

PH 0664871

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

MAR 15 1978

DATE ENTERED

SEP 13 1978

**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

Union Pacific Athletic Club - Gray's Gables

AND/OR COMMON

Quadra Dangle Square Dance Clubhouse

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 26, T16N, R73W of the
6th Principal Meridian

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Laramie

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Albany

CODE

001

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Quadra Dangle Society

STREET & NUMBER

Box 162

CITY, TOWN

Laramie

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82070

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Albany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth and Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Laramie

STATE

Wyoming 82070

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

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

DATE

1967; revised 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Quadra Dangle Square Dance Clubhouse or Union Pacific Athletic Club or Gray's Gables as it was named in its origin is located in the northeast section of Laramie, Wyoming and presently stands facing Gray's Gables Road which is the approximate southern boundary of a four-acre plat on which the building was erected.

The physical structure of the building is rectangular and measures 64 feet by 96 feet. The style of architecture is rustic log design. The logs are Lodgepole and Ponderosa Pine hewn in the Medicine Bow range west of Laramie and brought into Laramie on rail cars. The timber was purchased from the Neil Roach Timber Company. The logs were carefully fitted together so that the building is windproof without the use of chinking between the logs. Steel bolts, hand-casted in the Union Pacific Railroad machine shops, and heavy steel braces give it the appearance and reality of firmness. Even the window frames are of logs.

A broad-roofed porch measuring 14' 9" in width runs along the entire south end of the structure. This porch is reached by steps that begin under a decorative log archway. On top of both left and right support columns are large old-fashioned globed street leglets that lend a charming nineteenth century effect to the entryway.

The building is entered through two massive wooden double doors which open into the most striking and unusual feature of the entire building. This is the huge center room which stretches over three-fourths of the length of the structure and measures 63 by 59 feet in size and has a 25-foot-high gabled roof. The log beams that support the roof are put together in bridgework fashion that gives the effect of great breadth and height. The trestle type of roof support is of sufficient strength so that no inside supports are necessary in this large room making a beautifully spacious dance hall. Maple flooring was used for the floor. It was also used in the basement floor.

On the west end are three rooms, a locked equipment room is in the northwest corner, a wide middle room opened with a wide log-framed arch onto the dance floor on the east while a huge brick fireplace and chimney stretch the entire height of the west wall. The floor of this room is elevated to give a stage-like appearance. Originally a ladies rest room occupied the southwest corner, and a stairway beside it led to the basement, however the rest room now serves as a cloak room.

On the east end of the building a wide center arch revealed another fireplace room containing a soda fountain at the north end behind which the rustic bar-back cupboards carry out the rustic log effect of the building. Opposite this were two log booths. A great brick fireplace with a chimney rising to the roof was also erected on the east wall. Now a showcase and counter have replaced the soda fountain and two sections of the rustic log booth stand on the porch. One of the unique features of this fireplace room is a beautiful chandelier made from a peculiarly shaped Lodgepole Pine tree found near Brooklyn Lake. It had a short trunk about six to eight inches in diameter from which radiated a number of branches much resembling the limbs of a cactus plant. The branches were dressed,

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	Construction begun May 8, 1928 and completed Oct. 31, 1928.	BUILDER/ARCHITECT	Cement Contractor, Mads Justesen Supervisor of house builders Jack Haugum, Architect-U. P. Athletic Club
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			

The rustic architecture of the Quadra Dangle Clubhouse as outlined in the Description portion of the nomination is in itself important enough to qualify it for the National Register of Historic Places. The beautiful craftsmanship, use of native logs and structural design set the building apart from most log structures.

