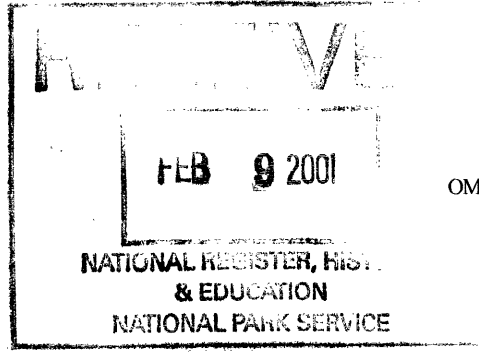


NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



OMB No. 1024-0018

276

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Bishop Home
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 818 East Second Street not for publication _____
city or town Casper vicinity _____
state Wyoming code _____ county Natrona code 025
zip code 82601

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Dorothy E. Bredemitt 1/22/01
Signature of certifying official Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: Edson H. Beall 3/12/01

entered in the National Register Edson H. Beall 3/12/01
 ___ See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
 National Register
 ___ See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
 National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall _____
 Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u> _____	<u>1</u> _____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u> _____	<u>1</u> _____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movement - Bungalow/Craftsman - Four Square

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
roof Asphalt
walls Brick

other Iron widow's walk

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See attached sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B. removed from its original location.
- C. a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

 F a commemorative property.

 G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

 Exploration/Settlement

 Agriculture

Period of Significance 1907 to 1951

Significant Dates 1907 (Date of Construction)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

 Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Elias N. Miller, architect
W. T. Evans, builder

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets beginning page 18

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been
requested.

previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

X State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other See attached list for references.

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <less than 1 acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	<u>Zone Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>	<u>Zone Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
<u>1</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>392560</u>	<u>470462</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>2</u>				<u>4</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title **Susan L. Bishop, partially edited by WYSHPO staff**

organization **Trustee**

date **February, 2000**

street & number **3658 East Virginia Avenue**

telephone **303 722-9322**

city or town **Denver**

state **CO**

zip code **80209**

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

See Continuation Sheets for Section 7 and for Section 8

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Attached.**

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name **Lucile L. Bishop Living Trust**

street & number **1515 Westridge Way**

telephone **307 235-5277**

city or town **Casper**

state **WY** zip code **82604**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, pg 1

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

Description - Summary

The Bishop Family Home located at 818 East Second St., Casper, Wyoming is situated on the banks of the North Platte River in the interior of the state, approximately midway north and south and a little closer to the eastern border of the state than to the western. This location on the river derives from the importance of the river historically as a geographic force, as a path-marking feature for Indians and the earliest white settlers. The Bishop residence, constructed in 1907 exhibits the architectural integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling associated with an early pioneer family's role in the development and evolution of the Casper community. A non-contributing two car garage is located on the northeast corner of the lot.

Description:

This masonry two and one-half story home is located on the same hilltop site where it was built in the Capitol Hill Addition of Casper, Wyoming, in 1907. The integrity of the setting has been impacted by the changes in the surrounding properties that have become more commercial than residential in character. Additionally the home remains on its original lot with landscaping and plantings in the same configuration. As a result the home retains integrity of feeling and association as an upper class home from Casper's earliest boom time.

The residence, an example of a Four Square design, was built by its architect to include classical design elements from Mr. Bishop's boyhood home in Virginia. Specifically those design elements included a widow's walk, a full-width exposed porch with Tuscan columns, and a central hallway that continues from the entrance of the house to the back porch. The resulting design contributes to the striking appearance of this residence and explains its continued prominence in Casper's architectural community ninety-three years after it was built.

The Bishop Family Home was constructed in the Capitol Hill Addition¹ during the start of the "boom times" in Casper. It is reported to be one of the earliest multi-story brick

¹ Sanborn Map Company, Sanborn Map for Casper, Natrona County Wyoming, September 1907

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, pg 2

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

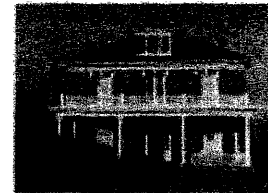
City, State and County

houses (or “mansions” by 1907 standards) constructed in Casper.² It served as a landmark in the development of Casper. A 1914 panoramic photograph of downtown Casper is labeled “2nd Street from Center to the Bishop Home”.

