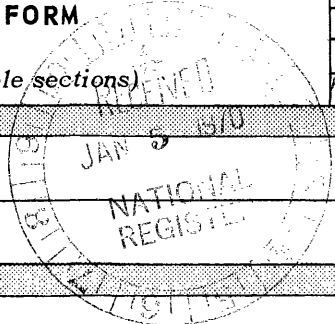


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Hot Springs	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-249-005	DATE 2/24/70



1. NAME

COMMON:
J. D. Woodruff Cabin Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
18 miles west on Rd. 0900 from junction with Wyo. Hwy. 120 at Owl Creek.

CITY OR TOWN:
26 miles west and north of Thermopolis

STATE Wyoming	CODE 49	COUNTY: Hot Springs	CODE 017
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Wyoming

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne	STATE: Wyoming	CODE 49
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Hot Springs County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Thermopolis	STATE: Wyoming	CODE 49
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .1 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer-Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne	STATE: Wyoming	CODE 49
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	Completely razed, mon. marks ^(Check One) place.			
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>
			Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	^(Check One)		^(Check One)	
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

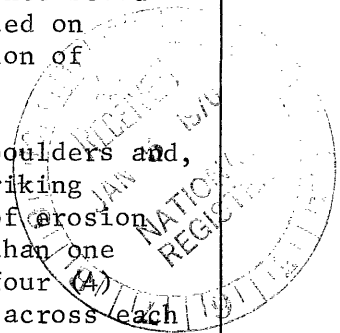
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The title "Woodruff Cabin Site" has been deliberately chosen and, because there is no longer a cabin, the last word of the three is especially significant. There remains only the site upon which that cabin once stood and, marking its former location, a monument which was dedicated on July 6, 1940 by the since defunct Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming.

Even this monument, constructed of mortar, native stream-bed boulders and, unfortunately, petrified wood chunks chosen more for their striking appearance than for their solidity, has suffered the ravages of erosion and vandalism. The structure, comprising substantially more than one thousand individual stones and petrified wood pieces, stands four (4) and one-half (½) feet high and measures roughly four (4) feet across each of its four faces. Originally imbedded in the front face were nine ceramic tiles forming a twenty (20) by twenty (20) inch square upon which was painted a tableau of the cabin together with its background of naturally-growing, stream-side cottonwood trees. Altogether -- water rounded, grey or brown shaded boulders; multi-shaped and multicolored petrifications; brightly painted tiles; capping of bronze plaque -- there is created a bizarre effect which scarcely seems suitable to the natural surroundings.

Two of the ceramic tiles have been shattered, seemingly by small bore rifle bullets. On the slighty front-ward sloping top of the monument is fastened an eighteen (18) by twenty-four (24) inch plaque bearing the inscription: "First Cabin Built in Bighorn Basin. Erected by John Woodruff on Owl Creek in 1873." Present day research indicates that this 1873 date is wrong, being two years later than the time of actual construction. Indeed, the entire monument, theme and structure, appears to fail on three separate grounds -- credibility, aesthetics and material substance. Reconstruction in a more fitting style is indicated.

The cabin itself was built by J. D. Woodruff in 1871. While it is now gone, fortunately good photographs of its original appearance remain in existence. Judging its size from human figures appearing in the foreground of one photograph, the cabin was approximately twelve (12) feet wide by twenty (20) feet long. It was built of massive logs, about one (1) foot in diameter, nicely squared and fitted at the corners. Across the ends and down the sides it stood seven logs high. Two additional logs, shortened and sloped to form the base for a slightly gabled roof, were placed on each end. Thus the ridge pole laid about nine (9) feet high, below it on each side were two more roof logs and all five logs protruded out from the end walls for about two (2) feet in order to provide support for eaves. Across these roof supports extending in a downward slope on each side from the rooftree were nailed three (3) inch poles which were placed as tightly together as their irregularities would allow. Each of these poles was about eight (8) feet long, thus forming sufficient side eaves to keep any roof drip from wetting the wall logs. The roof poles were covered with several inches of dirt which was sufficient in that dry climate to turn all moisture excepting the most prolonged and infrequent rains.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

