

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 7 1984
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic HYNDS LODGE

and/or common HYNDS LODGE

2. Location

street & number Curt Gowdy State Park not for publication

city, town ~~West of~~ Cheyenne vicinity of N/A

state Wyoming code 056 county Laramie code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Recreation

4. Owner of Property

name City of Cheyenne

street & number 2101 O'Neil

city, town Cheyenne vicinity of N/A state Wyoming

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laramie County Clerk

street & number City/County Building

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Historical Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Hynds Lodge remains in much the same condition as when it was constructed in 1922. It is located in Curt Gowdy State Park, 20 miles west of Cheyenne in the foothills at the southern end of the Laramie Range. The lodge itself sits in a low lying area, built into a hillside and surrounded by unusual towering granite rock formations and mountain vegetation including varieties of pine, aspen and high altitude shrubs, grasses and wild flowers. The setting is particularly important to the lodge's continuing integrity as a recreation facility. It is constructed of native rough cut stone laid in courses, creating a classic simplicity in a natural setting. Ornamentation is provided by a variety of textures including a clay tile roof and ridge pole, a massive stone chimney and a shingled porch roof end. It is a 1½ story side gable in a rectangular shape. The roof extends over the full front porch with massive stone supports. The front facade has four large double hung eight over one windows with flat stone sills and two modern wooden doors regularly spaced with plain surrounds. There are also four bays on the first floor gable ends and one window in the one-half story. Due to its placement on the lot and construction techniques the porch foundation is above grade while the roof line is at ground level in back. A massive stone chimney is located at back center, the interior remains intact, with open spaces to accommodate large groups. Apart from newly paved access roads, a parking area in front of the lodge, metal fire stairs on the north end and a modernized kitchen, the lodge stands unaltered in its original setting. The nomination includes only the lodge.

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1922 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Hynds Lodge, constructed in 1922, has been of continuous importance in the social development and youth activities of Cheyenne. The Lodge is named for Harry P. Hynds, a colorful Wyoming pioneer businessman who funded its construction. In many ways typical of the turn-of-the-century American businessman, Hynds' eclectic commercial interests were accompanied by a strong sense of civic responsibility. The Lodge represents a high point of his philanthropic endeavors. Primarily used as a recreational camp for Wyoming Boy Scouts, the Lodge has also seen use by area churches and social groups. Architecturally unique in its ashlar masonry, the Hynds Lodge is symbolic of the opulence of Cheyenne in the early decades of this century. Since its construction the Lodge has been the only facility of its kind in the Cheyenne area, and has been used by thousands of young people. Hynds Lodge still fulfills its original function as a recreational site and today is part of the 1,005 acre Curt Gowdy State Park administered by the Wyoming Recreation Commission. Maintaining its historical and architectural integrity, the Hynds Lodge symbolizes the transition of Cheyenne from frontier community to modern city and is worthy of enrollment on the National Register of Historic Places.

SEE ADDENDUM

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre
Quadrangle name Sherman Mountains, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	13	4	7	18	5	15	10	4	15	6	10	3	15	10
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

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D

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E

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE ADDENDUM

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mike Gorman, Intern Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office date _____

street & number 1920 Thomes Avenue telephone 777-6179

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Alvin J. Bastron

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/26/84

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

Alvin J. Bastron

date 3/23/1984

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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In the early years of this century Cheyenne was the home of many colorful characters, and one of the most famous was Harry P. Hynds. Arriving in Cheyenne as a 22 year-old blacksmith, Hynds became one of the city's most prosperous citizens. By the time of his death in 1933, Hynds was regarded as the city's first philanthropist and one of the fathers of modern Cheyenne. Hynds Lodge, located in the Sherman Mountains near Cheyenne, was the result of his philanthropy.

Hynds came to Cheyenne from Illinois in 1882 looking for the economic opportunities which the frontier offered an ambitious young man. His first employment in Wyoming was as a blacksmith on the Cheyenne-Deadwood Stage Line. A blacksmith shop, however, did not suit the temper of Harry Hynds and in 1883 he acquired a gambling saloon. Within a few years he owned gambling houses throughout Wyoming and Utah. These houses, including the famous Capitol Bar in Cheyenne, provided Hynds with an annual income of \$30,000, a very considerable sum in the 1890's. Hynds used this wealth to enter into other, equally profitable enterprises. He built the Hynds Office Building, the largest in Cheyenne at the time and the Plains Hotel, which became one of the West's most famous hotels, both of which are significant contributors to the Cheyenne Downtown Historic District, listed on the National Register in 1978. Hynds also speculated in oil, and soon had holdings in Wyoming, Montana, and Texas. He was one of the original investors in the famous Big Muddy field of Wyoming. Through these and other commercial endeavors, including hardware stores and bookstores, Harry Hynds possessed by 1910 one of the largest fortunes in Wyoming.

