

Already listed 10/15/66

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 4 1986
DATE ENTERED JUL 17 1986

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

AND/OR COMMON

N/A

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fort Laramie

N/A VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Goshen

015

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

N/A IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

N/A BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (if applicable)

National Park Service - Rocky Mountain Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER

655 Parfet, Box 25287

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

N/A VICINITY OF

Colorado

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fort Laramie

Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

List of Classified Structures Inventory Survey

DATE

February 7, 1976

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Rocky Mountain Regional Office - National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Denver

Colorado

# 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

Fort Laramie National Historic District comprises 536 acres, while the Fort Laramie National Historic Site consists of 832.45 acres. The discontinuous National Register boundary for the bridge contains less than one acre. On the flood plain of the eastward-trending Laramie River, the fort itself sits below the level of the surrounding high plains. Bluffs approximately a 1/2 mile to the north and south of the post form the rim of the river valley and provide a low, clean horizon for much of the view from the grounds of the post. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate the scenery. Approximately 40 miles to the west of the fort lies the Laramie Range, dominated by Laramie Peak which rises to an elevation of 10, 274 feet and is prominently visible from the post.

There are 36 significant physical remains at Fort Laramie that provide the context for understanding the people and events associated with the park.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has several visible foundations, including the following: the Footbridge (HS-35), the Outbuildings (HS-33 and 34), the 1858 Officer's House (HS-30), the Ice House (HS-32), Married E.M. Quarters (HS-29), the Sutler's Residence (HS-28), the Three-Company Barracks (HS-24), and the Two-Company Enlisted Men's Barracks (HS-25). Eleven standing ruins remain at Fort Laramie. These include the following: the Officers' Quarters Ruins (HS-11), the Hospital (HS-13), the Administration Building (HS-17), Officers' Quarters D, C, and B (HS-18, 19, and 20), Married Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters (HS-21), Powerhouse/Sawmill (HS-22), the New Bakery (HS-23), the General Sink (HS-26), and 1850 Guardhouse (HS-27). There are 13 historic buildings standing at Fort Laramie and these include the following: Old Bedlam (HS-1), Sutler's Store (HS-2), Historic Privy (HS-3), Officers' Quarters F, E, and A (HS-6, 4, and 7), Cavalry Barracks (HS-5), Old Guardhouse (HS-8), Commissary Storehouse (HS-9), Old 1876 Bakery (HS-10), Chicken House (HS-12), Magazine (HS-14), and new Guardhouse (HS-15). Three historic structures have been identified: Army Iron Bridge (HS-16), Bird Bath (HS-31), and Earthworks Trench (HS-37), behind the hospital ruins.

Most of the historic structures and ruins are situated on the first stream terrace, from 10 to 16 feet above the former flood plain of the Laramie River. The Hospital (HS-13), the Noncommissioned Officers' Quarters ruins (HS-21), and the pre-1867 cemetery are on the second stream terrace, which rises sharply from the first terrace to a height of 20 to 25 feet above the old flood plain.

The Commissary (HS-9), Old Bakery (HS-10), and New Bakery ruins (HS-23) are on the upper margin of the old flood plain; but upstream river control has largely eliminated flood danger. A large number of historic structure sites also lie on the old flood plain downstream from the Commissary and Old Bakery.

On the south side of the Laramie River, the sites of several army buildings and two trading posts are on the first stream terrace, about 10 feet above the old flood plain. The trading posts were of a more temporary status. The Ward and Guerrier Posts existed during 1854-55. According to retired National Park Service Historian Merrill Mattes in Fort Laramie Park History 1834-1977, "The paucity of remains of the brevity of this establishment (1854-55), has permitted on the Reservation only briefly after the Grattan Massacre, suggests that the site is scarcely important enough to worry about."<sup>1</sup>

# 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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                      1834 - 1890                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT                      Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Laramie, a National Historic Site, is nationally significant because of the role it played in the Western development of the United States. It is identified under Criterion A.

The historical significance of Fort Laramie National Historic Site is manifest, as it played a prime role in the long epic of the frontier and is a tangible reminder of that heroic past. Fort Laramie is significant in terms of the role it played in the Northern Rockies' fur trade. It was an oasis for the westward bound immigrants--the only outpost of civilization for the 800-mile span between Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort Bridger, Wyoming. Historic trails and routes that passed through Fort Laramie, in addition to the Oregon and California Trails, were the Mormon Trail, Bozeman Trail, Pony Express Route, Transcontinental telegraph route, and the Deadwood and Cheyenne Stage Routes. Fort Laramie served as headquarters for military campaigns on the northern plains. Great Indian Councils that attempted to bring peace to the land occurred here. The fort witnessed the development of the open range cattle industry, the coming of homesteaders, and the settlement of the plains that marked the closing of the frontier. Today its physical remains and its history enable visitors to understand that short, swift-moving era in which the frontier swept to the Pacific Ocean, turned back to include the high plains and the mountain ranges, and forged a nation across the continent. This site focuses in one small spot the triumph and the tragedy, the virtues and the violence, and the dream and the reality of Manifest Destiny.

