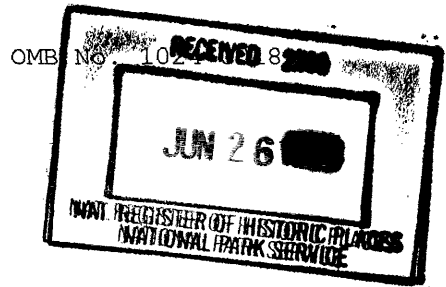


909

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Taliaferro House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 106 Cedar Street not for publication N/A
city or town Rock Springs vicinity N/A
state Wyoming code WY county Sweetwater code 037 zipcode 82901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 ___ nationally ___ statewide locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

John J. Keck
Signature of certifying official

6/16/98
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is

- entered in the National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined eligible for the
 National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.
- ___ determined not eligible for the
 National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register

Edson H. Beall

___ other (explain): _____

bar

7.23.98

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

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

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 2 </u>	___ buildings
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
<u> 2 </u>	___ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>Stone</u>
roof	<u>Shingle</u>
walls	<u>Stone</u>
other	_____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1907 - 1948

Significant Dates circa 1907 - 1912 (date of construction)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
 State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: American Heritage Center

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property _____

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>12</u>	<u>648490</u>	<u>4604620</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

_____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nancy Weidel

organization Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

date March 31, 1998

street & number 6101 Yellowstone Road telephone (307) 777-6312

city or town Cheyenne state WY zip code 82002

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name Mr. William R. Taliaferro

street & number 106 Cedar Street telephone (307) 362-3471

city or town Rock Springs state WY zip code 82901

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Taliaferro House
SweetwaterCounty,Wyoming

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7. Description

The Taliaferro House is a 2-1/2 story sandstone building, rectangular in shape (approximately 43' 8" x 33' 10") and the facade, or north side, faces Cedar Street. The house sits on the northern two lots of the four lot property and is encircled by a driveway with a separate entrance and exit to the west between stone pillars (and now removed low iron gates) onto Walnut Street. A high stone retaining wall defines the lot lines of the property on the north and west sides. Nine concrete steps, cut through the retaining wall on the north boundary of the property, lead up to the front yard. A historic photograph from 1915 shows flower beds bordering the retaining wall and a number of young trees planted in the yard.

The two story house rests on a stone foundation. The full basement includes eight windows (two per side) and a bulkhead cellar door and coal chute on the south side. The eighteen inch walls are constructed of rusticated sandstone of large uniform size to the water table at the first floor. The stone courses then alternate between one wide and one narrow course to a belt course at the second floor, and then changes to one wide course of rusticated stone alternating with a course of thin smooth-faced stone to the eave line, creating a banding pattern that emphasizes the solid horizontality of the building.

A bracketed hipped roof with wide flared eaves includes one hipped roof dormer with similar flared eaves and cut brackets on both the north and south sides. A large brick chimney is located on the east hip and another smaller brick chimney is near the northwest ridge line. The three, 12-light fixed windows of the dormer on the north side are original to the house but the current owner believes the dormer on the south side may have been added during a remodelling circa 1920 which reportedly added another room to the attic. The south dormer resembles the north dormer although the three, eight-over-eight light windows are double-hung, and the interior window space is configured somewhat differently.

Various window types are prominently featured and add an air of elegance and distinction to the house. These include a large bay with four, one-over-one double hung windows on the first floor of the west side, and an oriel window on the north side with three, one-over-one double-hung windows centered over the front porch.

A triple window at the stair landing level on the south side features diamond-patterned leaded glass in the two smaller one-over-one sash that flank the center window.

