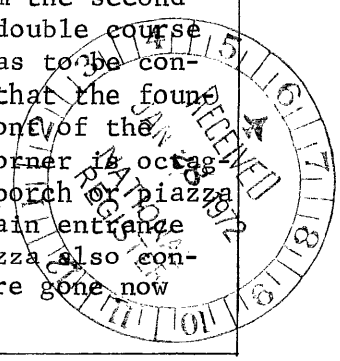
The Ivinson mansion is an important historic site mainly in that it reflects the careers of two of the most prominent citizens in the history of the city of Laramie. It is also unique in its own right because it is the best surviving example in Laramie of Victorian architecture which, although such architecture may be seen in other areas of the country, was and is uniquely representative of an era which is an important part of the history of Western Civilization. Pictures of the mansion, carriage house, and cottage are included in the folder, but perhaps a few facts concerning the history of the buildings are necessary to appreciate them.

Both Jane and Edward Ivinson were socially-conscious persons. Both belonged to the Laramie Lodge for many years, and Edward was a life member of the B.P.O.E. Both loved to attend parties and weddings, and to entertain guests themselves. A history of the sociables which the Ivinsons gave is not necessary at this point; however, one pioneer woman of early Laramie days recalled that she had attended parties given by the Ivinsons over a period of fifty-three years and that, to her, the most memorable one was that given by the Ivinsons in the back of their business-residence in 1870. The Ivinson mansion itself was the scene of many great social functions, and Mr. Ivinson was once described as a "princely host". W. E. Chaplin recalled that when the mayor (Ivinson) entertained, he did it "right royally". As late as 1914 more than 250 people attended the last major sociable held by the Ivinsons---their sixtieth wedding anniversary celebration.

The Ivinson home and carriage house were designed by W. E. Ware, a Salt Lake City architect. Contractor Frank Cook began work on the job on May 3, 1892. When the house was completed by the end of that same year, at a cost of approximately $40,000, it was probably the finest home in all of Laramie. The mansion is located near the center of the city block which Ivinson owned and on which the building rests (block 178, lots 1-8). The block is bounded by University Avenue on the north, Ivinson Avenue on the south, Sixth Street on the west, and Seventh Street on the east. The total area of the property is 8,712 square feet and contains three main structures, the mansion, and two cottages. The block on which the buildings now stand was acquired by Ivinson in a quick claim deed from the Union Pacific Railroad on November 23, 1870 but he received complete title to the property on December 10, 1877.

The mansion itself contains 2804 square feet of living space. It is 31 feet wide by 61 feet long and has a front porch whose dimensions are 17 feet deep by 32 feet wide. It is 35½ feet high and has three floors, and a cellar. The foundation and first level is constructed of stone and from the second level up the construction is frame, finished with pointed and double course painted shingles. It has been said that the entire building was to be constructed of stone but that upon investigation, it was decided that the foundation would not support an all-stone building. Toward the front of the building and to each side is a tower. That on the southeast corner is octagonal; that on the southwest corner is cone-shaped. The front porch or piazza consists of turned work, scrolls, and eastlake, and near the main entrance on the swell is a monogram which states, "E.I.-1892." The piazza also contained, at one time, three large stained-glass windows which are gone now

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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)* 1892

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

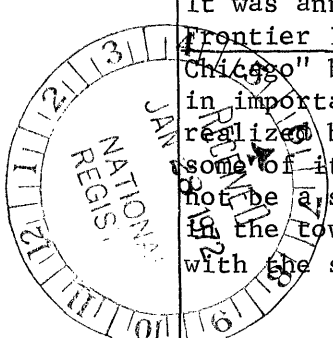
Aboriginal	☒ Education	☒ Political	☐ Urban Planning
☐ Prehistoric	☐ Engineering	☒ Religion/Philosophy	☒ Other *(Specify)*
☒ Historic	☐ Industry	☐ Science	Early community historical development
☐ Agriculture	☐ Invention	☐ Sculpture	
☒ Architecture	☐ Landscape Architecture	☒ Social/Humanitarian	
☐ Art	☐ Literature	☐ Theater	
☒ Commerce	☐ Military	☐ Transportation	
☐ Communications	☐ Music		
☐ Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Laramie, in which the Ivinson home is located, is situated along the Big Laramie River near the center of the Laramie Plains. In the early days of the town's history, the location was described as one mile below the crossing of the old California Emigrant Road of 1849 and seven miles below the crossing of the Overland Mail and Stage road. The town is situated on a plain or park of about two million acres at an elevation of approximately 7200 feet. To the east lies a range of mountains once known as the "Black Hills" and today known as the Laramie Mountains. They form a semicircle which cuts the Laramie Plains off from the Great Plains, located further east. To the west of the Plains lie the Medicine Bow Mountains, part of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains which extends into Colorado. Toward the North, the Medicine Bow Range curves away from the Plains and allows for a natural highway to the west.

Until 1868 the Laramie Plains area was important mainly in that it was a part of a land highway over which rolled emigrant wagons headed westward. The harsh physical environment of the Plains itself did not attract much settlement at that time. However, in 1866 the officials of the Union Pacific Railroad adopted the recommended route of General G. M. Dodge and the Union Pacific tracks were laid toward and over the Laramie Mountains from Cheyenne, rather than along a more northern route coinciding with the Oregon Trail, or the more southerly route through Colorado.

