

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Carbon	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 2	DATE 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Grand Encampment Mining Region: The Boston-Wyoming Smelter Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Grand Encampment Mining District: The Boston-Wyoming Smelter

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Encampment NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 1, T.14N., R.84W., 6th P.M.

CITY OR TOWN:
Encampment

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56 COUNTY: Carbon CODE: 007

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. J. V. Finch Union Pacific Railroad

STREET AND NUMBER:
Encampment, Wyoming Omaha, Nebraska

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Carbon County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Building

CITY OR TOWN: STATE:
Rawlins Wyoming



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 & continuing Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:
Cheyenne Wyoming 56

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" 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 following description is almost identical to that found in the National Register of Historic Places, Inventory - Nomination Form: "Grand Encampment Mining Region: The Ferris-Haggarty Mine Site". Specific information regarding the Boston-Wyoming Smelter Site, however, may be found in the last two paragraphs of the description.

Historian Velma Linford has described the Grand Encampment mining region as "a locality, an era, and a state of mind". Upon investigation of the history of that Far Western mining region, it appears that Linford was correct. A description of the Grand Encampment mining region must take into consideration not only physical boundaries, which are elusive enough, but mental ones also. The spirit of those who took part in the development of the copper industry in Southern Wyoming is difficult to gauge, for it ranged over an almost limitless area of possibilities. Fantastic promotional schemes, some realized and some unrealized, reflect only a portion of the mental attitude to be determined. The excitement, optimism, and distinctive personality of the region cannot be determined by precise lines on a map, nor can they be contained within them. The interest created by the prospect of mineral wealth knew no such boundaries, and attempts to draw such lines would actually entail the use of a map larger than that of the United States. But the physical limits of such an area should be marked, finally, by all-inclusive lines describing the entire area in which men not only held their hopes but actually tested them in the hard rock of the Rocky Mountains.

What was the physical or geographical location, then, of the Grand Encampment mining region? The answer is that the region is a nebulous one and has been variously defined. One author has defined it as comprising 2500 square miles, lying in the southern half of Carbon County and the southwest quarter of Albany County, Wyoming. In 1903 State Geologist Henry C. Beeler, reporting in Mining in the Grand Encampment Copper District, described the mining district as stretching for sixty miles from Jelm Mountain on the eastern slope of the Medicine Bow Mountains to Savery Creek on the western slope of the Sierra Madre Mountains; and, for forty miles from Elk Mountain in the north, to Pearl, Colorado in the south. It is important to note that this broad area is not to be placed, in its entirety, in the National Register of Historic Places. Within the broad area described one may point to two specific points of interest which are, more than others, of immediate concern to one who would understand the history of the mining region. The listing of the two interrelated sites in the National Register is not meant to exclude other historic sites, of local or statewide significance, relative to the mining region. It is rather to direct the attention of the reader to certain critical points relative to the Southern Wyoming copper era.

Since the two properties are not contiguous, a verbal description of them entails a description of separate boundaries. The boundary lines of the Ferris-Haggarty Mine Site, as described on the accompanying map, are those

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 checked="" 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) 1897 1902

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 type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<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 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

The Grand Encampment region, prior to mining activities there, was the home of much wild game, including buffalo, and was frequented by Indians who sought the game for food, and by white men who sought fur pelts. Reports of gold in the region had been heard as early as 1856, although it was not until a decade later that the first mining claims were located in the Sierra Madre Mountains. Copper was also discovered at that time but it was not until 1881 that the first serious attempt to mine copper took place in the region.

However, the boom era of Grand Encampment copper, for which the region is famous, was not to come until 1897. In that year Ed Haggarty, a prospector from Whitehaven, England, discovered a rich copper prospect which he named the Rudefeha. Much of the more than two million dollars of copper from this area of Wyoming came from this one great mine. Indeed, a history of the region is almost synonymous with the history of the Rudefeha, or the Ferris-Haggarty property, as it soon came to be named. With the development of the Ferris-Haggarty property, the real "boom" in the Grand Encampment Region was begun, and soon newspapermen susceptible to hyperbole began to praise the region, calling it "the greatest mineralogical laboratory in America." Miners penetrated the hills and valleys of the Sierra Madres, coaxed by the hope of rich strikes. Test holes or shafts dotted the mountainous landscape as, more and more, copper became a sought-after mineral. However, rich stores of copper were just not readily available, and the few that were available presented problems fit for a Cyclops. A mountainous terrain and unpredictable climate could be met by men of will or desire, but the financial and transportation problems experienced in the Grand Encampment were beyond the scope of the small-time entrepreneur. Whatever the problems involved in each particular case, capital was a prerequisite for profitable development of copper resources.

