

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



1054

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Carpenter Hotel Historic District  
other names/site number Miner's Delight Inn Bed and Breakfast

### 2. Location

street & number 290 Atlantic City Road  N/A not for publication  
city or town Atlantic City  N/A vicinity  
state Wyoming code WY county Fremont code 013 zip code 82520

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,  
I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.  
In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  statewide  local  
Mary M. Hopkins, WY SHPO 10/22/12  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  
Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:)  
For Edison H. Beall 12-12-12  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
10		buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
10	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Hotel

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Hotel

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: Log

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: stone, concrete

walls: log, weatherboard

roof: metal

other: wood

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Carpenter Hotel Historic District sits on approximately 1.5 acres in a remote area southwest of Atlantic City, an isolated unincorporated village in Fremont County. The district is bisected by Little Beaver Creek and adjoins the riparian area of Rock Creek. The property is rimmed to the east and south by Dexter Avenue and Atlantic City Road, both of which are dirt roads. The district consists of the main lodge, four small cabins, a large cabin, and three outbuildings. Each of the buildings is of log construction and date to ca. 1890-1942. The four small cabins and the shop are connected by a foot tall boardwalk.

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### Narrative Description

#### One Story Lodge, 1904, 2010, contributing

The One Story Lodge consists of two log or weatherboard covered sections. The log one story section was built in 1904 and is the original Carpenter Hotel, and the weatherboard section is a lean-to kitchen built in 2010.

**One story log section:** This log building is 24 feet by 60 feet. The corner construction is interlocking saddle notch and is trimmed by plank cornerboards. The building faces east toward Dexter Avenue, has a red standing seam metal roof, and stands on a concrete foundation. Beginning in 2006 the current owners renovated the building during which they removed the knob-and-tube wiring, replaced the outdated lighting, remodeled the interior, and replaced the windows with double-paned low-e windows.

The east façade is divided visually into three sections by vertical boards, which form a butt joint for log ends. The middle and southern sections each contain a large multi-pane window flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows. These window openings were cut into the original logs shortly after the property changed ownership in 1963. The central section also has a single leaf entry that is accessed by a small deck. The northernmost section has a single four-over-four double-hung window. The north and south elevations each have a gable field that is covered with historic sawn wood shingles. The north elevation has a single entry and a two-pane sliding window, and the south elevation has a large multi-pane window with flanking windows that is identical to those found on the east façade. The west, rear, elevation has three four-over-four double-hung windows. Additionally the lean-to kitchen extends west from the rear elevation and connects the one-story log section to the two-story section.

The interior has been altered over time. Originally the one-story log section held six hotel rooms, a dining room, and a lobby. During the mid 1960s the then owners removed the hotel rooms and built a gourmet kitchen, a bar, stone fireplace, a bath-and-a half, two storage/utility rooms, and installed board-and-batten on the dining room walls and brick chimney. In 2007, the current owners removed the board-and-batten and laid tumbled brick over the chimney column and under the wood stove's hearth. In 2012, a rotted log was chiseled out of the west wall and a new log was installed and chinked. Also a gutter was installed to better protect the logs.

**Lean-to kitchen:** The kitchen was built in 2010 and replaced the original frame kitchen. It extends west from the one-story section and north from the two-story section. The dimensions are 25 feet by 16 feet. It is of frame construction and is covered with cedar weatherboard siding. The foundation is foam block and concrete construction with a three foot deep crawlspace. The west exterior wall is a full ten inches thick and the north exterior wall is six inches thick. The north elevation has a single entry accessed by a small wood deck. The west elevation has a single-pane window and a picture window flanked by single-pane windows. A brick wall and brick-covered wood storage bin surrounding the old wood cook stove were left intact from the original kitchen.

The original lean-to kitchen was built with the hotel in 1904. The dimensions were 26 feet by 14 feet. A Majestic wood stove was the original cook stove. In an unknown year, this stove was replaced by a Coral wood stove. The original floor was fir. In the 1960s the kitchen was renovated into a gourmet kitchen with new cabinets, counters, appliances, and plumbing. In 2010 the current owners were forced to raze the entire structure when a heavy snow load threatened to collapse the roof. The only portions of the historic kitchen they retained were a 1904 brick wall, the wood storage bin, and the Coral wood stove.