The site of Laramie was chosen by the Union Pacific Railroad magnates as a main division point because it was located on the Laramie River and good water was therefore plentiful. Although it is not substantiated, Edward Ivinson may have played a role in helping to determine the exact location of the townsite. The town grew rapidly, as did most of the "termini" towns which found themselves at the end of the tracks along the Union Pacific line. It was announced in an April, 1868 issue of the early Laramie Newspaper, the Frontier Index, that Laramie, already a week old, was to be the "half-way Chicago" between Omaha and Salt Lake City. Perhaps it would even surpass in importance Denver, over 125 miles to the south. These hopes were not realized but the future of the town was assured when the Union Pacific built some of its machine and blacksmith shops at Laramie. At least Laramie would not be a stopping place for meals only. By 1875 rolling mills were built in the town in order to furnish the railroad with rails. They, together with the shops, the Laramie Hotel, the Union Pacific Hospital, telegraph



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bartlett, Ichabad S., History of Wyoming (Vol. II). Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918.

Homsher, Lola. The History of Albany County, Wyoming to 1880. Lusk, Wyoming: The Lusk Herald, 1965.

Triggs, J. H. History and Directory of Laramie City, Wyoming Territory. Laramie City: Daily Sentinel Print, 1815.

Wilkerson Biographies, Manuscript. Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department.

Interview: By Mark Junge of Mrs. Alice Stevens, Laramie, Wyoming, June, 1971.

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 TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE				LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"		41°	18'	44"	105°	35'	18"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"							
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"							

13/456766

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mark Junge, historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission
DATE: June 29, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 E. 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne
STATE: Wyoming
CODE: 56

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 Westedt

Title

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest A Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date FEB 23 1972

ATTEST:

William J Murtagh
Keeper of The National Register

Date JAN 31 1972

RECEIVED JAN 28 1972 NATIONAL REGISTER

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(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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Physical Appearance - 2

and whose spaces are now covered with boards. The main entrance at one time possessed heavily panelled doors containing plate glass. Within the main entrance is a vestibule, and another set of plate glass doors which lead into a reception room on the main floor. The real intricacies and beauty of the building are on the first floor which originally contained a hallway, a reception room finished in quartered oak, a smoking room finished in quartered sycamore, a parlor finished in spanish mahogany, and a drawing room finished in bird's-eye maple. Other woods used in the construction were cherry and hard pine, and the cedar-lined closets probably smell as fresh today as they did eighty years ago. Eight front rooms on both the first and second floors constitute the main part of the building. Mrs. Ivinson planned the interior of the house. The builders constructed around her plan. When the house was being built in 1892, Mrs. Ivinson herself travelled to Chicago and selected the furnishings and hardware to the home including door knobs, chandeliers, and leaded plate-glass windows. It is said that Mr. Ivinson's second wife removed many of the furnishings from the home when she learned that it had been deeded to the Episcopal Church in 1921. Within the building were many fireplaces constructed with colored tile. Scrollwork embellished the doorways between hallways, den, drawing rooms, and dining rooms. The home has a winding staircase, and at one time the occupants also made use of a dumbwaiter.

The mansion and grounds were very well tended, and when Mrs. Ivinson was alive the entire house was cleaned thoroughly once a week by three maids. Mr. Ivinson abhorred the slipshod and shabby, such an attitude probably being responsible for the neat appearance of the lot on which the house stood. The Laramie community at one time expressed its gratitude for the Ivinson block which demonstrated what could be done with shrubbery, trees, flowers, and lawns. The property was an incentive to others in this regard and was something to which Laramie residents could point with pride as if it were their own. Those who walk by the property today are usually struck by the expansiveness of the property, although it has not recently been kept in very good condition.

The carriage house or "barn" as it was once called is a brick structure with a flat roof, and cement floor, and is located to the north and east of the mansion. When constructed it contained 2647 square feet of space, and had dimensions of 22 feet wide by 48 feet long, by 25½ feet high. It contained a carriage room, wash room, laundry, harness room and closets, and three stalls. An attached bungalow contained coachman's rooms, bath room, closet, hallway, and a hay loft. The entire structure - carriage house and bungalow - was remodelled in 1921 and became a part of the girl's school, "Ivinson Hall". At that time the carriage house-bungalow was renamed Joslin Cottage in honor of Reverend Morten Joslin who died on October 5, 1921.

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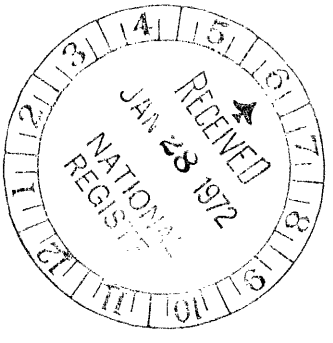
Physical Appearance - 3

In 1924 a two-story stucco and shingled structure, with dimensions of 34 feet wide, 56 feet long, 23 feet high, and containing 2467 square feet of space was built directly north of the mansion. The cost of the building was borne by Charles B. Voorhis of Kenosha, Wisconsin and named Virginia Cottage in memory of his daughter. The building served, also, as a part of the girls' school.

