

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 29 1979
DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1981

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Mackenzie

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Mackenzie

2 LOCATION

N of Sheridan on RR 337

STREET & NUMBER

Section 16, T56N, R84W

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF Sheridan

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Sheridan

033

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER

Veterans Administration Hospital

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Government; administered by Veterans Administration

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sheridan

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Sheridan Cnty. Courthouse and the Veterans Administration Office of Construction, Land Management Service; 819 Vermont; Washington, D.C.

20420

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sheridan

STATE

Wyoming 82801

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Veterans Administration Historic Sites Survey and Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Monuments

DATE VA: 1972 and continuing

WRC: 1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

7 DESCRIPTION

ITEM 8 pg 1

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Mackenzie is located on the northeast flank of the Big Horn Mountains, a more or less continuous chain of the Rocky Mountains that extends from southern Montana into northern and central Wyoming and arcs westward just north of the city of Casper. From the east slope of the northern Big Horns, whose highest point is Cloud Peak (elev. 13,167), streams flow in a northeast direction toward the Powder River and the Big Horn River, both of which flow into the Yellowstone River at points in Montana. Big and Little Goose Creeks are branches of the Tongue River, and all three watercourses are a part of the Big Horn River Drainage. At the confluence of the two Goose Creeks, and situated along their uneven terraces, is Sheridan, a city of approximately 12,000.

On the northwest edge of the city, about two and one-half miles from the downtown business district, is Fort Mackenzie, a hospital administered by the Veterans Administration. It is spread across a wide terrace on the north bank of Soldier Creek, at an altitude 150 feet higher than downtown Sheridan. The hospital is situated on approximately 272 acres of land, which is a small parcel compared to the 6,280 acres that once was the Fort Mackenzie military reservation. Within that acreage are approximately seventy buildings and structures, most of which are arranged in two north-south rows and along a fishhook-shaped avenue. An evergreen-flanked, two lane, asphalt road (State Highway 337), half a mile in length, forms the main approach to hospital grounds and buildings from the east. Entering the hospital grounds, the road divides. To the right, or north, it leads towards a cluster of service buildings and shops; to the left it leads to the main complex of hospital buildings and to the hospital administration building. From the administration building the road continues west-northwest along the fringe of the hospital grounds to the bend of the fishhook, where housing for hospital personnel is situated. A prominent feature of the fort grounds are evergreen and cottonwood trees, shrubbery and expansive lawns--all a product of the period, beginning in the early 1920's, when Fort Mackenzie was converted from a military post to a veterans hospital.

Two-thirds of the buildings within the hospital grounds were constructed in the first decade of the century, when Fort Mackenzie was a military post. These buildings serve various functions, such as administrative offices, living quarters, hospital wards, warehouses and maintenance shops. They are plainly but handsomely constructed of red brick in neo-classical style, typical of turn-of-the-century military posts. Characterized by rectangular plans, strict symmetry, colonnades and porticos, the buildings collectively form an attractive, homogeneous unit. In function they are essential to the hospital, and in design they establish the architectural theme of the entire site. Almost all of the rest of the hospital structures, built after 1930 and during the years the post served as a veterans hospital, are complementary in style and construction materials to original fort buildings. Each building or structure located within the grounds of Fort Mackenzie is described below.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

Item 8 pd text

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Medicine: hospital	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Historic site research presents a number of problems. One is that it is not practical for a historian who has time only to briefly describe and denote the significance of a particular site, to thoroughly research primary source material such as newspapers, military records, and congressional documents. Because he is restricted by time, the historian cannot afford to dig deeply into political, economic and social trends that relate to the significance of a particular site. Another of his problems is that he may discover that a particular historical topic relevant to a site has not been thoroughly researched. The latter historiographical problem is compounded by the fact that a historic site may not fit within a well-defined historical period, or is a site which has served various functions and therefore belongs to more than one period. In summary, each site assigns new problems to the historian, who is usually forced to draw upon well-used, but often inadequate secondary source materials for documentation.

Fort Mackenzie is an historic site that exemplifies the problems described above.* It is a historic site for which no thorough history has been written, it does not fall into a neatly-defined historical topic and, furthermore, historical topics that do relate to the fort have not been fully explored. Because it was a military post and a veterans hospital its history relates to two basic groups of institutional records. But those records, some of which are readily at hand, do not provide clear answers to a couple of perplexing and important historical problems. One problem relates to the reasons for establishment of the fort. Another relates to the reasons for the survival of the complex as a Veterans Administration hospital.

