Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY – NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries – complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming
COUNTY: Park

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 20 1973
DATE:

RECEIVED JUL 26 1972 NATIONAL REGISTER

1. NAME

COMMON:
Pahaska Tepee

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Pahaska Tepee

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On U. S. Highway 14-16-20, two miles east of East Entrance Yellowstone N?P?

CITY OR TOWN:
Fifty miles west of Cody and

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Wyoming	56	Park	029

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☒ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	Public Acquisition: ☐ In Process ☐ Being Considered	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No

PRESENT USE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

☐ Agricultural	☐ Government	☐ Park	☐ Transportation	☐ Comments
☒ Commercial	☐ Industrial	☐ Private Residence	☐ Other *(Specify)*	
☐ Educational	☐ Military	☐ Religious		
☒ Entertainment	☒ Museum	☐ Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Margaret S. Coe

STREET AND NUMBER:
1400 11th Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Cody	Wyoming	56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Park County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
1002 Sheridan Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Cody	Wyoming	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:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE
Cheyenne	Wyoming	56

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☐ Excellent	☒ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	☐ Altered	☒ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL *(if known)* PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Pahaska Tepee, a mountain lodge, is situated on a promontory which extends between the Northfork of the Shoshone River and one of its major tributaries, Middle Creek. The encompassing range of the Rocky Mountains, the Absarokas, is a basic geological anticline made up of many folds, preliminary and climactic (Pahaska being almost at the climax), which have been capped by uncounted and unmeasured layers of erosive volcanic deposits. Thus, due at least in part to this erosiveness of the capping measures, there is offered from the lodge's front porch a view of fantastically sculptured alpine crags supported, below the 10,500 feet line of highest timber growth, by broad shouldered mountains tightly cloaked in interwoven evergreens. Nearer to the eye the extending promontory presents a constantly narrowing scope until, following a final clump of swaying, partly underwashed pines, its end comes in the merging races of creek and river waters.

Up the Shoshone River from Cody, 50 miles distant, winds the highway leading to Yellowstone National Park. Here at Pahaska the road quits the river valley and follows instead the course of Middle Creek---up and over Sylvan Pass and then down onto the Park's central plateau. There, 30 miles beyond, it crosses the Yellowstone River on famous Fishing Bridge and joins the figure eight loop of Yellowstone's interior highway system. However, back at Pahaska the valley of the Northfork of the Shoshone curves to the north and later to the east and so makes a great horseshoe bend extending for many miles to its headwaters in the 12,000 plus feet high mountains about Stinkingwater Peak. All of this upper valley is a part of the North Absaroka Wilderness of the Shoshone National Forest and, as such, contains no habitations except those of wild animals and supports no roads, only trails for horsemen or pack-packers. Pahaska is, thus, not only a natural rest and supply point for automobile tourists but also a jumping off place for seekers of wilderness experiences. As such, it has grown over the past seventy years into something a good deal more extensive than the mountain lodge built in 1901.

In addition to the original lodge, (the precisely true Pahaska that is the subject of this treatise and to which just and full attention will be shortly turned), the name Pahaska now applies to the place in its entirety and that is a considerable number of structures. It includes: a multi-pump filling station and mechanical service center; a modern central building housing rest rooms, gift shop, spacious dining room, and kitchen; fifty-two overnight units housed in single, double and multi-unit modern, alpine-type cabins; a large dormitory and clubhouse for seasonal employees; a warehouse building incorporating laundry facilities; a manager's apartments and general office building and seasonal U. S. Post Office; and, some distance removed, barns, corrals and tackrooms. One more building, located in a peripheral, secluded section, is a private summer home belonging to the property's owner.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) *(If Applicable and Known)* 1901

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE *(Check One or More as Appropriate)*

- ☐ Aboriginal
- ☐ Prehistoric
- ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☒ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☒ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☒ Conservation
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☒ Transportation
- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A total of five historic places located in or near Cody, Wyoming and each possessing a specific relationship to Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) are believed to be worthy of nomination for enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places. These places are: one, T E Ranch; two, Buffalo Bill Campground; three, Pahaska Tepee; four, Irma Hotel; and five, (under slightly different circumstances), Buffalo Bill Historic Center.

