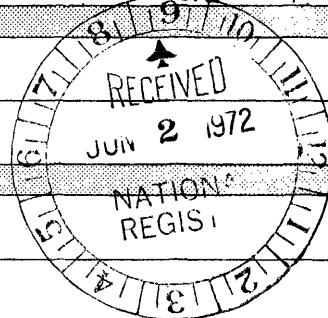


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Laramie	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JUL 24 1972



1. NAME

COMMON:
Jim Baker Cabin
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Jim Baker Cabin

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Frontier Park, NE 1/4 Section 25, T.14N., R.67W.
CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne
STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56 COUNTY: Laramie CODE: 021

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
State of Wyoming, Administered by Wyoming Recreation Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
604 E. 25th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Carbon County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Building
CITY OR TOWN: Rawlins STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

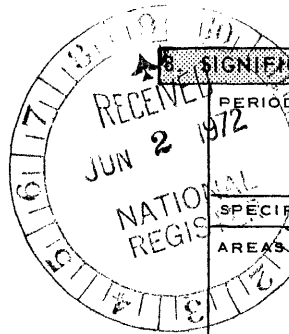
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.
DATE OF SURVEY: 1967 & continuing Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission
STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER: JUL 24 1972
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY



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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	<u>Exploration and</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<u>Fur Trade</u>
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

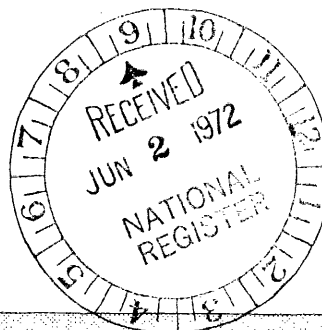
The early life of Jim Baker is obscure because of the lack of documentary material, factual or otherwise. It is known that he was of Scotch-Irish descent and that as a boy he had become an expert marksman with firearms. A great deal of his time was spent in the woods with a gun and a dog, and he probably had not seen much of civilization before he left for the West in 1838. One story told of Baker is that Captain R. B. Marcy, who was with Colonel A. S. Johnston in the United States Army campaign against the Mormons in Utah, once asked Baker if he had traveled much over the settled parts of the United States before coming to the mountains, whereupon Baker replied: "Right smart, Cap." He then was asked if he had visited New York. "No, I hasn't." And New Orleans? "No I hasn't been to Holeans, Cap." said Baker, "but I'll tell you whar I have been; I've traveled might' nigh over four counties in the State of Illinois!"

At the age of twenty Baker traveled to St. Louis, which was then the out-fitting point for the Rocky Mountain Region. Here he was recruited by the American Fur Company for a trapping expedition led by the famous mountain man, Jim Bridger. Baker signed a contract for an eighteen month period and he and ninety-one others embarked on May 25, 1839 on a Missouri River steamboat bound for the Mountain West. The steamer took them to Chouteau's Landing, near the present site of Kansas City where the group disembarked, boarded keel boats and were transported up the Kaw or Kansas River to the Kaw Indian Agency. Here the men with their supplies began their overland journey across the Great Plains to the Rocky Mountains. The group having arrived on the Laramie Plains in what is now Wyoming, Baker had an opportunity to observe the abilities of his leader, Jim Bridger, for there the group encountered Indians. Baker said, "Here we found the Indians thicker than bees on a spring mornin' and 'round their hives and 'bout as busy." Each encounter and experience with the Indians was handled skillfully by Bridger and the expedition was allowed to continue on its way. Thus Baker learned at first hand how knowledgable Bridger was of Indians, and how great was his skill and ability to treat with them, a skill and ability at which he was excelled by no other mountain man.

Having lived through his first adventure in the Rocky Mountain West, Baker began a career of trapping and hunting which lasted until 1852, when he is reported to have gone on his last trapping expedition with the famous scout, Kit Carson. One of the most memorable experiences Jim Baker had

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Bibliography



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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	41°	09'	16"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	104°	11'	54"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

12/20/72
4555710

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mark Junge, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: 5/26/72

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 Paul H. Steward

Title Director

Date 5-24-72

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

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

Date 7/24/72

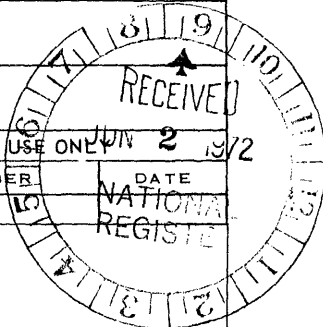
ATTEST:
Bradford
Keeper of The National Register

Date 7/19/72

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	JUN 2 1972
ENTRY NUMBER	10
DATE	JUL 24 1972



(Number all entries)

Physical Appearance - 2

Early pictures of the cabin reveal a railing which once was affixed to the base of the second story. There was, at one time, also, a turret or watch-tower cupola on top of the roof of the second story, but it was removed by Baker in 1881, four years after the completion of the cabin. Including the attached cupola, the building once stood about twenty-five feet high from base to top.