In times of earliest habitation around Fort Laramie, Pleistocene hunters pursued the great beasts that existed then. Although climatic changes gave rise to the plains village cultures to the east, game hunters continued to occupy the northwestern high plains. Once the horse was introduced, a more intensely nomadic way of life, characterized by the horse and bison culture, became possible. The headwaters of the North Platte were explored by American and French-Canadian beaver trappers who were the first men of European origin in the area. Eventually, the intense competition between the trappers caused the supply of beaver pelts to decline. The salvation of the fur trade would be the immense herds of buffalo on the plains, which in turn dictated the need for a fixed post for the commerce developed from the buffalo and buffalo robes. In 1834, William Sublett and Robert Campbell, traders, operating out of St. Louis, built Fort William, the first structure to be located near the junction of the Laramie and North Platte Rivers. The post quickly became important as a base of operation for traders and trappers. The fort was sold to the American Fur Company in 1836.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See continuation sheet)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 832.45 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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B 

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C 

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D 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See continuation sheet)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tami Canaday

September 15, 1983

ORGANIZATION

National Park Service

655 Parfet, Box 25287

DATE

(303) 236-8675

STREET & NUMBER

Denver

TELEPHONE

Colorado 80225

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Robert W. Bush*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Edward O. Brewster*

TITLE

*Chief Historian, National Park Service*

DATE

*May 26, 1983*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

*Alvin J. ... for ...*  
*7/16/86*

WILKIN B. BUSHONG  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET DESCRIPTION ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

- HS-001 Old Bedlam-----Constructed in 1849. The vernacular Greek Revival structure is the oldest standing military structure in Wyoming. It is a two-story central block with symmetrical wings. It measures 55'8" x 3' with 9' veranda and 26' x 16' kitchen wings. It has a sandstone foundation and a crawl space basement. The wall construction is frame on masonry and lime concrete. The white weatherboard is in excellent condition. It has a two-story porch. There are two brick center chimneys on a central block; one is on the rear slope and the other is on the front slope. Both chimneys have a crown of semi-circle arches. Two other chimneys, one offset right and the offset left, have slightly corbeled caps. Each of the four doors in the front and the four in the back have four rectangular panels with a transom and side lights on both sides. The windows on the kitchen wings are nine over six lights double hung sash with a plain exterior trim. The main structure windows are 12 over 12 lights double hung sash with plain exterior trim and green louvered shutters. The covering of the roof is wood shingles. The roof shape of the kitchen wings is the shed roof type, whereas the central block is shaped like one half of a bellcast gable. The flooring of Old Bedlam is random width, tongued, and grooved boards. The building is in good condition. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity.
- HS-002 Sutler's Store-----Two 1 1/2 half stories are conjoined parallel wings approximately 75' in length with a combined width of 60'. There are attic rooms in the roof gables. In 1848 the south half of the east wing was made of adobe bricks, laid double to a 27" thickness and later it was covered with stucco. The frames are variously whip-sawed, hewn, and machine sawed. The other half of the east wing is grayish rock with mud mortar and hand-hewn timbers. These two sections of the east wing with the shingled roof, constitute the older portion of the building. The north half of the east wing was built in 1852 and the rear portion--which consists of the enlisted men's bar and the officers' bar was built in 1883. The newer back section is made of lime grout material and has a corrugated metal medium gabled roof. A rich lime grout poured around large stones is the material for the foundation of the entire building. There are no porches or permanent stoops at the Sutler's Store. The backside has two brick chimneys that are straddling the ridge. Another brick chimney straddles the ridge in the middle of the front-side. On the 1848 side, there is a double paneled door

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made of plexiglas and a vertical paneled door with plain trim. There are two nonpermanent stoops going up to these doors. There is a door with plain trim and a double panel horizontal window above it on the 1852 side. The roof over the southeast part of the building is medium gabled wood shingled. There are no stairways in the 1849 and 1852 side. In the enlisted men's bar there is an enclosed single flight of stairs. The entire historic structure contains wooden ceilings and wooden floors. The officers' bar has plain wooden wainscoting. The roof on the southeast portion is 2" x 6" rafters and wood sheathing. The basement is an excavation with dirt floors and walls. The 1849 store area ranks with Old Bedlam as one of the two oldest existing structures in the State of Wyoming. Restoration was done in 1951-1955 and a new roof was completed in 1974. The entire structure was refurnished in 1961. The building is in good condition. The building retains most of its architectural and historical integrity, with the exception of the stucco covering the adobe to protect the adobe from deteriorating. The adobe has deteriorated rapidly because of weather and insect activity.

