

5-3-73

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:	Nebraska
COUNTY:	Cheyenne
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 28 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Sidney Historic District

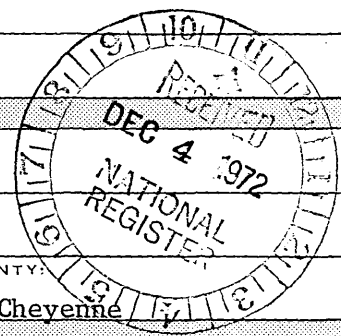
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
(See Location Map)

CITY OR TOWN:
Sidney

STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31 COUNTY: Cheyenne CODE: 033



3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
(Multiple Private Ownership)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Sidney STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
County Clerk, Cheyenne County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
10th Avenue and King Street

CITY OR TOWN: Sidney STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic Preservation in Nebraska

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Nebraska State Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

STATE: Nebraska

COUNTY: Cheyenne

ENTRY NUMBER: MAR 28 1973

FOR NPS USE ONLY

DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Located in the Third Congressional District

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1869 Sidney Barracks was relocated to its permanent site southeast of Sidney. The post's boundaries, as defined in General Orders from the Department of the Platte, dated April 1, 1872, commenced at the northwest corner of Section 32 T14N R49W, running east and west four hundred (400) feet and north and south eleven hundred (1,100) feet. The post was rectangular in plan, enclosed by a neat picket-fence.

In the autumn of 1869 the first buildings were erected on the permanent site and in the summer and autumn of 1870 the post was enlarged by the addition of several new buildings. By 1875 the Post contained quarters for three companies, five officers' quarters, one of which was the commander's, a hospital of three wards, guard house, bakery, laundress' quarters, stables, store-house, carpenter and blacksmith shops. Most of these buildings were of frame construction but a few were constructed with adobe lined walls. The buildings were positioned around the parade ground providing a picturesque military setting. To the east of the barracks were well cared for gardens. Each company was assigned a garden plot which they irrigated and cared for. Lodgepole Creek ran by the fort, directly to the south of its limits. Its waters were dammed and diverted into an irrigation ditch which in turn ran through the reservation. Trees and shrubs were planted along its banks and the waters were used for lawns and the 3½ acre post gardens. The neat appearing buildings, the well kept grounds, and the tree shaded walks all contributed to the Fort becoming the showplace of the Sidney region.

After Fort Sidney was abandoned in 1894 the buildings were gradually torn down for their lumber and the grounds became pasturelands. As the lands were sold the reservation was divided by expanding city streets and municiple additions. The remnants of Fort Sidney as they exist today are described in the following summary, (for location, see situation Maps).

1) 1108 6th Avenue; The Commanding Officers quarters, built ca. 1870, represents one of the first permanent structure built at Fort Sidney and is the only remaining home of the original "Officer's Row". The walls are of adobe construction covered with clapboard siding. It is two stories, containing 12 rooms, including a library and servant's room. From the front porch, the commander had full view of the parade field. In 1882 one story frame addition was added to the north side of the house.

The Cheyenne County Historical Association acquired the house in 1961 and started restoration in 1966. With the help of drawings from U.S. Army archives the house has been furnished and restored to the period prior to the closing of the Fort in 1894. The house, opened to the public in 1967, represents a prototype of early military housing design and construction.

2) 540 & 544 Jackson St.; The Bachelor Officer's Quarters, northeast of the original "Officer's Row", was the last addition to the Fort's officer housing. This one and one-half story duplex was built in 1884 and contained quarters for four officers. Each side of the duplex contained two bedroom chambers, in the upper story, and a parlor, dining room, kitchen and storage room on the bottom floor.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Nebraska	
COUNTY	
Cheyenne	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 28 1973

(Number all entries)

7) Description

Architecturally the house is very straight forward and well thought out. It is of frame construction with a gabled roof. The upper half story has typical dormer projections to allow the use of full length windows. A veranda extends along the full length of the front half story, which in days of the Fort's existence would have faced onto the parade field.

The house is presently used as a private residence, attesting to the sound construction techniques of its early builders.

3) The powder magazine was one of the last additions to the Fort. It was built in 1887, constructed of limestone block, and octagonal in plan. It originally had a tin roof which has been replaced by conventional shingling. The structure contains one room, and has a exterior diameter of eighteen feet.