Twenty years after the death of Jim Baker, interest in the preservation of his cabin as a historic building brought about an effort to have the cabin moved to Denver to one of its city parks. Since Baker was one of the earliest settlers in Denver, he also had a claim on the hearts of Colorado citizens. Charles B. Boyce, assessor of Carbon County in Wyoming interested Mr. W. A. Haggott, a prominent Wyoming cattleman, in moving it to Colorado. Whereupon, that idea having gained the attention of the Wyoming public, a controversy developed between Wyoming and Colorado. In 1917 Wyoming Senator Allison introduced a "Jim Baker Cabin" measure in the Fourteenth State Legislature and eventually \$750.00 was appropriated for the purchase of the cabin and its removal from the Valley of the Little Snake River to Frontier Park in Cheyenne, Wyoming. The cabin was purchased from Mr. James Montgomery who owned the ranch upon which the cabin was situated, and by May 4 the dismantled cabin, whose logs weighed eleven tons, had been hauled by sleds to the railroad some seventy miles to the north. From that point it was hauled by rail to Cheyenne where it was reconstructed in Frontier Park. Ceremonies to dedicate the cabin in its new location were held on July 23, 1917 with Governor Frank L. Houx presiding.

After a few years the cabin became so deteriorated that it was again dismantled and the timber placed in storage. It was perhaps ten years later when a more substantial foundation was provided for the cabin, and it was reconstructed in its present location in Frontier Park near the entrance to the park and just southeast of the park rodeo grounds.

From time to time residents of Carbon County have expressed concern for the cabin's Cheyenne location, and the sentiment has been expressed that the cabin is now bereft of its chief historical asset---its environment and atmosphere. Whether or not the spirit of the builder has departed from the Jim Baker Cabin for the more appropriate climes of Southern Carbon County is a debateable point, but a present and pressing issue concerning the cabin is that of the stabilization and preservation of the deteriorating structure itself. An effort in that direction is presently being made and in June, 1972, the cabin will again be dismantled, and moved from its present location in Frontier Park to secure its preservation. In its new location on the grounds of the State Office Building, and under the watchful eye of State agencies in charge of its preservation, the cabin will also be more accessible to those who are interested in visiting a structure which is representative of the life and work of one of the greatest of the American "Mountain Men."

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE
COUNTY
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ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

RECEIVED
JUN 2 1972
NATIONAL REGISTER
JUL 24 1972

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 2

while trapping occurred in the late summer of 1841 in the same Little Snake River Valley where he was to spend the last twenty-five years of his life. After his term in the service of the American Fur Company had expired Baker went back to Illinois, but only for a short while. In the spring of 1841 he made his second journey to the Rocky Mountains with the Bidwell-Bartleson party under the leadership of Thomas Fitzpatrick. Arriving at the camp of Jim Bridger on Henry's Fork of the Green River he found Bridger worried about an associate, Henry Fraeb, who with a band of trappers was then working the area of the Little Snake River. Bridger was worried because these men were in country where there were hostile Indians, and Baker volunteered his services to go in search of the trappers. After two days travel the Baker party found and joined the trappers. A week or so later a fight commenced between the trappers with their Snake Indian allies numbering about two dozen in all, and a Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapahoe war party that numbered, according to Baker, about 500 braves. The latter were ready to fight because they were in the mood for a good fight and because they particularly liked to fight the less well-equipped and less numerous Snake Indians.

On the morning of August 21, 1841 the battle between the two groups commenced. We have some details of the fight from Jim Baker himself, whose account is found in the Denver Tribune-Republican of July 10, 1886:

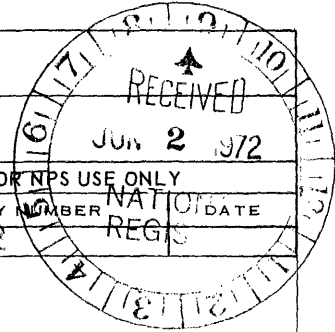
Shortly after I came out here the second time we were camped on the very creek where I live now---Snake River we called it then--- and there we had a lively fight with a party of about 500 Sioux, Cheyennes and Arapahoes. The Arapahoes didn't do much fighting, but they urged the others on. There were twenty-three in our party, and I can give you the names of every one of them. Old Frappe (Fraeb) was in command. The Indians made about forty charges on us, coming up to within ten or fifteen paces of us every time. Their object was to draw our fire, but old Frappe kept shouting, 'Don't shoot till you're sure. One at a time.' And so some of us kept loaded all the time. We made breastworks of our horses and hid behind stumps. Old Frappe was killed, and he was the ugliest looking dead man I ever saw, and I have seen a good many. His face was all covered with blood, and he had rotten front teeth and a horrible grin. When he was killed he never fell, but sat braced up against the stump, a sight to behold. Well, when the fight was over there were about a hundred dead Injuns. There were three of our party killed.

A few years before his death Jim Baker gave to a school superintendent some additional data on the battle and its exact location which appeared in the Steamboat Pilot (Steamboat Springs, Colorado) of March 2, 1904.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE
COUNTY
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE



JUL 24 1972

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 3

It was the hardest battle I was ever in. It was not on that mountain (Battle Mountain), but down in the valley at the mouth of Battle Creek at its junction with the Snake. I can show you some of the rifle pits there yet. The whites with their allies, the Snakes, were fortified at that point. Many of the whites had married squaws of that tribe. Before the battle began they sent their squaws to a mountain south, at a point of safety, and where they could watch the progress of the battle. The battlefield is in Routt County, less than a half mile from the Wyoming line. Their enemy, two tribes, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, came down Battle Creek and made the attack. Some were armed with rifles and some with bows and arrows. At that time they were scarcely out of the stone age. Would pay a good price for a barrel hoop to convert into knives and daggers. They fought all day, and no sooner did the enemy retreat up the creek than the whites and the Snakes retreated to the mountain where the squaws were. From this circumstance that mountain has since been known as Squaw Mountain. Battle Mountain, Battle Creek, and Battle Lake, at the source of Battle Creek, took their names from this hard fought battle.