HS-003      Historic Privy-----It is assumed that the privy was constructed about 1884 since the Lt. Col's. Quarters (HS-4) just in front of the privy was constructed in that year. It was built by the Corps of Engineers of the U.S. Army. The Historic Privy is a one-story rectangular frame construction building measuring 9'2" x 5'1 1/2". The wall construction is maroon wooden vertical planking. There was an attempt to restore the foundation with concrete, but it is falling apart. On the southeast side, there are two rectangular four paneled doors next to each other. There are two vents, one on the northeast side and one on the southwest side. The wood shingled roof is medium gabled with boxed cornices. The building is in good condition. It retains its architectural and historical integrity.

HS-006      Officer's Quarters E--This 1875 house was built and designed by the Engineer Corps of the U.S. Army. The front portion of the house is 1 1/2 stories. The rear portion is one story. The house is shaped as a 1 1/2 story central block with a one story wing. The foundation is lime grout and the exterior walls are lime grout with nailing blocks put in for the trim, windows, etc. There is a three bay one-story front porch with a wooden floor. On the southwest side is a two bay one-story side attached porch with a wooden floor. The exterior doors and windows, trim, cornice, front and rear porch columns, dormers, rear entrance vestibule are

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all painted maroon. The mansard roof and dormers are of frame construction. The front door on the southwest side has four panels; two tiers of moulded panels. There is a transom and side lights around the front door. The first floor windows are nine lights over nine lights double hung sash with a lintel above them and with maroon shutters. The windows on the second floor are six lights over six lights double hung sash with plain pedimeters and a gabled dormer. The main section of the house has three brick chimneys with corbeled caps. The one story has a chimney near the back, straddling the hipped roof. Inside, the newel post, balusters, and handrail are of solid walnut with a natural finish. The building is in fair condition and it maintains its architectural and historical integrity.

HS-005

Cavalry Barracks-----Cavalry Barracks was built in 1874 by the Engineer Corps of the U.S. Army. The lime grout cavalry barracks for two companies of soldiers measures 270' x 26'. This two-story rectangular shaped structure had 18" thick, 10' high walls on the lower story and 14" thick, 9' high walls on the upper story. During the winter of 1882-83, a veranda, 275' long, 12' wide, and 21'6" high was added to the front. These barracks were used by cavalry troopers from 1874-1883, and by infantrymen from 1883 to 1890. Presently, the lime grout on the cavalry barracks is deteriorating faster than maintenance can patch it. The building has a lime grout foundation and a lime grout wall construction. There are six chimneys in the front of which three of the chimneys are brick with corbeled caps. Four chimneys are on the front slope in the back of the cavalry barracks and are lime grout with corbeled caps. There are seven doors on the first floor on the front side of the cavalry barracks as follows: to the extreme left is a four paneled door with a plain trim; to the right of the four paneled door is a door with a window and a plain trim; the next two doors have plain trim; in the middle of the cavalry barracks is a four paneled door with plain trim; to the right of this four paneled door is a six paneled door with plain trim; and to the right of the six paneled door is a plain trim door with two vertical panels. The second floor in the front of the cavalry barracks has two doors with plain trim. Four doors on the backside of the cavalry barracks have plain trim and one of these doors has a three paneled horizontal window above it. The northeast side of the building has a door with plain trim. All the windows are six lights

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over six lights double hung sash. The cavalry barracks has a gabled roof with shingles. The two story front porch covers the entire length of the building. Nailing blocks were put in for trim and windows. Inside the cavalry barracks, the partitions are frame construction, wood lath, and smooth finish plaster. Interior of exterior walls is wood lath and smooth sand finish. Various partitions are papered. Ceilings were originally lathed and plastered, but in 1900 were replaced with 3/8" x 4" and 3/8" x 6" matched and beaded ceiling. The interior flooring is wood. Some restoration work was done 1953-59 and 1973. Complete restoration remains to be done. The cavalry barracks is significant because of its unique style and it is one of a few, if not the only, example of its kind extant. The building is in poor condition because of the deteriorating lime grout, the rotting window sills, and is in dire need of restoration.

HS-004 Officers' Quarters F---Erected in 1885 as living quarters for two families, it was designed and built by the Engineer Corps of the U.S. Army. The building is 1 1/2 stories with a one story rear portion. The building is T-shaped. The footings and exterior walls, approximately 19" thick are of lime grout. Nailing blocks were put in where desired for trim, windows, etc. There is a one story six bay front porch with two entrances out the porch for the duplex. There are two front slope lime grout chimneys with corbeled caps; one chimney on the left side and one on the right side. In back, of the 1 1/2 story, are two lime chimneys with corbeled caps. On the rear portion, there are two lime grout chimneys toward the front and one lime grout chimney straddling the ridge. Both of the two front doors and a door on the northeast side have three window horizontal lights above them and a cornice. The door on the southwest is plexiglas with three with three window horizontal lights and a cornice above it. The back doors have cornices. One back door is plexiglas, whereas the other back door is made up of four wooden panels. The front of the Burt House on the first floor has four, four over four lights double hung sash windows with cornices and maroon shutters. There is a gabled dormer with an overhang and projecting verges. The rest of the windows on the Burt House have pediments and maroon shutters. The exterior walls are of smooth finish plaster directly on lime grout. The interior walls are of smooth finish plaster on wood lath. The roof and dormer are of frame construction with shingles. The house has a fairly high center gable roof. The house is in fair condition. It retains its architectural and historical integrity.