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### **Two Story Lodge, 1935, contributing**

This log section was built in 1935 and is 37 feet by 26 feet. It houses a public office, storage rooms, the owners' private spaces, three guest bedrooms, and two full bathrooms. The corner construction is interlocking saddle notch and is trimmed by wide planks painted white. The west façade has three bays with the main entry and a three-over-one and a four-over-one replacement double-hung windows on the first floor. The main entrance on the west façade is in a gable roof projection. The second floor has three historic wood four-over-one double-hung windows. The gable fields on the north and south elevations are faced with sawn wood shingles. The south elevation has replacement four-over-one double-hung sash windows on the first floor and a combination of historic three-over-one and four-over-one wood windows on the second floor. The east elevation has an entry with a wood panel and glass door and is flanked by historic five-over-one double-hung sash windows. A small gable roof supported by wood knee brackets shelters the entry. A historic wood four-over-one double-hung window remains in place above the entry. The remaining four windows on the elevation are replacement four-over-one windows added in 2007.

The building originally housed five hotel rooms, private family spaces, and a full basement. Knob and tube wiring was added in the late 1950s. Beginning in 1963 two upstairs guest rooms were converted to bathrooms, another bathroom was added on the main floor, and a private saloon room was added. In 2007 the knob and tube wiring was replaced with a modern system, the private saloon was renovated to public and private offices, and the basement's four rotted wood fixed-pane windows were replaced with wood awning windows.

### **Barn, ca 1890, contributing**

The log barn is located in the northwest corner of the district. It was built with interlocking saddle notch corner construction, and is 26 feet by 40 feet. The primary door on the east elevation is a double Dutch door covering an opening of 6.5 feet by 7 feet. The secondary door on the west elevation is a single Dutch door that is 3.5 feet by 6 feet. The roof is covered with corrugated metal sheets, and the gable fields on the east and west elevations are faced with vertical wood planks. The wood plank floor is original and in fair condition. The barn has six animal stalls with hay mangers, two tack rooms, and a storage area. Previous owners housed cows and horses and stored hay in the barn. The current owners use it for miscellaneous storage. Likely between 1997 and 2006, 220-volt electricity was run to the barn and a concrete facing was built over the foundation.

### **Shop, 1942, contributing**

The log shop is located in the center of the district west of the main lodge and south of the cabins. It is 14.5 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The east façade contains a two-panel wood door. The shop is the only building in the district constructed with mitered corners. The north and south elevations each contain a single four-pane window. One of the windows is fixed and the other opens as a hopper window. The original stone foundation has been covered with concrete. The roof is covered with wood shingles and weatherboard siding is in the gable field on the west elevation. The floor is plywood. The shop replaced the original log ice house/meat locker in 1942. The year that electricity was run to the shop is unknown. In 2010 one hopper window was broken and replaced with the fixed window.

### **Shed, ca 1920-1935, contributing**

The log shed is located in the northeast portion of the district, north of the main lodge. It is 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The corners are constructed using a vertical corner post method. Windows on the east and façade and south elevation are both wood four-over-four double-hung windows, although the unit on the south elevation has broken glass and is covered by plywood. The gable fields are covered with aluminum sheets and the roof is covered with metal. The shed has a dirt floor, and was built to store fuel (gasoline). A 1935 photo shows the shed in operation as Atlantic City's gas station, complete with a gas pump.

### **Cabin 1, 1935, contributing**

Cabin 1 is in the northeast corner of the grouping of four cabins in the center of the district. It is 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep, and was built using 90-degree shoulder tenons at the corners. It has two windows, a fixed four-pane and a sliding window. The main entry on the east façade has a wood five-panel door. The roof is covered with metal. The stone foundation is partially covered with a concrete facing. The floor is the original fir planks. The current cabins replaced the original canvas-sided cabins in 1935. The year electricity was run to the cabin is unknown. A sheepherder's wood stove warms the cabin. The original steel stovepipe was replaced with a modern double-walled pipe in 2007. Also in 2007, a rotted boardwalk leading to the door was removed and a new boardwalk was built.