The contractor for the Bishop Home was W. T. Evans, founder of Evansville, Wyoming. Mr. Evans built numerous other buildings in the burgeoning town of Casper such as the Town Hall in 1890 and the Saint Mark’s Episcopal Church in 1891. The architect was probably Elias N. Miller.³

Exterior

In keeping with the style of a Four Square Home with colonial revival details, the Bishop Family Home has several notable architectural characteristics. Four Square Homes were prominent from the early 1900’s. The structure is 36 feet square with a rectangular appendage on the rear of the building. The Bishop Home is an example of a hipped roof with symmetrical entry and full-width porch subtype.⁴



Facade

In keeping with colonial revival detailing, the brick house has a large wooden colonnade porch and balcony extending along the front or south facing entrance to the home. Concrete steps centered in the middle of the south façade lead to the open porch, painted white. The original porch deck and foundation were wood and removed in order to maintain the structural integrity of the residence. The porch and its foundation were replaced with concrete in the 1950’s. A metal storm door and wood front door of recent

² Glass, Jefferson, “The Founder of Evansville: Casper Builder W. T. Evans”, Annals of Wyoming, Official Publication of the Wyoming State Historical Society, Cheyenne, Wyoming, Autumn, 1998, p. 26.

³ Family references spell the architect’s name as Eliza Miller. This spelling is probably incorrect. The same architect designed the Bishop home and the Sullivan home built in 1908. Elias N. Miller is credited with designing the Sullivan home and other homes in Casper during this era. Casper Tribune Herald, August 9, 1968.

⁴ McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses, p. 439

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, pg 3

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

manufacture that were added in 1993. The accentuated front entry has a decorative Palladian influenced pediment and sidelights. The main entrance features a symmetrically balanced surround with matching windows on either side of the door and beveled leaded-glass topped with a radiating Voussoir and triple keystones above. Flanking the entrance are matching double-hung windows with beveled leaded-glass transoms that match the front door pediment and feature radiating Voussoirs and triple keystones.

Four Roman Tuscan columns and two pilasters, define the porch and support the upper level balcony.⁵ The columns are tapered. Both the balcony and porch have matching wood railing across the front of the house with dentil molding. The trims on the home as well as the Keystones are painted white which reflects the Greek classical influence on colonial revival homes. The simple ornamentation of the home's façade contributes to its imposing presence in the community.

The exterior of the home is brick that uses a common brick bond. It is a two and one-half story brick home that contrasted to other homes in the Casper area during that time. The typical homes in Casper during this period were single story, wood frame houses. The Bishop residence has three layers of brick on the first floor and two layers on the second floor and attic. W. T. Evans was known for his skill as a mason. He established a clay mine seven miles west of Casper on the Gothberg ranch to ensure bricks could be produced locally.⁶ This facility was most likely the source of the bricks used in the Bishop home. The foundation of the home is concrete.

The second story windows repeat the pattern of double hung flat windows with flat or jack arch surrounds. A French door to the balcony is directly above the main door with another flat or jack arch and enhances the symmetry of the south elevation of the home. The attic dormer is centered directly over the front door and repeats the double hung flat windows.

⁵ Ibid, p.321

⁶ Glass, p 22.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

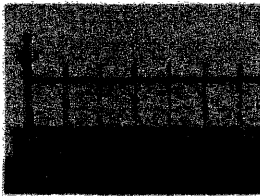
Section 7, pg 4

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County



The roof is a steeply pitched hip with three tab shingles. A unique feature of this Wyoming home is the iron widow's walk at the very top of the home. (See adjacent picture.) A widow's walk is an open, railed platform over a peaked roof. These features were first used in New England seacoast houses and later in Southern homes. It is thought that in land-locked Wyoming, Mr. Bishop's inclusion of this feature might have been a reflection of his East Coast heritage. From the widow's walk, a 360° view of Casper is possible. The ironwork placement atop the hipped roof, on the widow's walk, continues the symmetrical patterns of the house.

The East side of the residence continues the symmetry of the south side albeit with less ornamentation. The three first story windows and two-second story windows match the windows and Voussoirs on the south side. In total, there are sixteen windows in the house all with matching lug sills. The concrete foundation and common brick bond are most easily viewed from this location.

The West elevation is a near mirror image of the East side. This side of the house, along with the North view, shows the one-story appendage to the Northeast side of the house. This appendage contains the kitchen and a wooden sun porch. The exterior pattern on the wooden columns on the west elevation of the sun porch repeats the column detail of the front porch. At one time the porch had screens to improve air circulation, but in recent years has been enclosed with glass. There is a rear door that provides access to the back yard and alley.

The North elevation features the same detailing as the other elevations except the number of windows is fewer, and in some cases, smaller. Also visible there is a large bulkhead cellar door that provides direct access to the residence's basement.