In many ways Harry Hynds typified the American entrepreneur of the time. His interests and investments were highly eclectic and he seemed to make his fortune in any and every possible way. His business acumen was accompanied by a strong sense of civic responsibility, and he soon became known for his philanthropic activities. He was a founder of the Frontier Days Rodeo, led the movement for paved streets in Cheyenne, and sponsored the Cheyenne Indians, the only professional baseball team in Wyoming history.

In 1922 Hynds was approached for financial aid in the construction of a facility for Cheyenne's Boy Scouts. The city had a thriving Scout organization which was in need of a recreation camp outside the city. The Young Men's Literary Club, a Cheyenne civic group which is still in existence, donated 120 acres of forest land in the Sherman Mountains west of the city, and Hynds was asked to initiate a drive for funds to construct a cabin. Hynds decided to fund the project himself, providing \$25,000 for a permanent lodge for the Scouts.

Hynds Lodge was completed in the summer of 1922. It was a spacious building, constructed of granite blocks quarried in the immediate area. The roof was of Spanish style red ceramic tile. The structure was 36' x 35' and included a covered porch running the length of the building, kitchen and dining facilities, and sleeping accommodations. The large first floor room contained a massive stone fireplace.

The Young Men's Literary Club operated the Lodge for the benefit of the Scouts

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until 1935 when the Lodge and its operation were transferred to the City of Cheyenne. Since that time the Hynds Lodge has been used by many Cheyenne civic organizations, in addition to the Boy Scouts. The Cheyenne Youth Council opened a summer camp there; the city's high school used the site for a summer football camp.

By the mid 1960's, however, the Lodge was badly in need of repair. In 1966 a group of volunteers led by the Junior Women's Club began a "Rescue Hynds Lodge" campaign which led to the renovation of the structure. Crumbling stonework on the porch and front steps was repaired, drainage systems were installed, and the water supply system was improved. These repairs had little effect on the outward appearance of the structure.

In 1971, the City of Cheyenne leased Hynds Lodge and the surrounding land to the Wyoming Recreation Commission. The Lodge area along with Granite and Crystal Reservoirs, some 1,105 acres in all, became part of Curt Gowdy State Park, named for a famous sportscaster and Wyoming native. The Wyoming Recreation Commission completed an extensive renovation of the Lodge in 1980, making major plumbing and wiring repairs, installing a modern kitchen, and generally refurbishing the interior of the structure. Exterior work was confined to the construction of handicap access ramps to the Lodge porch. Upon the completion of this work the Lodge was rededicated to the Boy Scouts and other public and private groups for recreational purposes.

Hynds Lodge has retained its historical and architectural integrity. Its appearance has been altered little since the Lodge was opened in 1922. It is the only facility of its kind in the Cheyenne area and has been used by thousands of area residents young and old since its construction. Part of the social development of Cheyenne, Hynds Lodge deserves enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Continuation sheet **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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Cheyenne Daily Sun Leader, March 2, 1896.

Cheyenne Tribune, March 10, 1896.

Harry P. Hynds Scrapbook, Film #H-216, Wyoming State Archives, Cheyenne
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Verbal Boundary Description

Continuation sheet and Justification

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The lodge building is located in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NW $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$, Sec. 8 T14N, R70W 6th PM. Laramie County, Wyoming. It is constructed into the side of a hill and has a new asphalt parking area directly in front of the building. For purposes of this nomination, the boundaries are best defined by an imaginary buffer radiating 15 feet from the back and sides of the structure and 10 feet from the front wall of the front porch. This boundary will include the natural vegetation closest to the lodge, protect exterior protrusions off the exterior walls such as the fireplace and chimney in back, fire escape wall, eave overhang, and front steps while excluding excess land area currently used for parking and recreation. The site is owned by the City of Cheyenne, is leased by the state, functions as a state property, and is therefore protected from outside encroachment. There is no need to include additional portions of Curt Gowdy State Park at this time.