Since every nomination to the National Register should---and under form chart guidance must---provide a purview of the prospective registry's significance and since each one of the places mentioned in the foregoing owes its founding in one way or another to a common vision and execution of the resulting plan, the immediately following introductory sketch applies equally to all five places and has been framed as a common section to all five of the separate nominations. Thus these five historic places form a little group of their own and their individual nominations for enrollment in the "Register" are submitted together, but this submission is not as a block with a "take all or none" implication. Indeed, and to the contrary, the five are offered on the basis of individual merit and the failure of any one of them to win approval by review-authority should not reflect on the decisions that authority may make as regards the other four.

Almost from the city's very founding date, at least only shortly thereafter, four of these five historic places were components of either Cody itself or its environs while the remaining one, though coming later, was a natural outgrowth of particular circumstances which contributed to that founding. Opening of the first of these (at least the first within the actual town site) together with the rise of several scattered business and residential structures plus the designation of a United States Post Office bearing the Cody, Wyoming title were all established facts by August, 1896. From the beginning, and probably in a greater extent than is normally the case, geographical location---first in the general sense and second in the exact sense---had a decided impact upon the commercial and the cultural development of a composite community which was a blend of already partially established ruralization with brand new urbanization.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Foote, Stella. Letters from Buffalo Bill. Foote Publishing Company, Billings, Montana, 1954.

Schofield, Kenneth R. Personal Communication, March 27, 1972.

Sell, Henry Blackman and Weybright, Victor. Buffalo Bill and the Wild West. Oxford University Press, New York, 1955.

Russell, Don. The Lives and Legends of Buffalo Bill. University of Oklahoma Press, 1960.

Winters, Millie. Tape Recording, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "
NE	° ' "	° ' "
SE	° ' "	° ' "
SW	° ' "	° ' "

OR

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
44°	30'	11"	109°	57'	39"

12/582540
42 28 60

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: ¼ acre

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Ned Frost, Historian

ORGANIZATION
Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE
4/5/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

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 N Hardesty

Title Director - S.H.O.

Date 7-21-72

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 3/20/73

ATTEST:

Ned Frost
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/15/73

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Physical Appearance - 2

Pahaska Tepee, completed in 1901, was the result of several years planning in which two separate purposes had equal consideration: first, it was to be the hunting lodge of a famous and hospitable man, a place for him to entertain especially chosen guests from a world-bracketing circle of friends; second, it was to be an inn for those wayfarers who followed a long, mountain-winding wagon road leading from Cody into Yellowstone National Park. There was little reason to anticipate conflict between these two purposes since the hunting season for Wyoming's varied species of big game animals only commenced as the tourist season to Yellowstone National Park was drawing to a close.

Pahaska is a two story building constructed from carefully selected logs which were sawed from equally carefully selected lodge-pole pine trees. It is a type of structure that present day builders might superficially copy but it is extremely doubtful if modern experts of construction technology could fashion a true duplication. For this lodge was built by a crew of practitioners out of a wilderness school of ax and adze wielding craftsmen who have now, excepting the occasional and well-nigh impossible to find throwback, vanished completely from sight and almost from memory.

The buildings overall length is 83½ feet and its greatest width, including a front porch over which the second floor bedroom and entertainment suite of the original owner extends, is 60 feet. The peak of the highest gable is 29 feet above ground floor level. Its general shape is not rectangular because the middle section of the front, over a length of 43½ feet, protrudes a distance of 30 feet out from the established front wall line on either end---(the accompanying sketch of the building outline provides a clearer description than words can convey). The roof is gabled, not only at each end but also at the protruding front center; it is, and has always been, covered overall not by shingles but by strips of corrugated iron.

Pahaska fronts to the east, facing down the expanding valley of the Shoshone's northfork. The protruding front section is surrounded on the south, east and north by a wide porch and on the front, the east, this porch is overlayed by the second floor bedroom suite which Buffalo Bill reserved for his personal use. At the center of the front porch a wide double door enters into the lobby. Entering here the visitor encounters a spacious area not only on his own level but extending upwards to the mezzanine gallery and, beyond, to the rooftree. Thirty feet across from and facing him is a native stone fireplace in which continuously burn---against the coolness of mountain climate and high-vaulted roof---five feet long logs of fir or pine. This fireplace stands alone without support of any walls; behind it, but with wide passageways on either side, is the original dining room, a hall extending the full length of the building and with a width of 18 feet. It is now a meeting room.