Ostensibly, Fort Mackenzie was established as a military base for the purpose of protection of white settlers in a Rocky Mountain-High Plains region containing Indians

*The fort was named for Ranaid Slidel Mackenzie (1840-1889), veteran of the Civil War and the Indian Wars of the West and Southwest. As colonel of the Fourth Cavalry, Mackenzie took part in the Powder River Expedition of 1876. In November of that year, leading a mounted column during General George Crook's winter campaign against High Plains Indians, he surprised and defeated Chief Dull Knife's band of Northern Cheyenne near the edge of the Big Horn Mountains. The fight site is at the canyon mouth of the Red Fork of the Powder River, about 65 miles south of Sheridan.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum - Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 295.8

QUADRANGLE NAME Sheridan

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES See Addendum Item 10

A
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Addendum - Item 10

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mark Junge, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

May 11, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE

(307) 777-7695

CITY OR TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

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

Jan S. Wilson

TITLE Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 17, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Bruce Lee Wood

DATE 6/14/81

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION, BUILDING #1. built 1907. two story. brick. hip roof, asphalt. sandstone foundation. front portico, Doric columns. original use: army administration building.

LIBRARY, BUILDING #2. built 1902. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. sandstone foundation. Doric portico, front elevation. original use: guard house.

INTERTRIBAL ALCOHOLIC TREATMENT CENTER, BUILDING #3. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. enclosed double portico, front elevation. original use: barracks.

HOSPITAL WARD, BUILDING #4. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. enclosed double portico, front elevation. original use: barracks.

HOSPITAL WARD, BUILDING #5. built 1903. two story: brick. gable roof, asphalt. enclosed double portico, front elevation. original use: barracks.

HOSPITAL WARD, BUILDING #6. built 1902. two story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. enclosed double portico with pediment, front elevation. original use: barracks.

KITCHEN-DINING-CHAPEL-ACTIVITIES, BUILDING #7. built 1904. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. double portico, front elevation. original use: barracks.

HOSPITAL WARD, BUILDING #8. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, asphalt. double portico, front elevation. original use: barracks.

INFIRMARY, BUILDING #9. built 1909. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, asphalt. original use: hospital.

SINGLE QUARTERS, BUILDING #10. built 1902. two story. brick. gable roof, slate. frame porch, front elevation. original use: army, hospital sergeant's quarters.

VACANT, BUILDING #11. built 1902. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. frame porch, front elevation. original use: army hospital.

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SINGLE QUARTERS, BUILDING #12. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army field officers' quarters.

VACANT, BUILDING #13. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. hip roof, dormers, slate. double portico, front elevation. original use: army bachelor officers' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #14. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army captains' quarters.

SINGLE QUARTERS, BUILDING #16. built 1907. brick. gable roof, slate. porticos, front elevation. original use: army captains' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #17. built 1904. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army lieutenants' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #18. built 1904. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army captains' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #19. built 1904. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army lieutenants' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #20. built 1904. 2½ story. brick, gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army captains' quarters.

DUPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #21. built 1902. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army lieutenants' quarters.

DIRECTOR'S QUARTERS, BUILDING #22. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: army commanding officers' quarters.

BOWLING ALLEY, BUILDING #23. built 1909. one story. brick. hip roof, asphalt. original use: army bowling alley.

INTER-TRIBAL ALCOHOLIC TREATMENT CENTER, BUILDING #24. built 1905. 2 story. brick. hip roof, asphalt. portico, front elevation. original use: army post exchange and gymnasium.

(Buildings 25, 26 do not exist)

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FOURPLEX QUARTERS, BUILDING #27. built 1907. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. portico, front elevation. original use: non-commissioned officers' quarters.

(Building 29 does not exist)

ROOT CELLAR, BUILDING #30. built 1910. one story. concrete, earth-covered. original use: army root cellar.

LAUNDRY, BUILDING #31. built 1902. brick. gable roof, asphalt. original use: army quartermaster's subsistence warehouse.

ENGINEERING OFFICE, BUILDING #32. built 1904. one story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. original use: army bakery.

GARAGE, BUILDING #33. built 1901. one story. wood frame. shed roof, built-up. original use: army coal shed.

ENGINEERING STORAGE, BUILDING #34. built 1907. one story. wood-frame and galvanized metal, wood with aluminum siding. gable roof, metal. original use: army magazine.

SUPPLY WAREHOUSE, BUILDING #35. built 1909. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, slate. original use: army quartermaster's storehouse.