Following the fight at Battle Lake, the trappers abandoned their hastily-improvised log fort and withdrew from the scene, heading back to Bridger's camp on Green River and arriving there about August 27, 1841. From that time until about 1852 Baker trapped and hunted, on occasion traveling as far as the Colorado River area in what is today Southwest Arizona.

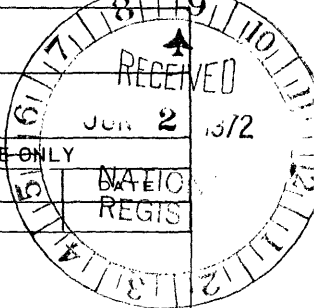
At various times in his career, Jim Baker served the United States as a government scout, guide, and interpreter. The earliest record of his involvement in that type of work was his service as a guide with the Fremont Expedition to the West in 1845. In 1857 Baker was attached to the United States Army as a guide and scout when the army moved against the Mormons in Utah. Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, who was then in command of the army encamped at Fort Bridger*, ordered Captain Randolph B. Marcy to journey to Fort Union in Northern New Mexico to obtain needed supplies. On November 24, 1857 Marcy left Fort Bridger with his forty enlisted men, twenty-five mountain men, packers, guides and one hundred and twenty animals, including sixty-six pack mules. Jim Baker accompanied the expedition as an interpreter while Tim Goodell served as guide. After enduring severe hardships in the Southern Rockies, with the loss of both men and animals to the snow and cold weather, the expedition reached Fort Union early the following year. Upon recuperating, the men began the return trip to Fort Bridger on March 15th. The last

* Fort Bridger is located in what is today Southwest Wyoming

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE OF REGIS
JUL 24 1972	



(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 4

record of Baker's service to the government indicates that in 1879 he served as a scout for the Merritt expedition when those troops were sent to the relief of Major Thomas T. Thornburg. The latter and his men were involved in a fight in that year with Ute Indians in the historic incident known as the Meeker Massacre, which took place in Northwest Colorado.

When Baker returned to Wyoming with Captain Marcy in 1858 he shortly afterward established a store on the Oregon Trail at the Green River Crossing. Jim did a fair business there, dealing with Indians and passing emigrants, but encountered competition when a Frenchman arrived and set up a rival store, thus reducing his profits.

The following year saw Baker settled in Colorado where, as one of the first permanent residents in the Denver area, he remained until 1871. Baker took out a preemption claim where the road from Denver to Boulder crossed Clear Creek* and, at a point called "Baker's Crossing" he built an adobe brick building. Here he sold supplies such as hay, venison, flour and whiskey, and also derived an income by maintaining a toll bridge across Clear Creek. The toll bridge was maintained mainly by his wife and children, however, as Baker did not remain home for any great length of time.

Baker spent a dozen or so years in Colorado, having been engaged there in many activities besides trading. But he began to chafe under the encroachment of civilization and crowded conditions resulting from the Pikes Peak mining rush. He therefore left the area, taking his family with him, and settled in 1873 in the Little Snake River Valley of Southern Wyoming. There he took up stock-raising, possibly the first person in the area to do so, and there also spent the remaining years of his life, passing away on May 15, 1898. He was buried along with eleven other members of his family, in the Baker burial ground located on a knoll across the road from his original cabin site.

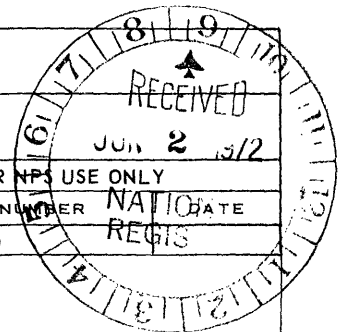
Details of the family life of Jim Baker are not too clear, and various, conflicting accounts have been written concerning the number of wives and children he had. Baker may have been married to Indian women of several tribes, including the Shoshone, Flathead, and Bannock tribes. But according to Madeline Adams, one of the daughters of Baker, Jim had two wives: Mary and Eliza. The number of his children has been listed variously from ten to thirteen, three of which were boys. Mae Bryan, a great-granddaughter of Baker, reported that he had thirteen children but only three were still living by the year 1923. According to Nolie Mumey, in his biography of Baker entitled The Life of Jim Baker, "Baker was very much attached to his family, although he left them for long intervals." He was especially attached to his eldest

* An earlier name for the creek is "Vasquez Fork".

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE
COUNTY
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
NATIONAL REGISTER



(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 5

daughter Jane and when she died Jim could not be consoled. Following her burial he is said to have wandered over the hills in a state of mental distraction.