Interior Description;

The 4,000 square feet of living space begins with a main entry featuring a vestibule leading to a central hallway with a staircase to the

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, pg5

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

second floor. (See adjacent picture.) The parlor, with original carpeting, is located on the southwest side of the entrance hallway while the living room and dining room are on the southeast side of the house.

The living room, vestibule, parlor and hallways have original light fixtures. Over each door to the hallway are transoms which when fully operational allowed air to circulate through the house. The rooms feature eight inch baseboards and molding with an egg-and-dart motif.

The kitchen is a one-story structure on the northeast corner of the home. This room features an enclosed sun porch and pantry. A master bedroom with two closets on the northwest corner of the home completes the first floor.

The second floor has four bedrooms, a sunroom, and a bath. The baseboards, woodwork and doors continue the decor of the first floor. Each door has a transom, eight-inch baseboards and molding using the egg-and-dart motif.

A large third-story attic is accessed through a staircase in the second floor, northeast bedroom. The attic includes the access door to the widow's walk. The walls throughout the house are lath-and-plaster, which is visible clearly in the attic. The walls on the first and second floors have been papered.

A partial basement or cellar completes the main house. The cellar has an access point directly from the outside for deliveries such as coal. At the time the home was built, a hot water heating system was installed that was fueled by coal. In subsequent years, the family converted the heating plant from coal to gas. The original hot water heat registers are located in each room of the home. The residence was built with electricity and indoor plumbing installed by William Henning, the first owner of the Henning Hotel in Casper.

The ninety-three-year-old home has been owned and maintained continuously by the same family since it was built. As a result, the residence is virtually the same in 2000 as when it was built in 1907. The architectural integrity is apparent by comparing the early photographs of the home's exterior with photographs taken in 2000.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7, pg6

Bishop Family Home

Name of property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

At the time of its construction, the M. L. Bishop residence was recognized as one of the finest in the community. The home has been the site of family weddings and other receptions throughout the 20th century. In 1983, the Casper Board of Realtors recognized the home for being the only home owned and continuously occupied by one of the original pioneer families.⁷ However, the original design is virtually unchanged from the day it was built except for routine maintenance and enhancements to increase security and convenience. In 2000, the house retains the same architectural integrity and prominence that it had in 1907. For this reason, the home is nominated for the National Register of Historic Places pursuant to criterion A to ensure that it will continue to be a part of the Wyoming landscape as an example of how a family lived and prospered in the state for over one hundred years.

⁷ Historic Homes of Casper, Centennial Project of Interior Design II, Kelly Walsh High School, 1989

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, pg 7

Bishop Family Home

Name of Property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The M. L. Bishop House in Casper, Wyoming is being nominated under National Register criterion A. It is associated with the development of Casper and surrounding environs as it made the transition from a small pioneer community to a livestock center and oil town. In the course of this development Casper emerged as a commercial and agricultural center in the state, and the history of the Bishop House and its residents, the M. L. Bishop family, represent the pattern of development in commerce and agriculture during the first half of the 20th century.

Significance:

Casper, Wyoming is situated on the banks of the North Platte River in the interior of the state, approximately midway north and south and a little closer to the eastern border of the state than to the western. This location on the river derives from the importance of the river historically as a geographic force, as a path-marking feature for Indians and the earliest white settlers. In the effort to locate a path to the West Coast, the Platte River proved the key. Its tributary, the Sweetwater River emanated from the area around the South Pass, a broad area through the Continental Divide where wagons could pass with ease. Mountain men explored the route and, in 1832, took wagons through the pass. This route would become the path of more than a third of a million emigrants bound for Utah, California and Oregon in the 1840's and 1850's.

As those emigrants made their way across the continent, they unleashed a set of forces that would alter the West and, as one of their products, generate the circumstances responsible for the emergence of the city of Casper. In the area of Casper, a ferry was established in 1851 to get emigrants across the Platte River on their way west on the Oregon-California Trail. Later two bridges were erected in the 1850's to improve the passage of settlers on their westward march. John Baptist Richard erected the first bridge in 1847 just east of present day Casper in the area of present day Evansville. Louis

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, pg 8

Bishop Family Home

Name of Property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

Guinard built a second much more successful bridge in 1859-1860. This bridge came to be known as the "Platte Bridge" and was a distinct mark on the Oregon-California trail. The establishment of the Platte Bridge Station in 1958 (later to be renamed Fort Caspar by the military in 1864) was a major force that contributed to the formation of Casper as a future community in what would be known as the state of Wyoming. By the time this military post was abandoned in 1867, the area around modern Casper, between the bridges on the Oregon-California Trail had achieved significant development.¹