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### **Cabin 2, 1935, contributing**

Cabin 2 is in the southeast corner of the grouping of four cabins. It is 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep, and was built using 90-degree shoulder tenons at the corners. There are two windows, a four-pane fixed and a sliding window. The roof is covered with metal and the stone foundation is covered by a concrete facing. The main entry on the east façade has a wood five-panel door. The floor is the original fir planks. The year electricity was installed in the cabin is unknown. A Montgomery Ward tin wood stove warmed the cabin until 2008 when the current owners replaced the tin stove with a new Vermont Castings wood stove, and the steel pipe was replaced with a double-walled pipe. In 2007, a rotted boardwalk leading to the door was removed and a new boardwalk was built.

### **Cabin 3, 1935, contributing**

Cabin 3 is in the northwest corner of the grouping of cabins. It is 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep, and was built using 90-degree shoulder tenons at the corners. There are two windows, a four-pane fixed window and a sliding window. The roof is covered with metal and the stone foundation is covered with a concrete facing. The main entry on the east façade has a wood five-panel door. The floor is the original fir planks. The year electricity was installed in the cabin is unknown. A Montgomery Ward tin wood stove warmed the cabin until 2007 when the current owners replaced the tin stove with a new Vermont Castings wood stove, and the steel pipe was replaced with a double-walled pipe. In 2008, a rotted boardwalk leading to the door was removed and a new boardwalk was built.

### **Cabin 4, 1935, contributing**

Cabin 4 is in the southwest corner of the grouping of cabins. It is 13 feet wide and 15 feet deep, and was built using 90-degree shoulder tenons at the corners. There are two windows, a four-pane fixed window and a sliding window. The roof is covered with metal and the stone foundation is covered with a concrete facing. The main entry on the east façade has a wood five-panel door. The floor is the original fir planks. The year electricity was installed in the cabin is unknown. A Montgomery Ward tin wood stove warmed the cabin until 2007 when the current owners replaced the tin stove with a new Vermont Castings wood stove, and the steel pipe was replaced with a double-walled pipe. In 2008, a rotted boardwalk leading to the door was removed and a new boardwalk was built.

### **Big Cabin, 1935, contributing**

The log big cabin, located in the southwest corner of the district is located on the west side of Little Beaver Creek. It is 13 feet wide and 21 feet long and was constructed using 90-degree shoulder tenons at the corners. Vinyl replacement sliding windows on the south and east elevations replaced the original sliding windows in 2010. A wood fixed window is west of the entry on the north façade. The main entry has a wood five-panel door. The current porch was added during or after the 1980s as a photo, circa 1980s, shows there was no covered porch at that time. Corrugated metal covers the roof and a concrete facing covers the original stone foundation. At some unknown point the dividing wall between the two interior rooms was removed to make the cabin one open room. The year when electricity was run to the cabin is unknown. A dropped ceiling was installed, but the year is unknown. A potbelly stove warms the cabin. In 2008, the original fir plank floor and log joists rotted out and were replaced with new joists and concrete-encased pillars and a floor of eastern yellow pine.

### **Deck, c. 1965, non-contributing**

The deck is 24 feet wide and 24 feet long, and is 2 feet high. One redwood step reaches the deck platform. A redwood plank bench rims the north edge of the deck. In 2008, 110 and 220-volt electricity was run to a post on the southwest corner of the deck.

### **Integrity**

Overall, the Carpenter Hotel Historic District retains good integrity. The integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling are all excellent. The very small community of Atlantic City is much the same as in the period of significance. Additionally the district itself retains its historic layout and spatial relationship to the surrounding area. The integrity of material and workmanship are slightly lower. The roofing has been replaced on all the buildings, and most of the buildings contain at least one replacement window. The window configuration and size of openings were altered in the main lodge with the installation of three picture window units. However, all of the buildings retain their historic log construction and corner notching.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1904-1963  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1904  
1935  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations N/A**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance ranges from 1904 to 1963. The beginning of the period of significance represents the beginning of the use of the property as a hotel and restaurant by Nellie and Ellen Carpenter. Ellen Carpenter continued to run the business until her death in 1961 at the age of 77. Ellen's brother, Jim Carpenter, retained ownership until 1963 when he sold it to Georgina and Paul Newman. Thus the end of the period of significance is marked by the passing of the property from the family that developed the hotel and was responsible for making it a lasting landmark in Atlantic City.