ENGINEERING, ELECTRIC SHOPS, BUILDING #36. built 1907. one story. brick. gable roof, slate. original use: army quartermaster's workshops.

ENGINEERING SHOP, FIRE STATION, BUILDING #37. built 1907. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. original use: army forage storehouse.

ENGINEERING STORAGE, BUILDING #38. built 1909. one story. wood frame. shed roof, built-up original use: coal shed.

ENGINEERING STORAGE, BUILDING #39. built 1909. one story. wood frame and metal. gable roof, metal. original use: army hay shed.

(Building 40 does not exist)

VEHICLE STORAGE, BUILDING #41. built 1909. 1½ story. brick. clerestory roof, slate. original use: army stable.

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VEHICLE MAINTENANCE, BUILDING #42. built 1909. one story. brick. hip roof, slate. hose tower, north elevation. original use: fire station.

(Buildings 43-54 do not exist)

PAINT SHOP, BUILDING #55. built 1909. one story. wood frame with corrugated steel exterior. gable roof, metal. original use: army magazine.

(Buildings 56, 57 do not exist)

METER HOUSE, BUILDING #58. built 1900. one story. brick. hip roof, asphalt. original use: army meter house.

(buildings 59, 60 do not exist)

RECREATION, BUILDING #61. built 1932. one story. brick. gable roof, asphalt. VA construction.

WARD, BUILDING #64. built 1932. 3½ story. brick. hip roof, dormers, slate. portico, front elevation. VA construction.

(Buildings 65, 66, 69 and 70 do not exist)

INFIRMARY, BUILDING #71. built 1932. 2½ story. brick. gable roof, dormers, slate. VA construction.

(Buildings 72-77 do not exist)

ENGINEERING STORAGE, BUILDING #83. built 1933. one story. brick. shed roof, asphalt. VA construction, originally guinea pig house.

FLAGPOLE, STRUCTURE #84. Approximately 35' high. steel with guy cables.

(Building #85 does not exist)

HOSPITAL WARD, BUILDING #86. built 1945. three story. brick. hip roof, asphalt. pedimented entrance. VA construction.

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(Buildings 86-89 do not exist)

BOILER HOUSE, BUILDING #90. built 1949. 1½ story. brick. flat roof, built-up.
VA construction.

INCINERATOR, STRUCTURE #91. built 1949. 1½ story. brick. flat roof, built-up.
VA construction.

CHIMNEY, STRUCTURE #92. 174' high. brick.

(Building 94 does not exist)

ELECTRIC SUB-STATION, BUILDING #106. built 1957. one story. brick. flat roof, asphalt.
VA construction.

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BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES NOT CONTRIBUTING TO THE CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT

GARAGE, BUILDING #62. built 1932. one story, single car. tile. shed roof, asphalt. VA construction.

GARAGE, BUILDING #63. built 1932. 3½ story, six-car. brick. hip roof, dormers, slate. portico, front elevation. VA construction.

GARAGE BUILDING #67. built 1935. one story, two car. wood frame. gable roof, asphalt. VA construction.

GARAGE, BUILDING #68. built 1905. one story, five-car. wood exterior and frame. hipe roof, wood shingle. original use unknown.

GARAGE BUILDING #78. built 1932. one story, single car. tile. shed roof, asphalt. VA construction.

RESERVOIR HOUSE, BUILDING #79.

WATER INTAKE HOUSE, BUILDING #80.

(Building 81 does not exist)

WATER RESERVOIR, #82.

COAL SILO, STRUCTURE #93. built 1947. 50' high. tile. flat roof, concrete. VA construction.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL PLANT, BUILDING #95. built 1949. 1½ story. brick. gable roof, slate. VA construction.

SEWAGE PUMP HOUSE, BUILDING #96. built 1949.

TRICKLING FILTER, STRUCTURE #97. built 1949.

SLUDGE BED, STRUCTURE #98. built 1949.

(Structure #99 does not exist)

DOSING TANK, STRUCTURE #100. built 1949.

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CHLORINATION CHAMBER, STRUCTURE #101. built 1949.

SHELTER HOUSE, BUILDING #109. built 1960. one story. wood. gable roof, asphalt. VA construction.

GREENHOUSE, BUILDING #110. built 1964. one story. concrete block. pipe frame, glass. VA construction.

ENGINEERING STORAGE, BUILDING #T-102. built 1947. one story. steel quonset hut, metal roof. VA construction.

ENGINEERING MASONRY, BUILDING #T-k02. built 1947. one story. steel quonset hut, metal roof. VA construction.

