

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Uinta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.56.0001	DATE 6/3/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Piedmont Charcoal Kilns

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 14 W. NE
NW 1/4 SW 1/4, Section 4, T. 14 N., R. 117 W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Hilliard vic.

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56 COUNTY: Uinta CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Acquisition:	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" 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	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <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: 56

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: 56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

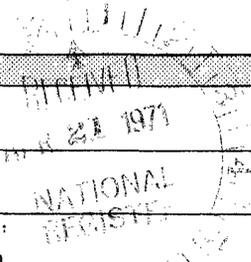
DATE OF SURVEY: Summer - Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)							
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <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"/>		

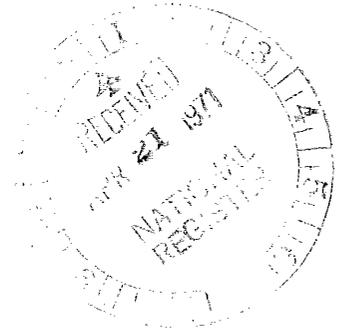
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Originally, and as late as 1897, five Charcoal Kilns stood adjacent Piedmont Station. Only three remain standing at the present time; a fourth is partially standing while a fifth has completely disappeared; said to have been the victim of a bulldozer and used for ballast along the nearby creek bank. The Kilns are round in circumference, conical in shape, and designed to act as a huge oven. They are constructed of native sandstone found locally in abundance and put up in layers with a lime-sand mortar. Each Kiln has one arch-type entrance way, eight feet in height which faces east. Several small air ports are located around the lower portion of the structures about three feet above the ground. Size varies somewhat, but the Kilns average about 30 feet in circumference, are approximately 30 feet high at the peak of the dome, and the walls are about 24" thick.

Inside the Kilns a faint odor of woodsmoke can yet be detected, perhaps emanating from the heavy hardened layer of carbon that still covers all of the interior surfaces.

A woven wire and 3-strand barbed wire fence surrounds the Site to make a 155' x 155' enclosure. Inside the fence natural prairie surrounds the Kilns and a granite marker has been erected which reads:

"Charcoal Kilns were built by
Moses Byrne, 1869, to supply
the pioneer smelters in
the Utah Valley."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1869

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Built for the purpose of processing charcoal to be used in mining smelters, the Piedmont Charcoal Kilns represent a unique type of structure that once was found in abundance on the frontier. Now they are silent monuments of a period in American history when the complete exploitation of the country's natural resources was an accepted characteristic of industrial development and progress. Throughout the West, where similar kilns operated, the process had a devastating effect on the timber lands. Vast areas were left completely denuded of vegetation to become ugly eroding landscapes. The situation was alleviated only with the introduction of coke as a substitute for charcoal in the smelting of ores.

Although the region of Southwestern Wyoming is rich in the lore of the Fur Trade and the "Gold Rush" migration, the advent of such industries as charcoal production did not begin until the Union Pacific completed laying its tracks through the area in the latter part of 1868. Piedmont was one of the many railroad stations established along the line and served as a terminal for helper engines. It possessed a round house, water tank, telegraph office and a few business establishments. A short distance to the west was another such station called Hilliard. The two station's close proximity to the mines in Utah combined with the ready availability of timber in the nearby Uinta mountains made them ideal locations for charcoal processing and shipping. At one time over forty kilns were in operation in the general vicinity, and in 1873 it is estimated that over 100,000 bushels of charcoal per month was being produced.

Five kilns were constructed adjacent Piedmont Station around 1869 by Moses Byrne. In 1867 he had settled at Piedmont and opened a business. Byrne had to his credit the building of the Pony Express stations at Church Buttes, Fort Bridger, Muddy Station, Bear River, Needle Rock and also the stables operated at Fort Bridger by Judge W. A. Carter.

For making charcoal, the kilns were filled to the top with wood, a fire started and then they were sealed in such a way that the fire could be regulated. The wood was allowed to slowly smoulder for several days. At the end of the necessary time the drafts were closed, the fire was allowed to die out, and the wood was allowed to cool before handling.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Stone, Elizabeth Arnold. Uinta County - Its Place in History. (Laramie Printing Company, Laramie, 1924) pp. 88-179, 180, 184.

Beard, Frances Birkhead. Wyoming, From Territorial Days to the Present. Volume I, (The American Historical Society, Inc., Chicago and New York, 1933) pp.298.

Crofutt, George A. Crofutt's New Overland Tourist and Pacific Coast Guide. (Overland Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1878) pp. 79.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

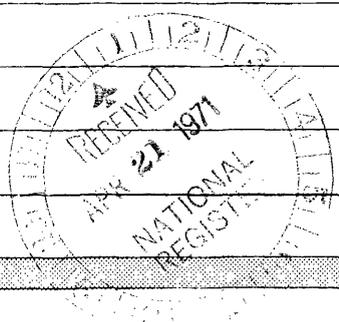
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 , " "	0 , " "		41 0 13' 11"	110 0 37' 9"	
NE	0 , " "	0 , " "				
SE	0 , " "	0 , " "				
SW	0 , " "	0 , " "				

12/531960
4563010
30

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .9 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Bill Barnhart, Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Wyoming Recreation Commission** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Cheyenne** STATE: **Wyoming** CODE: **56**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Paul H. Steward

Title Liaison Officer, P. L. 89 - 665

Date 4-7-71

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

Annex Allen Connolly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 3 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William F. Mintz
Keeper of The National Register

Date **MAY 27 1971**

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Uinta	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
916.56.0001	6/3/71

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - page 2

If all went well, a foot thick log came out uniformly charred from bark to core. At the Piedmont Kilns, even the smaller trees and limbs proved to be suitable in the making of the charcoal.

No record concerning the specific periods or amounts of charcoal production at the Piedmont Kilns seems to have survived. Most of the charcoal was shipped to the Salt Lake Valley, but small quantities also found their way to Fort Bridger for use in the blacksmith forges and heating stoves. The price of charcoal reached 27 cents per bushel during the time of peak demand but fell to only 7 cents in the declining years of business. Today, the abandoned Union Pacific grade serves as a county road; Piedmont is a ghost town and the surviving kilns serve as an impressive reminder that this was once the scene of considerable human endeavor.