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HS-007 Officer's Quarters A---Quarters A was built approximately in 1873 by the Corps of Engineers of the U.S. Army. It was erected as a single residence, but eventually a center partition was put up to make it a double dwelling. There is a porch on three sides of the house. The foundation under the main part of the house and rear (east) wing are of stone. The porch rests on wood posts set on stone footings. A basement exists under the rear (east) wing. To the rear of the house, on the west side, is a storage cellar. Construction of the house is wood frame and the exterior walls are filled with adobe brick. Windows are double hung, with divided sash and are operated with spring catches. It is a 1 1/2 story U-shaped building with a one-story rear section. The right side has slightly offset chimney on the front slope and a chimney straddling the ridge offset right. The left side has the same positions for its two chimneys, but the one on the front slope is slightly offset to the right. All the chimneys are made of lime grout. Both front doors have four rectangular panels with a three light transom above them. The two doors at the backside have four rectangular panels each. The first floor has six lights over six lights double hung sash windows with marron louvered blinds. The medium gabled roof of the 1 1/2 story roof for the one-story rear section has a overhang for the back entrances. Inside, the interior walls are of a smooth plaster applied over wood lath. There is interior sill work. There is a single flight open staircase facing the rear that originally had been one staircase, but was divided when the house was converted into a duplex. The building is in good condition. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity.

HS-008 Old Guard House-----The Old Guard House was erected in 1866. It was both designed and built by the Corps of Engineers of the U.S. Army. It measures 20' x 36' and was "capable of containing forty prisoners and a guard of forty men." The upper story was partitioned into two rooms, one for the officer of the guard and the other for the guard. The front facing the parade ground is one-story, whereas the grade in the rear drops down to be approximately level with the basement floor. The foundation wall is approximately 25" thick and consists of sandstone laid up with lime grout. The wall construction is coursed rubble mixed with lime grout. On the northeast and southwest sides near the top are some weathered stretcher bond brick. On the southeast side of the first floor are

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two rectangular plain trim doors with diagonal wood panels. The doors also have one square window each in the upper half of the door covered with horizontal bars. The southeast side has three six paned windows with plain trim. The window on the first floor has bars across it. Windows are of casement type, hinged at the side to swing in. The front facing the parade ground has two plexiglas doors, one on the right side and one on the left side, with a large stone lintel above them. In the middle of the front side are two windows with six panes, plain trim, and bars covering them. The roof is medium gabled with wood shingles and has overhanging eaves. There are air holes along the bottom of the building. The ceiling of the basement has the beams and underside of the flooring exposed. The main floor has a paneled wooden ceiling and a rough hewn wooden floor. The building is in good condition. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity.

HS-009 Commissary Storehouse---The Commissary Storehouse was constructed in 1883. This lime grout structure measures 32' x 135'. The structure housed numerous foodstuffs that made up the soldiers' diet from 1883 until 1890. The rectangular shaped building has a lime grout foundation and two brick chimneys with corbelled caps. One chimney straddles the ridge in the middle of the building and the other one is on the east backside. There is a partial basement which covers approximately 1/3 of the building on the east side. The backside of the building has ten rectangular casement windows and two basement windows with gray plain trim. There are two, two paneled doors on the east side with plain trim. The paneled doors on the east side have plain trim. The front of the building has four basement windows, four doors with plain trim and steps leading up to them, four rectangular vertical windows with six panes, and six over six lights double hung sash horizontal rectangular windows. Each of the sides of the building has two rectangular vertical windows with six panes. All the windows have gray trim. The roof is low hipped with wooden shingles. There are dark Venetian red painted eaves. The building is in fair condition, as the lime grout is deteriorating faster than it can be patched. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity.

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HS-010	Old Bakery-----		7
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HS-011	Officers' Quarters----- Ruins		
HS-012	Chicken House-----		

The Old Bakery was constructed in 1876, and is rectangular shaped with a lime grout foundation. The building is made of lime grout, except where the baking oven is located. Therefore, the northeast side of the front and back and the northeast side itself are made of brick. There are two chimneys, both on the north-west side. One is a brick chimney with a corbelled cap and the other is a lime grout chimney. The trim around the doors and windows is maroon. The door is of plain trim with plexiglas. The windows are six lights over six lights with plain trim. The medium gabled roof is made of wood shingles. The slightly overhanging eaves are maroon. There is a white cupola on top of the roof. The building is in fair condition and retains its historical and architectural integrity.

Sometime between 1880 and 1882, this officers' quarters was built from the existing ordnance storehouse, gunshed, and powder magazine. Construction was of frame adobe, concrete and stone. All that remains today is part of a standing concrete wall.