Several episodes of his life have been told and retold which help to provide a further insight into the character of the man, Jim Baker. Taylor Pennock, in an article entitled Recollections of Taylor Pennock,* has related a couple of stories which help to describe the individuality of Jim Baker. Pennock recalled:

I have been at the old Jim Baker block house on Snake River which was moved to Cheyenne a few years ago. He lived with the Indians thirty-five or forty years, his wife being a squaw. One day, Jim Baker told us a story about his buffalo hunting. The game hunt he told me about was here in this country. He was with a big party of Indians camped over near Brown's Hill on the Savary. They stayed there for over three weeks and never had to leave the camp over three hundred yards to kill buffalo. There was a string of buffalo passing all the time and it took the buffalo herds three weeks to pass, coming from the North Park country where they had their summer range and going to the Red Desert for the winter. This must have been about 1858. All the time Baker was talking his hands were going, to demonstrate like an Indian would. He told me of another time he was with an Indian camp on Cherry Creek where Denver now is, when they were attacked by soldiers and prospectors. He said Cherry Creek was so high they had to swim it to get away. He had a papoose then and took the papoose on his horse and swam across with it and said the squaw drowned. I told him he should have saved the squaw. 'Oh well,' he said, 'there's lots of squaws.'

Another episode Pennock recalled was one in which Baker was trapping in 1874 near the Freezout Mountains of South-Central Wyoming.

...he was up in the mountains with a party shooting bears. He and his partner wounded one. The bear came down the hill right towards them. His partner, who had on buckskin pants, tried to climb a dry quaking asp tree (which is very slippery). He kept sliding down but finally got up to the limbs. Here, he got his arm over a knot in the tree and hung. Baker said he ran to a green pine and climbed up it. The bear came and laid down by the tree and died. His partner called to him, 'Can't you shoot him?' 'No,' said Baker, 'he's lying there watching me.' 'Kill him if

* See bibliography for source of article.

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

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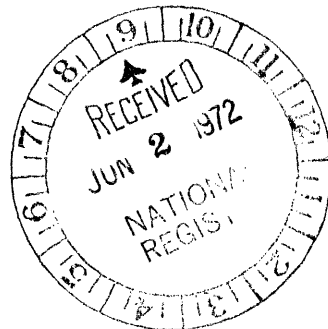
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
JUL 24 1972	

(Number all entries)

Statement of Significance - 6

you can, 'cause I can't hang on here much longer,' shouted the partner. 'Well,' said Baker, 'I thought I'd let him hang on there long enough so finally said, 'You might as well come down because he's dead.' Say, he slipped his arm off that knot and came down like he was shot and gave me a good cussing for not telling him before that the bear was dead.

Although other stories could be told of Jim Baker, it may be said, in summary, that Baker was a credit to, and representative of a group of individuals who have been termed Mountain Men. Praises have been sung not only of his many abilities and accomplishments, but also of the type of man he was personally. For these reasons the unique structure which is the Jim Baker Cabin, one of the few things associated with the man which remain today, is worthy of enrollment in the National Register. It is a representative symbol of Jim Baker himself, and also of a frontier period which is not forgotten to those who trace the history of the American past.



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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received SEP 30 1987
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Jim Baker Cabin
and/or common Jim Baker Cabin

2. Location

street & number ~~n/a~~ off WY 70 not for publication
city, town Savery vicinity of
state Wyoming code 56 county Carbon code 021007 M.

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name School Distrist #1
street & number PO Box 160
city, town Rawlins vicinity of state Wyoming 82301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon County Courthouse
street & number Courthouse Building
city, town Rawlins state Wyoming 82301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1967 (revised 1973) and continuing federal state county local
depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission, 1920 Thomes Avenue
city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>1973</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The cabin, which for years was located in Frontier Park in Cheyenne, Wyoming, is now located at Savery, Wyoming, not far from its original location, (see attached). It is a weather-beaten, two-story structure constructed of rough-hewn cottonwood logs, each varying from twelve to fifteen inches in thickness, and resting on a concrete foundation. The lower story, the former living quarters of the Baker family, measures 16 feet by 31 feet. It is divided into two rooms each room containing a window on the east and west walls. A door is located on the north as well as the south face of the cabin. The small second story was used for storage and consists of a single room measuring approximately 15 feet square. There is a window on each of the east and west walls. Doors placed at both the north and south ends of the room allow a person to walk outside and stand on the slightly sloping roof of the first story.

Early pictures of the cabin reveal a railing which once was affixed to the base of the second story. There was at one time, also, a turret or watchtower cupola on the roof of the second story, but it was removed by Baker in 1881 four years after the completion of the cabin. Including the attached cupola, the building once stood about twenty-five feet high from base to top.

Baker's log house stood by a spring and was located approximately midway across the Little Snake bottomland, in a place where a commanding view of the area could be had and where, also, no sniper's bullet could be effective from the cover of the surrounding hills. At the time Jim Baker began construction of his cabin fortress in 1873, this scenic valley was not only the home of Baker and his family but also contained the tepees of the Snake or Shoshone Indian tribe which adopted him. Not far away were Ute Indians who were not reconciled to the white man, even by 1879. It may have been with that fact in mind that Baker built his fortress-cabin.

Originally located in the Little Snake River Valley in Carbon County, Wyoming near where Savery Creek empties into the Little Snake, the cabin site was specifically in Section 13, Township 12 North, Range 90 West of the sixth Principal Meridian. It was built just within the southern borderline of the State of Wyoming and almost exactly midway through the state, from east to west.

