

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Wyoming</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>XV, Westward Expansion, 1830-1898 "Overland Migrations West of M. River"</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>South Pass</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>Undetermined</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>On Continental Divide about 10 miles south of town of South Pass, Wyoming</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <del>Private Ownership</del> <b>Bureau of Land Management; P. O. Box 929; Cheyenne, Wyoming</b>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

**Significance:** South Pass marked the long looked-for crossing of the Continental Divide and the Rocky Mountains. To the emigrants of the forties and fifties it also signified their entrance into the Oregon Country. Although many miles of hard traveling lay ahead, many of the pioneers felt encouraged that their destination was indeed growing closer once South Pass was crossed. Joel Palmer interrupted the table of distances in his account with the words, "Here Hail Oregon!"\*

Located to the South of the Wind River range, in the sight of which the emigrants had traveled for many days, South Pass was both deceiving and disappointing to the travelers. Although its elevation exceeds 7,500 feet above sea level, it did not conform to the emigrant's picture of a Rocky Mountain pass. Some crossed it without realizing it. Elizabeth Wood thought the road on the summit to be as level as the streets of Peoria, her home town. William T. Newby expressed some disappointment. "If you didnt now it was the moutnian," he wrote in 1843, "you woldent now it from aney outhier plane."\*\*

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

\*Palmer, Journal of Travels over the Rocky Mountains.  
 \*\*Elizabeth Wood, "Journal of a Trip to Oregon, 1851," OHQ XXVII (March, 1926), 195; Harry N.M. Winton, ed., "William T. Newby's Diary of the Emigration of 1843," OHQ, XL (Sept., 1939), 229.

9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, FIABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Fair</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Ranch</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>October, 1958</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <i>Ray H. Mullison</i>	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>October 14, 1959</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10 1/2 SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)