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Carpenter Hotel Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under criterion A for its local significance in the area of commerce. Buildings on this site have served as a resting point for travelers and a good meal since 1904 when Nellie Carpenter and her eldest daughter Ellen began running a hotel and restaurant. It began in the one-story section of the main lodge with six hotel rooms and a large dining room. In 1935 the hotel expanded greatly with the addition of the two-story section of the main lodge and five additional cabins. The new two story section added five additional guest rooms and private spaces for the family. In addition to providing meals and hospitality the hotel also served as the Atlantic City post office from 1930 until 1953. Atlantic City went through cycles of boom and bust related to gold mining in the area. By the mid twentieth century it had become a virtual ghost town. From its inception in 1904 the hotel has remained a steady presence even as the city has largely shut down. The Carpenter family sold the property in 1963 following the death of Ellen Carpenter. The property continues on in its historic use as the Miner's Delight Inn Bed and Breakfast.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

In 1890 the Carpenter family consisting of Clarence, his wife Eleanor "Nellie", and their children Ellen, Anne, James, and Edith set out from Crawford, Nebraska to Oregon. As they were crossing the Red Desert their horses died from drinking alkali contaminated water. They arrived in Atlantic City, then a town of about 300 people, on October 13, 1890. They moved into an abandoned cabin on the current site of the inn, and built a barn. Around this time, Atlantic City boomed with 18 saloons, 2 brass bands, and 25 ore stamp mills before it busted and its miners drifted away.

Through the years, the Carpenters added several rooms to the small cabin. By July 1903, in order to supplement Clarence's wages, Nellie took in boarders. Subsequently, the Carpenters built the log hotel with logs from Fort Stambaugh, a nearby army camp active in the 1870s. The hotel opened in 1904 and contained six bedrooms, a dining room, a kitchen, and Fort Stambaugh's Army wood stove number 1 in the dining room. In 1907, Clarence left the family and headed for Nevada, leaving Nellie and their eldest daughter, Ellen, to run the hotel and restaurant. Clarence and Nellie divorced in 1908.

In addition to running the hotel the Carpenters were active in other aspects of life in Atlantic City. Ellen's brother, Jim, was instrumental in raising funds for the city's sole church, St. Andrew's Episcopal, and constructed the building. The church was consecrated in 1913. Ellen donated a pump organ, taught Sunday School, and cleaned and maintained the church through five decades. Ellen Carpenter's obituary notes that she also paid the insurance on the church building every year.

Nellie suffered a stroke and passed away on August 18, 1930. This influential pioneer was mourned throughout the county. Ellen took over ownership of the hotel and ran it with her brother Jim. Miss Ellen transformed the hotel into the region's socializing center. She held cake walks in the dining room, and after dinner dancers pushed the tables aside and took over the large dining room floor. She organized picnics at the hotel and group travel to local sights. Local miners attended her Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas dinners.

In addition to serving as a social center the hotel also had a central role in other aspects of life in Atlantic City. Beginning in 1930 the hotel housed the city's post office with Miss Ellen as postmistress until the summer of 1953 when the post office was closed.<sup>1</sup> Atlantic City's first phone booth sat in one corner of the dining room. Also a cabin was built adjacent to the main lodge to house gasoline and served as the city's first gas station. With these activities along with the restaurant and accommodations, the Carpenter Hotel became the figurative center of Atlantic City.

In 1935, the Carpenter Hotel underwent a major change when the next gold boom hit and a dredging operation moved down Atlantic City's Rock Creek. Bud Carpenter, Miss Ellen's youngest brother, and Fred Baker demolished the family's original four-room cabin and built the log two-story addition. They replaced four tent cabins with log cabins, and built a fifth

<sup>1</sup> Personal correspondence of Ellen Carpenter located in the Wyoming State Archives.