ENGINEERING MASONRY, BUILDING #T-103. built 1947. quonset hut, metal roof. VA construction.

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of half a dozen different tribes. In September, 1898, Charles F. Manderson, a former senator from Nebraska, and others, informed the War Department of the need for a military post in the Northwest and recommended Sheridan, Wyoming as a site.* According to Manderson, a total of 23,133 Crow, Cheyenne, Shoshone, Arapaho and Sioux Indians were living on eight reservations within easy reach of Sheridan. But, he wrote, within fair striking distance were a total of 40,000 Indians.

In October, 1898 General E. V. Sumner, Commander of the Department of the Colorado and the Missouri, was directed by the War Department to investigate and report upon the matter of establishing a military force at Sheridan. In his report Sumner supported Manderson's claims and explained why he believed a force of troops ought to be sent to Sheridan at once.

The abandonment of all the military posts in the Northwest on the call for war with Spain left the country, once so strictly guarded, practically in the hands of the Indians, and the scattered settlements of the citizens at their mercy. Fortunately the Indians have had no cause or desire to make trouble, nor have any depredations been committed by them; but it should be understood that under the present conditions the continuance of this state of peace and quiet rests at this time entirely with the Indians, as they have nothing to fear from the military power of the Government. As regards this particular section of country to which these papers refer, I find the statements made by General Manderson and others, setting forth the immediate necessity for troops in the vicinity of that section of the country, is a fair exhibit of the present state of affairs, and in my opinion are not overdrawn.

The Crow Indians are probably susceptible of control by their agent and his police, but the Cheyenne never have been controlled by the Government unless in the face of a superior force, and the time is approaching for

*Senator Manderson (1837-1911) was a lawyer who served in the Civil War and rose to the rank of colonel, but was brevetted Brigadier-General of Volunteers before retirement. In 1883 he was elected to the U. S. Senate and in 1891 was elected president pro-tempore of that body. After leaving office he became general solicitor for the Burlington Railroad west of the Missouri River. His interest in Fort Mackenzie apparently relates to his army background and his position with the Burlington Railroad, which was built through Sheridan and from which a spur line was constructed to Fort Mackenzie.

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them to make another exhibition of their warlike inclinations. As an indication of this they refused to send or allow any of their men to attend the congress at Omaha, where nearly all the other tribes were represented, giving as a reason that they feared their men would not be allowed to return. Then the agent, Mr. Clifford, who met me at Sheridan, informed me that he had some very unruly characters to deal with and that, in his opinion, there should be a force stationed within call, preferably south of the reservation, because if any trouble occurred the citizens south of the reservation would be the first to suffer, and the trail would lead either toward Powder River or to the Big Horn Mountains.

I deem it proper, therefore, to state that in order to make an intelligent report under my instructions I visited the Town of Sheridan, Wyoming. I believe that a force of not less than two troops of cavalry should be sent to that vicinity at once, and that one of the troops should visit both the Crow and Cheyenne agencies before the severe weather comes.

I recommend the town of Sheridan as the place for a temporary camp, because at this short notice every facility exists to make the command comfortable for the winter.

On December 14, 1898 the Secretary of War approved Sumner's report and authorized the expenditure of \$12,000 for temporary buildings at Sheridan. In January of the following year Commander of the Army, Major-General Nelson A. Miles, endorsed legislation to provide a permanent garrison at Sheridan. The Secretary of War concurred in Miles' opinion and so informed the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, Senator Joseph R. Hawley (Conn.). Legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Francis E. Warren but Congress did not pass his bill that session and it was reintroduced by Warren during the first session of the next Congress in December, 1899. The bill, S 1475, which called for the establishment of a post near Sheridan and included a \$100,000 appropriation, was favorably reported out of committee on February 1, 1900. President McKinley, who had in 1898 already decreed that land near Sheridan be set aside for a military reservation, signed the Warren bill on April 7, 1900.

So much for the official account of events leading to the establishment of Fort Mackenzie. However, if one relies completely upon official reports, a question arises. If the abandonment of posts in the Northwest was brought about by the war with Spain, what were the circumstances following the war that justified establishment of a post at Sheridan?