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Physical Appearance - 3

The visitor, still standing on the threshold, sees a double line of rocking chairs before the fireplace; over the mantle hangs a large buffalo bull head. On the walls around the lobby are other mementoes of the chase, photographs of past guests, scenes of wilderness and wildlife and similar decorations. To the left of the fireplace an open stairway leads to the mezzanine floor and just beyond it, along the south wall, is a registration desk and small, enclosed offices. The stairway climbs to a railed gallery which extends around the west, north and east of the lobby and also opens into a hallway which runs along the full 83 feet length of the building's back side. Besides Buffalo Bill's suite there are six other bedrooms and two bathrooms on this upper level; there are also seven bedrooms in the downstairs level of the building.

About 1920 a much larger dining room and kitchen annex was built onto the back side of Pahaska. This was to take care of the large tours handled in the Yellowstone Park Company's fleet of buses. But even before World War II the popularity of these combined railroad-bus tours was beginning to decline. The annex was a rickety affair in any case, it was condemned in 1962 and torn down.

Pahaska stands today much as it looked upon its completion in 1901.

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Statement of Significance - 2

In the first or general sense, this community was located within the Rocky Mountain area and so the arid-lands west, a region just then very much a subject of national interest owing to the explorations, researches, teachings and lobbying efforts of a remarkable man, Major John Wesley Powell. This was the man whose theory of "arid-lands culture" was about to culminate in establishment of the United States Reclamation Service. In the second or exact sense, the community was so located as to cover what would shortly become the eastern gateway to Yellowstone National Park; equally important, it snuggled closely against the irregular---valley and mountain ridge following---boundaries of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. This was the reserve, set aside by President Harrison's 1891 executive order, which would shortly become the basis of several of the first National Forests and which was already recognized and receiving careful study by leaders of the then budding national conservation movement. Furthermore, and lying between these general and exact senses of location, this community was situated in the Bighorn Basin of northwestern Wyoming, an area only recently and sparsely settled and so lacking any strongly developed local history which might shape the growth of a new town.

Throughout the Rocky Mountain region as elsewhere in the history of an ever receding until finally vanished western frontier, the materialization of towns and cities fell into two general categories: those that happened; and those that were planned. The first, probably the prevalent category, was the result of previous rural developments creating a demand for urban functions at an hitherto unconsidered location; the second was the result of planned urban development at a selected location exerting an anticipated influence on a surrounding rural area. The first might be called happenstance towns; the second were definitely planned towns. Since Cody, Wyoming was a planned town in an area where urbanization proclivity, in fact most proclivity, was toward the happenstance, it appears that a general characterization of urban happenstance in the time and the place of the Cattleman's Frontier will aid in understanding the differing and peculiar circumstances leading to the founding of Cody and establishment of the several historic places with which we are here concerned.

Happenstance towns appear to have been the usual occurrence on the Cattleman's Frontier. Seeing an opportunity in some local geographical site, some one opened a combined general store and saloon (or, more often, vice-versa) for the trade of already established ranching concerns. On a frontier where rails, as yet, seldomly intruded and no vessels other than prairie schooners navigated, horses played an exclusive roll in determining the sites of commerce. Thus a store and saloon venture might end where started and

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Statement of Significance - 3

die a lone death, or it might be followed by such another venture as a combined livery barn and smithy service. Only then, and literally care for horseflesh was the first rule, there might follow an establishment based on human needs, offering such services---not necessarily comforts---as beds and meals. Later, when such establishments as churches and schools might already have materialized, the place was finally incorporated and added to the growing list of officially recognized towns.

The Bighorn Basin of northwestern Wyoming, an interior mountain valley comprising (depending on amount of included mountainous terrain) some 12,000 to 15,000 square miles, was one of the last large areas of the west to be settled. Its turn finally came during the last year or two of the 1870 decade when several operators brought in herds of Oregon and/or Texas cattle and founded ranches. Settlement though not rapid was steady and based on the general Cattleman's Frontier pattern. By 1895 when Colonel William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill) and several associates came into the Basin country to put their preconceived development schemes into practice, three or four small towns---separated by distances of 50 or more miles---had already been established. The 1890 authorization for a new county, Big Horn, had been passed by the Wyoming Legislature and, following a few years wait for accumulation of sufficient supporting valuation, its organization was in the immediate offing. Still, there was no real urban community in the entire northwestern quadrant of the Basin and this was the area upon which the new developers had focused their attention. The already established ranching industry throughout the main valley and the various branch valleys of the Stinkingwater (later Shoshone) River appealed to them as one resource which would help to support their proposed town but they had other considerations in view.