When the mansion and grounds were given to the Cathedral Chapter, Diocese of Wyoming on June 27, 1921, there were two structures on the property - the mansion and the carriage house. Remodelling was necessary before students could use the buildings in that year and this was accomplished at a total cost of $22,000. When the job was finished, the main building or "Ivinson Hall", as it was called, contained a parlor, reading rooms, dining rooms, a library, chapel, office, principal's apartment, hospital room, and dormitory, and was decorated with art objects which had once been in the mansion when the Ivinsons lived there. Joslin Cottage was furnished with desks on the first floor, and a study hall and dormitory on the second level. The addition of Virginia Cottage gave the school a gymnasium, recreation hall, stage, dressing rooms, rooms for music students, and a dormitory. The school was designed for about 45 girls who were unable to attend schools in their communities due to distance and transportation problems.

Today, most of the Ivinson property lies in disuse, its grounds overgrown with weeds, the ironwork fence broken down in places, and the windows of the mansion partially boarded up. But the possibility exists that the Laramie Plains Museum Association may purchase the property if the needed funds can be acquired. If that is accomplished the home will be restored to nearly its original appearance, and will be put to use as a museum containing artifacts and relics from the Laramie Plains area. The mansion would then be able to open its doors to people, something which probably would have made the Ivinsons happy.



Statement of Significance - 2

office, express depot and other offices and residences, added five hundred or more men to the population. Also important was that Albany County and its county seat, Laramie, were assured of a tax base which in turn would provide a foundation for a permanent government and thus also, provide public services to settlers. Another important early industry, was that of contracting for ties for the railroad, and Edward Ivinson was such a contractor. In 1872 over $150,000 was spent in the Laramie Plains area for ties. The canyons and slopes of the Black Hills to the east were the principal source for the wood and ties needed by the railroad.

It appears that the railroad was chiefly responsible for the settlement of Laramie, but it may be noted that the stability and progress, both material and cultural, of a city also depends upon citizens who form its population. Those who helped to establish civilization in frontier towns such as Laramie were in many ways just as much pioneers in their own particular capacities as were the fur trappers and traders who, other than the Indians, first visited the Laramie Plains. Edward Ivinson was certainly such a pioneer. He is representative of the sober, hard-working entrepreneurs who foresaw the possibility of growth and prosperity in the "termini" town which was Laramie in 1868.

Edward Ivinson was born on the St. Croix River Estate, Prince Edward's Island, Danish West Indies on September 20, 1830. His father had been born in Cumrew, England, emigrated to the West Indies, and made his living in either sugar or mahogany. Edward was, at the age of eight, sent to Cumberland, England where he received an education. He worked on his grandfather's farm for three years and then entered upon a business career when he was about seventeen serving a five year apprenticeship in a dry goods trade in Brampton, England. In 1852, at the age of twenty-two, Ivinson emigrated to America and arrived in New York City where he worked for a year for the newspaper, Albion, and then entered the dry goods firm of Lord and Taylor where he served an apprenticeship as a clerk. It was during his stay in New York that he met and married Miss Jane Wood on April 24, 1854. Miss Wood had been born in West Riding, Yorkshire, England in 1840 and was only thirteen years old when she emigrated to America and married Ivinson. The story is told that Ivinson married her because he had promised Miss Wood's mother he would do so in order to prevent her marriage to another man whom the girl did not want to marry. Whatever the case may have been, the young girl was married to Edward within a month after her arrival at the wharf in Jersey City, New Jersey. The marriage evidently was a happy one as Mr. and Mrs. Ivinson seemed to work well together in their many business and philanthropic interests. The long and productive marriage was ended on November 9, 1915 when Mrs. Ivinson died after sixty-one years of married life.

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 3

After working for Lord and Taylor's for two years, the Ivinsons headed westward and moved to Evansville, Indiana where Edward worked as a timekeeper and paymaster for the Evansville and Crawfordsville Railroad. The next stop on the Ivinson's trek westward was Peoria, Illinois where Mr. Ivinson became a naturalized citizen in 1860. It was during their stay in Illinois also, that the Ivinsons adopted, in 1857, their only child, Margaret, when Mrs. Ivinson was but sixteen years old. In Peoria Mr. Ivinson worked for a dry goods business with fair success for two years, whereupon he began a grocery business himself. In 1861 Ivinson returned to Evansville and formed a copartnership with his brother, John, in a foundry. This was during the Civil War and the two brothers hoped to secure war contracts for their iron products. However, the venture proved to be short-lived as the foundry was destroyed in a fire after one year. Having little insurance, the Ivinsons lost almost everything they had worked for up to that time. But the resilient Ivinson was no ordinary businessman and he soon bounded back, purchasing a supply of dry goods in Cincinnati and taking them to Memphis, Tennessee after that city had been captured by Union forces. As a mercantilist he became involved with the cotton trade until 1868 and then once again decided to become a supply contractor. This time, however, Ivinson planned to supply the camps along the Union Pacific Railroad which was in the process of being built. Possibly, too, he may have believed that the South was not a safe place for a Northerner at that time. Subsequently, he shipped his goods by steamboat up from Memphis to Omaha and then by rail toward Salt Lake City. In the winter of 1868 the Ivinsons arrived in Cheyenne in the Territory of Dakota. As the railroad had been completed only to Tie Siding, about seventeen miles to the south of Laramie City, they were forced to spend the rest of the winter in Cheyenne. Early in 1868 Mr. Ivinson traveled alone by wagon to Fort Sanders, not far to the south of Laramie. There he remained several days and then proceeded to Laramie, prior to the construction of the railroad tracks to that town. While in Laramie, Ivinson purchased some property and planned to build a store which would house a general merchandise business.