Although the area was officially abandoned by the military, and shortly thereafter, the bridges burned by the Indians, it was only a short period before white settlers began to develop the area. The primary force was ranching. From the 1860's through the 1880's large cattle ranches were established near Casper. Examples are the Sun Ranch on the Sweetwater, the Goose Egg Ranch of the Seebright Brothers at Bessemer Bend, the Carey Ranch near the old Platte Bridge, and the Brooks Ranch east of modern Casper. While these and other ranches began to emerge in the valley of the Platte, an actual settlement did not appear until 1888. In that year the Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad (later known as the Chicago and North Western) arrived in the vicinity of modern Casper in a westward course following yet again the trail of the emigrants and mountain men migrating west along the Platte River.² John Merritt and C. W. Eads learned of this railroad expansion. They are attributed with being the first to arrive in what would eventually be known as Casper. On the afternoon of June 7, 1888, they pitched a tent at a spot near what is today known as McKinley and "A" Streets and established the town of Casper. The town filed for incorporation the next year under the name of Casper, Wyoming Territory. Later this location would become known as "Old Town". Nineteen years later, the Bishop Family Home would be built on Second Street between McKinley and Lincoln Streets, only a few blocks from the original location of Casper.³

¹ Michael Cassity, "Survey of Historic Buildings in Downtown Casper, Wyoming", Laramie, Wyoming, 1988. Copy on file in Casper College Library.

² Cassity.

³ Casper Zonta Club, Casper Chronicles, 1964, p. 7.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, pg 9

Bishop Family Home

Name of Property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

The town grew slowly and for two decades was one of a number of small villages dotting the plains serving local cattle operations. Few businesses existed in the first years in Casper. These included four saloons and restaurants, three livery stables, one grocery store, and two general stores. A small newspaper, a bank, and a few other assorted businesses also held forth. Eight years later at the turn of the century, there were still only a general store/dry goods dealer, a bank, the gunsmith, a theater, a few saloons and hotels, and a small number of other establishments that appeared and disappeared with the regularity of the wind. Most buildings were frame. Fewer than a thousand people lived in the town at the turn of the century.⁴

Marvin L. Bishop, his wife Leona (also known as "Lona"), and their two daughters, Lilas and Katherine Elvira, arrived in the community only four years after Casper was established. He moved to Casper, Wyoming on September 1, 1892 after being appointed postmaster by President Grover Cleveland, the 22nd President of the United States and a member of the Democratic Party.⁵ At the time, Mr. Bishop was also a member of the Democratic Party, although in later years, he changed his affiliation to the Republican Party. His party affiliation resulted in his appointment to this prestigious position of postmaster in the developing community of Casper. While he was not the first postmaster, he was the first person to stay in the position for more than two years and is credited with bringing stability and permanence to the office as the fledgling community developed. Bishop showed the political skills that resulted in his appointment as postmaster later in his election to other important offices.

The original post office was located on South Center Street between Second Street and Midwest Avenue. The position of postmaster was important. Early postmasters were on duty from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Their salary ranged from \$50.00 to \$100.00 per month. Little mail was handled in the early days, but it served as the primary means of communication with friends, relatives, and businesses located at great distances from this fledgling community. In early days, the stockman and the cowboy came to town about

⁴ Cassity.

⁵ Mokler; Alfred James, History of Natrona County Wyoming 1888 – 1922, RR Donnelley & Sons Company, The Lakeside Press, Chicago 1923, p. 162

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bishop Family Home
Name of Property
Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County
City, State and County

four times a year. When they came, they always stopped at the post office to get the mail that had accumulated since the last visit or since a neighbor had brought it to them.

The postmaster did all the work in the post office, and in addition to the multitudinous duties of the post office, he generally had a small store.⁶ Mr. Bishop held true to this tradition in that he operated M. L. Bishop's Cash Store for "Fine Family Groceries" which was one of the few businesses established in this small community during the 1890's.⁷

In these early years, the post office was the daily gathering place of citizens. They conducted business and exchanged ideas for the betterment of the community. Marvin Bishop soon became a familiar face to all residents in this community of less than 1000 people⁸. He used these days to establish business and personal relationships with other pioneers that would provide the foundation for his future roles as a woolgrower and politician.

The structure is an early example of a upper-class residence built during the period when Casper, Natrona County, and Wyoming came to lead the nation in wool and later oil production. Its construction served as a local landmark residence and provides visual evidence of a community leader's commitment to the future of Casper as a permanent community in the developing Wyoming landscape. The house retains a high degree of architectural integrity and the home has been continuously owned and occupied by the original pioneer family.