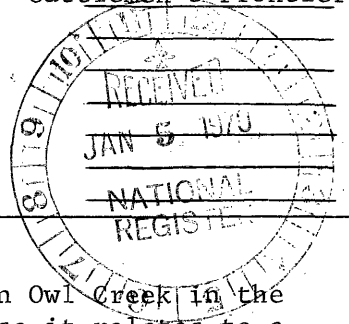
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1871**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	Cattlemen's Frontier
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The site of the cabin which J. D. Woodruff built on Owl Creek in the year 1871 is notable for two reasons: First because it relates to a phase of western history, the Cattlemen's Frontier, celebrated in fiction and consequential to a commercial use of what was from an economic standpoint the nation's least attractive topography; second, because that cabin was a youthful manifestation of the character and performance of a man who in his maturity became a prominent territorial figure. So significant were his contributions to the development of a severe, rough and resilient land that he must be remembered as one of the foundation stones upon which the statehood of Wyoming was built.

The Woodruff Cabin was the first recorded white man's home built in the Big Horn Basin, that is within the entire northwestern corner of Wyoming. That is a corner which, including Yellowstone National Park, comprises some fifteen to twenty thousand square miles of rugged mountains and (prime illustration of the western term "basin") the inclosed, plains type Big Horn river valley.

This valley, the Big Horn Basin, was in 1871 the chief hunting grounds of both Crow and Shoshone tribes but it was also subjected to raids by war parties of the Arapahoe, Cheyenne and Sioux nations. The young warriors of these last mentioned people, oftener than occasionally, left their own claimed territories on the Powder River, Black Hills and lower Yellowstone to cross the Big Horn Mountain Range in order to "ruffle the feathers" of any Shoshones, Crows or, for that matter, white men that they might discover in an advantageous opportunity to surprise.

That being the conditions during the early part of the 1870 decade, it can scarcely be believed that J. D. Woodruff in building a cabin on Owl Creek visualized this location as the seat for a new livestock enterprise. For he must have known, known so well that the thought never crossed his mind, that he would not be able to stage even a single beef roundup. Such an anticipated harvest would already have been garnered by the redmen from across the Big Horns and, more than likely, his own scalp also collected as an incidental but perfectly acceptable bonus to the chief enterprise.

No, the cabin on Owl Creek was almost certainly built only as the base of operations for an enterprising trapper and prospector. In the spring

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 19, No. 2, p. 73. Article: Brands of the Eighties and Nineties used in Big Horn Basin, Wyoming Territory by John K. Rollinson.

_____, Annals of Wyoming, Vol. 3, No. 4, pp. 212-227. Article: Biographic Sketch of John Dwight Woodruff by Mrs. Lesley Day Woodruff Riter.

David, Robert Beebe, Finn Burnett Frontiersman.

_____, The Arthur H. Clark Company, Western Frontiersman Series I, Glendale, California, U.S.A. 1937.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		43° 42' 52"	108° 40' 18"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ned Frost, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: Dec. 19, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Paul H. Frost

Title State Liaison Officer

Date December 19, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Curmley
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

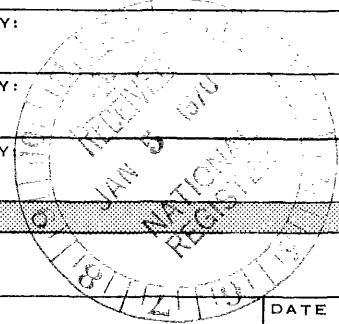
Date FEB 26 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Mustang
Keeper of The National Register

Date FEB 12 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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

STATE Wyoming	
COUNTY Hot Springs	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 10-2-49- 22	DATE 2/26/70

J. D. Woodruff Cabin Site (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description - page - 2

This building, at least during its early years, had only an earthen floor. On top of this soon tightly packed ground, J. D. Woodruff scattered tanned buffalo hides so that he had a luxuriant and warm carpet upon which to move about. Earliest photographs show small, two pane, glass windows and a sawed-plank door. Whether Woodruff had these from the start or whether they were added later is not known, but neither the door boards nor the window frames, panes and all, would have been difficult to transport by wagon or by pack horse the seventy-five odd miles from his nearest connection with civilization -- first Camp Brown and later Fort Washakie.



