

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

JAN 20 1976

DATE ENTERED

APR 3 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC FORT PIERRE CHOUTEAU SITE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

FORT PIERRE

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

SOUTH DAKOTA

CODE

46

COUNTY

Stanley

CODE

117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME State of South Dakota

STREET & NUMBER State Capitol

CITY, TOWN

Pierre

VICINITY OF

STATE

South Dakota

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Stanley County Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER Stanley County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Fort Pierre

STATE

South Dakota

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE South Dakota Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1969

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historical Preservation Center

CITY, TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

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

Descriptions of the fort were made by various individuals who traveled up the Missouri during the first half of the 18th century. Most reliable of those descriptions is Prince Maximillian's, made in 1883. George Catlin visited Fort Pierre the previous year and Naturalist John J. Audubon a decade later. Their journals and the memoirs of members of their parties provide a picture of the fort's construction. No archeological excavations have been made.

Fort Pierre was constructed of cottonwood logs floated to the site from a point some 40 miles upstream. The logs were cut to a length of about 26 1/2 feet and sunk in the ground creating a stockade 22 feet high, enclosing over an acre of ground in a square roughly 235 feet. At opposite ends of the square were two bastions.

Entrance was gained through two large doors on the north and south walls. Inside were log cabins housing traders and their families and log warehouses for merchandise.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1832-1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Pierre Chouteau

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1832 by Pierre Chouteau, Fort Pierre served as the center of the Upper Missouri fur trade in the 1830's and 1840's. Chouteau's enterprise, the American Fur Company, monopolized trade in the Dakotas as far north as Fort Union. He built Fort Pierre to replace an earlier post endangered by the unpredictable river.

Fort Pierre became the company's headquarters, focal point for a trade area encompassing thousands of miles of prairie. During its active years, the post received, processed, and shipped hundreds of thousands of beaver pelts, deer skins, and buffalo hides destined mainly for European markets. Through Fort Pierre and its subsidiary trading posts, the Teton Sioux found their primary contact with whites. A new-found prosperity followed that led them to accept, for a time, the white man's encroachment on the plains.

When taken over by the army in 1855, the old fur post proved to be in such a poor state of repair it was partially dismantled and completely abandoned. The site of Fort Pierre is marked by an inscribed stone commemorating its prominent part in the Missouri fur trade.

Although no visible remains exist today, the outline of the old stockade was obvious at the turn of the century when historian Charles E. DeLand studied the site. Besides writing a history of Fort Pierre Chouteau, he also collected and published much of the official military correspondence related to the army's purchase of the fort in 1855. Historians of the Region II Office of the National Park Service did further work on the fort--along with other Missouri River sites--from 1946 through 1951, at which time it was given Site No. 365.2.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- 1) Chittenden, H.M. The American Fur Trade in the Far West. Academic Reprints. (Stanford, 1954). pp. 340, 995-6, 767.
- 2) Schell, Herbert. History of South Dakota. (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1969). pp. 50, 54, 62, 66-8.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE: NE 44°23'34" LONGITUDE: NE 100°23'48"
 NW 44°23'34" NW 100°23'07"
 SW 44°23'21" SW 100°23'07"
 SE 44°23'21" SE 100°23'48"

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

UTM REFERENCES

A	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	_____	_____	_____
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Paul Putz and Judy Barjenbruch

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Center

DATE

4 Sept 73

STREET & NUMBER

USD Alumni House

TELEPHONE

605

677-5314

CITY OR TOWN

Vermillion

STATE

South Dakota

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.

SIGNATURE

TITLE

Cult Pres Director

DATE

1-13-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Noting

DATE

4/3/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: Robert B. Kettinger
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-30-76

Acting

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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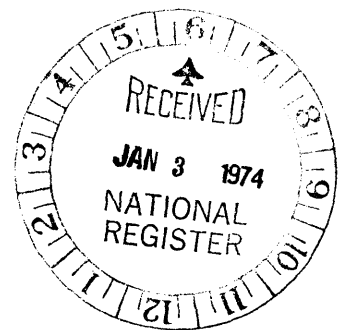
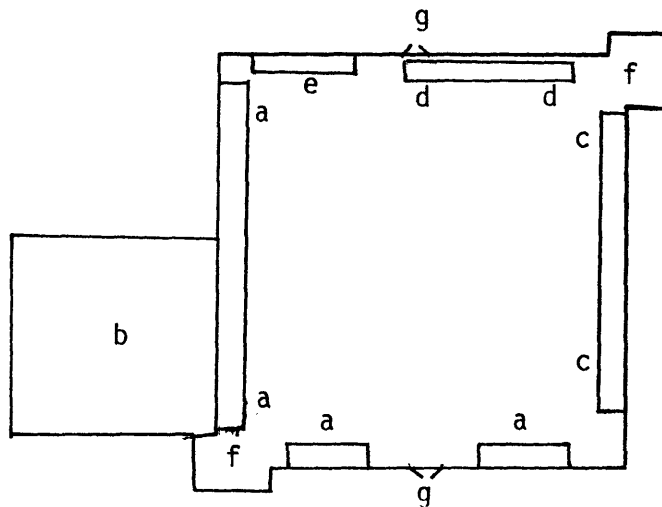
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CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliographical ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

- 3) South Dakota Historical Society. South Dakota Historical Collections.
(Pierre: State Publishing Co.)
Volume 1. pp. 343, 348, 350, 297, 280, 274.
Volume 26. pp. 24-28.
Volume 27. pp. xv, 24.



GROUND PLAN OF A TYPICAL TRADING POST
(Fort Pierre)

From a drawing by Maximilian

- f Two-story block-houses. Upper story adapted for use of small arms; lower story for cannon.
- g Front and back of quadrangle 114 paces in length; other sides 108 paces; inner area 87 by 87 paces.
- d One-story residence of bourgeois of post.
- e Office and residence of clerk.
- a Residence of other clerks, interpreter, engages, and their families.
- c Stores.
- g Entrance doors to fort.
- b Garden.

Taken from H.M. Chittenden, The American Fur Trade of the Far West, Academic Reprints (Stanford: 1954). p. 44.