In a totally different perspective, however, the original site of his cabin was chosen by Jim Baker, probably not as much in consideration of any survey or legal description, but rather because the site was in an area which he loved, an area rich in wildlife and one conveying to him memories of past experiences. Of all the places he had been in the Rocky Mountains, Baker chose for his last permanent home that part of the valley of the Little Snake between the present towns of Dixon and Savery, Wyoming. The game was plentiful and Baker claimed that, on one occasion, buffalo herds migrating from North Park, Colorado enroute to the Red Desert area of Southern Wyoming, took three weeks in passing within just a few hundred yards of his camp. Nearby to the east, in the western shadow of Battle Mountain, was the scene of a memorable experience for young Jim Baker when, in 1841, he and perhaps a score of other fur trappers, and their allies the Snakes, fought a two-day battle with Cheyenne, Sioux and Arapahoe Indians.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) FUR TRADE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1873 **Builder/Architect** Jim Baker

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Jim Baker Cabin was enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places from July 24, 1972 until 1978. It is ironic that while the cabin was standing in a park in Cheyenne, Wyoming some 150 miles from its original site it was eligible; but, when it was returned to Savery and placed only a few miles from the site where it was originally constructed, it became ineligible and was removed from the National Register. (It was not placed on the original site because a change in the river has flooded that area) The cabin's integrity has not been damaged by the two moves, and great care has been taken to dismantle and reassemble the logs in much the same order in which they were laid. Most of the logs are original and except for the cupola, which was removed many years ago by Baker himself, the cabin is as it was when he constructed it. The Jim Baker Cabin should be re-enrolled on the National Register as its significance lies in its sturdy log architecture, its association with events that have contributed the broad patterns of our history, and with the lives of persons significant in our past. None of the significance has in any way been jeopardized by its final move to the valley where it was originally constructed.

****See Addendum, Item #8 Page 2

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Addendum, Item #9, Page 1

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Savery, Wyoming-Colorado

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	3	2	9	4	0	8	0	4	5	4	4	4	0	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is limited by the perimeters of the structure which are 18 feet by 24 feet in the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{2}$ of Section 7, T12W, R90N in an unplatted area.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark Junge, Historic Preservation Division Chief, Sheila Bricher-Wade, Historian

organization State Historic Preservation Office date September 23, 1982

street & number 1920 Thomes Avenue telephone 307-777-6312

city or town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Jan K. Wilson

title State Historic Preservation Officer date September 24, 1982

For NPS use only

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

Judith McClelland date 11.8.82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Since Jim Baker was one of the earliest settlers in Denver, he also had a claim on the hearts of Colorado citizens. Twenty years after Baker's death, interest in preservation of his cabin as an historic building stimulated an effort to have the cabin moved to a Denver City park. Charles B. Boyce, a Carbon County assessor, interested Mr. W.A. Haggott, a prominent Wyoming cattleman, in moving the cabin to Colorado, whereupon, that idea having gained the attention of the Wyoming public, a controversy developed between the two states. In 1917 Wyoming Senator Allison introduced a "Jim Baker Cabin" measure in the Fourteenth State Legislature and eventually \$750.00 was appropriated for the purchase of the cabin and its removal from the valley of the Little Snake River to Frontier Park in Cheyenne. The cabin was purchased from Mr. James Montgomery who owned the ranch upon which the cabin was situated. By May 4 the dismantled cabin, whose logs weighed 11 tons, was on sleds at the railroad some seventy miles north. From that point it was hauled by rail to Cheyenne where it was reconstructed in Frontier Park. Ceremonies to dedicate the cabin in its new location were held on July 23, 1917 with Governor Frank L. Houx presiding.

After a few years the cabin became so deteriorated that it was again dismantled and the logs placed in storage. Approximately ten years later substantial foundation was provided for the cabin, and it was reconstructed in Frontier Park near the park entrance, just southeast of the park rodeo grounds.

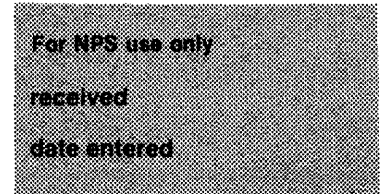
From time to time residents of Carbon County expressed concern for the cabin's Cheyenne location, and made known the sentiment was that the cabin was bereft of its chief historical asset - its environment and atmosphere. Whether or not the spirit of the building departed from the Jim Baker Cabin when it was moved to Cheyenne for the more appropriate climes of Southern Carbon County is a moot point, but the pressing issue in 1972 was that of stabilization and preservation of the deteriorating structure itself. An effort toward preservation was made in June, 1972, when the cabin was dismantled and moved from its location in Frontier Park to a storage yard adjacent the Wyoming State Forestry Office on 22nd and Ames in Cheyenne. Plans were made to assemble the logs once again, this time on the grounds on the Barrett State Office Building. Under the watchful eye of the Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department the cabin would have been accessible to those interested in visiting a structure representative of the life and work on one of the greatest American mountain men.

However, interested citizens of the Little Snake River Valley gathered their forces and caused the logs to be transported back to the Little Snake River Valley, where they were reassembled at Savery, not far from the cabin's original location. The cabin now rests on school district property and is used as a museum.