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The Philippine Insurrection and Boxer Rebellion followed the Spanish-American War, but were too early to be included in reports as justification for establishment of a military post. The Custer Fight had taken place twenty-two years before the petition was made to establish a fort at Sheridan, and Wounded Knee was almost a decade old. The country which was the last great hunting ground of the High Plains Indian needed a large military force, explained Charles Manderson, because Fort McKinney at Buffalo, Wyoming and Fort Custer at the junction of the Little Big Horn and Big Horn Rivers near Hardin, Montana had been abandoned -- the former in 1894 and the latter in 1897.* It was pointed out by apologist Manderson that the two forts had been abandoned, not because there was no military reason for their existence, but because they were deteriorated. That idea does not coincide with the thinking of historian Robert Murray, who states that the period of the 1890's was one of peace, during which the army turned toward efficient training units and posts to suit peacetime purposes. For that reason, believes Murray, the army abandoned certain interior posts, particularly small frontier posts such as Fort McKinney.

One reason postulated for establishment of Fort Mackenzie is that even by the late 1920's the memory of Indian-white conflict was relatively fresh, and it was still possible to rouse people to the Indian danger. An incident cited as an example of unrest was one which took place in 1897 near Hutton, Montana in which two Indian boys shot a man and his dog when the rancher caught them butchering one of his cows. However, Sheridan dentist Dr. William Frackleton infers in the book Sagebrush Dentist that the "Indian menace" hypothesis was manufactured.

Meanwhile, as good citizens of Sheridan, we continued to worry over the Indian menace. The possibility of an army post was too promising to overlook. With suspicious unanimity the Post, the Enterprise and the Daily Journal reprinted all the countryside gossip concerning unrest on the Indian reservations, and in their editorial columns, demanded protection from the savage Sioux, Cheyenne and Crow.

Old-timers fanned the fire by recalling the gory details of the Fetterman massacre, the Wagon Box fight and other early troubles. The city council passed a curfew law that sent all the children home at nightfall. Someone suggested a company of Home Guards, and presently all the old muskets and shotguns were brought in from the homes and ranches for drill twice a week. The officers posted guards on all the roads leading into Sheridan with

*In 1903 Fort McKinney became a convalescent institution, the Wyoming Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

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instructions to give the alarm at the first sign of Indian raiders.

The hat was passed for funds and appeals were wired to Washington by mass meetings and lesser gatherings of the citizenry. We were like a lot of children telling ghost stories in the dark. No one really believed the Indians were ready to attack, but with so many rumors flying one could never be sure.

Although there is not much documentation to substantiate the idea that Fort Mackenzie was the result of "pork-barrel" legislation, there are indications, such as the above quote from Frackleton's book, that the fort's establishment was brought about because of its potential economic impact upon Sheridan.* And unless it is kept in mind that Wyoming's congressional delegation was important to passage of the Fort Mackenzie bill, it is hard to understand how Congress could accept the establishment of an army post following the Indian Wars and the Spanish-American War, at a time when reaction to military appropriation bills was adverse, and at a time when there was a trend towards abandonment of frontier military posts.

The responsibility for introducing appropriate legislation in Congress was assumed by the "Warren Machine," as it has been described by at least one historian, consisting of Senators Francis E. Warren and Clarence D. Clark, and Congressman Frank W. Mondell. Warren introduced the Fort Mackenzie bill in the Senate and Mondell introduced it in the House. Mondell, who served 13 terms in the House beginning in 1895, was from northeast Wyoming and conceivably had nothing to lose by supporting the bill because it was related to the interests of his constituents. Clark, who was from the extreme southwestern part of the state, perhaps had less to gain than Mondell and besides, southern Wyoming already had Fort D. A. Russell.

*Among those who petitioned the War Department and the Wyoming congressional delegation were Burlington Railroad officials Charles Manderson and Edward Gillette and Sheridan citizens H. A. Coffeen and Howard Alger. Sheridan in the 1890's was a growing community of several thousand people, outstripping its rival, Buffalo, in population. The town of Buffalo, which in 1894 was stripped of its military post, Fort McKinney, could not compete with Sheridan for the location of a new post. Sheridan had all of the resources--land, water, forage, and coal--that Buffalo had, but in addition was located along a major railroad route. Furthermore, Buffalo had been the center of attention in the Johnson County War, an infamous episode of the Cattleman's era, and may have been estranged from those in a position to influence a decision on the fort's location.

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A worthwhile project was one which brought dollars into the state and according to Historian T. A. Larson, Clark -- who gradually acquired senatorial power through seniority -- generally supported Warren's political viewpoints.

Francis E. Warren, member of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, probably wielded the most influence in gaining support for the bill.* His concern for Wyoming was comprehensive, and he was successful in bringing the fruits of his senatorial career to the state. That success was demonstrated in part by his ability to obtain public buildings for Wyoming, such as those at Fort Mackenzie. That he was aware of his success is demonstrated by a statement he made to J. H. Vogel of Cody in a letter of February 13, 1924.