In 1907, when the residence was built, it was distinctive because of its size, the use of brick on a residence, and location. Today, the home is reminiscent of the status and achievements of first generation pioneer families of Casper. The home represents the events marking Casper's shift from settlement through booms and busts in both the wool

⁶ Ibid. p. 91-92.

⁷ Letter from M.L. Bishop to E.T. David, dated July 6, 1895, Casper College Library, David Collection.

⁸ Mokler, p. 58.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, pg 11

Bishop Family Home

Name of Property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

and oil industries during the first two decades of the 20th century through its emergence as a hub of commerce in central Wyoming at the end of the century.

During this time Bishop helped to establish one of the earliest churches in Casper, the First Methodist Episcopal Church, now known as the First United Methodist Church. He was one of five men in Casper who met in the early spring of 1893 to discuss the importance of establishing a religious community in the developing town of Casper and to formulate plans for the formation of this church. The First Methodist Episcopal Church, built on the northeast corner of Second and Durbin Streets, was completed in the summer of the same year. This church was the second permanent one to be constructed in Casper and likely served as a major gathering place for other denominations. The church continues to this day to serve the community of Casper at the same location selected over 100 years ago. Mr. Bishop was a member of the first board of trustees. The total membership in 1896 was listed as 22 members, so his family that had now grown to six represented a significant presence in the congregation.⁹ In appreciation for his foresight and leadership in the church, he was named a lifetime Trustee.¹⁰

Bishop recognized that his days as postmaster were limited since it was a political patronage position. He began making plans in May 1894 to enter into sheep ranching and purchased land from Edward T. David, another early pioneer and foreman for the Carey Ranch.¹¹ His resignation as Postmaster in August 1898 began a period of 40 years when M. L. Bishop became a woolgrower with holdings in the Pathfinder Dam area southwest of Casper and the owner of the sheep shearing pens located at Casper Creek.¹²

The sheep business Mr. Bishop entered into played an important part in the economy of Wyoming and Casper. A variety of accounts place the introduction of domestic sheep into Wyoming at various points, some with the Spanish, some with the Mexicans, and others

⁹ Casper Chronicles, p. 21.

¹⁰ Mokler, p. 132.

¹¹ Unpublished paper by Jefferson Glass on Marvin Lord Bishop, 2000.

¹² Wentworth, Edward Norris, America's Sheep Trails, Iowa State College Press, Ames, Iowa, 1948, p. 424

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8, pg 12

Bishop Family Home

Name of Property

Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County

City, State and County

with eastern emigrants. While the date of the first sheep's footstep into Wyoming can be argued endlessly, the first substantial numbers came into the region on the Oregon Trail in the 1840's and 1850's, as part of herds bound for Oregon and California. The commercial efforts soon followed and in 1853 Kit Carson and Lucien Maxwell of New Mexico are reputed to have taken more than thirteen thousand head to Fort Laramie and then west on the trail to California.

During the Civil War, as emigration on the trails slowed, the potential of the area that in a few years would become Wyoming Territory began to materialize. Cheap land meant that, as the U. S. Commissioner of Agriculture expressed in 1862, raising sheep in this country would be twice as cheap as in the eastern farm belt. The introduction of the railroad in 1868 and 1869 meant access to markets and in 1869 and 1870 the first permanent flocks of sheep were established in the territory. In the ten years between 1875 and 1885 the sheep industry began to take shape in Wyoming; no longer was it a matter of running some sheep in addition to the other subsistence crops and stock. The large flocks were multiplying for the market on a systematic basis. In the three decades between 1880 and 1910, the center of wool production shifted from the east to the high plains and mountains.¹³ The sheep business continued to grow in Wyoming until 1909. In this year the number of sheep raised in the state reached a peak of more than six million.¹⁴

M. L. Bishop's decision to enter the sheep business in 1898 was a good one; however, it was not without peril. The expansion of sheep flocks came with a cost. Increasingly the competition among cattlemen and sheepherders for the same range caused conflict. Other conflicts derived from ethnic tensions, from personality conflicts, and from mutual suspicion that escalated quickly into armed struggle.¹⁵ Bishop described to his children how sheepmen painted their tarpaulins black to decrease their visibility and kept their rifles close at hand. They were always on the alert in case cattlemen crossed the "dead line" into sheepmen's territory. The sheepman's instructions were to shoot on sight. M. L. Bishop said that many a night he slept with one eye open and his hand on the trigger to

¹³ Cassity.

¹⁴ Larson, T. A , History of Wyoming , University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1965, p.367

¹⁵ Cassity.

