

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sheridan Inn

AND/OR COMMON
Sheridan Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Broadway and 5th Street

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sheridan

___ VICINITY OF

001

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Sheridan

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___DISTRICT	___PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	___AGRICULTURE ___MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	___UNOCCUPIED	___COMMERCIAL ___PARK
___STRUCTURE	___BOTH	___WORK IN PROGRESS	___EDUCATIONAL ___PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT ___RELIGIOUS
___OBJECT	___IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	___GOVERNMENT ___SCIENTIFIC
	___BEING CONSIDERED	___YES: UNRESTRICTED	___INDUSTRIAL ___TRANSPORTATION
		___NO	___MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: <u>Art gallery</u>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Neltje Kings, Proprietor

STREET & NUMBER
The Sheridan Inn, P.O. Box 781

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sheridan

___ VICINITY OF

Wyoming 82801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Sheridan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Sheridan

Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1964

FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Survey

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Washington

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED
x partially
restored

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sheridan Inn was built in 1893 based on a plan by Thomas Kimball of Omaha. A 145-foot-long, three-story L-shaped structure was produced with 64 bedrooms on the second and third floors under a gambrel roof, each bedroom having its own dormer window. The roof gradually melted into the slope of the porch, supposedly providing a quick and safe fire escape route. An unusual feature in the porch construction is that the board floor slopes very gently to the outer edge so that rain water will drain off.

From England on special order came the Buffalo Bill Bar of oak and mahogany. It was hauled into Sheridan by ox team from Gillette. The first bathtubs and first electric lights in the region were inn features. It opened June 18, 1893, and was rated the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco.

Col. William (Buffalo Bill) Cody led the grand march for the opening dance. The original registry book in the lobby today is opened to Monday, Jan. 8, 1894. The signature of "W.F. Cody, Nebraska" appears in bold black ink.

Seating capacity in the dining room was 160 at many large octagonal tables. It was plush--and costly. Breakfast was 25 cents; lunch and supper were 50 cents each. You could save by buying a week of meal tickets for \$7. A room cost \$1 a day. A discarded threshing machine engine was turned into a dynamo that powered 200 lights--on at dusk and off at midnight. At the rear of the long, rambling structure stood the elaborate barns and livery stable of the Cody Transportation Company. These buildings have long since disappeared.

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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input 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

1893

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Thomas R. Kimball

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sheridan Inn represents the establishment of modern culture in areas still "wild and wooly" prior to the coming of the railroad. When the Sheridan Inn opened in 1893, it was said by many to be the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco. It immediately became the social center for the Big Horn country area which at that time attracted many big game hunting parties, including notables from all parts of the United States.

The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad built into Sheridan, Wyoming, and constructed the hotel as a feature of its development program. George Holdrege, general manager for the railroad, conceived the idea for the hotel and gave to Thomas R. Kimball, an architect of Omaha, Nebraska, the task of designing the structure. Kimball modeled the Inn generally after a Scottish inn that he had visited and liked. The Sheridan Inn is credited with having had the first bathtub and electric lights in that part of Wyoming.

William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, is said to have led the grand march at the opening of the Inn. This was a gala event with many distinguished invited guests who were served free champagne from iced tubs. William F. Cody operated the Inn from 1894 to 1896. In 1894, the year following the Inn's opening, Cody built barns and livery stables which he operated for the convenience of the Inn's guests. This was a considerable business at the time and catered principally to a large clientele of wealthy sportsmen. The Big Horn Mountain country, immediately at hand to the west, was one of the best large game hunting regions in all the west.

Some of the distinguished guests who stayed at the hotel were Generals O.O. Howard, Leonard Wood, Nelson A. Miles, Capt. John J. Pershing, the cowboy artist Charles M. Russell, William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft, Mary Roberts Rinehart, Senator Joseph H. Robinson, and, it is said, Calamity Jane. The building was condemned in 1967 but was purchased at the last moment by Ms. Neltje Kings. It has since been partially restored and continues to serve as a restaurant and bar, as well as an art gallery.

Remodeling of the Saloon included new wiring, plumbing, oak paneling and new bar equipment. Many features of the original Buffalo Bill bar remain.

The Inn opened in April 1968. An apartment for the manager was created on the second and third floors consisting of ten rooms including three bedrooms. In January 1969 the Inn was closed again for extensive remodeling of the parlor, dining room and kitchen. A large banquet room and bar was added on the main floor. Modern rest rooms and a

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter from Neltje Kings to Stephen Lissandrello, dated August 26, 1975 (in Historic Sites Survey files).
 Zeke Scher, "The Lady Who Saved The Inn," Denver Post, p. 12, Dec. 14, 1969.
 Works Project Administration, Wyoming: A Guide to its History, Highways, and People, 1941.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.5

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	3 4 5 5 9 10	4 9 6 3 0 3 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Sheridan Inn occupies a one-and-a-half-acre lot at the corner of Broadway and Fifth Streets in Sheridan. Its boundaries are described by the red line on the accompanying plat map A, labelled "Sheridan Inn" and dated Sept. 12, 1975.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

12/20/75

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

Designated: JAN 21, 1974
date

Registry Certified: [Signature]
DATE Aug 14, 1978

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE 11/24/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC
LANDMARKS)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Sheridan Inn ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

basement elevator were also added. A separate laundry building to the rear of the inn was removed and a paved parking lot put in. At the saloon was remodeled a gabled doorway was added. The front lobby, using existing front desk facilities to serve as a gift shop, had another entrance extended into it at this time. Certain doors in the dining room and parlor were changed or omitted and the original showcase was slightly altered.

Over the years offices have been added at the head of the stairs and the manager's apartment has been functioning since June 1974 as an art gallery. The old top floor hotel rooms are too small for modern use and many remain in their original condition.

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Verbal Boundary

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at the southwest corner of Broadway and Fifth Streets, proceed south along the west curb of Broadway to the north curb of Fourth Street; thence west along said curb to the east curb of Gould Street; thence north along the east curb of Gould Street to the south curb of Fifth Street; thence east long the south curb to the point of origin.