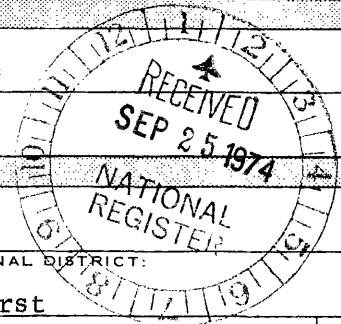


DATA SHEET

STATE: Wyoming
COUNTY: Park
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUN 5 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)



1. NAME

COMMON:	Buffalo Bill Boyhood Home
AND/OR HISTORIC:	Issac Cody Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 720 Sheridan Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Cody		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: First	
STATE Wyoming	CODE 56	COUNTY: Park	CODE 029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY <i>(Check One)</i>	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE <i>(Check One or More as Appropriate)</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>(Specify)</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, Inc.			
STREET AND NUMBER: 720 Sheridan Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Cody		STATE: Wyoming	CODE 56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Park County Courthouse (listed in properties of Buffalo Bill Hist. Center)			
STREET AND NUMBER: 1002 Sheridan Avenue			
CITY OR TOWN: Cody		STATE: Wyoming	CODE 56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 (1973 revised) <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Wyoming Recreation Commission			
STREET AND NUMBER: 604 East 25th Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne		STATE: Wyoming	CODE 56

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This house was built by Issac Cody, father of William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill) at LeClere, Iowa in the year 1841. It was not placed in its present location until 1970, the story of its several movings is presented in the Statement of Significance.

The Buffalo Bill Boyhood Home is a two story frame house, containing two rooms downstairs and two rooms upstairs. Originally there was a lean-to type kitchen attached to the back but that part of the house was not moved from the original location in Iowa. This is the reason for the check in the square marked "Altered" above, otherwise the house is unaltered.

The house is built of sawed lumber and held together by eighteen inch by sixteen inch hand hewn timbers. Both lumber and timbers are in surprisingly good preservation for a building long exposed to the rigors of Iowa frontier prairie existence. It has now been thoroughly renovated inside and outside. The structure is rectangular in shape and about twenty-five feet long by eighteen feet wide by twenty feet high at the gable peak. The roof has been newly shingled and the outside walls have a new coat of blue paint which is trimmed in white. There is a private yard, planted to lawn and a few young trees and enclosed by a simple, white picket fence. Set a little to the south of the vast Buffalo Bill Historical Center structure, its austere lines project an impression of simple dignity which is not out of place with its surroundings.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Home of an</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>historic</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | <u>personage.</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The most significant thing about this house is that it was the childhood home of a famous man. But it appears to possess another, a peculiar, attribute—it just might be the most moved and most traveled building in America.

This boyhood home of Buffalo Bill was brought to Cody, Wyoming, though not then as a property of the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association, in the year 1933. It was moved from its original location at LeClere, Iowa where Issac Cody, father of Buffalo Bill, had built it in 1841. How the Memorial Association came into possession of it is an interesting history which is perhaps worth relating in some detail.

One cultural aspect of American civilization, the organized, open-bookings vacation-tour, has, without drawing much comment, gone through a rise, a peak period and a decline closely corresponding to identical periods in the history of railroad passenger service. The decline of both corresponded with the rise in use of private automobiles. But for many years, or at least many summers, commencing as early as the 1880's and continuing beyond the end of World War II, Yellowstone National Park was one of the great focal points for such tours. In this connection passenger departments of the Northern Pacific Railroad, serving the Park's northern entrance, and the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, serving the east entrance at Cody, worked closely together. The Yellowstone Park Company, owning hotels, camps and a fleet of stagecoaches (later changed to motor buses) operated varied length tours—ten to fourteen days under horse power, three to five days under motor power—between these two railheads. These tours reached a peak of popularity in the 1920's and 1930's. In those decades it was not unusual for from forty to eighty or more of the Park Company's yellow painted, folding-top touring buses to travel in convoy along the gravel-surfaced roads. Though soldiers of a traveling army would have complained bitterly over billowing dust, tourists traveling by their own choice appeared to enjoy such convoy experience and, until the private automobile became very common, the use increased each season.

