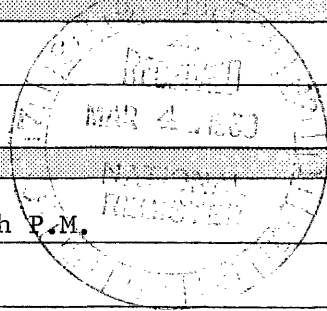


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Lincoln	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-04-49-0002	DATE 4/16/69



1. NAME

COMMON:
Names Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ and SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 5, T. 25 N. R. 112 of 6th P.M.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49 COUNTY: Lincoln CODE: 023

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Wyoming, administered by the Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4.25 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

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

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: 69-04-49-0002
DATE: 4/16/69

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Names Hill is a series of vertical cliffs rising above the valley floor along the west bank of the Green River. U.S. Highway 189 runs between the Green River and Names Hill and closely parallels the cliffs. The most prominent sections of names and dates are encompassed in an area 4.25 acres, now in State ownership. A heavy undergrowth of sage brush and other vegation exists below the cliffs. Above the cliffs vegetation is sparse. During the summer season the site is made more verdant by the mountain cottonwood trees, willows and other bushes that line the river bank.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/>	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	<input type="checkbox"/>	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Overland migration</u>	
Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Geographic land-</u>	
Art	<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>mark</u>	
Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Communications	<input type="checkbox"/>	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
		Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Names Hill relates to national history primarily in the area of overland migration. To a minor degree it relates to the nation's early exploration, fur trade and pre-history.

See also attached addendum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Annals of Wyoming (Cheyenne, Wyoming, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department) Vol. 30, No. 1, pp. 208 - 209.
 Stewart, George R., The California Trail. (New York, MacGraw - Hill Book Company Inc., 1962.)
 _____, Manuscript file, Historical Division, Wyoming Recreation Commission.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		42° 9' 3"	110° 11' 4"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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:
Bill Barnhart, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: Feb. 26, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: *Charles R. Rodermel*
Charles R. Rodermel

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: February 26, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Gurnaley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 11 1969

ATTEST:

William J. Murtagh
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Summary:

Names Hill is exactly what its designation implies. It is one of three locations most notable along the Oregon-California Trail where emigrants paused to carve their names in soft limestone cliffs. Inscribing one's name at likely places along the wagon trails was a common early day practice. Register Cliff on the North Platte River and Independence Rock on the Sweetwater River were favorite places along the Oregon-California Trail. Names Hill on the Green River became the third such landmark extensively inscribed along this passage. Many of the names are still legible. The most famous name visible today is that of James Bridger. Names Hill's earliest reported inscription is 1822.

Names Hill is best known as a landmark along the route of overland migration but it surely must have been known to the early trappers and explorers. Located adjacent the Green River, it was in the very center of the fur-trade activity. The names "J. J. Shay - 1825" and "Twig - 1832," still visible on Names Hill, are mute testimony of some early day travelers.

Captain Benjamin Bonneville passed near Names Hill during his exploring expedition in 1832. Less than fifty miles north of the Hill he established his short-lived Fort Bonneville, the first of its kind in the region. Whether Bonneville or any of his 110 men happened to place their names on the cliffs is not evident today. No doubt Names Hill saw the passage of numerous fur traders in 1835 when the Upper Green River became the site of the annual trappers' "rendezvous."

After leaving South Pass on the overland trail emigrants had two choices. They could either continue west across the Green River or

turn southwest to Fort Bridger. Since many emigrants needed supplies by the time they reached this section of the trail, the route to Fort Bridger received more travel than the one to Green River. The route to the Green River and Names Hill was considered a shortcut. This more direct route to the Green River became known as Greenwood's -- and, later, Sublette's Cut-off. By taking the cut-off, those headed for Fort Hall in Idaho could save about eighty-five miles or five or six days' journey.

Experienced trail travelers generally forded a river before setting up camp for the night. Thus, the area along the Green River under the cliffs at Names Hill provided a good camp site for the westward bound emigrants. This pause gave the emigrants a chance to add their names to the ever increasing number of inscriptions on Names Hill. The first emigrants train to pass Names Hill was probably the Stevens Party of 1844, the cliffs even then bearing the names of numerous "Mountain Men." That year one such emigrant added his name "T. Bonney" and the date "July 25, 1844." How many emigrants passed Names Hill and how many Americans have paused to carve their names thereupon is not known. Time and the elements have obscured this information as countless names have weathered away over the years. Surely the number is in the thousands.

Sometimes these places served the practical purpose of communications in a land where nothing else was available. An emigrant might leave a short message in crude fashion or his name might serve to notify relatives and friends of his passage. Most often the urge to

carve one's name or initials sprang from the universal human characteristic to leave the mark of one's personal being or presence for the rest of the world to acknowledge. To the emigrants, who found themselves in a strange, desolate and lonely land fraught with danger, the motivation must have been particularly strong. Their names were the most personal part of their beings. For many who passed on down the trail and into historical oblivion, the entry of their name on Names Hill represents the most enduring and sometimes single record of their existence.

At Names Hill and the other similar landmarks the impulse for a facet of immortality continues to the present day. Over the years many individuals have felt the necessity to add their names to those of the pioneers. The ill-conceived placement of recent names has been, in a number of cases, detrimental to earlier inscriptions. Presently, a strong chain link fence protects sections of names on Names Hill from unnecessary vandalism and destruction.

One of the most legible inscriptions protected on Names Hill is that of the famous Jim Bridger. The inscription reads "James Bridger, Trapper, 1844." The initials "J. B." are carved in several neighboring cliffs. This inscription is particularly significant in view of Bridger's being a "mountain-man," explorer and guide unequalled in Rocky Mountain history. It is additionally important as it reportedly is the only landmark along the Oregon-California Trail to have Bridger's name carved on it. In 1844, Bridger had just recently opened Fort Bridger for business and the Fort was but sixty miles south of Names Hill. An interesting aspect of this inscription is the fact that Bridger was

supposedly unable to read or write. Several possibilities exist then -- Bridger, being an intelligent man, could have managed his own name despite general illiteracy; he might have traced a light outline placed there by a companion who could write, or he might have had a companion execute the inscription for him. To date, no one is known to have seriously questioned the inscription's authenticity.

Names Hill, therefore, has two unique aspects not found at Register Cliff and Independence Rock. It has the earliest date -- 1822 -- and the inscription of the famed James Bridger. Register Cliff and Independence Rock are now Registered National Historic Landmarks. It seems fitting that Names Hill should be worthy of the same status, though it was perhaps a landmark to fewer emigrants. A good deal has been written on the epic of America's overland migration during the nineteenth century, but aside from brief references in diaries and books little has been written concerning Names Hill. Yet it represents a well-known landmark in Oregon-California Trail history. Perhaps Names Hill, and the carvings placed upon it tell their own story best.