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cabin on the property west of Little Beaver Creek. The Crawfords, a family of four, lived in the big cabin from 1935 to 1937.

Following this activity Atlantic City went through another bust period and became a virtual ghost town. By the mid 1950s every business in town closed down, but the Carpenter Hotel remained in operation. At one point Ellen and Jim Carpenter were the only full-time residents of Atlantic City. Despite the woes of the area the hotel remained a popular draw for hunters, fishermen, and rock hounds. Furthermore, people from the larger region would travel to Atlantic City for Miss Ellen's meals.

During the final week of March in 1958 the hotel received a modern boost as electric service was brought to Atlantic City. The new electric line brought service to four people, with Miss Ellen and her brothers, Jim and Bud, as the first new customers. To commemorate the occasion she ceremoniously tossed her gas lantern into a nearby snow bank.<sup>2</sup> However this progress did not come without a price as the cost electricity forced Miss Ellen to raise the price of dinner to one dollar.

In 1960 Ellen and Jim Carpenter celebrated the seventieth anniversary of their arrival in Atlantic City. By this time the hotel and the Carpenters themselves had earned a widespread reputation for generous hospitality and home-cooked meals. Congratulatory messages arrived from across the state including messages from the contemporary and former Wyoming governors.

After a couple years of declining health Miss Ellen passed away on May 13, 1961.<sup>3</sup> Jim Carpenter tried to continue the operation of the hotel, but was forced to put the property up for auction to settle Miss Ellen's estate. The auction on September 9, 1961 was attended by several hundred people and the contents of the buildings were sold, however no one placed a qualifying bid on the property itself. Jim Carpenter managed to keep the hotel running with the day-to-day operation handled by another family. In his personal letters Jim expressed dissatisfaction with this arrangement, often noting that the meals offered were not to his standard.<sup>4</sup>

In 1963 Paul and Georgina Newman from New York City purchased the property. The Newmans had previously visited the region in 1958 and stayed with Miss Ellen at the Carpenter Hotel. They were both successful in high paced careers. Georgina was executive editor for *Living for Young Homemakers* magazine, and Paul was an advertising executive known for his campaigns for General Motors (Wide-Track Pontiac) and General Foods, among others. Additionally they both studied cooking at several schools including the Sorbonne in France. The Newmans made several changes to the main lodge and turned the hotel into a gourmet restaurant. They removed the guest rooms from the one-story section and installed a gourmet kitchen and bar. They also changed the name from the Carpenter Hotel to the Miner's Delight Inn.

The Newmans operated the restaurant until 1997 when Donna and Ken Ballard purchased the property and ran a restaurant and inn known for its weekly Basque dinners. In 2006, the current owners, Barbara and Robert Townsend bought the inn and operate the Miner's Delight Inn Bed and Breakfast, which boasts Wyoming's best single malt Scotch selection.

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#### **Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

The history of Atlantic City is largely defined by a series of booms and busts related to gold, and later, iron ore mining. Along with South Pass City and Hamilton City, it was one of three towns that were laid out in the area as the promise of riches from gold claims drew people to the region.<sup>5</sup> Charles Tozier, Colonel Charles Collins, and H.A. Thompson founded Atlantic City in 1868, and by 1870 the census showed a population of 325 people. An 1870 photograph of the town shows a three-block long main street lined with buildings. Businesses at this time included saloons, hotels, general stores, livery

<sup>2</sup> "Electric Lights Now Glow in South Pass Country," *Riverton Ranger*. April 1, 1958, page 1.

<sup>3</sup> "Beloved Ellen Carpenter Dies; Grand Old Lady of Atlantic City," *Wyoming State Journal*. Lander, Wyoming. May 16, 1961.

<sup>4</sup> Personal correspondence of Jim Carpenter located in the Wyoming State Archives.

<sup>5</sup> South Pass City was listed in the National Register on 2/26/1970. Then on 2/28/2012 a boundary increase and additional information was listed. Hamilton City, also known as Miner's Delight, was listed on 6/4/1980.