The fascinating story of the Jim Baker Cabin is enhanced by the many moves to which it was subjected before it was finally returned to the valley of its original location. The story also underlines Jim Baker's importance to many Wyoming citizens. Their efforts in carefully dismantling, labeling and reassembling the cabin, saved it from

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neglect and from eventual destruction when the river changed its course. The moves have not jeopardized the cabin's integrity, but rather have enhanced its importance as a symbol of Wyoming's colorful past.

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The early life of Jim Baker is obscure because of the lack of documentary material, factual or otherwise. It is known that he was of Scotch-Irish descent and that as a boy he had become an expert marksman with firearms. A great deal of his time was spent in the woods with a gun and a dog, and he probably had not seen much of civilization before he left for the West in 1838. One story told of Baker is that Captain R.B. Marcy, who was with Colonel A.S. Johnston in the United States Army campaign against the Mormons in Utah, once asked Baker if he had traveled much over the settled parts of the United States before coming to the mountains, whereupon Baker replied, "Right smart, Cap." He then was asked if he had visited New York. "No, I hasn't." "And New Orleans?" "No I hasn't been to Holesans, Cap." said Baker, "but I'll tell you whar I have been, I've traveled might' nigh over four counties in the State of Illinois!"

At the age of twenty Baker traveled to St. Louis, which was then the outfitting point for the Rocky Mountain Region. Here he was recruited by the American Fur Company for a trapping expedition led by the famous mountain man, Jim Bridger. Baker signed a contract for an eighteen month period and he and ninety-one others embarked on May 25, 1839 on a Missouri River steamboat bound for the Mountain West. The steamer took them to Chouteau's Landing, near the present site of Kansas City where the group disembarked, boarded keel boats and were transported up the Kaw or Kansas River to the Kaw Indian Agency. Here the men with their supplies began their overland journey across the Great Plains in what is now Wyoming, Baker had an opportunity to observe the abilities of his leader, Jim Bridger, for there the group encountered Indians. Baker said, "Here we found the Indians thicker than bees on a spring mornin' and 'round their hives and 'bout as busy." Each encounter and experience with the Indians was handled skillfully by Bridger and the expedition was allowed to continue on its way. Thus Baker learned at first hand how knowledgeable Bridger was of Indians, and how great was his skill and ability to treat with them, a skill and ability at which he was excelled by no other mountain man.

Having lived through his first adventure in the Rocky Mountains West, Baker began a career of trapping and hunting which lasted until 1852, when he is reported to have gone on his last trapping expedition with the famous scott, Kit Carson. One of the most memorable experiences Jim Baker had while trapping occurred in the late summer of 1841 in the same Little Snake River Valley where he was to spend the last twenty-five years of his life. After his term in the service of the American Fur Company had expired Baker went back to Illinois, but only for a short while. In the spring of 1841 he made his second journey to the Rocky Mountains with the Bidwell-Bartleson party under the leadership of Thomas Fitzpatrick. Arriving at the camp of Jim Bridger on Henry's Fork of the Green River he found Bridger worried about an associate, Henry Fraeb, who with a band of trappers was then working the area of the little Snake River. Bridger was worried because these men were in country of hostile Indians, and Baker volunteered his services to go in search of the trappers. After two days travel the Baker party found and joined the trappers. A week or so later a fight commenced between the trappers with their Snake Indian allies numbering about two dozen in all, and a Cheyenne, Sioux, and

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Arapahoe party that numbered, according to Baker, about 500 braves. The latter were ready to fight because they were in the mood for a good fight and because they particularly liked to fight the less well-equipped and less numerous Snake Indians.

On the morning of August 21, 1841 the battle between the two groups commenced. We have some details of the fight from Jim Baker himself, whose account is found in the Denver Tribune-Republican of July 10, 1886:

Shortly after I came out here the second time we were camped on the very creek where I live now - Snake River we called it then - and there we had a lively fight with a party of about 500 Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapahoes. The Arapahoes didn't do much fighting, but they urged the others on. There were twenty-three in our party, and I can give you the names of every one of them. Old Frappe (Fraeb) was in command. The Indians made about forty charges on us, coming up to within ten or fifteen paces of us every time. Their object was to draw out fire, but old Frappe kept shouting, "Don't shoot till you're sure. One at a time." And so some of us kept loaded all the time. We made breastworks of our horses and hid behind stumps. Old Frappe was killed, and he was the ugliest looking dead man I ever say, and I have seen a good many. His face was all covered with blood, and he had rotten front teeth and a horrible grin. When he was killed he never fell, but sat braced up against a stump, a sight to behold. Well, when the fight was over there were about a hundred dead Injuns. There were three of our party killed.

A few days before his death Jim Baker gave to a school superintendent some additional data on the battle and its exact location which appeared in the Steamboat Pilot (Steamboat Springs, Colorado) of March 2, 1904:

It was the hardest battle I was ever in. It was not on that mountain (Battle Mountain), but down in the valley at the mouth of Battle Creek at its junction with the Snake. I can show you some of the rifle pits there yet. The whites with their allies, the Snakes, were fortified at that point. Many of the whites had married squaws of that tribe. Before the battle began they sent their squaws to a mountain south, at a point of safety, and where they could watch the progress of the battle. The battlefield is in Routt County, less than a half a mile from the Wyoming line. Their enemy, two tribes, Cheyennes and Arapahoes, came down Battle Creek and made the attack. Some were armed with rifles and some with bows and arrows. At that time they were scarecely out of the stone age. Would pay a good price for a barrel hoop to convert into knives and daggers. They fought all day, and no sooner did the enemy retreat up the creek than the whites and the Snakes retreated to the mountain where the squaws were. From this circumstance that mountain has since been known as Squaw Mountain. Battle Mountain, Battle Cree, and Battle Lake, at the source of Battle Creek, took their names from this hard fought battle.

