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

The original Jenney Stockade building was built of logs in an "L" shape. It served as a stockade, stage station, hostlery, dwelling house, store house and blacksmith shop. The Twentieth Century Club of Newcastle has salvaged a portion of the station. Three men, Ben Hilton, Frank Hilton and Jack Cross, dismantled it log by log, numbered each one for proper reassembly, and erected it on the courthouse lawn at Newcastle. The building is now used as a Chamber of Commerce office. This building still possesses much of its original character.

The original site of Jenney Stockade now serves as ranch headquarters for the LAK Ranch. None of the original buildings are at this site. An interpretive marker has been erected by the State of Wyoming on a turnout near the site.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Jenney Stockade is best known as a stage station on the Cheyenne to Deadwood Stage Line, however, its history dates back to 1857. During that year Lt. G. K. Warren, accompanied by geologist Dr. F. V. Hayden, became the first white men to occupy the site. They camped on the east bank of Beaver Creek and Warren constructed a log corral at the camp. From this semi-permanent camp the Warren party proceeded to explore the Black Hills for mineral wealth and represented the first authorized military expedition into the Black Hills some seventeen years before the famed Custer Expedition.

March 17, 1875, 75 geologists and miners headed-up by Professor Walter P. Jenney, left Cheyenne for the Black Hills. At Fort Laramie the Jenney party joined forces with 432 soldiers under the command of Lt. Col. Richard I. Dodge. The group arrived at the old Warren campsite on June3, 1875 and the construction of a log fort began the following day.

The building of Camp Jenney, named after Professor Jenney, was completed in ten days. It was used during the summer of 1875 as a supply depot for all the camps throughout the Black Hills. The men worked from the camp returning to Fort Laramie and Cheyenne in October. One man remained at the camp during the winter with a supply of provisions. The stockade later became a stopover for gold-seekers during the winter of 1875-76.

In June of 1877, a cut-off on the Cheyenne to Deadwood Stage Line from Hat Creek, via Old Woman's Fork, to Camp Jenney was completed by W.M. Ward. Located 56 miles south of Deadwood, Camp Jenney became a regular stage stop on the Cheyenne to Deadwood run. The station became known as Jenney Stockade and beginning April 10, 1877 the stages made night runs between the stockade and Hat Creek Station. Jenney Stockade then became a breakfast and supper stop for stage passengers.

North from Jenney Stockade the stage road traversed a beautiful region of well-watered valleys which during the summer season were covered with rich grasses and colorful flowers. But in the winter the snows often drifted deeply over these gulches so that it was sometimes necessary to put the stage coaches on runners in order to travel between Jenney Stockade and Deadwood. One Wyomingite, Francis E. Warren, later governor and United States Senator, became stranded between Deadwood and Jenney Stockade in the snow blockade of the spring of 1878. Warren and the driver had to make it into Jenney Stockade afoot.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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EE INSTRUCTIONS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE Wyoming COUNTY Weston FOR NPS USE ONLY ENTRY NUMBER DATE

Jenney Stockade Statement of Significance^{Continuation} Sheet)

(Number all entries)

The road south from Jenney Stockade presented a different type of situation. Due to the passage of heavy gold shipments stage hold-ups became an increasing menace. Arrangements were made to have a protective cavalry escort ride alongside or inside the coaches from Jenney Stockade to Hat Creek. Though such escorts did not completely halt road agent depredations they allowed many valuable shipments to reach Cheyenne in safety.

Early in 1878 a "rush" was made by the Deadwood miners to the Jenney Stockade district where oil had been discovered bubbling from a spring. Within a short time the prairie west of Jenney Stockade was dotted for miles with "claim cabins". It is estimated that some 100 oil well claims were established at the time. In addition to oil, salt was also mined from a salt spring about ten miles above the Stockade near the present-day Flying V Ranch. This salt was sold to residents of the Black Hills as late as 1884.

On June 22, 1877, the land on which Jenney Stockade stood became the property of Flarida, Burroughs and Spencer. Spencer obtained Flarida's and Burrough's interest and the LAK (Lake, Allerton and Spencer) Cattle Company was established during the winter of 1877 - 1878. October 10, 1878, Luke Voorhees opened a new mail route that avoided the hilly and sometimes muddy route north of Jenney Stockade. In the following years the Stockade served the owners of the LAK Ranch until the construction of modern buildings necessitated moving the old original stockade structure to Newcastle.