It is not certain, at this point in the narration of Ivinson's odyssey, exactly why Ivinson chose to remain in Laramie. However, a story has been told by Mrs. B. C. Daly, a granddaughter of Mr. Ivinson, in explanation. She related that two railroad cars of merchandise owned by Ivinson were sidetracked at Tie Siding where they waited for rails to be constructed into Laramie. During this interval a man broke into one of the cars and a barrel of molasses rolled out, breaking the man's leg. The individual then sued Ivinson and the resulting litigation kept Ivinson in Cheyenne over the winter. It has also been reported that Ivinson had often said, upon coming to Laramie, that he wanted to serve the needs of the camp of Laramie after the arrival of the railroad and then move west to either Salt Lake City or San Francisco. On the other hand, Mrs. B. C. Daly also recalled that "Grandfather always had complete faith in the future of Laramie. He was convinced that Laramie, not Denver, would be

Statement of Significance - 4

the big city of the West." If the historian may be allowed to do so, he may surmise that Ivinson, shrewd entrepreneur that he was, quickly realized the possibilities of establishing a profitable business in Laramie, even if Laramie were eventually to prove to be only a "flash in the pan."

When Edward Ivinson arrived in Laramie, at the age of thirty-seven, the town was only a "tent city" or a "thirty-day town", as some of the towns along the Union Pacific tracks were called. There were perhaps, according to early Laramie historian J. H. Triggs, about two or three thousand people in Laramie in the spring of 1868 who were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the Union Pacific and for the sale of lots to begin. On May 10, 1868, Mrs. Ivinson, her nine year old daughter Maggie, and the family's maid arrived on the first passenger train to enter Laramie. They arrived, as did some of the people whe were to later become Laramie's first citizens, probably in time to watch the first permanent wooden structure to be raised in the town, and one of the first was that of the Ivinsons. Meanwhile in those early days some of the people were living in tents, some under board sheds, some in shanties, and many others without any type of shelter except for their blankets and a blue sky above them.

According to J. H. Triggs, the population of Laramie grew to about five thousand during the first three months after the sale of lots began, but tapered off and receded so that two years later, in 1870, the population was recorded as 788. One week from the day when the first lot was sold by the Union Pacific Railroad, which owned much of the land in and around Laramie, four hundred lots had been sold or claimed. In less than two weeks about five hundred buildings of one type or another had been built. Some were of logs, some of boards put up in sections so that they could easily be knocked down and moved to the next terminus along the Union Pacific tracks. For his family Mr. Ivinson had built a combination business-residence next to where the Albany Mutual Building now stands on Second Street. It had a sod roof, similar to some English homes, but the sod roof was replaced with wooden shingles as soon as it was feasible to do so, as English sod and English rains differed from those of the Laramie Plains, as Ivinson quickly found out to his dismay.

From his residence-business establishment Ivinson sold a general line of merchandise - clothing, dry goods, groceries, and provisions - to the shifting population which was Laramie. He also had a large contract to supply the Union Pacific with ties and wood, most of the wood being cut in the canyons of the Black Hills. The Union Pacific used wood as no coal was available except that shipped in from the East. Within three months the Ivinson mercantile business was prospering and his permanence in Laramie was assured. With the increase of his business a larger establishment was soon needed and

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Statement of Significance - 5

Ivinson moved into the second stone structure to be built in Laramie (size: 24' by 65'). Later the Ivinson family moved into a wooden structure which had been moved from Fort Sanders to Sixth Street and Grand Avenue in Laramie. This building is still in use today and can be seen in Laramie's LaBonte Park.

Very early in his Laramie business career Mr. Ivinson became a banker as well as a dry goods dealer. It so happened that he had, in those early Laramie days, the only safe in the area and therefore was called upon by others to protect their money. One person deposited as much as $50,000 and at one time Ivinson's safe contained about $300,000. It was not long before Ivinson saw the advantages of banking over the dry goods business and in 1871 he bought out the banking interests of Posey S. Wilson and Company. The "Banking House of Edward Ivinson" was then established and became the first successful private bank in Laramie and the second oldest in all of Wyoming. It was the progenitor, ultimately, of the First National Bank of Laramie which exists today. Posey Wilson, whom Ivinson had bought out, had himself earlier bought out the banking firm of H. J. Rogers. Both Wilson and Rogers were Cheyenne bankers, so therefore it was to the relief of Laramie residents that Ivinson bought out Wilson's interests as Laramie felt she would no longer have to "depend for...stability upon the fortunes of war between rival and foreign bankers, nor upon the caprice or financial condition of citizens of a rival town." When Ivinson purchased Wilson's bank it had deposits of $3,000, and seventeen years later it had deposits of between $300,000 and $400,000.

Ivinson was accused, especially later when he ran for political office, of charging extortionate rates of interest and was especially vilified by the editor of one of Laramie's first newspapers, Dr. J. H. Hayford of the Laramie Daily Sentinel. However, another pioneer editor, W. E. Chaplin of the Laramie Republican has explained that three per cent per month was the ruling rate of interest during the 1870's, and that such a high rate could be found in other Wyoming towns. Laramie banker A. C. Jones once recalled: "Banks charged from two to three per cent a month interest on all loans - a very high rate, you will say, but the banks paid as high as twelve per cent on time deposits. Later the rate paid was reduced to eight per cent and the interest charged on borrowed money reduced in proportion." One reason for the fall in rates later was that the Laramie National Bank rose up to offer competition to Ivinson's bank.