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Following the fight at Battle Lake, the trappers abandoned their hastily-improvised log fort and withdrew from the scene, heading back to Bridger's camp on Green River and arriving there about August 27, 1841. From that time until about 1852 Baker trapped and hunted, on occasion traveling as far as the Colorado River area in what is today Southwest Arizona.

At various times in his career, Jim Baker served the United States as a government scout, guide, and interpreter. The earliest record of his involvement in that type of work was his service as a guide with the Fremont Expedition to the West in 1845. In 1857 Baker was attached to the United States Army as a guide and scout when the Army moved against the Mormons in Utah. Colonel Albert Sidney Johnston, who was then in command of the army encamped at Fort Bridger, ordered Captain Randolph B. Marcy to journey to Fort Union in Northern New Mexico to obtain needed supplies. On November 24, 1857 Marcy left Fort Bridger with forty enlisted men, twenty-five mountain men, packers, guides and one hundred and twenty animals, including sixty-six pack mules. Jim Baker accompanied the expedition as an interpreter while Tim Goodell serves as a guide. After enduring severe hardships in the Southern Rockies with the loss of both men and animals to the snow and cold weather, the expedition reached Fort Union early the following year. Upon recuperating, the men began the return trip to Fort Bridger on March 15th. The last record of Baker's service to the government indicates that in 1879 he served as a scout for the Merritt Expedition when those troops were sent to the relief of Major Thomas T. Thornburg. The latter and his men were involved in a fight that year with Ute Indians in the historic Northern Colorado incident known as the Meeker Massacre.

When Baker returned to Wyoming with Captain Marcy in 1858 he shortly afterward established a store on the Oregon Trail at the Green River Crossing. Jim did a fair business there, dealing with Indians and passing emigrants, but encountered competition when a Frenchman arrived and set up a rival store, thus reducing his profits.

The following year saw Baker in Colorado where, as one of the first permanent residents in the Denver area, he remained until 1871. Baker took out a preemption claim where the road from Denver to Boulder crossed Clear Creek, and at a point called "Baker's Crossing" he built an adobe block building. Here he sold supplies such as hay, venison, flour and whiskey, and also derived an income by maintaining a toll bridge across Clear Creek. The toll bridge was maintained mainly by his wife and children, however, as Baker did not remain home for any great length of time.

Baker spent a dozen or so years in Colorado, having been engaged there in many activities besides trading. But he began to chafe under the encroachment of civilization and crowded conditions resulting from the Pikes Peak mining rush. He therefore left the area, taking his family with him, and settled in 1873 in the Little Snake River Valley of Southern Wyoming. There he took up stockraising, possibly the first person in the area to do so. There also he spent the remaining years of his life, passing away on May 15, 1898. He was buried along side eleven other members of his family, in the Baker burial ground located on a knoll across the

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road from his original cabin site.

Details of the family life of Jim Baker are not too clear, and various conflicting accounts have been written concerning the number of wives and children he had. Baker may have been married to Indian women of several tribes, including the Shoshone, Flathead, and Bannock tribes. But according to Madeline Adams, one of his daughters, Jim had two wives: Mary and Eliza. The number of his children has been listed variously from ten to thirteen, three of which were boys. Mae Bryan, a great-granddaughter of Baker, reported that he had thirteen children but only three were still living by the year 1923. According to Nolie Mumey, in his biography of Baker entitled The Life of Jim Baker, "Baker was very much attached to his family, although he left them for long intervals." He was especially attached to his eldest daughter Jane and when she died Jim could not be consoled. Following her burial he is said to have wandered over the hills in a state of mental distraction.

Several episodes of his life have been told and retold which help to provide further insight into the character of the man, Jim Baker. Taylor Pennock, in an article entitled Recollections of Taylor Pennock, has related a couple of stories which help to describe the individuality of Jim Baker, Pennock recalled:

I have been at the old Jim Baker block house on Snake River which was moved to Cheyenne a few years ago. He lived with the Indians thirty-five or forty years, his wife being a squaw. One day, Jim Baker told us a story about his buffalo hunting. The game hunt he told me about was here in this country. He was with a big party of Indians camped over near Brown's Hill on the Savery. They stayed there for over three weeks and never had to leave the camp over three hundred yards to kill buffalo. There was a string of buffalo passing all the time and it took the buffalo herds three weeks to pass, coming from the North Park country where they had their summer range and going to the Red Desert for the winter. This must have been about 1858. All the time Baker was talking his hands were going, to demonstrate like an Indian would. He told me of another time he was with an Indian camp on Cherry Creek where Denver now is, when they were attacked by soldiers and prospectors. He said Cherry Creek was so high they had to swim it to get away. He had a papoose then and took the papoose on his horse and swam across with it and said the squaw drowned. I told him he should have saved the squaw. "Oh well," he said, "there's lots of squaws."

Another episode Pennock recalled was one in which Baker was trapping 1874 near the Freezout Mountains of South-Central Wyoming.

