

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Natrona	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 718.56.0008	DATE 8/12/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Caspar

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Same (and earlier known as "Platte Bridge Station")

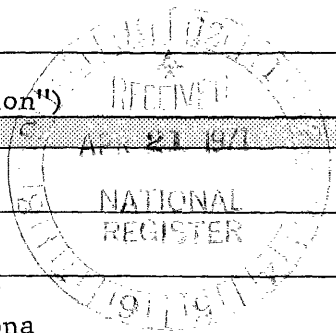
2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
14 Fort Caspar Road

CITY OR TOWN:
Casper

STATE: Wyoming

CODE 56	COUNTY: Natrona	CODE 025
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
(Fort Caspar Commission) City of Casper

STREET AND NUMBER:
City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: Casper

STATE: Wyoming

CODE: 56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk's Office, Natrona County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Casper

STATE: Wyoming

CODE: 56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer - Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Historical Division

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne

STATE: Wyoming

CODE: 56

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

718.56.0008
8/12/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered		<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The dominant structure throughout the 1858-1867 period was Guinard's Platte Bridge. 13' x 1,000' timber structure, held on piers of cribbing filled with stone. Cribbing still visible on surface along with other surface evidence.

Guinard had a small residence and store near the south end of the bridge. This was expanded to house the telegraph station in 1861.

The precise nature and location of the 1858-1859 army buildings are not known, and require further historical and archeological research.

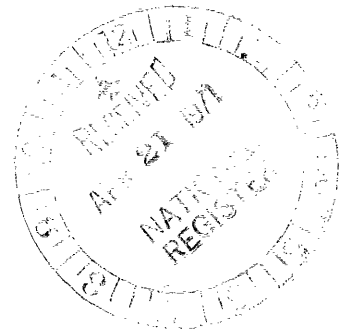
Precise ground plans and drawings cover the 1863 period structures which housed the telegraph station garrison. These, along with archeological data formed the basis for the reconstruction of the 1863 structures completed in 1939 at a cost of \$56,500 of federal and local money. It is worth note that most of the 1863 structures were in use through most of the life of the post, though some were modified or changed in use.

During 1865-1867 the army expanded the post considerably. Excellent plans and elevations along with materials lists and specifications cover this construction period. These buildings were of log construction, with plank floors and roofs of puncheons, covered with clay. Millwork and hardware were freighted in for these structures. Month-by-month construction reports on these structures are at hand.

At its peak of development the post included over two dozen substantial buildings and additional lesser outbuildings. Most of the area occupied by the 1865-1867 structures is little disturbed archeologically.

At the peak of development the post housed from three hundred to four hundred men, one of the largest garrisons in the West.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Caspar derives its primary significance from the concentration of a host of important events and activities at this point through the fortunes of topography. Some of these are:

Fur trade caravans passed this point regularly each season during the peak of that trade in the region. Some used this ford to cross the North Platte.

Most travelers to California and Oregon, 1842-1862, traveled past here, and used this crossing.

The Mormons used this crossing, 1847-1867, and operated a ferry and a supply depot here as needed.

The Platte Bridge here was built in 1858, and in use until late 1867. A competitive bridge 5 miles downstream was built by John Richard in 1853 and destroyed by the Army in January and February of 1866.

The transcontinental mail route passed here in 1861. The stagecoach line used the route and the bridge 1858-1862.

The pony express had a station here in 1860-1861.

The Pacific Telegraph built through here, crossing on the bridge itself in 1861, and Western Union operated a station here until mid-summer, 1867.

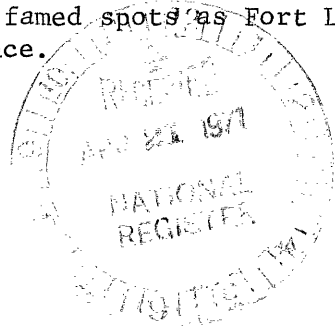
The Army garrisoned the site 1858-1859, and again 1862-1867. The Platte Bridge Fight of July 26, 1865 took place here.

The left wing of the Connor Expedition of 1865 crossed the river here to move north against the Indians.

The N. B. Sweitzer Expedition of 1867 used this as one of its supply depots.

The post was the jumping-off place for the Bridger Trail to Montana from 1863-1868.

Clearly Fort Caspar was one of the really primary crossroads of westward expansion, ranking close to such famed spots as Fort Laramie, Independence, and St. Joseph in significance.



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Letters Received in the H. A. Dept. of the Platte," RG98 NARS
 "Returns, Ft. Caspar," Roll 189, Microfilm Pubs. NARS
 "General and Special Orders, Platte Bridge 1858-59" RG 393 NARS
 "Post Quartermaster Letterbook 1866-67" RG 393 NARS
 "Letter & Telegram books, 11th Ohio Vol. Cav." RG 98, NARS
 Agnes Wright Spring, Caspar Collins, U. of Nebr. Press, 1969.
 O. W. "Bill" Judge, Old Fort Caspar, Ft. Caspar Commission, 1969.
 Alfred J. Mokler, Fort Caspar, Prairie Publishing, Casper, 1939.