Seeking capital and the development of the region was the foremost advocate or promoter of the Grand Encampment Mining Region, Willis George Emerson. Emerson, with a vision of grand empire, early entered upon the scene putting Grand Encampment into the minds of investors throughout the country, and it was this promotional genius who was very much personally responsible for the rush to the Grand Encampment region at the turn of the century. Upon obtaining an interest in the Ferris-Haggarty property, and establishing a plethora of companies, promoter Emerson attracted dollars toward the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Addendum on Major Bibliographical References)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

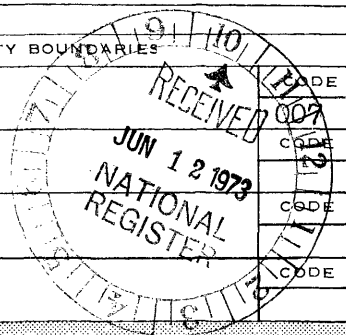
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 12' 35"	106° 46' 48"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

13/350826
4563350
6 cm

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
Wyoming	56	Carbon
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mark Junge, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: May 24, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 604 East 25th Street Telephone: 777-7695 (area code 307)

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

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: Paul H. Westedt
 Title: State Liaison Officer
 Date: May 24, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date: 7/2/73
 ATTEST:
W. J. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 6 19 73

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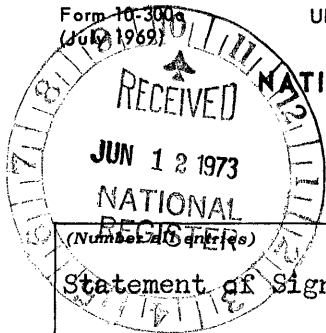
(Number all entries)

Statement of Physical Appearance - 2

of a quarter section of land: the northwest quarter of Section 16, Township 14 north, Range 86 west of the sixth Principal Meridian. Those boundary lines include the former townsite of Rudefeha, adjacent to the mine property. The boundary lines of the Boston-Wyoming Smelter Site are within the southeast quarter of Section 1, Township 14 north, Range 84 west of the sixth Principal Meridian. The property is bounded by the Encampment River to the east, the J. V. Finch property to the north, the town of Encampment to the west, and the Fred Ruschman Ranch to the south.

The site of the Boston-Wyoming Smelter is no more than a site since all of the former buildings at the smelter have been removed or destroyed, leaving only the foundations and traces of walls as evidence of its former expansiveness. Today the smelter site is used by local communities as a refuse dump.





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Statement of Significance - 2

construction of such things as a four-mile, wood and iron pipeline designed to supply power to the smelter, and an aerial tramway. When completed, the tramway extended for sixteen miles from the Ferris-Haggarty Mine, over the Continental Divide at an elevation of 10,700 feet above sea level, and down through the mountains and across the valley floor to the smelter at Encampment. This remarkable engineering feat almost alone is enough to justify recognition of the extensive mining area in Southern Wyoming. In addition to the promotion of the town of Encampment, Emerson's work led to the establishment of at least half a dozen small towns, today no longer in existence, which lined the wagon road from Encampment to the Ferris-Haggarty Mine.

By 1902 the construction of a smelter at Encampment had been accomplished, largely through the efforts of promoter Emerson, and was listed under the name of another of his creations, the Boston and Wyoming Smelter, Power and Light Company. The smelter was built adjacent to the town on the west bank of the Encampment River and was built to serve mainly the Ferris-Haggarty mine. It contained, with later additions, the equipment necessary to transform copper ore to consumable metal. A concentration or sampling works graded the ore into useable sizes which ore then went to roasters or blast furnaces. These melted the ore into two products, matte and slag, the matte consisting of silica, alumina and other materials. The matte, containing a high percentage of copper, was the end product of the Encampment smelter until the construction of a convertor in 1903. In the smelter operation, the convertor was used to heat or "blow" the matte to produce blister copper, so-called because air bubbles escaping from the cooling copper ingots caused blisters on the surface. The ingots or "pigs" consisted of copper which was about ninety-nine percent pure. Blowers for the blast furnaces and air compressors in the smelter plant were driven by machinery which employed water power developing 1200 horsepower. The water was supplied by a four-foot wide pipe made of wooden staves and steel-rod clamps, extending to the smelter from a twenty-three foot high dam and reservoir located four miles south on the South Fork of the Encampment River. The smelter, when completed, was capable of handling an estimated 300 to 500 tons of ore per day.