In 1873 Mr. Ivinson took advantage of the National Banking Act of 1864 and applied to the comptroller of the currency for a national bank charter. His bank received such a charter on March 15, 1873 and the Wyoming National Bank

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(Number all entries)

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was born. Under the management of Ivinson, its president for a number of years, the bank became one of the foremost financial institutions in the state. The establishment of the Wyoming National Bank is also perhaps demonstrative of the growing stability and permanence of the young city of Laramie. The same year in which the bank's charter was issued (1873) also saw the incorporation of the city of Laramie by the Territorial legislature. The first elections were held shortly after incorporation, and city government began on a permanent basis in January, 1874.

But the transition from tent city to incorporated city was no easy movement. About three months after the Ivinson family stepped from the train in May, 1868, the population, as was mentioned earlier, may have been around five thousand. About half of this number were business opportunists, honest or otherwise, and the rest, says historian J. H. Triggs, was made up of "gamblers, thieves, highwaymen, robbers, cut-throats, garroters, prostitutes, and their necessary companions..." Very early the people of Laramie attempted to form some sort of town government, and a number of officials were elected. Among them was M. C. Brown, Laramie's first mayor. But Brown soon resigned his position at the end of about three weeks because conditions were such that he was unable to enforce the law in the lawless camp, and soon the rest of Laramie's first city government also resigned. With no government to maintain law and order, men resolved differences with fists or revolvers, and robbery and garroting were probably daily occurrences. Ivinson himself recalled those early days when, "Drinking, gambling, thefts, and crime of every description had full sway. Life was unsafe and lawbreakers became daring and defiant. Men had to go armed and for safety found it necessary after nightfall to walk in the middle of the street". The more responsible element of the community took the initiative in response to the general disorder in the form of a vigilance committee, composed of about twenty members. This group, however, was soon challenged by such toughs as Con Wager, Asa Moore, Big Ned, Sam Dugan, Tiger Bill, Morris Kohn, and Dave Mullen, who organized themselves in the face of the challenge to their power. A new and larger vigilance committee was then formed of between 300 and 500 men, in reaction to the greater organization of the lawless element. In October, 1868, the crisis came to a head when the vigilance committee succeeded in hanging Con Wager, Asa Moore and Big Ned on October 18, 1868 and the following day those unfortunate men were joined by robber and murderer Big Steve, who was hung to a telegraph pole.

A wrong impression of early Laramie would be given, however, if the historian did not attempt to describe the attempts by the town's citizens to introduce to Laramie forms of the social institutions which had been developed, perhaps more gradually, by society elsewhere. At this point it is necessary to describe some of the work accomplished in this regard, and in particular that of the Ivinsons. The activities of Jane Ivinson are, together with those of her

husband, a significant part of the story of the early development of Laramie. Although it was said that the marriage of the Ivinsons was a felicitous one, and that the two worked throughout their married lives hand in hand, each involved in the work of the other, the career of Jane Ivinson is significant in itself. Mrs. Ivinson was certainly a socially active woman and like her husband, a philanthropist.

Mrs. Ivinson was especially active in churchwork and in particular, the Episcopalian Church. One of her first acts, upon arriving in Laramie, was to distribute Bibles among the men in the construction camp along the Union Pacific railroad. Along with Mrs. Stephen Boyd, Mrs. George Lancaster, and others, Mrs. Ivinson helped to begin the first Sunday school in Laramie which held forth in the Union Pacific Hotel. She later, in September, 1868, organized and taught in the Episcopal Sunday school and was its superintendent for a time. Services were first held in Laramie Hall which was a dance-hall and saloon. Together, Jane and Edward Ivinson were the principal agents in bringing about the establishment of one of the first real social organizations in Laramie - the Episcopal Church. Prior to the establishment of the parish in March, 1868, the Reverend Joseph M. Cook travelled the fifty miles from Cheyenne to Laramie every Sunday evening in order to hold religious services and to do what he could to "lead men into paths of righteousness." A meeting was organized by Jane Ivinson in September, preliminary to the September 21 meeting which was the day on which St. Matthew's parish was organized. Because there were no schools or churches in Laramie upon the arrival of the Ivinsons, church services were held for many months in the store room of Ivinson's business residence. This was only a temporary arrangement, however, in the minds of those who hoped and planned for improvements. Mrs. Ivinson herself was responsible for holding the first sociable in Laramie for the benefit of the Episcopalian Church, the party being held in her home. Twelve people gathered there for sandwiches and coffee and although the party was "few in number and many in purses," they raised "the snug sum of one hundred and ten dollars and ten cents for the good cause." By the spring of 1869, the parish was ready to erect its first church and on May 6, 1869 a procession formed at the Ivinson home on the occasion to celebrate the laying of the cornerstone for St. Matthew's Episcopal Church.

Thus, clearly the Ivinsons, and especially Jane Ivinson did pioneer work in one aspect of Laramie's cultural history. The Ivinsons' relationship with the Episcopalian Church was not only a catalytic one, but an enduring one as well. Mrs. Ivinson gave of herself as is evidenced by her participation in the Church choir, and was responsible for Edward Ivinson's later gift of property to the Church. The southeast corner of the block on which the Church now stands was given to the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming by Ivinson

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on April 19, 1919, upon the wishes of his wife. Personally, Mr. Ivinson served as senior warden for the parish for approximately forty years.