Since Wyoming came in as a State, and during that part of the time in which I have served her as a Senator, we were able to obtain a large number of public buildings for Wyoming--in fact, I have been accused of getting more for my State, according to population and wealth, than any other State or political division of the United States.

His influence with several presidents has been noted by history student Walter L. Samson, Jr., who quotes Warren's letter to Peter Kooi, of Sheridan, in 1921.

Wyoming was especially fortunate in McKinley's, Roosevelt's, and Taft's administrations because I had for many years been a personal friend of McKinley's, and also of Roosevelt's, and the splendid showing we made when McKinley was elected, as compared with the other silver states, gave us a strong hold and with Roosevelt he was always partial to the "short grass" country and the rough and ready boys. Taft, as Governor of the Philippines and as Secretary of War under McKinley and then under Roosevelt brought us into the same close touch. As I was Chairman, for six years, of the Military Affairs Committee, and Taft a large part of the time Secretary of War, he knew of the great work

*In 1898 Warren had served five years in the senate, having been elected to that body in 1893 and reelected in 1895. He served a total of 37 years in the senate and became its highest ranking and most powerful member. He was a member of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs from 1896 until his death in 1929, and was its chairman from 1906 to 1911. From 1902 to 1912 he was also a member of the Senate Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds.

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that we had to perform there, was grateful accordingly, and he helped us to some extent, though not as fully as did Roosevelt.

The first troops to garrison Fort Mackenzie was a detachment of the First Cavalry consisting of one officer and twenty enlisted men which arrived in June, 1899 and a detachment of the 25th Infantry, consisting of one officer and twenty enlisted men which arrived on June 21st of that year. A Sheridan Post article of 1903 notes that two colored troops, "G" and "H", of the Tenth Cavalry were stationed at the post, having come there directly from the Philippines in August, 1902. On November 19, 1909 the Second and Third battalions of the Eighteenth Infantry, consisting of 16 officers and 533 enlisted men under the command of Colonel T. F. Davis, arrived at Fort Mackenzie. In June, 1911, the Eighteenth was sent to Texas but returned in October when the garrison was at the peak of its strength with 601 men. In 1913 the soldiers were sent to Texas to patrol the Mexican border, but with the entry of the United States in World War I in 1917 they went from Texas to France and did not return to Fort Mackenzie. For a brief period in 1915 two companies of Wyoming State Militia encamped there, but Fort Mackenzie's usefulness as a military post was at an end by 1916. During preparations for war the fort was stripped of equipment and supplies, and in the spring of 1918 only one officer and six men of the Quartermaster's Department remained. The post was officially abandoned on November 3, 1918.

According to Roberta Cheney, a resident of the post and one who has done some research on the fort's history, from June, 1899 to December, 1916, the length of time for which post returns are available, there is no mention of Indians in Fort Mackenzie records. The assertion once again raises doubt concerning the need for the fort, and prompts curiosity concerning the reason for its survival during an interval of comparative peace between the Spanish-American War and World War I. An incident that occurred in 1912 may offer some help in answering that question. In that year was rampant congressional pressure to close interior posts such as Fort Mackenzie and Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne. General Wood, the Army Chief of Staff, responded by proposing consolidation of army posts in order to cut back expenses. In a resolution submitted to the House of Representatives in January of 1912 it was proposed that eight army posts be established and that Forts Russell and Mackenzie, because of the lack of Indian threat, be abandoned. Senator Warren, who served on the conference committee which discussed the resolution, and who was particularly solicitous of Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne, was influential in securing defeat of the proposal. Robert Franklin Jones in his M.A. thesis (The Political Career of Senator Francis E. Warren, 1902-1912) offers a theory explaining the Warren strategy.

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We may suppose from the substitute bill adopted, that he made a determined fight against the House Conferees who wished to retain the provisions in the bill for the abandonment of the posts as passed by the House. In lieu of the provision prohibiting the expenditure of further funds on these posts was inserted an item providing for the appointment of a commission of retired army officers and members of the Senate and House military committees, authorized to investigate all of the military posts of the country and to submit a report to Congress as to their future disposition. The conference report was adopted by both the House and the Senate, but the bill was vetoed by the President partly because it contained a provision that any officer to be eligible for appointment as Chief of staff of the army should have certain prior service with the troops. Thus the determined fight of Warren on the conference and the President's veto of the final measure granted Fort Russell respite.

