

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Fort Phil Kearny and Related Sites

AND/OR COMMON

Fort Phil Kearny and Related Sites

**2** LOCATION

STREET &amp; NUMBER

off U.S. Route 87 s. of Banner

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Story

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

001

STATE

Wyoming

 VICINITY OFCODE  
56COUNTY  
JohnsonCODE  
019**3** CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: historic sites

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

multiple (contact Mr. J.P. Logan, Jr., Division Manager, Texaco Inc.)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Box 980

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

-- VICINITY OF

Wyoming 82834 (cont'd)

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Johnson County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Buffalo

STATE

Wyoming

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1960

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Survey

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of old Phil Kearny has been preserved, and some archeological work done on it and its cemetery on Pilot Knob. Possible reconstruction plans are at present hazy. During the 1930's a stockade fence and cabin were built at the site; the fence was removed in the 1960's. Monuments at the Wagon Box Fight and Fetterman Fight sites are also owned by Wyoming. The area otherwise remains much as it did in 1868, except for U.S. Route 87, which runs north-south to the east of Fort Phil Kearny and right by the Fetterman Monument.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1866-1868

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

One of the most significant and dramatic campaigns in the history of the Indian wars occurred in and around Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming, 1866-68. In one of the few instances during the Indian wars when the Army was forced to abandon a region it had occupied, the Sioux triumphed and the forts were evacuated. But the conflict foreshadowed the final disastrous confrontation between frontiersman and Indian that ensued on the northern Plains with the discovery of gold in the Black Hills in 1875.

In 1862 gold was discovered in western Montana. The most feasible route to the gold fields was blazed by John Bozeman that same year and led from the Oregon Trail near present Caspar, Wyoming, northwestward through the heart of Sioux country.

Under the general leadership of Red Cloud and Man-Afraid-of-his-Horse, the Sioux determined to prevent traffic on the Bozeman Trail. As protection for travelers on the trail, Fort Phil Kearny was established in August 1866 by Col. Henry B. Carrington at the eastern base of the Big Horn Mountains, deep inside Sioux territory. Almost immediately Carrington encountered violent resistance. For the next two years Fort Phil Kearny was held under virtual siege and was the focus of the Red Cloud War.

Indian attacks on groups travelling to the fort were incessant. In the last five months of 1866 alone, the Sioux and Cheyenne killed 154 persons and captured some 700 head of livestock in 51 hostile actions. The most disastrous of these was the Fetterman Fight in December 1866. Capt. William J. Fetterman and 80 men were decoyed into an ambush prepared by the Indians out of sight from the fort. A relief party sent out by Carrington found the mutilated bodies of Fetterman's entire command. There were no survivors.

On a small plain a few miles west of the fort in August 1867 occurred the Wagon Box Fight, one of the most noted engagements in the history of plains warfare. A detail of 32 woodcutters and guards were attacked by some 1,000 warriors under Red Cloud. Firing from within a circle of overturned wagon boxes, the white men used the recently issued breech loading rifle to beat off successive charges until relief came from the fort.

Chief Red Cloud's attacks continued unabated, and in 1868 the Treaty of Fort Laramie resulted in the closing of the Bozeman Trail and the abandonment of its forts, which

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ferris, Robert G., ed., Soldier and Brave=Historic Places Associated with Indian Affairs and the Indian Wars in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1971.  
 Mattison, Ray H., "Fort Philip Kearny and Related Sites," Historic Sites Survey Report, 1959.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1720

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	359950	4914,0070	B	1,3	35516,8,10	4,93,0770
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,3	354410	4,93,0870	D	1,3	35451,10	4,93,4790

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries enclose three widely separate areas which include the sites of Fort Phil Kearny, the Fetterman Fight, and the Wagon Box Fight. The extremely large area between the sites and the many private landholders in the area argue against the designation of one contiguous area.

(cont'd)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Boundary Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, NPS

DATE

1/3/76

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street, NW

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

# 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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Landmark  
 Designated: DEC 19, 1960  
 George Emery  
 Boundary Certified Aug 23, 1978

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

11/29/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
 LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC  
 LANDMARKS

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Phil Kearney ITEM NUMBER #4 PAGE #2

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Owners (cont'd).

Mr. Ned Frost  
Wyoming Recreation Commission  
604 East 25th Street, Box 309  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

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CONTINUATION SHEET Fort Phil Kearny ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE #2

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the Indians jubilantly destroyed. The Powder River Country and the Black Hills were guaranteed as Indian Country. In return, the Indians agreed not to interfere with the construction of the Northern Pacific Railroad.

The signing of the Fort Laramie Treaty represents the high water mark of the power of the Plains Indians. In 1875 General George A. Custer and his expedition invaded the Black Hills and found gold in paying quantities. The ensuing rush for gold led to the Indian War of 1876, the death of Custer, and the final destruction of the Sioux and Cheyenne Nations.

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CONTINUATION SHEET      Fort Phil  
                                 Kearny      ITEM NUMBER #10      PAGE #2

FORT PHIL KEARNY: Includes the SW 1/4 of Sec. 26, and the NW 1/4; N 1/2 of SW 1/4; W 1/2 of NE 1/4; NW 1/4 of SE 1/4; Sec. 35, T. 53N., R. 83 W. This area includes the site of Fort Phil Kearny, its cemetery (still containing archeological remains of importance to the site) on Pilot Knob, and provides an historic, unobtrusive setting for the fort site. Except for the fort site itself, the area is entirely owned by Texaco Corp., which reached an agreement with the Wyoming Recreation Commission owners of the fort site to preserve the 360-acre area as an historic site. The 1930's cabin and several farm structures near the site do not contribute to the national significance of the landmark.

WAGON BOX FIGHT: Includes SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 (7-8 owners), SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 (Farl Simpson, Story, Wyo.), Sec. 18, and N 1/2, NE 1/4, Sec. 19 (Mr. L.A. and Lucille Wuthier, Story, Wyo.), R. 83 W., T. 53 N. This 160-acre area includes all the main battle area of the Wagon Box Fight, most of which was fought at point-blank range. A gravel road leading to the Wagon Box Monument is the only intrusion.

FETTERMAN FIGHT: Includes Sec. 15 and all but the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, and the NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Sec. 10, T33N, R 83W. The 1200-acre site includes all the area on Massacre Hill and Lodge Trail Ridge where Fetterman's soldiers fought and were killed by the Sioux and Cheyenne. The only intrusion is U.S. Route 87 in an area which, like the other two, is practically unchanged since 1868. The SW 1/4 of Sec. 15 is owned by Henry Kirbell; the SE 1/4 and the W 1/2 and SE 1/4 of Sec. 15 by D. Orall Geier; the Fetterman Monument Plot is owned by the State of Wyoming; the remaining land is owned by or leased from Texaco Corp.