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Hot Springs	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-249- 004 005	2/24/70

J. D. Woodruff Cabin Site (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance - page - 2

or the early summer of 1871 John Dwight Woodruff, born in Broome County, New York on December 20, 1847, was only in the middle of his twenty-third year of life. He may have already possessed, latently, that flare for the operation of cosmopolitan business enterprises which in following years he so ably demonstrated, but at this stage of youthful manhood his experience and drive were concentrated in and on hunting and prospecting. No doubt the existence of the Owl Creek cabin was known from almost the very beginning by the Shoshones and even, perhaps, the Crows. But it was located far removed from the usual routes of the Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapahoe raiding parties. Woodruff undoubtedly knew he was safe with the Shoshones, he probably had Chief Washakie's permission and blessings. And he had some reason to believe that the Crows, provided he didn't tempt them with too many and too fine horses, might not cause him great trouble. Surely he planned and hoped that this cabin would remain a secret from all other Indians. The chances are that he used it as a home primarily during the winter season for fur trapping and in the spring and early summer while prospecting. During all of those months the Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapahoes would, presumably, keep to their own, eastern, side of the Big Horn Mountains. If he visited this home at all during late summer and fall months his stay was short and only subsequent to careful scouting of all approaches.

Besides the insecurity of the place as a permanent year around home Woodruff was in those years, first at Camp Brown and later, when it was built, at Fort Washakie, in demand as a scout for an army post concerned with protection of the Shoshone's Wind River Reservation and the mining camps of the South Pass gold fields. However, by 1876 the government's determination to protect the Shoshones was pretty well impressed upon the warring tribes to the northeast and the Wind River Reservation basked in what was, for the otherwise turbulent conditions on a frontier of which it was a part, a respectable peace. Woodruff who had first gained the respect and later the friendship of Chief Washakie then made a trip to Oregon and after several months returned driving some six thousand head of "Oregon woolies". By arrangement with Chief Washakie he grazed these sheep for a number of years along the northern side of the Wind River and it may be very possible that he found summer pasture for his flocks on the summits of the Owl Creek Mountains. In which case his Owl Creek cabin home would have figured in the first large scale sheep ranch operation in Wyoming -- with John D. Woodruff the owner of both home and business.

Sometime toward the close of the 1870 decade Woodruff brought cattle into the Owl Creek country and commenced a cow operation with the Owl Creek cabin as the headquarters. About the same time Judge Carter of Fort Bridger, also a friend of Washakie and the Shoshones, moved a herd of cattle into the Stinking Water (Shoshone) River Valley. Possibly a year later, in 1879, Otto Frank founded the Pitchfork Ranch on the Greybull and Lovell moved cattle into the lower, northeast, section of the "Basin". These,

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Hot Springs	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-249- 0001 0005	2/26/70

J. D. Woodruff Cabin Site (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

8. Statement of Significance - page - 3

with the herds of John Chapman who lived in, but ranged south from Montana, were the first five cattle operations to be conducted within the Big Horn Basin area.

There are many other facts to be told about the later operations -- mining, ranching, milling, forestry and political -- of John Dwight Woodruff. But here the concern is with his youthful hunting and prospecting days and the cabin he built as a headquarters for those ventures. Early in the 1880's he sold that Owl Creek cabin to Captain R. A. Torrey of the Fort Washakie garrison. Captain Torrey was joined by his brother Colonel J. L. Torrey (who organized during the war with Spain his Torrey's Rough Riders but didn't succeed in getting his regiment beyond Florida) and these two brother - partners built up a large cattle and horse ranch. They branded the M- and Woodruff's old Owl Creek cabin came to be known as the Embar Ranch. At one time, supposedly, some forty thousand cattle and more than six thousand horses (draft and riding stock) carried the M- brand. It is reported that the horses alone, at their peak numbers when British agents came purchasing cavalry and artillery animals to fill needs created by the Boer War, made the Torrey's a fortune.

Today the Embar Ranch buildings form a partial circle around the site of Woodruff's vanished Owl Creek Cabin. Facing each other across a pretty little field are the barns and corrals on one side and, on the opposite, the large ranch home and other living quarters. In the center of the field -- easily visualized as a park or parade grounds -- stands the monument which marks the site where, in 1871, John Dwight Woodruff erected a log cabin wilderness home on Owl Creek.