The most unique window is a large bow window located on the first floor of the east side consisting of twelve one-over-one fixed lights. This bowed extension was apparently planned as a small conservatory-type area as the floor of the interior space of the bow is covered with clay tiles.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Taliaferro House
SweetwaterCounty, Wyoming

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The entrance porch is on the north side and is accessed by ten concrete steps leading up from the driveway. The flat roof and full entablature with dentil molding is supported by two single engaged columns and two sets of triple doric-styled columns at the east and west sides of the porch. The columns rest on the low sandstone wall that forms the porch walls. A 1915 photo shows a wooden balustrade on top of the porch roof which was removed by the present owner due to wood deterioration. The mahogany-framed beveled glass door with egg and dart molding is flanked by two beveled glass sidelights and a transom above.

Two large one over one windows on the first floor of the north side are each topped by a smooth-faced stone flat arch with a raised keystone. One small window on the east side first level also has a raised keystone in a flat arch. Other windows have plain lintels, and the continuous belt course acts as a sill on three sides of the building. Windows at the back or south side of the house have smooth-faced stone lug sills.

A small rectangular extension on the southeast side of the house serves as a back entrance to the first floor of the house. Concrete steps and stoop have replaced the original porch which is believed to have been constructed of wood.

Other than the 1920 remodelling which converted part of the attic into two bedrooms and may have added an attic staircase; and a 1970s updating of the kitchen, pantry area, and original bathroom, the house retains its original integrity of design both inside and out.

The 1-1/2 story former three stall carriage house and milking parlor was also constructed of sandstone. The building is rectangular and measures 37' 6" x 21'. The steeply-pitched gable roof has two large gable-roofed dormers, located on the north and south sides. Each gable end has one double-hung window and is sided with wood shingles. The carriage house was converted into a small house in the 1970s which enclosed the large entrance area on the north side into walls with two large windows and a door. Various windows and doors on the east and west sides have been boarded up due to interior modifications.

The entire south side of the carriage house is enclosed within a large metal shed used as a workshop and for storage of vehicles such as cars and sheepwagons by the current owner. Although this metal addition is large, its location at the rear of the building does not obscure the original feel of the building as a carriage house.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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The Taliaferro House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as one of the premier examples of an American Foursquare in Wyoming. The house was built in the period 1907 - 1912 by an Italian stonemason with sandstone quarried south of Rock Springs. It is located at the top of a hill which overlooks the town, and is situated kitty-corner from another large sandstone house of the same era, locally referred to as "The Castle". The house is noted for being the first one in Rock Springs built with an indoor bathroom. The house is part of the small elite residential neighborhood of early 20th century Rock Springs that occupied an area south of the east/west railroad tracks which bisected the town. Its size and conspicuous location are symbols of the status and achievements of the first generation of influential businessmen/ranchers who rose to regional and statewide prominence in the Union Pacific railroad and coal town of Rock Springs, Wyoming.

The house is an excellent example of a style of domestic architecture that evolved in post-Victorian America. According to architectural historian Alan Gowans, the classic Foursquare design is a two story box, set on a raised basement with the first floor approached by steps, an interior plan of four nearly equal-sized rooms per floor, and capped by a pyramidal roof that usually contained at least a front dormer. Other characteristic elements include a veranda running the full width of the first floor and side bay windows that break up the boxy outline of the building. The design achieves a horizontal massiveness by such devices as long straight overhanging eaves, decorative banding that highlights the second story, doubling or tripling of porch columns, and the use of stone or concrete block.

Popular mail-order catalogs of the time, such as Aladdin Homes and Sears, Roebuck, marketed the Foursquare as a particularly American form of residential design; indeed, style books often term it "the American Foursquare". "Thoroughly American in architecture, it is a house anyone will be proud to identify as 'My Home,'" is how Aladdin described one of its model foursquares. Thousands of foursquares were built in cities and suburbs across the country during its period of popularity, 1900 - 1930.

The 18th century Georgian mansion was the ancestor of the middle-class American foursquare and, according to Gowans, "the American foursquare thus appealed to that same need for stability and solidity which on another level was satisfied by associations with English or colonial American roots."