The Chicken House was built about 1881 by the U.S. Army. It appears to have been designed for special use by the C.O. and was used both as a stable and later as a chicken house. It measures 19'7" x 10'8". It has a limestone foundation laid with lime grout and it is apparent that the lime grout was poured on top of the stone foundation in such a manner to indicate that stone may have been the remains of a former building. On the northeast side of the building is a rectangular six paneled wooded door with plain trim. The south-west side has a square shaped opening that is covered with chicken wire. The roof is medium gabled with wooden shingles and eaves on the northeast and south-east sides. The roof has a projecting airvent on the southeast front slope. The inside ceiling is exposed wooden rafters. There are the remains of a foundation of a former building adjoining the chicken house on the southeast side. The building is in good condition. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity.

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

CONTINUATION SHEET      DESCRIPTION      ITEM NUMBER      7      PAGE      8

- HS-013 Hospital-----Begun in 1873 and completed a year later, this two-story lime grout hospital had a capacity of 13 beds, but often times held as many as 20. In 1878 and 1880 verandas were added. The hospital was in use from 1873 until March of 1890. Within 10 years of abandonment most of the structure had been stripped and deterioration had set in. Stabilization was begun in 1958 and eventually completed in 1963-64. The foundations and basement are lime grout, as are the exterior walls. Parts of the exterior wall are plastered with a white sand finish plaster. This ruin has a medium gabled roof over the one-story portion, surmounted with a large louvered vent on the ridge. The lime grout chimney has a brick top with an 8-inch diameter stove pipe extending 2'3" above the top of the chimney. The chimney is on the ridge of the gabled roof.
- HS-014 Magazine-----The magazine was constructed in 1850. It is a one-story rectangular building. The foundation had concrete stabilization done in 1950. The wall construction is uncoursed fieldstone and lime grout. There are large patches of lime grout on the southeast side. A temporary stoop leads to a rectangular door with vertical planks. The door is always open, but the opening is covered with plexiglas. In the early 70s, new boards were put along the sides of the roof with tin to help the water run off. The low gabled roof is made of crushed rock, layers of plastic, tar, and bricks. The southwest side has wooden shutters covering the only window, which is one light over one light double hung sash. The building retains its architectural and historical integrity and is in fair condition.
- HS-015 New Guardhouse----Constructed in 1876, this lime grout New Guardhouse measures 50' x 36'. In 1882-83, a 50' x 20' porch was added. The interior of this one-story guardhouse was partitioned to provide areas for the officer of the guard, the guard room, and the cells for the prisoners. It is the only building at the fort oriented on a true north-south grid. The foundation is coursed rubble and lime grout and it extends above the ground approximately 2" to 4". The building has a five bay, one-story front porch with a wood shingled roof. There are two stone masonry chimneys, one on the east side and one on the west side, with a plain concrete base. The building is in good condition and it retains its architectural and historical integrity.

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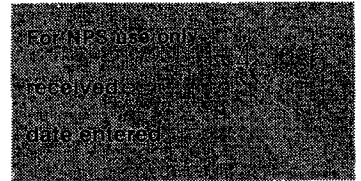
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Continuation sheet	DESCRIPTION	Item number	Page
HS-016	Iron Bridge-----Under pressure by citizens from Cheyenne to construct a bridge across the North Platte River, the Federal government proposed a structure be built near Fort Laramie. Under the guidance of the Engineer Corps, a wrought iron and native pine truss bridge was erected by the Army across the North Platt during the winter of 1875-76. The wrought iron sections were manufactured by the King Bridge and Mfg. Co. of Cleveland, Ohio. The bridge is composed of three spans: 2 -- 125' long and 1 -- 150' long and has a 12' roadway. Stabilization and restoration was completed in April 1969. This bridge is considered the oldest existing wrought iron military bridge west of the Mississippi.	7	9
HS-017	Administration--Constructed in 1885, this lime grout structure housed the Building Building adjutant's office, post school, the library, and a multi-purpose theater called an Amusement Hall. This L-shaped building had the following dimensions: front section 36' x 102' and rear leg 31' x 52'. Soon after the post was sold at public auction in 1890. HS-75 was stripped of all hardware and lumber. Deterioration set in. Other than minor stabilization in 1940, the ruin did not receive major stabilization until 1967. The ruins consist of masonry walls 18" thick and vary from 10' to 14' in heights. There are 23 windows and 6 door openings.		
HS-018	Officers'-----This double officers' quarters was constructed around an Quarters D earlier adobe officers' quarters in 1881. Built of lime concrete and with a mansard roof, this 1 1/2 story structure served as quarters for two officers and their families. As one of the first buildings stripped by homesteaders who purchased the fort property in 1890, it soon deteriorated. The National Park Service stabilized this structure in 1954 and 1956. The ruin is a gutted shell of a building. There are ten openings for windows, one of which is a ruin and does not have a lintel. Wood bucks and wood lintels similar to the original work have been reinstalled. The partition dividing the duplex still exist. There are four openings for entrance into the ruin. Lime grout was used to fill in walls around all the openings.		
HS-019	Officers'-----This double officers' quarters was constructed around an Quarters C earlier adobe officers' quarters in 1881. Built of lime concrete and with a mansard roof, this 1 1/2 story building served as quarters for two officers and their families. As one of the first buildings stripped by homesteaders who purchased the fort in 1890, deterioration soon set in. This ruin received stabilization treatment in 1954 and 1965. The ruin is a gutted shell of a building.		