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defend his sheep, camp mover, shepherders and outfit.¹⁶ During these perilous times, he developed his skill as a marksman, and consequently, won the state trapshooting championship for many years.

The Bishop's second eldest daughter, Katherine Elvira, had homesteaded Cadoma, a site twelve miles west of Casper.¹⁷ Good fortune fell on the family when this location was selected as the first railroad station established on the Chicago and Northwestern Railway between Casper and Lander, Wyoming. Railroads were the primary mode of transportation in these times. They provided the means to transport the livestock and mineral products, such as oil and coal, from Wyoming to the markets in the east and west. The word that the railroad was expanding was always good news. As they expanded, new developments occurred and new markets were served.

Sometime after the turn of the century, Bishop decided to supplement his livestock business and perhaps enter a less dangerous part of it by operating sheep shearing pens. In 1905, M. L. Bishop's shearing pen operation was located at Cadoma. Sheep were driven to a shearing pen for removal of the winter growth of wool and dipped in vats of disinfectant to prevent disease. With the expansion of the railroad, the shearing pens at Cadoma were well situated to allow for sheep to be sheared, dipped, and shipped at one location. A. J. Mokler describes Cadoma as a station with few dwelling houses and no business houses except for large sheep shearing pens.¹⁸

In 1907, Natrona County led the State in the number of sheep reported for assessment purposes.¹⁹ Many of these sheep passed through Bishop's pens for shearing on their way to summer grazing or market. The success of these operations allowed the Bishops to build their home and move their family of now eight children into 818 East Second Street.

¹⁶ Casper Chronicles, p. 75.

¹⁷ Homestead Patent from the United States of America to Katherine E. Elliott formerly Katherine E. Bishop, December 14, 1922.

¹⁸ Mokler, p. 49.

¹⁹ State Board of Sheep Commissioners, Directory of the Sheep Owners of Wyoming 1907, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming

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Bishop's businesses were thriving and he decided to purchase land for a new home in 1906. He bought two adjacent lots on East Second Street in Casper in the Capitol Hill Addition from another early pioneer, Robert White.²⁰ These lots were around the corner from the home on Lincoln Street in which the family was living currently. Bishop as well as other citizens continued to believe that the capitol of Wyoming could very well be moved to Casper.

The Capitol Hill addition is east of downtown Casper and is adjacent to "Old Town" the original location of Casper. This early Capitol Hill subdivision was a central location for residential development in anticipation of Casper being selected as the capitol of Wyoming.²¹ The temporary state capitol for Wyoming had been designated as Cheyenne. With this in mind, White speculated that the most likely site for the capitol building would be on the hill just east of town that overlooked the city. He acquired the land that was platted for the Capitol Hill Addition as part of his patented homestead claim. In 1896, he platted the Capitol Hill Addition to Casper, Wyoming, near the foot of this hill, presuming that the neighborhood would be most popular with all those that wanted to live in close proximity to the capitol. He sold the first lot in 1897 to John Bryan, but as the political debate on the capitol continued, the enthusiasm for the lots was slow to grow. Three years later another lot sold. In 1904, the people of Casper, as well as other towns, challenged the location of the capitol. The basis for the challenge was that the capitol should be more centrally located in the state. After a vigorous campaign to obtain the capitol, the citizens of Casper were disappointed when the votes were tallied in November 1904. Cheyenne received the most votes, but not a majority. The quest for a permanent

²⁰ Robert White was one of Casper, Wyoming's earliest businessmen. He opened a saloon in Casper's "Old Town" in 1888 and his saloon was the first building to be moved to the newly platted town of Casper in 1889. He served on Casper's City Council from 1889 to 1893, was a Natrona County Commissioner from 1893 to 1894. He acquired the land that was platted for the Capitol Hill Addition as part of his patented homestead claim. Unpublished paper by Jefferson Glass on Marvin Lord Bishop, 2000.

²¹ Mokler, Alfred James, History of Natrona County Wyoming 1888 - 1922, RR Donnelley & Sons Company, The Lakeside Press, Chicago 1923.