The magazine presently serves as a bedroom addition to the house directly to the south of it. The window on the west side of the magazine was the original entrance, which opened onto the parade field.

4) Southeast of the remaining Fort Sidney buildings, on Hwy. 19, are the remains of the largest butts of the rifle range. Lead bullets dating to the Fort's activity still can be found in the dirt mounds. These target butts, running perpendicular to the highway, formed the south end of the rifle range.

These buildings and target butts collectively form the Fort Sidney Historic District.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

U.S. Cavalry troops first occupied a temporary camp known as Sidney Barracks in the summer of 1867. The post was formally established by special order of the Department of the Platte, dated November 19, 1867. It was to serve as a subpost to Fort Sedgwick, Colorado and its primary service was to protect construction crews from hostile Indians during the building of the Union Pacific Railroad. At that time Sidney was at the end of the railroad construction line situated on a vast semi-arid short-grass plain known as Nebraska Territory, and popularly referred to as "The Great American Desert". For nearly two years the troops lived in a tent camp, served by one permanent structure, a blockhouse, which was used as a lookout.

In 1869 Sidney Barracks was relocated to a permanent site southeast of the town of Sidney, which had come into existence along with the Post's establishment. Sidney Barracks became Fort Sidney, an independent post, by Executive order dated May 14, 1874.

On August 9, 1874 General George A. Custer's expedition confirmed the discovery of gold in the Black Hills. This discovery generated the last gold rush within the limits of the United States. The discovery also endangered the last Sioux stronghold in the Dakotas. The principle barrier during 1875 to the occupancy of the Black Hills country was the refusal of the Sioux Chiefs to sign away their rights to the region. By 1875-76 failure to reach negotiations to gold field rights with the Sioux caused an unofficial opening of the Black Hills in violation of the 1868 treaty. During this period Sidney became a strategic Fort, being the farthest inland railhead, and supply point to the Black Hills prospecting fields.

The great onrush of prospectors was a decisive factor in the Indian troubles of 1874-1890. Fort Sidney was also in a strategic location during these Indian wars; forming a buffer between the hostile Sioux and the settled regions of Nebraska.

The Battle at Wounded Knee Creek, December, 1890, marked the last of the Indian skirmishes. The 21st Infantry Regiment from Fort Sidney participated in the battle along with the 17th Infantry from Fort Russell, the 2nd from Omaha, and remnants of Custer's 7th Cavalry. This was Fort Sidney's last major campaign. The fort was maintained until 1894, when the Indian Wars were over. On June 1, 1894 Companies D, F, and G, 27th Infantry departed from Fort Sidney enroute for Plattsburg, New York, thereby leaving Fort

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files, Nebraska State Historical Society
 Records from the U.S. General Land Office for Abandoned Military Reservation, Fort Sidney, Nebraska.

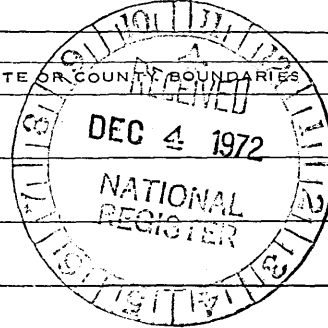
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	102° 58' 14"	41° 08' 41"				
NE	102° 58' 05"	41° 08' 41"				
SE	102° 58' 05"	41° 08' 29"				
SW	102° 58' 14"	41° 08' 29"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



NO
COPY
CD

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Persijs Kolberg, Curator of Historic Sites

ORGANIZATION: Nebraska State Historical Society DATE: Nov. 16, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
1500 "R" Street

CITY OR TOWN: Lincoln STATE: Nebraska CODE: 31

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Morun B. Knott

Title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

Date Nov. 16, 1972

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Robert M. Utley
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/28/73

ATTEST:

W. Bradford
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/27/73

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

(Continuation Sheet)