Those considerations involved primarily a grandiose project which would ultimately place more than 100,000 acres of arid but fertile land under irrigation (see Buffalo Bill Dam enrollment in the "National Register"). They also intended to capitalize on the general public's growing disposition to see, travel through and play in such unspoiled natural environments as Yellowstone National Park and the new National Forests soon to be formed from the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. And, finally, they saw yet another opportunity for urban growth in proposals for exploitation of indicated mineral wealth, largely carboniferous but not overlooking some evidence of precious metals. As regards the last potential, it is interesting to note that Buffalo Bill's first personal venture into the Bighorn Basin occurred in 1870 when General Phil Sheridan detailed him to guide O. C. Marsh, famous Yale professor of paleontology, into that region. Marsh and other scientists in the party had been more than enthusiastic concerning both the

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Statement of Significance - 4

richness in the present geological era's soil deposits and in past eras' carboniferous deposits as discovered in coal beds and indicated by structures favorable to the formation of large pools of petroleum. Their guide had been greatly impressed by the scientists' enthusiasm and he always retained that impression.

That growth based on all contributing factors was slower in developing---and took stranger twists---than Buffalo Bill and his fellow founders foresaw should not be set down so much as a fallacy in vision as an error in timing. They certainly woefully underestimated the period of necessary growth time before profitable returns could be expected, but both growth and profits did eventually materialize.

Even in its earliest years the town of Cody became an urban center marked by the correlation, if not the rapidity and magnitude, with which its growth responded to the foresight and plans of its founders. While it provided all of the usual features characteristic of urban development on the then just commencing to vanish Cattleman's Frontier, it demonstrated a propensity to become something more---to become, however small, a true city embodying its own multiple, peculiar and distinctive attributes of culture and commerce.

Any and every place has at least one characteristic attribute. Therefore, within the just given definition of a city the key word is, of course, multiple; it is the multiplicity of interests, of characteristics, of attributes which distinguishes a city from a place, possibly larger, that has only one compelling reason for existence. That Cody, this embryonic town of 1896 founded in a remote corner of what was itself only a pastoral and hence scantly populated region, could have achieved transformation into true city status was certainly more than a little due to the vision and genius of its principal founder. Granting that it needed almost a half century to attain that status, it was clearly the early years---the getting off to the right start---which, no matter the length of time involved, made the achievement possible.

There in that remote locale and in the circa 1900 years it was Buffalo Bill, a man known and esteemed throughout the world, whose wish was magic. It was Buffalo Bill who could induce a captain of industry to build a seventy miles long railroad spur; who could, from among a long list of waiting and qualified sites, persuade a new founded bureaucracy and the purse string holders in Congress to choose a particular reclamation project; who could pick out a new, mountain-winding route of entry into a great national park and receive support from a great President of the United States with words to the following effect: If my friend Bill Cody says a road can be built there then I know it can be built, so let us get on with building it.

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Statement of Significance - 5

This was a Buffalo Bill who was desperately trying to save and invest some of the profits from his Wild West show business, sometimes very great profits which were always, somehow, slipping from his grasp. But it wasn't just a case of investment with him. Here he had found a country that he loved, a country which still possessed---in that far reaching mountainous and forested wilderness against which it backed---at least the semblance of a frontier and with that semblance a way of life that had always appealed to him. He meant this place to be his home; and he meant to so invest his money that this homeland would support him throughout his years of retirement.

So, knowing his Cattleman's Frontier towns and knowing how they developed, he was certain that this town, whatever else happened to it, would need from the start a livery barn including necessary hayracks and loafing corrals. He also knew that visitors and sojourners using this stabling service would themselves need a place to stay and that many of them, by choice or consideration for expense, would want to camp as, in coming, they had camped along the way. In short, some visitors to this new town would be looking for a campground close by the stables where their more favored livestock were provided feed and shelter. He proposed to establish those two business services, stables and campgrounds, himself.

