

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 29 1980

DATE ENTERED

MAY 15 1980

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

1 NAMEHISTORIC The John D. Conley House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATIONSTREET & NUMBER 718 Ivinson ^{St.}

CITY, TOWN

Laramie,

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE
56

COUNTY

Albany

CODE

1

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John A. and Evelyn M. Durkee

STREET & NUMBER

718 Ivinson

CITY, TOWN

Laramie

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office - Albany County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Fifth Street and Grand Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Laramie

STATE

Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of historic sites, markers
and monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

604 East 25th Street, Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The John D. Conley house is a two story Victorian dwelling of wooden frame construction, 31 feet wide by 45 feet long. The house's original clapboard siding on the first story contrasts with the decorative shingle work on the second story. The attic story gables are decorated with wooden half timbering, creating the effect of a third floor, complete with windows.

The exterior of the house has three porches. A large front porch runs the entire width of the house, with decorative cutouts that have been slightly altered since the initial decorations were installed. There is a side porch, with entrance to the back parlor, and back porch, opening onto the kitchen. The front door is done in high relief, with much carving and decoration, and an operating transom.

The house has many windows. The double hung windows of the first floor consist of nine panes over one full pane. These windows are large, measuring 26" by 76", and are repeated on the second floor with windows of the same placement and design, but slightly smaller scale. The locks on many of the windows throughout the house are old toggle locks.

The main floor is composed of four major rooms and an entry hallway. The original woodwork of this floor is intact, though minor damage has been sustained on parts of the main banister and newell posts in the front hall. The woodwork throughout the first floor is fir, and the banister and newell posts are of golden oak. Two single, and one double sliding doors still operate as dividers between the hallway-front parlor, front parlor-back parlor, and back parlor-dining room. The original impressed brass hardware decorated with flowers and birds is still in place on almost all the doorways, and the recessed handles still operate on the sliding doors.

The back parlor has a coal grate fireplace. The mantel surrounds a tile framing, which further outlines a decorative cast metal heatilator. The floor in front of the fireplace is tile inlaid. Some of the floor tiles have been chipped. The heatilator is flued to a second story bedroom. The ashpan is hinged to dump ashes to the exterior of the house. The entire house has been flued to two chimneys as if the house were at one time heated with wood stoves.

The floors of the main floor are maple, excepting the kitchen and bathroom. The ceilings on the first floor are 9 1/2 feet high, with pictures rails in two of the rooms.

The second floor consists of five bedrooms, two main hallways and a large bathroom. The second floor is reached by either the main front stair or the back stair. The master bedroom extends out over the bay

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

1888

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John D. Conley House, built in 1888, is significant for its association with the early development of the University of Wyoming, and the way in which it reflects the changing nature of the community of Laramie.

John Dykeman Conley purchased the land for the house, Lots 3 and 4, City Block 186, from John Allyn, who originally purchased the land from the Union Pacific Railroad Company. Conley purchased the land in 1887, and although the Conley house occupies only the east half of the lots, the deed lists the property as the whole parcel until 1888. The concrete sidewalk at the northeast corner of the property still has the name Allyn written in the concrete.

A sketch, reproduced, is found in the Laramie Board of Trade Booklet, City of Laramie, Wyoming, Its Resources, 1890. The booklet includes sketches of principal residences of the city at that time. The house is captioned "Residence of Prof. John D. Conley." Also a photograph dated 1898 was found in the Wyoming State Archives, in Cheyenne.

John D. Conley was a member of the first faculty of the University of Wyoming. In his "History of the University of Wyoming, 1887-1964," Wilson O. Clough states, "...the records are not clear as to when J.D. Conley...received their appointments, The Sentinel of July 2 reports Professor Conley as finding Laramie "far in advance of anything he expected to find in this frontier and western country." Conley was authorized in the minutes of July 4, to produce such chemical and philosophical apparatus as he may deem necessary to an amount not exceeding \$1,500.'" Wilson goes on to say "of the new faculty, J.D. Conley, born in New York State in 1843, was a graduate of Hamilton in 1869, following which date he had been for eighteen years professor of chemistry at Blackburn College, Illinois.

"Conley was put in charge of geology, chemistry, astronomy and natural sciences.'" The University of Wyoming Circular of General Information for 1887-1888 (The first year of classes), described him as "Secretary to the University, Instructor in Natural Philosophy, Instructor of Calligraphy, Professor of Geology and Chemistry, Instructor of Drawing, Professor of Agricultural Geology, Chemistry and Farm Accounts, as well as Vice President of the University. He was also the second highest paid

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHMENT

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Laramie, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 | 4,5,0 | 8,4,0 | 4,5 | 7,3 | 2,9,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

D [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

E [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

F [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

G [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

H [] | [] | [] | [] | [] | []

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John and Lynn Durkee

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

718 Ivinson

TELEPHONE

307-745-5556

CITY OR TOWN

Laramie

STATE

Wyoming

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 25, 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

John W. Ray Luce
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/15/80

ATTEST: William H. Brattam
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 5-13-80

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Description

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created by the back parlor, and has window exposure on three sides. This room has oak floors as do the hallways and two other bedrooms. There has been some damage to the oak flooring on the second floor, mostly from water.