Perhaps it was the subliminal sense of stability and solidity of the foursquare form which especially appealed to inhabitants of rough western towns such as Rock Springs, in a place like Wyoming, where statehood was barely 20 years old when the Taliaferro house was constructed. Certainly, the Foursquare form with its classic Georgian antecedents is one that would have likely appealed to a man like Thomas Seddon Taliaferro, Jr., as it no doubt harked back to the elegant 18th century family houses of his Virginia childhood, homes such as The Whythe-Taliaferro House in Williamsburg, designed by ancestor, Richard

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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Taliaferro.

A popular mythical figure of a western success story is a rich rancher with thousands of cattle on a giant spread in some remote beautiful mountainous setting. The reality is that a successful rancher most likely became one only by combining ranching with various other business interests such as banking, retail, and real estate, which became the source for the money used to bankroll the big ranch that in a place like Wyoming is more likely to be thousands of desolate acres of high desert sagebrush than at the foot of the scenic Tetons. Many a successful rancher spent more time in the board room of a bank or mercantile than riding the open range.

Augustine Kendall and Thomas Seddon Taliaferro, Jr. were representative of this type of businessman/rancher who rose to economic and social prominence in small cities and towns of the West in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The west of the late 19th century attracted a wide variety of people - immigrant miners, rail workers, greenhorn cowboys, health-seekers, heirs of fortunes, scoundrels, schoolteachers, etc. - those in search of fresh beginnings and economic opportunities.

Contemporaries, both Kendall and Taliaferro arrived in Wyoming in the early 1880s, neither yet twenty years old. Kendall, born in 1863 and raised in Ontario, Canada, son of a wealthy Boston spice trader, grandson of a former mayor of that city, came to Laramie in 1881, where he worked in banking for five years before moving to Rock Springs. He became president of the Sweetwater County Bank (later First National Bank), a position he held into the 1920s. Other business interests included the Rock Springs Lumber Company of which he was Vice-President and Treasurer, the Stock Growers Mercantile, and sheep and cattle ranching in Sweetwater County. Kendall served as Mayor of Rock Springs 1904 - 1907, and was one of the original founders of the Rock Springs Grazing Association.

It was Augustine Kendall who had the Taliaferro House built in the period 1907 - 1912, reportedly as a way to keep his wife in Wyoming. In poor health, Mrs. Kendall, sister of regionally prominent bankers/ranchers/businessmen Thomas and James Boyer, moved to Hollywood, California sometime in 1912. August Kendall remained a resident of Rock Springs although he made frequent trips to California, and Mrs. Kendall spent summers in Wyoming. She died in California of influenza in 1919.

Local stories tell of the Kendall home serving as a boarding house for a brief period of time before Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Seddon Taliaferro, Jr. purchased it in 1914. The Taliaferro's had the house remodelled around 1920 at which time the attic was converted to bedrooms for a number of their nine children, radiant heaters were installed in the three fireplaces, and such yard amenities as the sundial, bird bath, and fountains added (all remain in the yard today).

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Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

Like Augustine Kendall, Thomas Taliaferro also came from "back east" and he embodied all those desirable qualities that now derisive term implied. Born into an aristocratic, cultured Virginia family in 1865, whose direct lineage included Richard Henry Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and other notable Old Dominion families, Thomas Seddon Taliaferro, Jr. spent his youth in Alexandria, Virginia where he attended the prestigious Episcopal High School and Gloucester Academy. The Taliaferro family lost their fortune, much of it tied up in the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, following the Civil War in which his father served in the Confederate Army and remained officially a prisoner of war until pardoned by President Grover Cleveland.

A family friend on the Board of Directors of the Union Pacific Railroad secured a job for eighteen-year old Thomas, Jr. in Green River, Wyoming where he arrived in 1883. From his first job shoveling coal, Thomas rose to the position of Union Pacific agent for Green River, a job he held until he began his law practice in 1900 and moved to Rock Springs. His Union Pacific association continued, however, and he became the Union Pacific Coal Company's top legal counsel in the state of Wyoming.