Buffalo Bill, of course, foresaw the need for a hotel, but he thought that need was for something more than just the ordinary cow-town "meals and beds" venture. The same thinking governed as regarded the saloon business. He was content to let someone else provide the first services along all such human need lines. For he had in his mind the plans for a really outstanding hotel, one featuring lobby, bar, dining room and other accommodations that would appeal to the type of worldly visitors he envisioned as coming to Cody in ever increasing numbers. He believed the town would become a staging point and outfitting headquarters for sight-seers touring Yellowstone Park; for big game hunting sportsmen; for vacationers making summertime pack-horse trips into the mountains; and for cliental patronizing a newly developed industry, the dude ranches. And he believed it would also serve as a base of operations for businessmen while investigating ranching, mining and other industrial potentials throughout the surrounding country or while on inspection trips to undertakings already in a developing or operating phase. He also saw that with the many different opportunities for rural development that a fairly numerous class of country dwellers would be settling in the surrounding area who, when they came to town for business or pleasure, would patronize such a hotel as he had in mind.

But all of these potentials depended upon two other things, a railroad leading into Cody and a wagon road leading from such a railhead into Yellowstone National Park. He needed to be certain of both before building his hotel

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Statement of Significance - 6

and, in 1896, neither of these things was yet a certainty. Four years later they were, and then Buffalo Bill went ahead with plans for the hotel which opened for business in 1902.

But before then, indeed from the beginning in 1895, Buffalo Bill had two other enterprises, both of a rural nature, which he wanted to get started. He wanted a ranch of his own in this country and, when the road to Yellowstone was finished, he wanted to have established just outside the entrance to that Park, a place offering accommodations---meals, lodging, guiding and hunting services, etc.---to vacationers following that route of entry into the national park, or to such other charms of an extensive and variable mountain-wilderness as might attract them. The first of these enterprises, named for the brand its cattle wore, was the T E (E) Ranch which he acquired and stocked the very year, 1895, of his arrival. The second, bearing a Crow Indian language name meaning "Longhair's Lodge" was Pahaska Tepee and it was completed and open for business in 1901---almost as soon as the completion of the road whose wayfarers it was intended to serve.

In light of the various reasons that have been cited so far for establishment of this "planned" town, it seems necessary to further explain and stress the original purpose that had brought these associates together and that resulted in development of Cody and the surrounding country.

Major John Wesley Powell and his theory of "arid lands culture" has already been mentioned in the foregoing but, although undoubtably the most informed student of the subject, it would be a mistake to believe that he was the only man interested in providing for irrigation development of the many promising sites throughout the arid western states. In 1894 the Carey Act, named for Senator Joseph M. Carey of Wyoming, became a national law. Under its provisions the federal government could give, to a participating state, lands found feasible for irrigation projects when the state provided proof of ability and determination to proceed with development. Wyoming so arranged its participation that private developers secured a water right for some definite large or huge acreage and built a canal to bring the irrigation waters to numerous smaller, privately owned tracts of land. The state sold these small tracts for a nominal price per acre to the individual; the developer's profit was in the water right and the water which he delivered and sold to these private owners. But the developer's expense was not entirely in the engineering and construction of the project; he also had to colonize that project, that is find the prospective owners and induce them to buy from the state and establish their farmsteads.

Buffalo Bill and his associates undertook such a Carey Act project, with a water right for some what more than 100,000 acres, in 1895. Mr. George T. Beck moved from Sheridan, Wyoming (where he had established a ranch and

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built a flour mill at a place named Beckton) to manage development of the project. He layed out the new townsite as well as a canal that would carry water to about 10,000 acres, and these two implementations of the total project the private developers were able, but only with great difficulty, to carry through to a conclusion. The larger scheme, the Shoshone Reclamation Project---still in 1972 not entirely completed but with 94,000 acres currently under irrigation---they were totally unable to finance. In 1904 they turned the water rights for these lands back to the State of Wyoming; the State re-issued those rights to the Federal Reclamation Service which commenced actual construction in 1905 and was serving water to the settlers under the project's first unit, about 15,000 acres, previous to 1910.

George T. Beck layed out the townsite of Cody using numbered streets on the north-south axis and avenues bearing names of the associates on the east-west axis. Thus there was a Salisbury Avenue; a Rumsey Avenue; a Bleistein Avenue; an Alger Avenue; and a Beck Avenue. To this sequence of names there were one or two exceptions---a Wyoming Avenue and, the town's main street, a Sheridan Avenue. Remembering that Buffalo Bill had served as scout under Phil Sheridan it isn't difficult to conclude for whom that main street is named. Beck recommended, and the others agreed, that a teamster should be able to easily turn a six horse team and freight wagons around on any street of the new town, so the streets were all 100 feet wide.