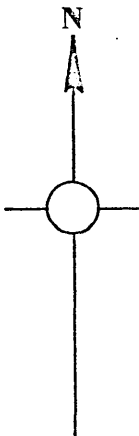
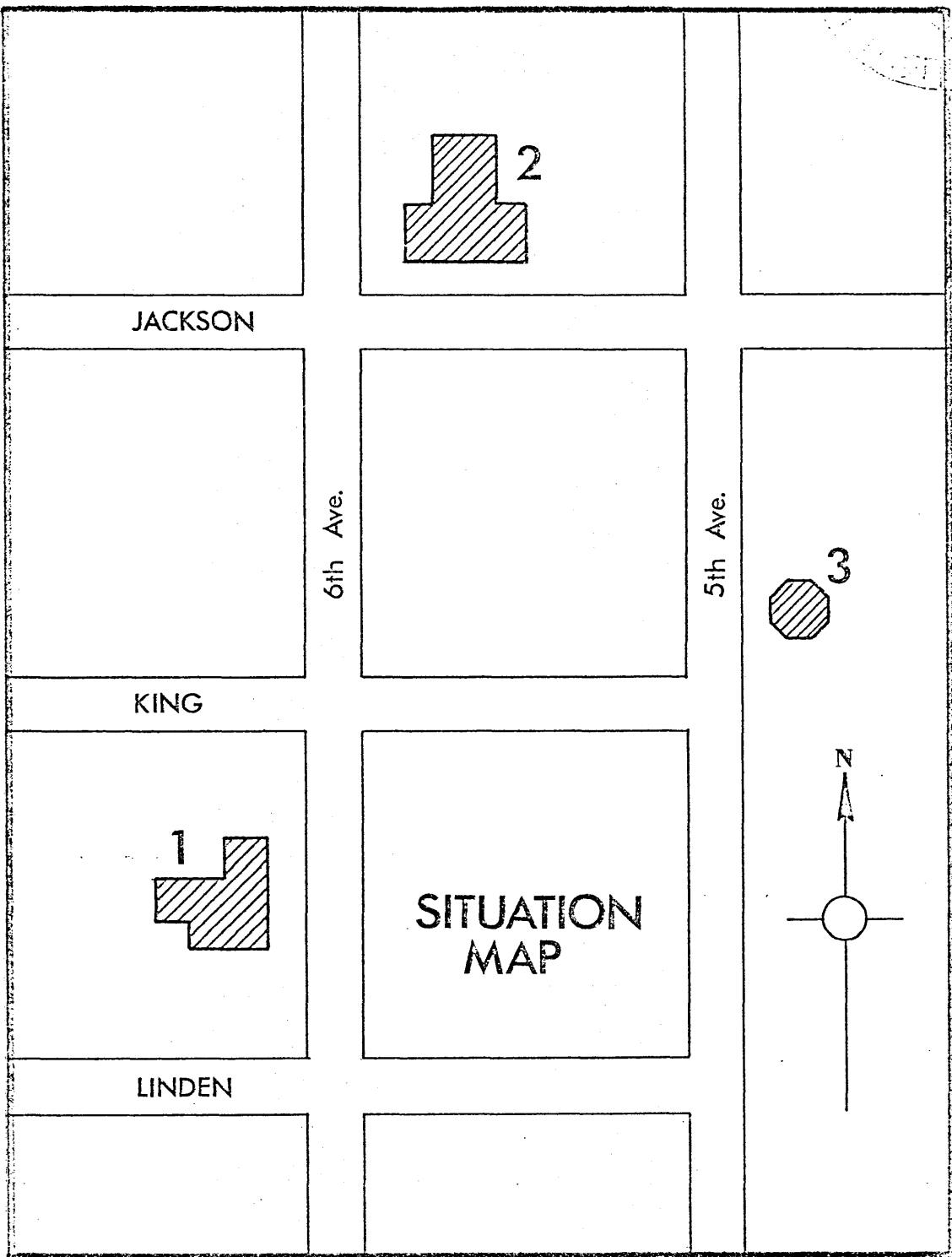
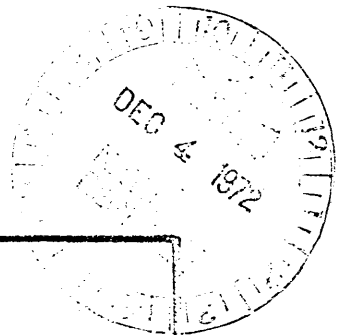
STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Cheyenne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	MAR 20 1975