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stables, restaurants, drug stores, and blacksmith's shops. The promise of riches from gold mining was short-lived, however, as the mines, and subsequently the town, dwindled in the mid-1870s.

In the mid 1880s renewed interest in the prospect of mining gold brought about various activities. Emile Granier attempted an ambitious plan to build a series of flumes and ditches approximately twenty miles long to divert water to his claims on Rock Creek. Using mostly foreign capital he formed the Rock Creek Ditch Company and employed about 135 people. His method of hydraulic mining had been successful in Colorado and California, but proved to be unsuccessful here. The plan ultimately failed and he lost a reported \$150,000. Following this failure he returned to France and was sentenced to live out his life in debtors' prison. In 1904, Dexter Mill and Mining Company bought out Granier's claims, but this endeavor also failed after a few years. Other, smaller operations came and went in the successive years until the 1920s when all the mines closed.

Although Granier's plan ended in failure, the influx of money and people that it generated helped to bring about new businesses and growth. One of the most prominent new businesses of this period was the Atlantic City Mercantile operated by Lawrence Giessler.<sup>6</sup> Giessler sold a variety of items and operated a freight company to bring goods to the town. In addition to these commercial endeavors the store was also home to the Atlantic City post office in the 1910s and 20s. The store closed in 1929 with the death of Lawrence Giessler, and the post office was moved to the Carpenter Hotel.

The depression years of the 1930s brought about some renewed activity in Atlantic City as the E.T. Fisher Company built and operated a dredge operation along the creeks in the area with some success. This success brought about a minor boom and some of the mines in the area reopened. These activities came to an end with World War II as gold was not considered a strategic metal by the government.

The population of Atlantic City declined throughout the 1940s and early '50s until Jim and Ellen Carpenter remained as the sole year-round residents, and the Carpenter Hotel was the only business. Despite its ghost town status, electric lines brought power to Atlantic City in 1958 in anticipation of new mining opportunities that loomed in the future.

In the 1960s the mining activities shifted focus from gold to iron ore. In 1962 U.S. Steel began operation of a large open pit iron ore mine a few miles from Atlantic City. This brought another modest inflow of people to the town and region. The U.S. Steel mine lasted until 1983 when it closed down and the town's population ebbed away again. According to the 2010 census Atlantic City has a population of 37 people.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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"Beloved Ellen Carpenter Dies; Grand Old Lady of Atlantic City," *Wyoming State Journal*. May 16, 1961, pg 1.

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"Electric Lights Now Glow in South Pass Country," *Riverton Ranger*. April 1, 1958, pg 1.

"Ellen Carpenter, Pioneer in State, Died in Lander," *Pinedale Roundup*. May 25, 1961, pg 1.

Junge, Mark. "Hamilton City National Register Nomination Form"

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<sup>6</sup> Atlantic City Mercantile was listed in the National Register on 4/25/1985.

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Letters from James and Ellen Carpenter to Mrs. P. Cooper Ellis, located in the Wyoming State Archives.

Massie, Michael. "Atlantic City Mercantile National Register Nomination Form"

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Murray, Robert A. "Miner's Delight, Investor's Despair," *Annals of Wyoming*. Vol 44, No 1, Spring 1972. Pgs 25-56.

"Paul E. Newman (obituary)," *The New York Times*. Retrieved September 30, 2011 from [www.nytimes.com/1986/05/14/obituaries/paul-e-newman.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1986/05/14/obituaries/paul-e-newman.html).

Pfaff, B.C. Private communications with author. (2007 to present)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1.12 acres  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	12	686372	4706967	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary is defined by parcel number 29001230011400 as defined by the Fremont Count Property Assessors maps.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The proposed boundary includes the property that was historically, and is currently, associated with the Carpenter Hotel.