His physical gifts to the Church were: property, a generous cash gift toward the cost of the $75,000 stone Cathedral which the Episcopal parish erected in 1896, the towers, steeple, clock and chimes which were added to the Cathedral in 1916, a stained-glass window, and two paintings which had once been in his own home. In his will Ivinson requested that the Cathedral chimes be rung to commemorate the birth, death, and marriage dates of himself and his wife.

The work of Jane Ivinson was not limited to the Church, as she was instrumental in establishing the first school in Laramie in 1868. In that year she held another entertainment in an effort to raise money to pay school teachers. Her efforts and those of others were successful and school commenced in Laramie on February 15, 1869. Mrs. Ivinson's daughter, Maggie, was one of the first students to attend the school. It is interesting to note that Maggie later married Glausha B. Grow, the son of Galusha A. Grow. Galusha A. Grow was a representative from Pennsylvania to the United States Congress who became Speaker of the House (July, 1861) and was one of the chief advocates of the Homestead Act of 1862.

Although many of the details of Jane Ivinson's benevolent acts may never be fully known, bits and pieces of information have become filtered down through the maze of social ties which connected her life with that of a growing Laramie. Her activities were not, however strictly limited to Church - related functions as has been observed. Other than her work in education, she helped to organize the first lodge for women in Laramie, the Rebekahs. In 1870 she held, it is reported, the first picnic in Laramie for the benefit of Laramie children. It is significant to note, also, that her keen mind enabled her to become, in 1876, the director of her husband's bank, demonstrating the woman's multi-faceted personality and ability to employ her mind to many fields of endeavor. In 1870 she received the distinction of being called to serve on the first mixed petit jury in the history of Western Civilization. However, she asked to be excused and was replaced by another juror.

The career of Edward Ivinson is so variegated that it would be difficult to point to one aspect of his career and emphasize its importance over another. Possibly, at first glance, his philanthropic work is most visible. But his business career was important not only because it personally rewarded him with one of the greatest fortunes in Laramie but because it provided the foundation for his later philanthropic acts. Ivinson's earliest business interests have already been mentioned, but it is necessary to go back to 1870 in order to pick up the story once again of this aspect of his career.

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Shortly after he constructed his own first stone building, Ivinson constructed much of the business block which now stands on Second Street between Ivinson and Grand Avenues. These buildings he rented, as he did in the case of Ivinson Hall, a building used early for recreational purposes such as dancing. Other than what has already been described, Ivinson owned land in other areas of the city including the city block upon which the Ivinson mansion now stands.

In 1888, Ivinson sold his controlling interest in the Wyoming National Bank and from 1888 to 1891 he did not take a very active interest in banking in Laramie. During those years he bought a controlling interest in a bank in San Diego, California, but soon returned to Laramie. In 1901 he sold his San Diego interests and became elected president of Laramie's First National Bank which had arisen in 1895 when a merger was accomplished between the Wyoming National Bank and the Laramie National Bank. He remained president of that solid institution until 1915 when, at the age of 85 he sold his interest in the First National, although remaining as a director of the bank. By the following year Ivinson had pretty much retired from his business activities.

It has been said that Ivinson generally declined to dabble or invest in any other major activities other than banking. Yet it is known that he held an interest in the Buckeye Ranch, probably the best known among the older ranches of the Centennial Valley. Around 1875 the ranch was owned by Charles Bussard and Ivinson. It should also be brought to the attention of the interested observer that Ivinson was one of the chief stockholders of the Laramie, North Park, and Pacific Railroad and Telegraph Company which was incorporated in May, 1888. Finally, as far back as 1872 Ivinson and a certain Mr. Gumry secured a contract to construct the first Albany County Courthouse in Laramie. Much of the $29,500 which it cost to build the structure was loaned by Ivinson himself, although the Union Pacific donated the land upon which the building was constructed. The Courthouse had the distinction of being the first one built in a county in Wyoming Territory, and it became the center for many community functions in the years to follow.

The political career of Edward Ivinson is generally regarded to have been unworthy of detailed discussion, except for his attempt to secure the governor's chair in 1892. But this is probably mainly due to the fact that the latter attempt ended in failure. The reticent Ivinson did not own the type of personality which found its most suitable expression in a political campaign. In an editorial from the Laramie Republican of September 15, 1872, Ivinson was described as "observing, quick, though cautious and conservative in his methods and relations with men, though generous and accommodating as far as the bounds of safety and prudence seem to permit." It is probably easier to trace the wake of the politician who has exhibited a more flamboyant personality than one who has not, such as Ivinson. Yet there is evidence that Ivinson did play a role, however limited its legal capacity, in local and state politics.

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In 1869 when Governor John A. Campbell advised the first legislature of Wyoming Territory to select a site for a penitentiary, the legislature responded and set the proposed location at Laramie. On December 8, 1869 Ivinson was one of three men appointed to the penitentiary commission by Governor Campbell. In May, 1871 the three members of the Board of Commissioners fixed the site for the penitentiary on the west side of the Big Laramie River. The cornerstone of the building being laid on July 15, 1872, the building was formally dedicated to "evil doers of all classes and kinds, in token of which C. H. Bussard deposited a bottle of Old Bourbon in the cornerstone."