However, justification of the enrollment is also based on its historical significance. It relates directly to the activities of persons connected with the Union Pacific railroad, the advent of which was more responsible than any other single historical event in the development of the townsite of Laramie. In 1926, a group of Union Pacific employees formed a group known as the Union Pacific Athletic Club whose purpose was to further the athletic ability and physical welfare of the employees, both young and old. There were athletic clubs in nearly every town of any size along the entire Union Pacific routes from Omaha to Los Angeles and Portland. There was much competition between these clubs in basketball, track, rifle team matches and golf tournaments. Meeting first in a rented machine shop the original group of about 250 men incorporated under the State Law of Wyoming on January 11, 1928. They set about finding land for a new building and were fortunate to be given four acres of land by William Isberg on a slight hill overlooking the nine-hole golf course which the members had already leased from the Union Pacific Railroad. The deed for the transfer of land was registered on January 28, 1928. The club members designed the building among themselves, and purchased the logs from the Neil Roach Timber Company. The planned hall was to house an area for dancing, roller-skating rink, dining and assembly hall, card rooms, billiard rooms, an indoor small-bore rifle range in an adjacent building, a large-bore rifle range, archery range, tennis courts, a trap shoot, croquet lawns and golf course and children's playground. It was also created with the idea of being a recreation facility for the Laramie Youth. Provision was included that no intoxicants be served by members or guests on the premises.

In the period when the club was formed Laramie was a center for dispatch of train crews. A large engine roundhouse was located here, as well as a huge machine shop. Laramie was also a division point for trains going south to Denver. It was located geographically at the foot of the Pole Mountain area and the grade up the winding steep roadbed leading over the highest point of elevation on the entire Union Pacific line necessitated switching to the huge Big Boy Engines used to pull over steep grades in Laramie.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 4,5,4 2,2,0 4,5,7,4 3,3,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Photostats of Deed

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

George and Jerrie Biram

ORGANIZATION

President, Quadra Dangle Society

DATE

August, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1655 North 9th

TELEPHONE

(307) 742-2273

CITY OR TOWN

Laramie

STATE

Wyoming 82070

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Jan L. Wilson

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

December 29, 1977

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

R. B. Rethig

DATE

9/13/78

DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

William J. Brown

DATE

Sept 11, 1978

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET Quadra Dangle ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

bark removed and the wood oiled. On the tip of each branch glows an electric light bulb and it is suspended from the ceiling in this room.

Back of the bar-cupboards is a kitchen which was equipped with huge sinks, a roomy range and numerous locked storage cupboards. A dumbwaiter connected the kitchen to the dining room located in the basement of the building. The dumbwaiter has since been removed and the large range was placed in a kitchen built in the basement sometime after the building was first opened. A small gas stove is in the kitchen at present.

The natural color of the bare logs has been preserved through the years. Artful adzing in short streaks giving flecks of lighter color from the body of the wood below created a lovely warm effect. A series of lantern-type hand-tooled wooden light fixtures hang in rows from the lowest ceiling beams in the main dance area heightening the lovely old rustic appearance. One fluorescent light has been installed in the high ceiling of the stage room but the original tree chandelier still hangs there and gives light. Also the deer, antelope, big horn sheep and elk heads that decorated the hall at its dedication on May 20, 1929 still hang on the walls of the large ballroom.

The basement runs the full length of the building and can be reached from stairways on either side of the east fireplace room as well as from several outdoor entry ways. The walls are of thick concrete plastered and painted. Three rows of round supports for the floor above can be seen in the center basement room which is nearly as large as the room above and also has a maple floor supported by wooden floor stringers. The big center room served as a dining area, assembly hall and roller rink. Dressing rooms and bathrooms for men and women, a room for the coal powered furnace, a coal room and automatic water system were located in the east end of the basement. In the west end were smoking rooms for men and a room for the caretakers. Sometime during the use of the building as an athletic club a large kitchen was located in the northwest part and cupboards for holding serving dishes were placed on the east end of the big dining area.

The water supply for the building came from a deep well about 100 feet northeast of the building. The sewerage system flowed south into several tank cars from the Union Pacific railroad that were buried at the foot of the low hill upon which the clubhouse stood.

The original cost of the building was between \$18,000 and \$19,000. Over the years of use since 1928, few structural changes have come about. On the outside a double-door entryway adjacent to the front arch leading to the basement level was installed at the request of the State Fire Marshal. After the Quadra Dangle Society purchased the building in 1949 crash-bar type doors were installed opening

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into the dining room. The log effect was maintained in the construction. Storm doors were installed to protect the heavy main-floor entrance doors.

Inside a center wall was designed to give support to the center of the wide arch leading to the east fireplace room forming two smaller archways. Curtains were hung to conserve heat. Storm windows were installed.