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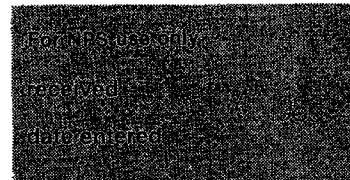
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There are ten openings for windows and four openings for entrances. Wood bucks and wood lintels similar to the original work have been reinstalled. Lime grout was used to fill in walls around all the openings.

- HS-020    Officer's-----  
            Quarters B                      This one-and one-half story mansard roofed lime concrete officer's quarters was constructed in 1881. This was one of three similar quarters built onto existing adobe structures that had been used by officers since 1855. This particular building was a single family unit, being used by the various post commanders and their families until the post was abandoned in 1890. This was the only building on the post with inside plumbing, having a full water closet upstairs and water piped to the kitchen. The ruin is a gutted shell of a building. Wood bucks and wood lintels similar to the original work have been reinstalled. Lime grout was used to fill in walls around all the openings. There are ten openings for windows and one main entrance on the southeast side.
- HS-021    Married NCO-----  
            Quarters                              This structure, constructed in 1884-85 of lime grout, consisted of six sets of quarters for the NCO married staff. It was in use until the fort was sold at public auction in 1890. The building was approximately 225' x 27.5'. Through the years it has steadily deteriorated, after being stripped of lumber by the homesteaders who bought it in 1890. Some stabilization was accomplished in 1950 and 1956. There are now only two end walls, 34 or 64 wall piers connected on top with only 10 masonry lintels. The walls average 11 feet high and 1.5 feet thick connected together with a base or wainscot from 2 to 4 feet high.
- HS-022    Powerhouse/  
            Sawmill -----                      Apparently built in 1887-88 at a cost of \$400 to replace an earlier frame sawmill that burned. This lime concrete structure measured 28' x 38'. Stabilized by the NPS in 1959. Currently, this site is a lime grout ruin.
- HS-023    New Bakery-----  
  Built in 1883-84 of concrete (lime grout) to replace the 1876 Bakery (HS-10). The new bakery measured 34' x 46'. After the fort was sold at public auction in 1890, the building was used among other things by homesteaders as a barn. Burned to the ground in 1923. Ruins were stabilized in 1971.

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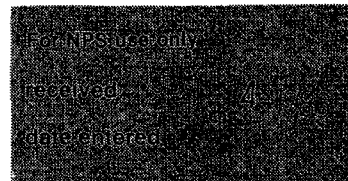
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Continuation sheet	DESCRIPTION	Item number	Page
HS-024	Three-Company ---- Barracks	7	11
	Built in 1867, this one-story frame building held three companies of soldiers. The 30' x 286' building was built using frame boards upright battened, adobe-lined with a singled roof, Nothing remains but visible foundation ruins.		
HS-025	Two-Company ----- Enlisted Men's Barracks		
	Built in 1866, this building held two companies and consisted of two rooms. The 30' x 286' building was built using adobe and it had a shingled roof. Nothing remains but visible foundation ruins.		
HS-026	General Sink -----		
	Constructed in June 1886, this concrete general sink was of vault construction with necessary pipes for daily flushing into the adjoining Laramie River. Built for the use of the Band, Guardhouse, and Companies A, F, H, and K, 7th Infantry, as an improved sanitary measure. All that remains is some of the structural ruins.		
HS-027	1850 Guardhouse --		
	This first of three Guardhouses was built in 1850 and was utilized until 1866, when it was replaced by the second Guardhouse. This first Guardhouse was torn down in 1867. The original structure was two-story, the upper story being of frame construction with a shingle roof and the lower story of stone. The approximate size of the building was 31 1/3' x 17'. The stone basement was divided into two sections, one for a general lockup and the other containing five solitary confinement cells. The upper story contained a courtroom and the guard room. In 1958 while restoring the 1876 Guardhouse, NPS workers discovered the foundation of the 1850 Guardhouse partially beneath the 1876 Guardhouse. A decision was made to expose the entire foundation, a portion of which contained the outlines of the tiny solitary confinement cells outside the 1876 Guardhouse. The new Guardhouse has half the floor removed to show the 1850 Guardhouse foundations. These foundations were treated and stabilized.		
HS-028	Sutler's ----- Residence		
	Originally, this site contained a Victorian-style cottage built in 1863. Between 1875 and 1881, the cottage was replaced by a larger lime grout structure which was used by the sutler or his agents until the abandonment of the post in 1890. An additional second story had been added by 1881. Nothing remains but visible foundation ruins.		