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location of the capitol continued until the 1920's when the matter was decided by the State Legislature.²²

The contractor for the Bishop Home was W. T. Evans, founder of Evansville, Wyoming. Mr. Evans built numerous other buildings in the burgeoning town of Casper such as the Town Hall in 1890 and the Saint Mark's Episcopal Church in 1891. In addition, he built the first one-story, four-room brick home at First and Wolcott streets for his daughter and son-in-law in the late 1890's. This home was considered one of the largest homes in Casper until Mr. Evans built the two and one-half story Bishop home with fifteen rooms. The Bishop home, built in 1907, is believed to be his first venture into large-scale, multi-story family homes.²³

The architect was probably Elias N. Miller.²⁴ The house is an example of a Four Square Home with colonial revival details. At the time of its construction, the Bishop house was a dramatic contrast to the single story frame houses that dominated Casper's residential areas and other residences in Capitol Hill Addition. The construction of this residence was during a new era in the style of Casper's residential housing. The house remains only moderately altered since its period of construction.

By 1909, Natrona County dropped to third place in the number of sheep returned for assessment behind other Wyoming Counties, Sweetwater and Uinta. However, the overall number of sheep in the State increased from 3.3 million to over 4.5 million during this year, and Wyoming led the nation in the number of pounds of wool washed and scoured for use in textile products.²⁵

²² Ibid, Mokler, p. 177.

²³ Ibid, Glass

²⁴ Family references spell the architect's name as Eliza Miller. This spelling is probably incorrect. The same architect designed the Bishop home and the Sullivan home built in 1908. Elias N. Miller is credited with designing the Sullivan home and other homes in Casper during this era. Casper Tribune Herald, August 9, 1968.

²⁵ State Board of Sheep Commissioners, Directory of the Sheep Owners of Wyoming 1909, American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming

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Even though the ranching business was starting to decline, times were still good in Casper. Casper had been considered a sleepy town, populated by many transients who moved with the expansion of the railroads. The construction of substantial brick residences during the affluent sheep and cattle ranching times signified Casper was destined to become the business center of central Wyoming. Other large homes such as the Sullivan, Cunningham, and Gothberg "Mansions" in the Historic Wolcott district followed during 1908 and 1912. The Wolcott district is located south of downtown Casper and was developed by another early pioneer. The Bishop residence as well as the Wolcott district homes were the "show places" of the town and stood alone with few buildings surrounding them.²⁶

As the unprecedented growth in the ranching business began to level off, the boom in the oil industry sustained the economy of Casper, and this industry took the development of the community to another level. While the discovery of oil had been made prior to 1900, the active commercial development of the production and refining of oil in 1913 and 1914 would change the sluggish growth pattern of Casper. During the decade and a half that the first oil boom occurred, Casper was transformed. People poured into the town. From 1913 to approximately 1914, the population went from under three thousand to four thousand. In 1913, the Post Office reported a population increase of a third. Then, according to one estimate, "the population doubled, assessed valuations doubled and redoubled, and there was still no end in sight. Between 1918 and 1921 population doubled again, but the wool growing industry had continued to decline. Oil boom money in amounts undreamed before circulated. Construction of buildings and expansion of the community seemed endless. New values and habits and technologies infused the community and gave it a new orientation. Casper roared."²⁷

Two additional events affected M. L. Bishop's operations. When the Pathfinder Dam was built in 1911, Bishop's ranch was one of the 25,000 acres of grazing land that was flooded

²⁶ Casper Chronicles p. 63-64.

²⁷ Cassity.

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to make the reservoir. This reservoir ensured adequate water supply for Casper and the developing refineries for many years in the semi-arid climate of Wyoming. However, it resulted in the relocation of Bishop's winter grazing land to a less desirable location. Today, Bishop's Point on the reservoir commemorates the original location of the ranch and was named for M. L. Bishop.

A more favorable event to the family was the relocation of the shearing pens in 1916 from Cadoma to Bishop, Wyoming, a town named for M. L. Bishop, and located approximately 15 miles southwest of Casper.²⁸ The relocation was at the request of Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad. The Bishop shearing pens could house 3,000 sheep under cover, which equaled two days of shearing. The town of Bishop had a post office²⁹, schoolhouse, living accommodations for the family, and a boarding house for the herders and sheep shearers.³⁰ In these early years, many of the children participated in the family sheep business as herders or servers at the boarding house at Bishop. Today all of these facilities have been lost due to the ravages of time and vandals except for the railroad siding that was built originally for the shearing pens. This siding is called Bishop and is still marked by a sign on the present right-of-way.