Carpenter Hotel Historic District  
Name of Property

Fremont County, WY  
County and State

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara and Bob Townsend  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number 290 Atlantic City Road telephone 307-332-0248  
city or town Atlantic City state WY zip code 82520  
e-mail bandb@minersdelightinn.com

### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Carpenter Hotel  
City or Vicinity: Atlantic City  
County: Fremont State: Wyoming  
Photographer: Bob Townsend  
Date Photographed: October, 2011

Site overview, photographer facing northwest.  
1 of 18

One-story section of main lodge, photographer facing southwest.  
2 of 18

One-story section of main lodge, photographer facing east.  
3 of 18

Two-story section of main lodge, photographer facing west.  
4 of 18

Two-story section of main lodge, photographer facing east.  
5 of 18

Two-story section of main lodge, photographer facing north.  
6 of 18

Carpenter Hotel Historic District  
Name of Property

Fremont County, WY  
County and State

Kitchen addition on main lodge, photographer facing east.  
7 of 18

Big cabin, photographer facing southwest.  
8 of 18

Cabin 1, photographer facing west.  
9 of 18

Cabin 2, photographer facing northwest.  
10 of 18

Cabin 3, photographer facing southwest.  
11 of 18

Cabin 4, photographer facing northwest.  
12 of 18

Rear of cabins, photographer facing northeast.  
13 of 18

Barn, photographer facing north.  
14 of 18

Barn, photographer facing southwest.  
15 of 18

Shop, photographer facing northwest.  
16 of 18

Shed, photographer facing southwest.  
17 of 18

Deck, photographer facing northeast.  
18 of 18

---

**Property Owner:**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

---

name Barbara and Bob Townsend  
street & number 290 Atlantic City Road telephone 307-332-0248  
city or town Atlantic City state WY zip code 82520

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Carpenter Hotel Historic District  
Name of Property