In 1892, at the age of 62, Ivinson took the biggest step of his political career when he entered the gubernatorial race. Up to that year he had never sought a major political office, although he was interested in the Republican Party, as was his wife Jane who voted a straight Republican ticket. The governor's job at that time paid only $2500 and Ivinson happened to be one of the few men who were wealthy enough to finance a campaign and, if elected, to fill the office without meanwhile having to worry about his own personal economic security. When Ivinson put up $10,000 for the gubernatorial race he was soon backed by some of Wyoming's leading Republicans including E. A. Slack, editor of the Cheyenne Sun, and Willis Van Devanter, chairman of the Republican State Committee and later to become a justice of the United States Supreme Court. On September 14, 1892 and on the tenth ballot at the Republican State Convention in Laramie, Ivinson became the Republican nominee for governor of Wyoming.

But Ivinson, or "Old Business" as he was then called, was chosen not only for monetary reasons, but because of his character and executive ability. Of course he was described by the partisan press, as having a sterling character, and of being a man of force and decision and cool judgment. This was probably very close to the truth; however, if he was a man of "force", such an attribute was hardly demonstrated by his public oratory, as his short, uninspiring speeches were the butt of ridicule by opposition Democrats. And finally, there was some pressure by Albany County Republicans to effect the nomination of an Albany County candidate, and Ivinson's prestige in the community made him a likely candidate.

During the campaign Ivinson travelled about the state with other politicos such as Francis E. Warren, the Republican senator from Wyoming at the time. The latter was a much more capable public speaker than Ivinson and it seems that the Republicans finally realized that by the time Warren had finished speaking at a rally, the audience having been duly entertained and clarified as to the issues, a short and concise speech by Ivinson was appropriate. Another possible drawback in the candidacy of Ivinson was that he was described as an ultra free-trader, a political position which was in opposition to that of many Republicans.

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The problems of Ivinson's candidacy may not have been so serious, however, that they were insurmountable. Apparently, 1892 was not a Republican year. The Populist Party emerged as a minor force in Wyoming politics in 1891-92 and a fusion took place between Populists and Democrats, presenting a broader problem for Republicans to overcome. Finally, the Republicans were discredited by the association of their name with the notorious Johnson County War of 1892, in which certain prestigious Wyoming citizens took part. Whatever the political composition of the invaders in that war may have been, the association which was made between them and the Republican Party was detrimental to the Republican cause.

Ivinson's opponent in the gubernatorial race was also a man of large means, Dr. John E. Osborne, the Democrat nominee from Rawlins. Osborne was a medical man who later tried his hand at sheep raising. Osborne won the election with a majority of 1781 votes, the Democrats carrying all Wyoming counties except that of Laramie. It is typical of Ivinson's fine spirit that, when the Democrats marched by his home in a torchlight victory parade, Ivinson had his house lit up while both he and Mrs. Ivinson stood on the veranda and waved to the marchers.

Although Ivinson experienced the political "itch" again in 1904, nothing came of the agitation. His last effort in politics came in 1918 at the age of 88. He was in that year elected mayor of Laramie for a tenure of two years (1918-1920) and is distinguished in that he was perhaps the oldest living mayor in the United States. Much work needs to be done by the historian on the political career of Edward Ivinson. It may be, however, that the research of such a topic may result in vague generalizations, the reason being that Ivinson probably worked behind various political scenes in a less formal or visible manner. The tremendous influence that Ivinson held in local economic affairs suggests that he should have been able to exert a corresponding force, politically. If it is the obligation of the historian to point out areas which are in need of further research, it may be suggested that the political work of an individual whose interests were as diverse as those of Mr. Ivinson should be more fully investigated.

For example, the role of Ivinson could be investigated in regard to such political events as the development of Wyoming Territory out of Dakota Territory in 1869, and the development of Wyoming statehood in 1890. Another area requiring investigation is the role of both Mr. and Mrs. Ivinson in regard to the struggle for women's suffrage. In an address to the League of Women Voters in Laramie on November 10, 1919, Mr. Ivinson expressed his feelings toward suffrage. He recalled that he and Mrs. Ivinson had gone to Cheyenne to work for women's suffrage in 1869. "In addition to going to the capitol in behalf of that bill," he said, "we had the pleasure of entertaining the members of the legislature at different times in Laramie and naturally lost

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no opportunity of doing what we could to impress upon them the justness of the measure and stating our reasons why it should become a law. The intelligent men of this country, the men who have made good in their various businesses and other vocations in life, are, as a rule, only too glad to acknowledge that they owe, in large measure, their success to the advice and good judgment of their wives."

Another area of Ivinson's interests lay in education. When the Ivinsons first arrived in Laramie there were no schools or churches. While Mrs. Ivinson's role in the establishment of the first school in Laramie has already been mentioned, Mr. Ivinson was also active in that work. Concerning his efforts in regard to the establishment in Laramie of the University of Wyoming, it is not substantiated that he helped to determine the location at Laramie, but he was a member of the first Board of Trustees of the University from 1886 to 1890. The bill creating the University of Wyoming and locating it at Laramie was passed by the Territorial Legislature after a bitter fight. It was signed by Governor Warren on March 4, 1886 and soon thereafter Warren made his appointments to the Board of Trustees. The Board members included such outstanding Laramie citizens, including Ivinson, as: John W. Hoyt, Samuel Aughey, Dr. J. H. Finfrock, M. C. Brown, W. H. Holliday, and J. H. Hayford. Ivinson also served as the first Treasurer of the Board during those same years (1886-1890) and again from 1891 to 1893. On June 25, 1891 the papers announced that prizes would be offered at future University commencements and the Ivinson scholarship prize was one of those listed. Ivinson also took part, during the University's first year, in a public debate with J. H. Hayford in order to help raise funds for the first University library. If only for his work in university affairs alone, Edward Ivinson deserves recognition by the people of Wyoming.