In addition to the success, Bishop enjoyed in the sheep business, he became a leading force in the wool growing industry. As the Wyoming wool growing business matured, the woolgrowers came together as a community to speak more effectively in the changing economic world. In 1915, M. L. Bishop helped found the Natrona County Woolgrowers Association and served as its president for 15 years.³¹ He was instrumental during these years in obtaining a series of stock drives and rest stations on main stock trails in Natrona County. During this time dry farmers began to settle and fence the open range lands, Mr. Bishop was a prominent spokesperson advocating the need for rights-of-way to allow

²⁸ King, Colonel Norman D., "Old Wyoming Postoffices", Annals of Wyoming, Official Publication of the Wyoming State Historical Society, Cheyenne, Wyoming, October 1957

²⁹ Gallagher, John S. and Patera, Alan H., Wyoming Post Offices, 1850-1980, The Depot, P.O. Box 202, Burtonsville, Maryland, 1980.

³⁰ Interview with Jerome T. Bishop, Casper, Wyoming, January 1998

³¹ The Wyoming Wool Grower, McKinley, Wyoming, April 5, 1939

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transport of sheep along the railways. These trails and rest stations are still in use to this day. In 1925, the Bishop/Hawley case was filed in the Wyoming Supreme Court to defend the woolgrowers' need for sufficient grazing rights-of-way to transport the sheep to the shearing pens and on to summer or winter pastures.³²

As mentioned previously, sheep production reached its peak in Wyoming in 1909 when several million head of sheep grazed the Wyoming range. After this year a precipitous decline in production had begun. The sheep ranching business fell victim to the same forces that drove others from the countryside and from town to the city. Sheep operations declined, and the number of sheep being kept in Wyoming had dropped to around two and a half million head by 1924. The sheep industry never completely recovered to the point, where it had been in the early 1900's, but by 1933 the number of sheep had increased to 3.9 million head. Ten years later it was still at that level. Indeed, in 1941, one Wyoming newspaperman commented that the shepherd "is vanishing like a mirage on the horizon" and he explained that this was due to the "encroachment of civilization."³³

By 1929, the year the stock market crashed, the oil boom was coming to an end, also. The boom had been furious, powerful, and seemingly endless, and before it faded from sight, that boom had made Casper, Wyoming what it was and largely what it remains today. M. L. Bishop was 68 and established as a respected leader in the wool growing community as well as the community at large. He had served as a City Councilman from 1918 to 1919, the oil boom years when Casper was a rapidly expanding community, and he continued to operate his ranch and shearing pens through the difficult years of the depression. In 1938, he was elected County Commissioner and his years of accumulated knowledge of sheep ranching were recorded that same year by the Wyoming Works Progress Administration (WPA).³⁴ M. L. Bishop died the following year. With his death, the strains on the economy from the great depression, and the decline in the Wyoming sheep production, the

³² Bishop v. Hawley, Supreme Court of Wyoming, August 11, 1925.

³³ Cassity.

³⁴ Wool Growing in Wyoming, Wyoming Works Progress Administration Subject 403, History of Grazing Part V,G, Provided by the Wyoming State Archives, Division of Cultural Resources, Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

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family could not maintain the ranch and shearing pens. Both faded into the history of an early pioneer's contribution to Casper and Natrona County, Wyoming. Posthumously, Bishop made two last contributions to the community. He worked diligently with others prior to his death to bring the national woolgrowers' convention to Casper in 1940, and he ensured that his ancestors could retain the home he built at 818 East 2nd Street.

M. L. Bishop's wife, Leona, continued to live in this home until her death in 1948. In total the couple had ten children. All children resided in Wyoming and were prominent in their communities with the exception of one girl, Virginia who died in infancy. The children in order of their birth were Lilas Bishop Burns, Katherine Elvira "Kittie" Bishop Elliot, Ellen Virginia Bishop, Marguerite Bishop Minty, Marvin L. Bishop, Jr., Marie "Pink" Bishop, John Peale Bishop, Lillian Bishop, Jerome T. "Jerry" Bishop, and Lucile L. Bishop. Lucile, a Casper school teacher, lived in the family home at 818 East Second Street from the time of her birth in October 1908 until her death in 1997. The residence is unique due to its association with the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Bishop and their family of ten children. All of the families were active participants and mainstays of the community from 1892 until 1999 when the last member of the original pioneer family, Jerome T. Bishop, passed away.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Bishop Family Home sits on one and one-half lots in the Capitol Hill Addition of Casper, Wyoming, Natrona County. The legal description as recorded in the Natrona County Clerk and Recorders Office is Capitol Hill Lot E ½ of 7 and all-8 block 41. The GPS coordinates are 42°50.94N LAT and 106°18.88 W LON.

Attachment 1 is a copy of the Capitol Hill Addition filed in the Natrona County Clerk and Recorders Office. Attachment 2 is the USGS map for the City of Casper, Wyoming. Both documents are marked to show the location of the Bishop Family Home.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire parcel historically associated with the Bishop Family 1907 residence.