In addition to a busy law practice, Taliaferro also organized and became president or managing director of three banks: the First National Bank of Green River, the First State Bank of Green River, and the First Bank of Superior, Wyoming. He was president of the Green River Mercantile Company, a profitable business that outfitted many of the numerous sheep and cattle ranches in the region including those he owned, the Green River Livestock Company and the Big Sandy Livestock Company. Other business interests included commercial and residential real estate development in Green River and two of the earliest car dealerships in Sweetwater County. Taliaferro, along with Augustine Kendall, helped found the Rock Springs Grazing Association and became the chief legal counsel for the organization. Taliaferro served a term as the second mayor of Green River 1893-1896. (His son, Edward Ludwell Taliaferro, also became Green River's mayor 1944 - 1947.)

In 1896, Taliaferro returned to his hometown of Alexandria to marry Lucy Ramsay, a descendant of Virginia's prominent Lee, Custis, Ball, and Washington families. Mr. and Mrs. Taliaferro furnished the house at 106 Cedar Street with many family heirlooms that remain in the house today. These include furniture from Woodlawn Plantation in Virginia, numerous family portraits and engravings, pieces of 400 year old Willow Ware, a chair from the Lee family home of Stratford, case piece from the Lee family, a silver urn that was buried in a well during the Revolutionary War, and a number of 18th century beds and tables.

In addition to bearing eleven children (two died in infancy), Lucy Taliaferro led an active political and social life. A prominent member of the Democratic party,

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13

Taliaferro House
Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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she was considered a key figure in giving Wyoming's vote to Woodrow Wilson in the 1912 and 1916 presidential elections. From 1928 until 1940, she served as national Democratic committeewoman from Wyoming. Lucy held the position of chairman or director of many local and state organizations including the Wyoming Federation of Womens Clubs, Wyoming For Woman's Liberty Loans, the American Red Cross, and Wyoming Public Health Association. Active in the Suffrage movement, Mrs. Taliaferro entertained national leaders such as Dr. Carrie Chapman Catt in her home at 106 Cedar Street. Among other notable guests at the Taliaferro home were Governors Nellie Taylor Ross and (later Senator) John B. Kendrick, and William Jennings Bryan.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Taliaferro, Jr. died in the house on 106 Cedar Street; 75 year old Thomas in 1940, and Lucy in 1953 at age 81. Both deaths elicited long obituaries on the front page of the Rock Springs Daily Rocket, and "all business houses in Rock Springs and Green River closed for the funeral" of Thomas.

Following the death of her mother Lucy, Harriotte Lee Taliaferro occupied the house until 1965 when ill health forced her to move to a nursing home. The house sat vacant for a year or more and became the target of vandals. Finally, in 1967, William Ramsay Taliaferro, grandson of Thomas and Lucy, moved into the house with his wife and young family. In 1969, they purchased the house in which Mr. Taliaferro still resides.

The Taliaferro House is an excellent and rare example of a large sandstone foursquare style house in Wyoming. Built for a member of the local elite and located on a prominent hill overlooking the city, the house personified the pride and financial success of the first generation of Rock Springs businessmen/ranchers in a state that was not yet twenty years old. Its stone craftsmanship and elegant interior appointments, featuring oak and mahogany trim, terra cotta mantels, original light fixtures, and original paint and wallpaper in various rooms, are still a point of pride today for not only the owner, a grandson of Thomas Seddon Taliaferro, Jr., but the city as well. The house has remained in the Taliaferro family since 1914. The house retains exceptional integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, association, location, and setting. The Taliaferro House, and the carriage house, as a contributing structure, are eligible under Criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 16

Taliaferro House

Sweetwater County, Wyoming

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Taliaferro House is located at the southeast corner of Cedar Street and Walnut Street at 106 Cedar Street, Rock Springs. It occupies Lots 9 - 12, Block 36, in the Union Pacific Railroad Company's Second Addition.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes lots 9 - 12, which the house and carriage house occupy, and is defined by the curbs and gutters along Cedar Street (north boundary) and Walnut Street (west boundary). The east boundary is defined by the borders of lots 9 - 12; the south boundary is defined by the border of lot 12.