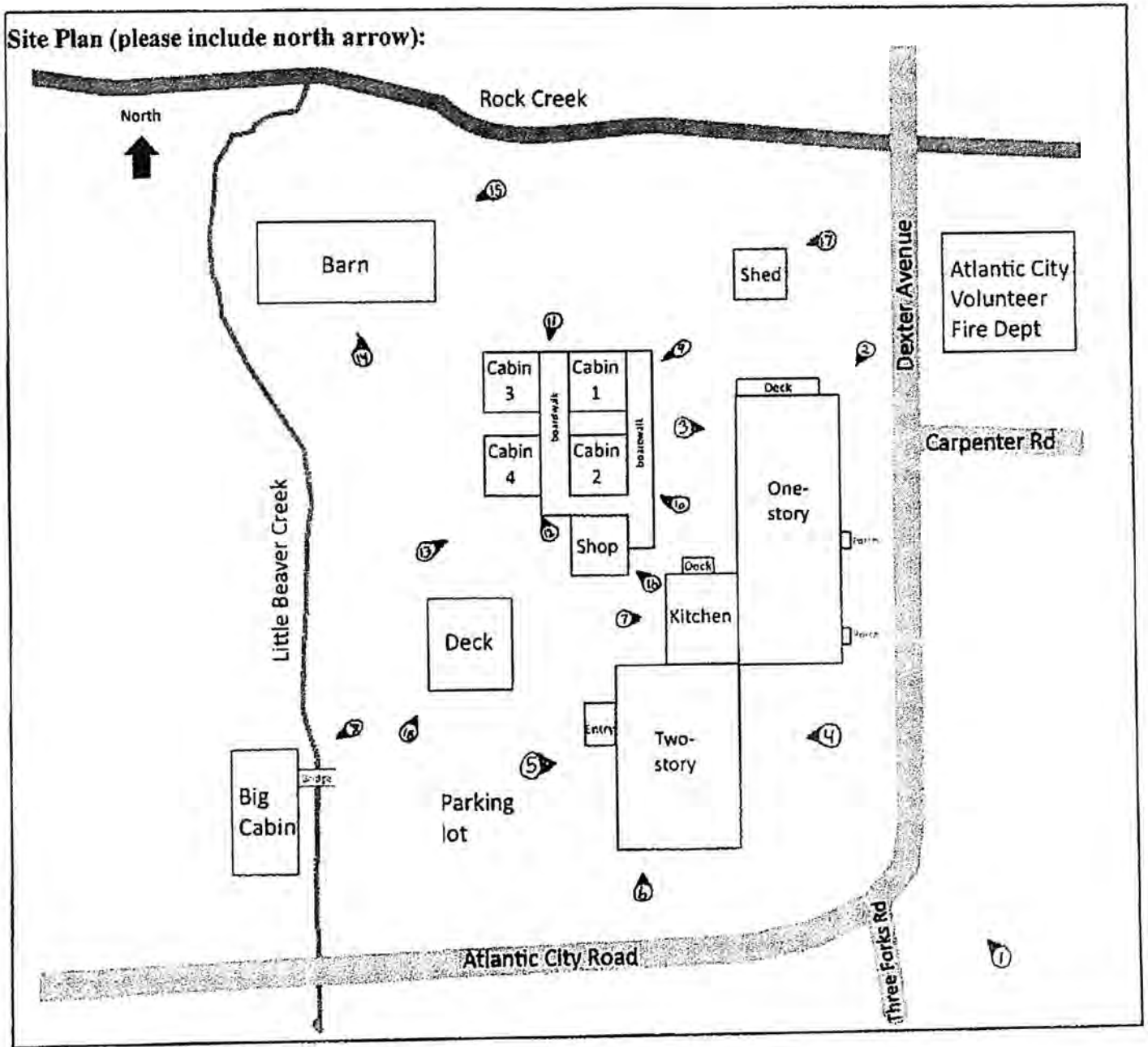
Fremont County, WY  
County and State



Scale: 1"=110'

Carpenter Hotel Historic District  
Name of Property

Fremont County, WY  
County and State



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Carpenter Hotel Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: WYOMING, Fremont

DATE RECEIVED: 10/26/12      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/27/12  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/12/12      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/12/12  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001054

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    12-12-12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





CARPENTIER HOTEL Historic District

Fremont County, WY

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CARPENTER HOTEL HISTORIC DISTRICT

FREMONT COUNTY, WY

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CARPENTER HOTEL Historic District  
FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District  
FREMONT County, WY  
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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District  
FREMONT COUNTY, WY  
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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District  
FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District  
FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER HOTEL Historic District

FREMONT COUNTY, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

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CARPENTER HOTEL Historic District  
FREMONT COUNTY, WY

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CARPENTER Hotel Historic District

FREMONT County, WY

18 of 18

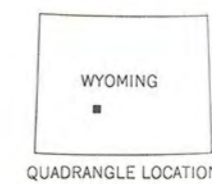
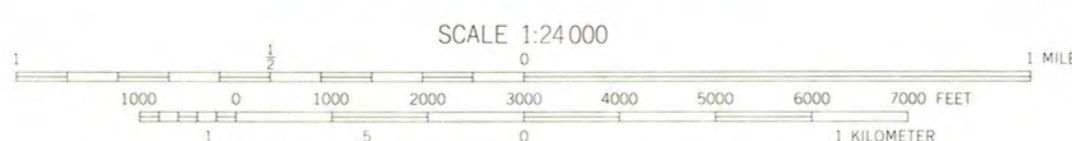
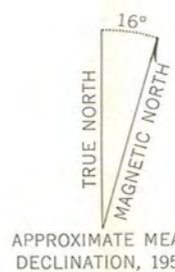
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CARPENTER Hotel  
FREMONT County, WY  
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Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods  
Aerial photographs taken 1949. Field check 1953  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, west central zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 12, shown in blue  
Dashed land lines indicate approximate locations



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Light-duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————

ATLANTIC CITY, WYO.  
N4222.5—W10837.5/7.5

1953

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25, D. C.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

# ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming State Parks & Cultural Resources

OCT 26 2012

**State Historic Preservation Office**  
Barrett Building, 3rd Floor  
2301 Central Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82002  
Phone: (307) 777-7697  
Fax: (307) 777-6421  
<http://wyoshpo.state.wy.us>

October 22, 2012

Paul Loether  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: Submission of Carpenter Hotel Historic District Nomination

Dear Mr. Loether:

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office is submitting the Carpenter Hotel Historic District nomination for National Park Service review. The State Review Board reviewed and Mary Hopkins, the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer, approved and signed the nomination.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Brian Beadles  
Historic Preservation Specialist



Matthew H. Mead, Governor  
Milward Simpson, Director