...he was up in the mountains with a party shooting bears. He and his partner wounded one. The bear came down the hill right towards them. His partner, who had on buckskin pants, tried to climb a dry quaking asp tree (which is very slippery). He kept sliding down but finally

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got up to the limbs. Here, he got his arm over a knot in the tree and hung. Baker said he ran to a green pine and climbed up it. The bear came and laid down by the tree and died. His partner called to him, "Can't you shoot him?" "No," said Baker, "he's lying there watching me." "Kill him if you can, 'cause I can't hang on here much longer," shouted the partner. "Well," said Baker, "I thought I'd let him hang on there long enough so finally said, 'You might as well come down because he's dead.' Say, he slipped his arm off that knot and came down like was shot and gave me a cussing for not telling him before that the bear was dead."

Although other stories could be told of Jim Baker, it may be said, in summary, that Jim Baker was a credit to, and representative of a group of individuals who have been termed Mountain Men. Praises have been sung not only of his many abilities and accomplishments, but also of the type of man he was personally. For these reasons the unique structure which is the Jim Baker Cabin, one of the few things associated with the man which remain today, is worthy of enrollment in the National Register. It is a representative symbol of Jim Baker himself, and also of a frontier period which is not forgotten to those who trace the history of the American past.

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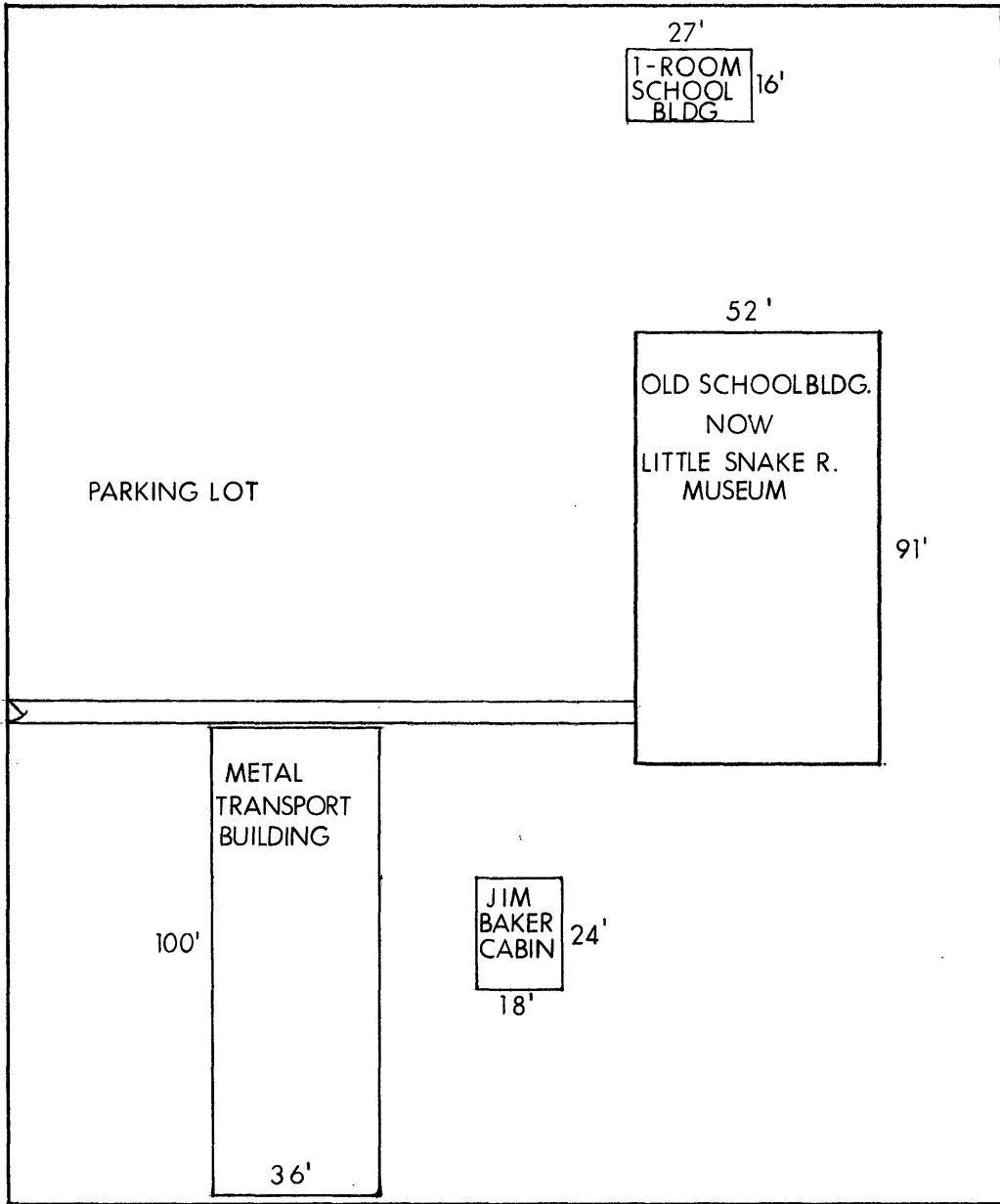
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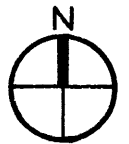
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