Naturally such sight-seeing tours could only function during daylight hours which resulted in a problem for the Burlington's passenger agents at their railhead in Cody. Each evening an ending tour came out of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frost, Richard I. (Curator Buffalo Bill Museum) Personal Interview, February 11, 1972.

Russell, Don. The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill. University of Oklahoma Press, 1960.

Sell, Henry Blackman and Weybright, Victor, Buffalo Bill and the Wild West. Oxford University Press, New York, 1955.

UTM
12/653050
4931180
FIR

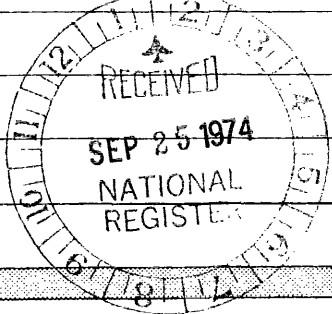
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 31' 29"	109° 04' 25"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: one acre

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: Ned Frost, Chief, Historic Division

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: 1/28/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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: Wyoming Historic Preservation Officer
Date: February 6, 1974

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

Albert Westedt
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

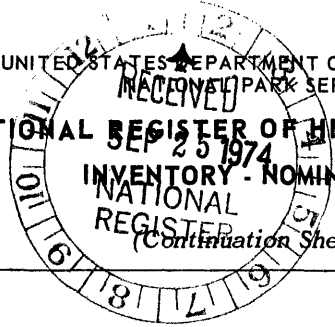
Date: 6/5/75

ATTEST: W. J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
(Continuation Sheet)



STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUN 9 1974

Boyhood Home
(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 2

Yellowstone and unloaded from five hundred to eight hundred either hot or cold, dusty or muddy, tired or lively tourists and each morning a starting tour loaded into the same buses and headed for the park. One way or the other, whether the railroad operated a morning train or an evening train, one or the other group of tourists had to spend the night in Cody—and in a place with more comforts and freedom than Pullman and dining cars could provide.

Complicating this circumstance was the fact that the Burlington had never actually built into the town. Their depot was a mile north and across the Shoshone River from Cody's hotels, restaurants and shops. Both the town and the depot were located on the second terrace above the stream so that the road between was a series of two long downhill grades and two long uphill grades regardless of direction of travel—a fact that discouraged tourists from making evening strolls into the town. The railroad's answer to this problem was to build a hotel, named Burlington Inn, alongside their depot. This was a good hotel possessing a large lobby, dining room and several enclosed shops, the latter operated under lease or other agreement by merchants from the town. Still many of the tourists were restless in the evenings, but a diverting trip into the town involved either that formidable walk or an expensive taxi ride. So the Burlington Inn was ever on the lookout for means to interest guests.

The State of Iowa was Chicago, Burlington and Quincy territory and the railroad learned that Buffalo Bill's Boyhood Home, at LeClere in that state, could be obtained. The Railroad bought the four room, two story frame building and moved it to Cody, setting it down adjacent to the Burlington Inn. It was a point of interest to the Inn's guests and so served their purpose. But, by 1947 organized tours were fading out of the Yellowstone travel picture and the railroad was ready to tear down its Burlington Inn. That year the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy gave the Issac Cody home to the Buffalo Bill Memorial Association. Then that one hundred and six years old structure was taken for its second move—down two long hills, across the Shoshone River, back up two more long hills, a distance of a mile or two—and placed on a new foundation alongside the Association's twenty-years-old Buffalo Bill Museum.

Then, in 1969 when the Memorial Association sold its Buffalo Bill Museum Building and Land and moved its museum displays across 8th Street and into its new Buffalo Bill Historical Center, the old Boyhood Home was moved for a third time. In 1970, completely refurbished, the one hundred and twenty-nine-years-old house was opened for display at this new setting a few yards to the south of the Historical Center. This 1841 house is the oldest structural property at the Center or, for that matter in the City of Cody. In fact it is probably the oldest building in all of Northwestern Wyoming and perhaps in the entire state.