The Quadra Dangle Society also poured a Torginal floor on the stage room, the up-stairs kitchen, on an area surrounding the counter in the fireplace room and on several sets of steps leading to the basement furnace room and back entryways. The coal furnace was removed and a gas one installed and now the facility is served by city water and sewerage systems. A large caretakers' apartment was created from the smoking rooms in the basement. Also, to conserve heat, log entryways were built on the east and west entrances.

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An enterprising and forceful club president, George Bond, was the leader in the tremendous project of construction and finance of the new club. Membership was extended to associates who were not railroad employees to raise money and each employee was asked for a donation which would be returned to him if ever the building should be sold. All labor donated by members was paid for at the going wage for such services. Mads Justesen was the cement contractor and Jack Haugun was in charge of the house builders, many of whom were Swedish "tie-hacks" who understood the art of bridge trestle building. Bolts of varying length used to tie the ceiling beams were hand casted in the Union Pacific shops.

According to the Republican Boomerang newspaper the first shipment of logs was received on June 25, 1928 and the clubhouse was completed on October 30, 1928. Also, according to the Republican Boomerang the clubhouse was the largest and most unique on the entire Union Pacific line with the exception of the one at Los Angeles which was larger in size.

Members secured an old road grader and built a road across the prairies to the club. Often in bad weather, the club was isolated. They also purchased a used well-drilling rig for \$175 to dig a well and then rented the rig to others making a sizeable profit from these rentals. A caretaker was hired to look after the building at all times.

The first event staged in the building was a mammoth Christmas party on December 24, 1928 in which the children of the Laramie Union Pacific family were honored guests. A New Years party was held for adults on New Years Day from 2:00 p.m. to midnight.

The dedication of the building took place on May 20, 1929 and this event also emphasizes the historic significance of the structure for it was named Gray's Gables after the President of the Union Pacific Railroad, Carl R. Gray, who was the main speaker at the ceremonies along with President of the University of Wyoming, A. G. Crane.

Begun as a Union Pacific facility for its employees, the club grew to become a Laramie institution very soon after the doors opened due to the wide and varied activities which centered in and around the building. Every Saturday night a dance was held with a small admission fee, University fraternities rented the facilities for dances providing income for the club but most of all the primary concern of the club was to develop physically the men and young men who joined the club.

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So concerned with detail were the members that their large-bore rifle range was an exact duplicate of the one at Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne, the blueprints of which were secured from the War Department and the cost of building shared by the National Guard Unit based at Laramie which also made use of the rifle range.

The role played by the Athletic Club ceased in 1949 for on June 4 the Quadra Dangle Society purchased the clubhouse and the four acres of land plus an additional 80 acres belonging to the Athletic Club for \$20,000 and for the past 28 years it has served as a square dance club. For a time after purchase, the Quadra Dangle Society operated the leased golf course and rented the rifle ranges and trap shoot to local clubs. However, its present use is for square dancing catering to all ages having an adult club, an old-fashioned dance group and a Junior or Youth Club. The building is still rented to many Laramie groups for parties, meetings, conventions, and dance classes and is looked upon by Laramie citizens as a landmark of great beauty and significance in the history of Laramie.

ADDENDUM



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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

JOURNALS:

Bond, George. "The Inspiring Story of a Union Pacific Athletic Club,"
Union Pacific Magazine, April 1929, pp 10-12.

NEWSPAPERS:

Laramie Republican Boomerang (Laramie, Wyoming).

Jun 1, 1927 - page 5 - column 1
Aug 16, 1927 - page 7 - column 4
May 29, 1928 - page 3
Jun 26, 1928 - page 3 - column 3
Oct 31, 1928 - page 8 - column 3
Nov 9, 1928 - page 9 - columns 1-4
Dec 24, 1928 - page 1 - columns 5-6
May 7, 1929 - page 3 - column 3
May 9, 1929 - page 9 - column 2
May 21, 1929 - page 1-2 - column 7
Jun 1, 1929 - page 8 - column 1

INTERVIEWS:

Brueckner, Francis. Charter member of Quadra Dangle Society

Jackson, Jean. Charter member of Quadra Dangle Society and Secretary in
1949 at time of purchase of building.

Grier, H. L. Union Pacific Rail Road Employee and Secretary of Union
Pacific Athletic Club.