(Number all entries)

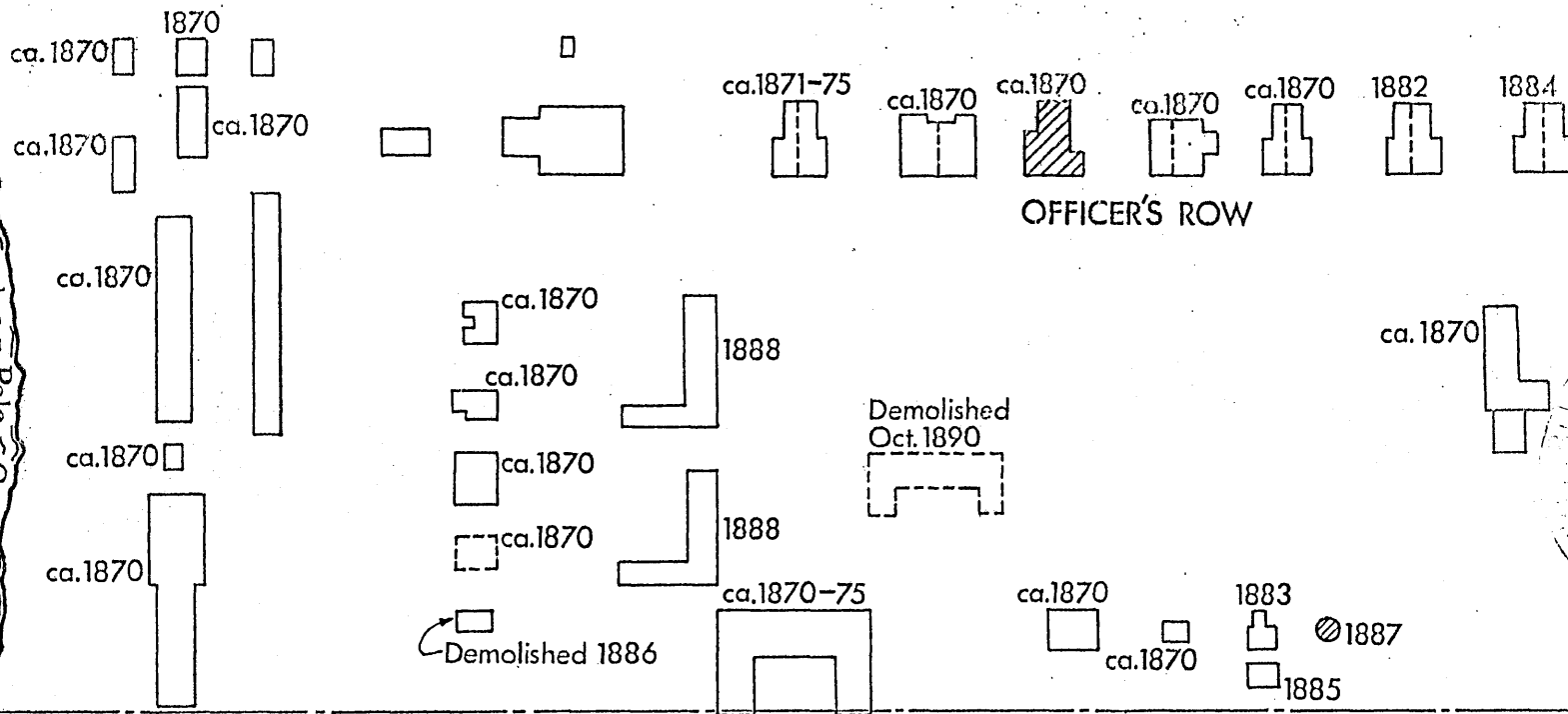
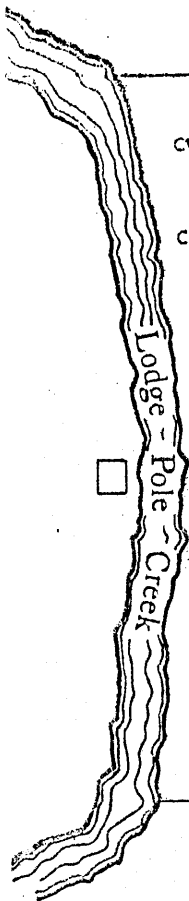
8) Significance

Sidney abandoned. The Fort was turned over to the Department of the Interior on November 14, 1894. The first public sale of Fort Sidney Wood and Timber Abandoned Military Reservation lands occurred on August 18, 1896 thus ending an epic in Western lore.