Buffalo Bill, in 1896 the principal founder of a town, died January 10, 1917. By that time the total community (urban and rural) which he had done so much to advance was securely established, being solidly based on multiple, strong and growing enterprises. As he had foreseen, this land possessing a varied natural and aesthetic wealth had attracted a cosmopolitan population. However, these cosmopolites proved to hold one united interest; they, or at least a majority of them, recognized the genius of the founder who had departed. Within days following his demise they had organized a Buffalo Bill Memorial Association and this is an association that has grown and thrived since birth. Very shortly it acquired property on what was then the western edge of small but growing Cody and out of this realestate there arose the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. The present Center comprises two great museums and a gallery of western art that must be ranked as truly a treasury of national importance; it is, in its composite, one of the outstanding cultural loci in all of Wyoming.

These then---T E Ranch, Buffalo Bill Campground, Pahaska Tepee, Irma Hotel and Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in order of founding---are the five historic places making up this grouping. The theme from this point on is concerned with the individual historic significance of each of these five separate places.

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Statement of Significance - 8

The Yellowstone Timberland Reserve, forerunner in this area to the Shoshone National Forest, had been established in 1891. Since the site Buffalo Bill coveted for his lodge was many miles inside the reserve's boundaries it was not possible to obtain a deed for the land. The federal government did however, as it still does, issue long term leases for both commercial business and private cabin sites. It was on such a plot of leased ground that Pahaska Tepee was built in 1901.

The word tepee is another name for lodge. Buffalo Bill, like many other frontiersmen, wore his hair long and Pahaska was the Crow Indian word for long hair. This was Crow country, at least those people who called themselves Absarokas (Bird People), had traditionally and then historically disputed this land with the Shoshones (Snake People). Thus it is that the national forest here is called the Shoshone but the wilderness area commencing at the lodge's back door is named the Absaroka. And so the lodge bears a name of Absaroka derivation---Pahaska (perhaps it should be Pahaska's) Tepee. This all seems logical and proper.

Buffalo Bill in conducting his wildwest show over most of America and much of Europe made many friends among influential people who could and did, in many ways, demonstrate their esteem for him. He was himself a man who not only felt compelled to return such favors but who always enjoyed the companionship involved. He also thoroughly, in fact so completely that an occasional outing seemed indispensable to his very nature, enjoyed the life of a hunter. Pahaska Tepee offered him the opportunity to return favors, to play the host and to enjoy his favorite sport while doing so. Over the years many well known people---soldiers, writers, artists, statesmen---enjoyed themselves at Pahaska but perhaps the single best remembered hunt (at least by those native citizens who took parts) was in 1913 when Albert I, Prince of Monaco was Buffalo Bill's guest for several weeks.

Such a place, devoted to sport and social relations, might not appear to have had much significance in the historical development of a region. But that assumption would not be entirely true. In the first place the aesthetic values of this country were always important---even to its commercial development. Many people, then, later and to this day, made a business of the sort of operation Buffalo Bill sometimes freely dispensed at Pahaska; and, on the other hand, there is reason to believe that his operation was not always for free that sometimes he also charged a fee. Furthermore these guests of Buffalo Bill were, at least some of them, the type of leaders who could and did influence such a movement as the conservationism which was then for the first time, under Theodore Roosevelt's driving leadership, making moves to protect and save some of the nation's great natural wealth. Here was a place to see such wealth and gather inspiration.

GPO 921-724

Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

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Statement of Significance - 9

The other angle of Pahaska, as a wayfarers inn, didn't have too much opportunity to thrive during horse and buggy days. True, many visitors booked with the established coach and riding tours but Buffalo Bill didn't establish such a business himself and other owners had other places and ways of caring for their clientele. Private parties tended to dispense with carriage travel and its reliance on hotels and inns, they came with teams and wagons and carried their own provisions---they camped and grazed their livestock on lush mountain pastures.

With the event of the automobile into Yellowstone in 1915, this began to change. Pahaska was opened wide to the tourist business then. Located fifty miles from a town in one direction and thirty miles from Yellowstone's nearest tourist facilities at Fishing Bridge in the other direction, Pahaska was a natural halting place for cars. After World War II this became a really big business; many thousands of gallons of gasoline are pumped each day, thousands of meals are served and more than a hundred beds are rented every night.

Pahaska itself, the original lodge, has been turned into a point of interest, a sort of used museum. Its bedrooms still serve a number of seasonal employees but the building itself and particularly the lobby are show places and the lobby is a popular gathering spot for both visitors and workers.