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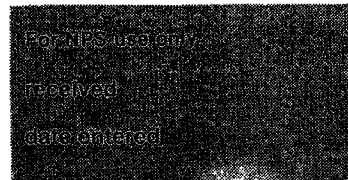


Continuation sheet	DESCRIPTION	Item number	Page
HS-029	Married E.M.----- Quarters	7	12
	Originally built in 1872, this frame structure was used as a Cavalry Barracks for about eight months. It was then used as laundresses' quarters and finally as married enlisted men's quarters. The structure was shingled, adobe, lined and floored with boards. The 30' x 300' building has a 6' porch and contained 20 sets of quarters. Nothing remains but visible foundation ruins.		
HS-030	1858 Officers'----- Quarters		
	The House was of a framed construction lined with adobe. It was a one-story duplex with a shingled roof. Each side had four rooms. The main part measured 16' x 166'. One wing measured 24' x 58'. Nothing remains but visible foundation ruins.		
HS-031	Birdbath-----		
	The parade ground was beautified during the 1880s. As part of this project three brick birdbaths were built, one on each of three corners of the parade ground. The ruins of the one on the southwest corner remain.		
HS-032	Icehouse-----		
	Apparently built near the river on the south end of the parade ground in the 1880s. In 1881 it was described as a 16' x 32' frame icehouse. A large hole and a few foundation ruins are all that remain. A wire fence keeps visitors from falling in.		
HS-033	Outbuilding-----		
	Nothing is known of this structure. It may be the ruins of a root cellar, an icehouse, or some other building. The hole and existing foundation ruins are enclosed by a wire fence to keep visitors from falling in. The date of construction is unknown for this resource.		
HS-034	Outbuilding-----		
	Nothing is known of this structure. It may be the ruins of a root cellar, an icehouse, or some other building. The hole and existing foundation ruins are enclosed by a wire fence to keep visitors from falling in. The date of construction is unknown for this resource.		
HS-035	Footbridge-----		
	Nothing remains of this wooden structure except some foundation ruins and rip-rap. The date of construction is unknown for this resource.		
HS-037	Earthworks----- Trench		
	Constructed in February 1865. Composed of three battery emplacements connected by trenches. Originally it ran from just north of the old hospital past the old graveyard to the first battery emplacement or "lunette" which would be behind the 1873 hospital ruins. Then the trench ran toward the northeast to the second "lunette" which is now where the married NCO quarters ruins are located. The trench then continued east to the flats near the Laramie River where the third "lunette" was located. In 1866 this		



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earthworks system was altered. The third "lunette" was replaced by an adobe walled quartermaster corral with two hexagonal blockhouses. The only remains of this system of earthworks are some faint trenches behind the 1873 hospital ruins and near the married NCO quarters' ruins, and the outline of the first "lunette" behind the hospital ruins.

The following are noncontributing buildings:

**Maintenance Buildings**

On the northeast part of Fort Laramie, there are four modern maintenance buildings and a water pump. These buildings and pump are a definite visual intrusion. There is also a chicken shed in this area. The chicken shed post dates Fort Laramie. It has no historical association and as an individual building has no architectural significance.

The chicken shed is a one-story vernacular rectangular shaped building. The shed roof is shingled. The walls are rubble squared with small stones and chips acting as infill. There is a film of grout and sand smoothed over parts of the wall. The two front doorways have a plain trim. There are four windows, two of which are boarded up. Three windows are in the front of the building and one window is on the south side of the building. A separate addition was added to the north side of the building sometime during the 1960s. The addition is built with cement block walls.

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The appearance of the competitive Fort Platte, coupled with the rotting of log palisades, caused the American Fur Company to abandon Fort William and build a new adobe structure called Fort John, which gradually came to be known as Fort Laramie.

Fort William, Fort John, and Fort Laramie were all important stopping off places for the increasing number of travelers along the trails to Oregon and California. Responding to the increasing overland travel to the Far West, Congress in 1845 authorized the establishment of military posts along the Oregon Trail. The mounted riflemen built these military posts west of Fort Leavenworth along the road to Oregon. Fort Kearney in Nebraska and Fort Hall in Idaho were both funded from this money appropriated by Congress. By this authority the United States purchased Fort John in 1849 and built Fort Laramie. After 1845, the trickle to Oregon became a substantial stream of emigrants and for the next 20 years, Fort Laramie hosted the emigrants. They camped, repaired their equipment and bought their provisions at the fort. Fort Laramie would also be a witness to the wave of covered wagon emigrants stampeding toward California mines for gold. The Forty-Niners were the first wave of gold seekers, followed by even larger hordes of gold seekers during 1850-1854.

As a focal point for military operations in the northern plains and mountains, Fort Laramie hosted major treaty councils in 1851 and 1866-68. The treaty of 1851 was unique in western annals because of the attendance of a number of different tribes from all over the Northern Plains and the immense size of the gathering.