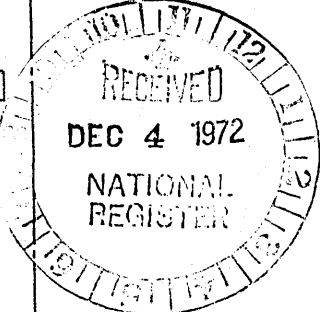




Original Fort Boundary

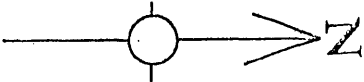


OFFICER'S ROW



PLAN OF THE POST OF FORT SIDNEY

 BUILDINGS STILL EXTANT



FORT SIDNEY HISTORIC DISTRICT SIDNEY, NEBRASKA

T. 14 N.

10

T. 13 N.

T. 12 N.

41°00'

103°00'

R. 50 W.

R. 49 W.

50'

R. 48 W.

R. 47 W.40

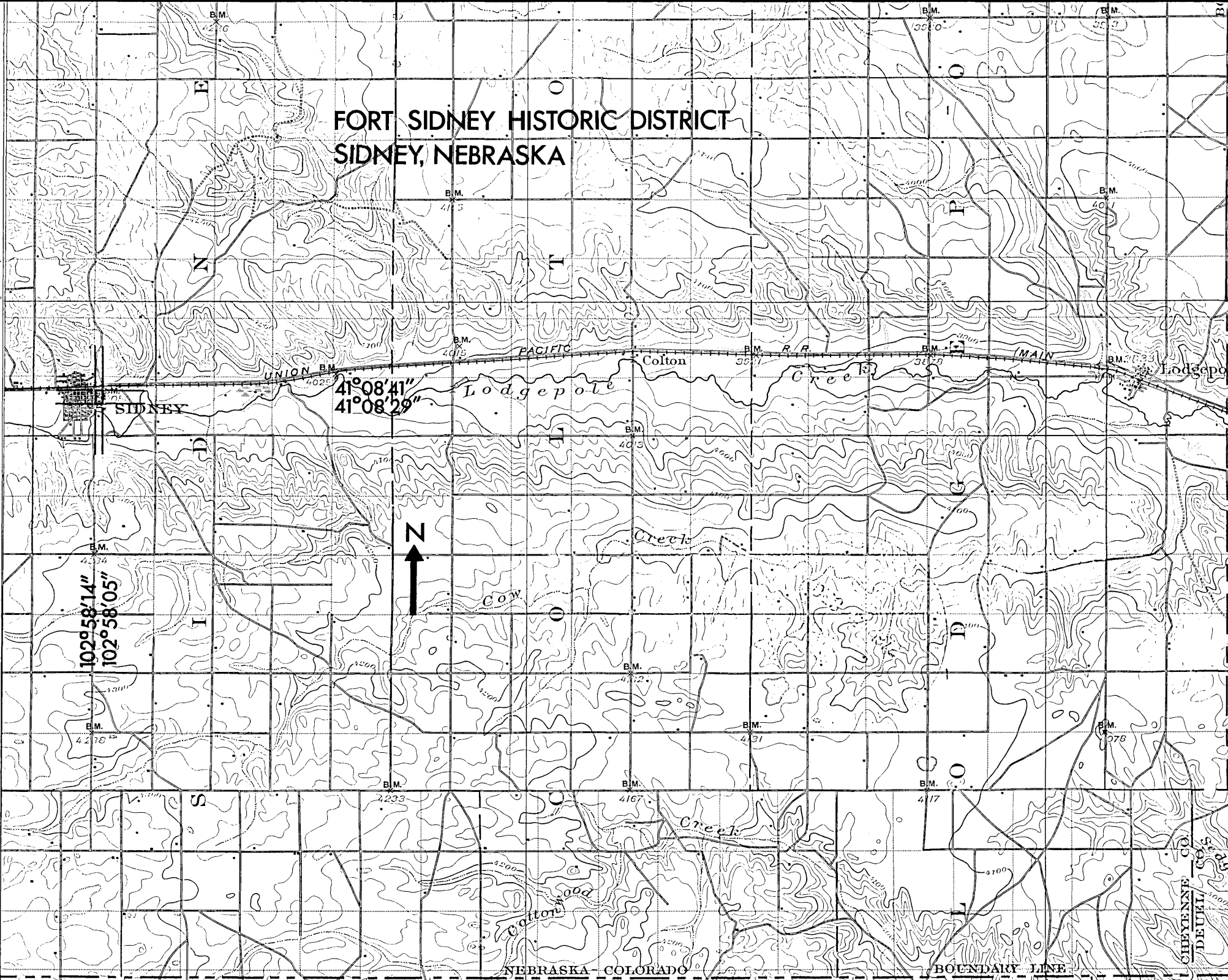
102°58'14"
102°58'05"