Through the efforts of Emerson and associates, the Ferris-Haggarty interests were sold to the North American Copper Company for \$1,000,000.00. The new company, under the vice-presidency of Emerson, inherited a wealth of problems, and not as much copper as anticipated although this disappointment was to come later. In the winter of 1901-02 the Ferris-Haggarty mine employed fifty men and produced about 50 tons of ore a day. By 1903, 125 men were employed and the mine was expected to produce all the ore necessary to keep the smelter busy at Encampment. By 1904 the mine was at the apex of its development, employing 200 men. Up to that year over \$1,400,000.00 worth of copper had come from the mine and it appeared that greater things were in store for the Ferris-Haggarty.



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Statement of Significance - 3

However, the future of the Ferris-Haggarty proved not so bright. For various reasons, the price of copper dropped, nationally, in 1902. Although the following year saw a price increase, and by 1907 the price of copper was the highest ever at 26 cents a pound, the Grand Encampment area would not become a part of that copper prosperity. In 1904 the North American, owner of the Ferris-Haggarty property, announced that the Penn-Wyoming Copper Company had succeeded to the ownership of North American holdings. The new company apparently was the lucky inheritor of prosperity, but the transfer was the beginning of the end for the Ferris-Haggarty property, and, in fact, the entire Grand Encampment copper region.

The reasons for the collapse of the boom are many. First, the new company was badly overcapitalized, and its financial framework and financial practices, generally, were of a nature to cast doubts upon the management of the company. By 1906 it was becoming more and more difficult for the company's stockholders to receive a profit on their investments in the mine and subsidiary companies. Perhaps, also, part of the problem lay in the absence of a good transportation system needed to haul not only the copper product to market, but also to haul supplies into the region. There were other problems common to mines in general, such as those associated with the presence of low-grade ores, inferior mining equipment, severe storms, deep snows, snow and mud slides, and water in the mines. And there were disasters. In March, 1906 a fire destroyed much of the under-insured smelter at Encampment, and the following May another fire hit the smelter. By the time the buildings were rebuilt, the low price of copper was prohibitive of further copper production in the Encampment region.

In February, 1909 the Penn-Wyoming Company dumped its holdings into a company entitled United Smelters, Railway and Copper Company for a price of ten million dollars. In 1910 the United Smelters Company was bankrupt, whereupon stockholders of the Penn-Wyoming Company filed suit to obtain control of the Ferris-Haggarty property and smelter. By the time litigation was settled copper prices were, again, so low as to discourage any further work at either the mine or smelter. Foreclosure proceedings against the United Smelters Company took place in federal district court in Cheyenne in 1913. Receivership sales having turned up no prospective developers, salvage operations were begun and Morse Brothers Machinery Company of Denver, Colorado eventually salvaged much of the property.

Although the Grand Encampment copper region epitomizes the "boom and bust" syndrome of many Western mining areas, perhaps an in-depth study of the region would be profitable for at least two reasons. First, such a study could add to our knowledge of the mining aspect of Western American history, particularly in its unique developments. Second, such a study could add to our knowledge of the state, since the "boom" took place in the early statehood phase of Wyoming history.

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Statement of Significance - 4

From time to time the hope has been expressed that the Grand Encampment region will once again come alive, but such hopes have come to naught. Today, what can be preserved of the particular excitement of the mining era may be found in the Grand Encampment Museum complex, which contains many relics, as well as displays which bring that era once again to life. Although mining is one of several industries which may yet be found in the region, the principal resources of the region today are agricultural and recreational in nature. The area is especially noted for its fine hunting and fishing, and the towns of Riverside and Encampment are focal points for converging outdoor recreation enthusiasts.