Unfortunately, campaigns against the Indians of the Northern Plains during the last half of the nineteenth century testified to the ultimate failure of the treaties to maintain peace. Operating from Fort Laramie and neighboring posts, the Army eventually subdued the Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes in the area.

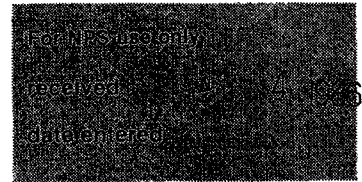
Fort Laramie became less important as the Indian Wars subsided and as railroads bypassed the area. In fact, when Fort Robinson was established in 1874, Fort Laramie waned in importance because Fort Robinson was built along the edge of the Sioux Reservation and the Treaty of 1868 required the Indians to stay north of the North Platte River.

The Army abandoned the fort in 1890 and the buildings and land were auctioned off to the local citizens. More than 50 buildings during this time were moved elsewhere, demolished, or dismantled. The buildings that remain today at Fort Laramie are a result of several individuals homesteading the area and thus forestalling the disappearance of the buildings. In 1927, the Wyoming Historical Landmark Commission focused public attention of of the fort and by 1936, the National Park Service representatives showed an interest in preserving Fort Laramie. By Presidential Proclamation of July 16, 1938, the fort became Fort Laramie National Historic Monument. It was redesignated a National Historic Site in 1960 when the monument was enlarged by Congress.

It should be noted that Fort Laramie is one of the few places where lime-grout is used as a mainstay in the construction of some of its buildings. Also, Fort Laramie is a conglomeration of construction styles, including military construction techniques. Included within the architectural theme is the fact that Old Bedlam is believed to be the oldest standing military building in Wyoming.

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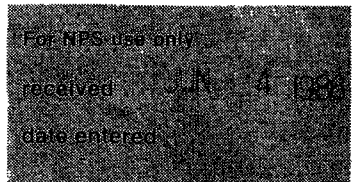
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## UTM's

A 53 6460 4672 660  
B 53 6880 4672 660  
C 53 6900 4672 020  
D 53 6620 4672 020  
E 53 6320 4672 060  
F 53 6420 4672 180  
G 53 6180 4672 420  
H 53 6210 4672 520

## Bridge--UTM

53 8540 4673 050

## Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary was drawn to include all of the historic structures, buildings, ruins, and sites, with the exception of the historic bridge which has a separate discontinuous boundary and UTM. The boundary includes the land on which many building sites from the fort period exist. The foundations of these buildings, most of which were associated with the cavalry, are not exposed. The boundary also includes the site of the trading posts and encampment area south of the Laramie River. The encampment area is not precisely documented and it is not a priority to define the area. The boundary will include part of it. Map 1 defines the historic district and illustrates the relationship of the buildings and ruins to each other. Map 2 shows the relationship to the historic bridge to the historic district.

The boundary of the historic district begins at Point A and goes 1450' in an easterly direction to Point B, then turns south for 2024' to Point C, south of the Laramie River. From Point C the boundary goes in a westerly direction 916' to Point D on the south bank of the Laramie River. From Point D the boundary follows the south bank of the Laramie River approximately 1832' to Point E, then 704' in a northeasterly direction to Point F which is approximately 100' behind the row of historic buildings and ruins. From Point F the boundary goes in a northwesterly direction 1168' to Point G. From Point G the boundary goes in a northeasterly direction 272' to Point H on a bluff formed by an old river channel. From Point H the boundary follows the bluff for 1360' to Point A.

The bridge structure is a discontinuous component of the historic district. The boundary for the bridge structure begins at a point in the center of Goshen County Road 160, 10' northeast of the structure and includes the bridge and its abutments. The boundary ends 10' southwest of the bridge at the center point of Goshen County Road 160.

# FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

## Historic Structures

- 01 - Old Bedlam
- 02 - Sutler's Store
- 03 - Historic Privy
- 04 - Officer's Quarters F  
(Burt Houae)
- 05 - Cavalry Barracks
- 06 - Officer's Quarters E
- 07 - Officer's Quarters A
- 08 - Old Guard House
- 09 - Commissary Storehouse
- 10 - Old Bakery
- 11 - Officer's Quarters Ruins
- 12 - Chicksn House
- 13 - Hospital
- 14 - Magazine
- 15 - New Guardhouse
- 17 - Administration Building
- 18 - Officer's Quarters D
- 19 - Officer's Quarters C
- 20 - Officer's Quarters B
- 21 - Married NCO Quarters
- 22 - Powerhouse/Sawfill
- 23 - New Bakery
- 24 - Three Company Barracks
- 25 - Two Company Enlisted  
Men's Barracks
- 26 - General Sink
- 27 - 1850 Guardhouse
- 28 - Sutler's Residence
- 29 - Married E.M. Quarters
- 30 - 1850 Officer's House
- 31 - Birdbath
- 32 - Icehouse
- 33 - Outbuilding
- 34 - Outbuilding
- 35 - Footbridge
- 37 - Earthwork Trench