41°08'41"
41°08'29"



NEBRASKA COLORADO BOUNDARY LINE

CHEYENNE CO.
DEUEL CO.



ms, planimetric maps, ve been made for some of stereoscopic plotting I also in the making of show relief as well as

been in progress since has now been mapped been covered by map les). For most of the ps published are on For some areas of pa out 4,300 square mile 1 inch=nearly 1 mile d by topographic map tern Alaska has bee $\frac{1}{150,000}$ and $\frac{1}{250,000}$. eyed, and the result in

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

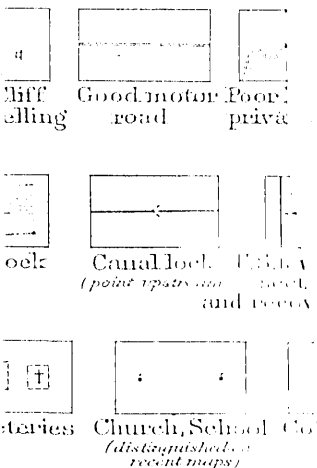
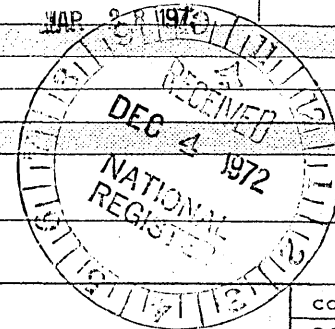
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

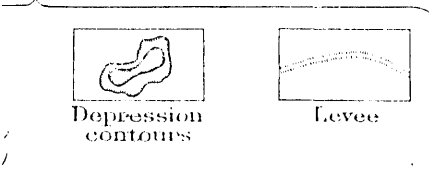
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Nebraska	
COUNTY Cheyenne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

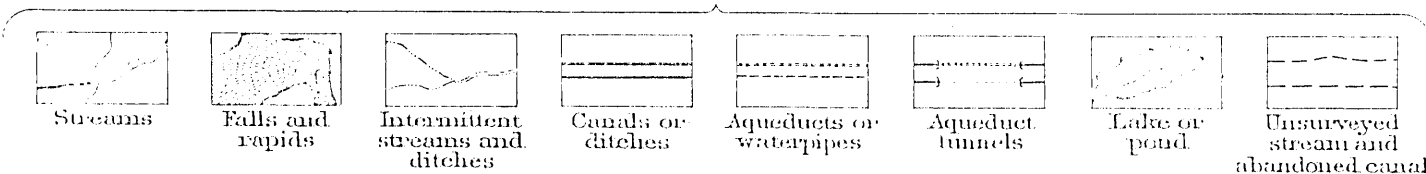
1. NAME			
COMMON:		Fort Sidney Historic District	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
(See Location Map)			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Sidney			
STATE:	CODE:	COUNTY:	CODE:
Nebraska	31	Cheyenne	033
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S. G.S.; Sidney Quadrangle			
SCALE:			
1:125,000			
DATE:			
Nov. 1899, reprinted 1949			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS.			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



RELIEF
(printed in brown)



WATER
(printed in blue)



... and a wall showing ... public ... geological ... obtained ... different prices ... allocated on ...

... will be sent

... should be

Survey, ...

... on orders