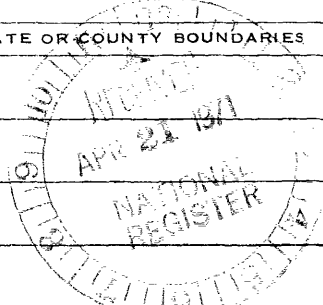
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	42°	50'	18"	106°	22'	30"		
NE	42°	50'	18"	106°	21'	56"		
SE	42°	50'	05"	106°	21'	56"		
SW	42°	50'	05"	106°	22'	30"		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 60

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Robert A. Murray, Interpretive Planning Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Western Interpretive Services DATE: 16 Sept. 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 545 South Tschirgi

CITY OR TOWN: Sheridan STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name <u>Paul H. Stessell</u></p> <p>Title <u>Director</u></p> <p>Date <u>4-7-71</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p><u>Ernest A. Connelly</u> Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>AUG 12 1971</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: <u>William H. Harty</u> Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date <u>JUL 7 1971</u></p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS
 NW 1/4 Sec 20, T23N, R10W
 SW 1/4 Sec 21, T23N, R10W
 SW 1/4 Sec 22, T23N, R10W
 SW 1/4 Sec 23, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 24, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 25, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 26, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 27, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 28, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 29, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 30, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 31, T23N, R10W
 NW 1/4 Sec 32, T23N, R10W

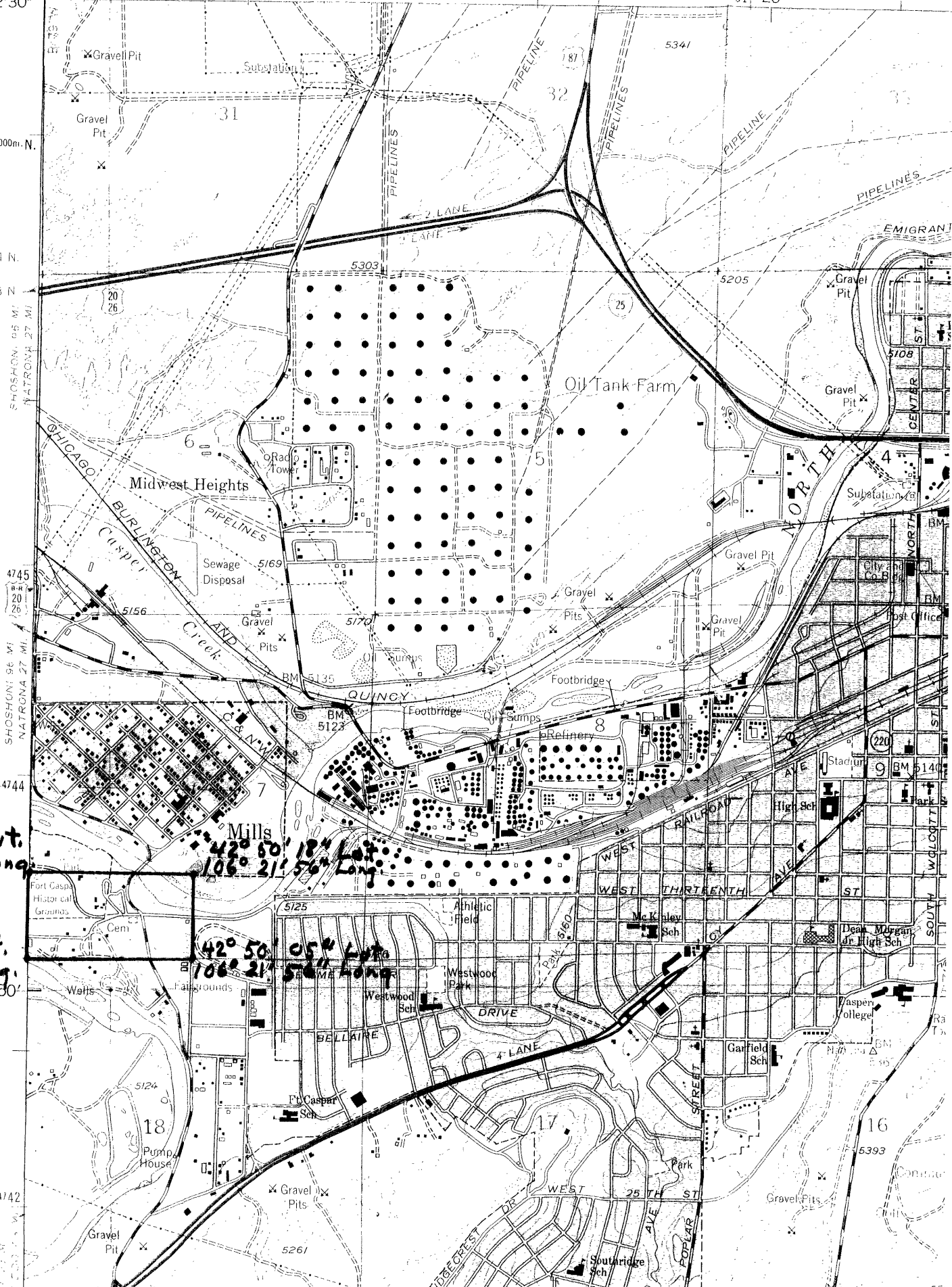
789 LV NW
(BISHOP)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

106°22'30" 388000m. E. 389 391 20'

STEVENS DAN 157 MI.
MIDWELLS 141 MI

4747000m. N.
1.34 N.
1.33 N.
4745
4744
4742



50' 18" Lot.
22' 30" Long.

42° 50' 18" Lot
106° 21' 56" Long

50' 05" Lot.
22' 30" Long.

42° 50' 05" Lot
106° 21' 56" Long