One version of a story that has survived, concerning the preservation of Fort Mackenzie during that crucial time, involves Sheridan dentist Dr. Will Frackleton. According to Frackleton, who told his story to Herman Seely in Sagebrush Dentist, the dentist himself was responsible for exacting from President Taft a promise that assured survival of the fort. It was on a September night in 1911 that Frackleton was called to the office of the Sheridan Post, where he met with publisher Huntley, Senators Warren and Clark and Congressman Mondell. Warren told Frackleton that the Secretary of War had given in to Eastern muckraking magazines that pounded Congress about the cost of garrisoning military posts in peacetime. He asked Frackleton to entertain Taft, who was scheduled to visit Sheridan, and persuade the president to revoke Fort Mackenzie's death sentence. The dentist consented to perform the task and prepared a gala reception for the president, topped off by the gift of a buck deer, a dozen grouse, and another dozen of ducks. According to Frackleton, as Taft boarded his train to depart Sheridan the president expressed his thanks, telling him that if there was anything he could do for him while he was president, to let him know. Frackleton's response was immediate and opportunistic. Explaining the value of Fort Mackenzie to the Sheridan community, he asked the president to rescind the order to abandon the fort. Taft dictacted a telegram, and then told Frackleton: "That fort will never be torn down as long as I'm in Washington!" Frackleton related that the promise was fulfilled about a year or so after the armistice ending World War I, when someone brought him a personal message directly from Taft, who was then Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. The message stated that Fort Mackenzie was to be reopened as a 300-bed veterans hospital.

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The fort was transferred from the War Department to the Public Health Service in March, 1921. A year later it was transferred from that agency to the Veterans Bureau. In March, 1922 President Harding signed a deficiency appropriation bill containing an item of \$100,000 for use in converting the post to a hospital, and that spring the first patients began to arrive at Fort Mackenzie Veterans Hospital. When the hospital opened it had a bed capacity of 125 patients. Over the years it grew in size and its function became specific, serving as a treatment center for mental patients. At peak patient load just after World War II the hospital contained 900 patients and was one of the largest neuropsychiatric hospitals in the country. Today, the hospital has an operating bed capacity of 364, a staff of 505 and a budget of \$100,000.

The significance of Fort Mackenzie as a historic site derives from both its history and its architecture. Its history relates to two major functions: its function as a military post and as a veterans hospital. From 1898 to 1916 Fort Mackenzie was an army post, but it is not clearly understood what role it played in American military history. That it had an active role in the High Plains Indian Wars is doubtful, since fighting had ceased and Indians were located on reservations two decades before the post was established.* It is also doubtful that the fort was significant as a symbol of strength in Indian Country since it was only a rudimentary garrison during the period that it might have acted as a deterrent to Indian attack. Wyoming's congressional delegation tried to establish it as a regimental post, but that effort was likely inspired more by economic and political, rather than military, reasons. During the period from the turn of the century--when American involvement in foreign military conflict included the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection and the Boxer Rebellion--to 1917 when America became involved in World War I, the most significant national military endeavor was directed toward the Mexican-American border. It is the latter episode in American history, one in which troops from Fort Mackenzie were involved, that endows the fort with some military significance, although that role deserves further investigation.

From 1916 to 1922 the fort was practically abandoned, although it was not officially abandoned by the army until November 3, 1918. From 1922 to the present Fort Mackenzie

*The Lightning Creek Fight which occurred in northeast Wyoming in 1903 was the last significant clash between Indian and white in the region. It was an isolated historical incident that was actually, claims one historian, an episode of racial strife engendered by decades of previous warfare.

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has served as a veterans hospital, its particular function being treatment of patients with neuropsychiatric disorders. This, its longest and most significant mission, is also one related to military history, albeit a mission different from a defensive installation such as, for example, that of Francis E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne. Its role has been that of a center for treatment and rehabilitation of those who incurred injuries and disorders while serving in the armed forces, and it is ironic that among its patients are Indians who provided a reason for the fort's establishment.

Both the military and medical functions of the fort in American history need to be studied further. An examination of post returns, in particular, ought to provide more information concerning troop activities and movements, and variations in troop strength at Fort Mackenzie. That information could be used to gauge the importance of the site as a base of operations for American troops. An examination of hospital records ought to provide statistics relative to the number of patients treated as well as the degree of success achieved in treatment and rehabilitation. Post returns and institutional records, collectively, ought to provide the raw data necessary to evaluate the impact of Fort Mackenzie upon the lives of those associated directly with the fort, and upon the economy of the Sheridan area. Likely, it will be shown that the fort's role in the reconstruction of the lives of its patients, and in the economy of the Sheridan community, are the most significant factors in its history.