To the casual observer of the history of Laramie, the philanthropic work of Mr. Ivinson is readily observable and is probably the most outwardly striking product of his career. The many gifts by Ivinson to the Laramie community are reflected only partially by the physical structures which remain as a tribute to his generosity. Upon the death of Mrs. Ivinson on November 9, 1915, Mr. Ivinson provided money to the county to erect the Jane Ivinson Memorial Hospital in memory of the woman who lived and worked by his side for sixty-one years. The three-story brick structure was built in 1916 at a cost of approximately $50,000.

In 1921, Ivinson deeded his mansion, carriage house, and the 1.7 acres, or whole city block on which the buildings stood to the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming for the purpose of establishing "Jane Ivinson Memorial Hall, the Cathedral School for Girls." The school was intended to serve girls from isolated ranching areas and be a place "where young women are given advantage

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of the best of training in religious, intellectual, and cultural matters." The forty or more students who attended "Ivinson Hall," as the school was more popularly called, were sent to the University school and the City High School for instruction at the junior and senior high levels. At Ivinson Hall itself the girls had their living quarters, and received training in religion and the "social graces" as well. When public schools began to employ buses for students living in distant areas, and with the development of consolidated schools designed to serve rural areas the enrollment of Ivinson Hall began to fall off. By 1957 the school was closed after having been in operation for thirty-six years.

In 1924 Ivinson gave to Laramie a stone monument listing the names of Albany County men and University students who died in service to their country during World War I. The Soldier Memorial monument was at first located on the corner of Second and Thornburg Streets and later moved to the Albany County Courthouse lawn.

In 1925 Ivinson made out his will and in it he provided for the construction and perpetual maintenance of the Ivinson Memorial Home for Aged Ladies. Construction of the Home began in 1928 and it opened its doors in 1931. The rules and regulations handbook authored by Jesse Converse and A. C. Jones, two of the three permanent trustees empowered to direct and control the Ivinson estate, instructs that the Home would not be solely one for poor women; although, if a woman were found to be unable to contribute to her own board she was to be taken care of without cost. Neither was the Home to discriminate in the selection of its occupants on the basis of religion. The philosophy of the Home is that the fewer the necessary rules, the more like a true "home" it would be and ought to be. In his will Ivinson also directed, in accordance with the wishes of his wife, that $120,000 in cash and gifts be distributed to relatives and friends.

As Ivinson had deeded his home in 1921, he took up residence in the Connor Hotel. In 1922, at the age of 92, Ivinson became a married man again. His new wife, the former Mrs. Ora Haley, had been the wife of a deceased business partner of Ivinson. The marriage combined the fortunes of two wealthy people, fortunes which together were estimated at the time at $5,000,000. However, the marriage was short-lived and the two became divorced after about three months. At the age of 95, with two years left to live, Ivinson was noticed to be "as chipper as many a man much younger". One of Ivinson's final transactions and noteworthy because it again demonstrates that he was closely associated with Laramie occurred in January, 1928. Thornburg Street, on which Ivinson Mansion was located, was changed to Ivinson Avenue, and Ivinson agreed to foot the bill for paving most of the street. Very few objections

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were noted to the procedure, although one who felt that Colonel Thornburg's name should not be removed from the street was M. C. Brown, Laramie's first mayor who died within a month after the death of Mr. Ivinson in 1928.

In his last years Ivinson spent his winters in Denver where in April, 1928 he became ill with pneumonia. The doctors who attended Ivinson at his bed were amazed at his vitality during the six days' illness, and the hope was even expressed that he might recover, but Mr. Ivinson passed away on April 9, 1928. He was buried in Laramie beside his wife in Greenhill cemetery.

The career of Edward Ivinson spanned a period of sixty years of Laramie's history; that of his wife spanned forty-seven years. The political, economic and social history of Laramie, almost from its inception, contain the names of the Ivinsons. There were many other early pioneers who helped to build the town of Laramie into what it is today, but Laramie residents and also residents of Wyoming can hardly trace their state's roots without mention of Edward and Jane Ivinson. Laramie, especially, is indebted to the Ivinsons for their philanthropy and the time and work they expended to improve their community. But as has been seen, physical reminders left by the Ivinsons do not tell the entire story of their community involvement.

In conclusion, the Ivinson mansion stands as a monument of local historic significance in that it reflects the careers of two of the most prominent citizens in the history of Laramie. It is also a monument of importance to the state of Wyoming in that it also reflects the career of a man who not only aspired to one of the highest offices in the state, but who worked in an official and unofficial capacity to improve and maintain Wyoming's only four-year institution of higher learning. Whether or not the Ivinson mansion is of national importance in itself as being representative of a distinctive style of architecture is a topic which may be worthy of further examination.