The home is heated with a hot water system, fueled by a gas boiler converted from coal. Five of the ten radiators on the first floor are decorated with cupids, fish and flowers. There is a large, decorative expansion tank at the end of the open system, in the smallest back bedroom, on the second floor. The boiler is located in the stone basement, under the kitchen in the rear of the house.

Structurally, the house appears much the same as it did in a sketch done in 1890 and a photograph taken in 1898. The only changes to the house are an addition of a 5' X 5' bathroom and some remodeling in the kitchen. A bathroom was added on the first floor creating a balcony on the second. The kitchen has been changed. Where the pantry once was, a stairway now rises to the second floor. The ceiling has been lowered covering the transom over the back door. The original windows have been replaced, though the frames of the original windows were stored on the premises.

A garage was built on the back of the lot in the 1920's. This 15' X 20' brick structure is one story. A 4' X 8' outhouse still stands on the property. A 12' X 14' greenhouse has been added to the back of the house, connected to the kitchen by a doorway. It is constructed on top of a concrete cistern and built of redwood and glass. Though somewhat more contemporary in design than the house, it does not appear to detract from the architectural design of the house.

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officials at the University at that time.

J.D. Conley has also been described as "a friend of William Cullen Bryant and Gerrit Smith and one of his lectures was his personal reminiscences of the two men. Admission to the lecture was 25 cents and the money went to the Library fund. Conley helped organized the University Literary and Arts Society and was a frequent lecturer to the group. He helped plan the program and conducted the exercises of the Albany County Teacher's Institute in 1888."

After the dismissal of President Hoyt in December of 1890, Conley served as President (acting) until a new president was found in January of 1891. Also during his tenure as Secretary to the University, Conley kept all the records of the University, in his own hand. These records are still in the University of Wyoming Campus.

Conley remained with the University until 1896. He was nominated as President, but did not receive the job, in 1891. Before leaving Laramie, he sold the house to then President of the University of Wyoming, Elmer E. Smiley.

Elmer E. Smiley was President of the University from 1898 to 1903. Elmer Smiley had received a post-graduate degree in Semitic languages at Yale University, and then remained to receive a degree in theology. In 1894 he took the position of minister of the First Congregational Church in Cheyenne. In 1898 he resigned as pastor for the purpose of accepting the position of President of the University of Wyoming. In a biographical sketch found in the University of Wyoming Archives his tenure as President is described as follows: "Since he has been at the head of the State University, that institution has had a remarkable advance in power and influence and is rapidly becoming one of the leading educational institutions of the West. His management has been characterized by ability of a high order and its influence for good has been largely extended throughout the state." "The Home of President and Mrs. Smiley is the center of a gracious and refined hospitality, which they take pleasure in dispensing to their large circle of friends," "He is one of the strong men of the educational world and his future will be watched with interest."

In 1903, C.D. Spalding purchased the property and held the title until 1924. Spalding was first clerk and finally President of the Albany National Bank in Laramie. The Spaldings sold the property in 1924 to Nathaniel S. Thomas, Bishop of Wyoming, for the Wyoming Diocese of the Episcopal Church. The Church retained primary ownership of the property

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until 1946. During this time the house served as the home for the Kappa Delta Society of the University, 1929 and 1930. In photographs from the 1929 and 1930 University of Wyoming yearbooks, the house appears almost exactly as it stands today.

Mrs. Christenna Christensen purchased the house in 1946. From that date until 1966, it served as a boarding house for students of the University. Two final changes in ownership have occurred and service to the University community has passed in favor of private residence.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beery, Gladys., "The J.D. Conley House", Historical Homes Section, the Picket Pin Supplement to the Laramie Daily Boomerang. 11 June, 1978.
- Clough, Wilson O., History of the University of Wyoming, 1887-1969, University of Wyoming. Spring 1964.
- City of Laramie, Wyoming, Its Resources, 1890, Board of Trade. Laramie, Wyoming.
- The Wyo, Yearbook of the University of Wyoming, 1929 and 1930 (photographic source).
- The manuscript and photograph files of the Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie.
- The biography file of Elmer E. Smiley, #(B-Sm44-ee), Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming, Laramie.
- The photograph files of the Wyoming State Historical Department, Barrett Building, Cheyenne.

AHEPA LODGE 314 East 17th Street
Lot 5, Block 359 Original City

JOHN D. CONLEY HOUSE 718 Ivinson
E1/2 of Lots 3 and 4, Block 186 Original Town

ROCK SPRINGS CITY HALL 4th and B
Lots 6 and 7, Block 11 Original Plat

VALLEY SCHOOL - Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary of the Valley School site is a circle which includes all the land within 100 feet of the school.

The boundary gives the building a reasonable margin of protection from encroachment, specifically defines the resource, and excludes two out buildings one of which is recent and the other altered.