Directly related to the institutional and economic significance of Fort Mackenzie are its many buildings and structures. Their existence affords physical evidence of the impact that the fort has had upon the lives of those associated with the facility. The dozens of red-brick, colonial style buildings form an impressive complex that is equalled or surpassed only by F. E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne and Fort Yellowstone at Mammoth as a homogeneous collection of historic government buildings in the state. Two-thirds of the structures on the post qualify for the National Register on the basis of age and architectural style. Although perhaps they are typical of those found on other military posts in the country, they have managed to survive periodic attempts to deprive them of their function. And although the red brick, colonial style homes, wards and offices may be typical for turn-of-the-century posts, the combined effect of their number, age, quality of construction and their place within a planned landscape determines their architectural significance and the overall architectural significance of Fort Mackenzie.

In conclusion, Fort Mackenzie deserves enrollment in the National Register on the basis of its history and its architecture. Each is significant enough in itself to justify the fort's enrollment, but they ought to be considered together. It also ought to be recognized that any proposal which causes existing fort structures to be removed or significantly altered, or causes new structures to be built, may have an

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impact on both the history and the architecture of the site. The size and function of the fort, and the use of individual buildings within the fort undoubtedly is subject to change over the years, but recognition of Fort Mackenzie's twin cultural values ought to be a preliminary, reflex action for those involved in fort planning as well as for those who must make day-to-day administrative decisions at the hospital. If a sensitivity to the fort's history is encouraged by the fort, by the community, and by those who direct the historical program of the entire Veterans Administration, the total significance of the fort--its architectural and historical values--can continue to be preserved.

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The boundaries of Fort Mackenzie coincide with Veterans Administration legal property boundaries, and enclose all of the property necessary to contain fort buildings, grounds and entranceway. The metes and bounds description is as follows:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of S16 thence North 1 degree 00 minutes East 306.1 feet to the point of beginning; thence North 55 degrees 29 minutes West 2944.7 feet; thence North 0 degrees 27 minutes West 1669.6 feet; thence due East 975.3 feet; thence due North 154.0 feet; thence North 62 degrees 24 minutes West 958.2 feet; thence North 1 degree 54 minutes West 908.0 feet; thence due West 2838.0 feet; thence due South 2588.7 feet; thence North 86 degrees 51 minutes West 209.9 feet; thence South 3 degrees 90 minutes West 104.0 feet; thence South 73 degrees 50 minutes East 221.1 feet; thence due South 110.0 feet; thence South 73 degrees 50 minutes East 816.2 feet; thence South 81 degrees 14 minutes East 1474.6 feet; thence North 21 degrees 56 minutes East 159.7 feet; thence North 79 degrees 44 minutes East 64.0 feet; thence South 64 degrees 30 minutes East 3186.7 feet; thence South 64 degrees 36 minutes East 97.7 feet; thence South 74 degrees 22 minutes East 238.5 feet; thence North 1 degree 00 minutes East 256.6 feet to the point of beginning.

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UTM COORDINATES

	<u>Z O N E</u>	<u>E A S T I N G</u>	<u>N O R T H I N G</u>
A	13	3 43 <u>360</u>	49 66 <u>330</u>
B	13	3 43 <u>380</u>	49 66 <u>060</u>
C	13	3 43 <u>590</u>	49 65 <u>920</u>
D	13	3 43 <u>590</u>	49 65 <u>820</u>
E	13	3 43 <u>320</u>	49 65 <u>810</u>
F	13	3 43 <u>320</u>	49 65 <u>330</u>
G	13	3 44 <u>000</u>	49 64 <u>850</u>
H	13	3 44 <u>020</u>	49 64 <u>840</u>
I	13	3 44 010 040	49 64 <u>790</u>
J	13	3 43 <u>960</u>	49 64 <u>800</u>
K	13	3 43 <u>130</u>	39 65 <u>400</u>
L	13	3 43 <u>120</u>	49 65 <u>330</u>
M	13	3 42 <u>690</u>	49 65 <u>400</u>
N	13	3 42 <u>400</u>	49 65 <u>490</u>
O	13	3 42 <u>400</u>	49 65 <u>530</u>
P	13	3 42 <u>440</u>	49 65 <u>520</u>
Q	13	3 42 <u>470</u>	49 66 <u>340</u>