

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Sheridan Inn

AND/OR COMMON
Sheridan Inn

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Broadway and 5th Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Sheridan

VICINITY OF

001

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Wyoming

56

Sheridan

033

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Neltje Kings, Proprietor

STREET & NUMBER
The Sheridan Inn, P.O. Box 781

CITY, TOWN
Sheridan

VICINITY OF

STATE
Wyoming 82801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Sheridan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN
Sheridan

STATE
Wyoming

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Historic Sites Survey

DATE 1964 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS Historic Sites Survey

CITY, TOWN
Washington

STATE
D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> partially restored	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sheridan Inn was built in 1893 based on a plan by Thomas Kimball of Omaha. A 145-foot-long, three-story L-shaped structure was produced with 64 bedrooms on the second and third floors under a gambrel roof, each bedroom having its own dormer window. The roof gradually melted into the slope of the porch, supposedly providing a quick and safe fire escape route. An unusual feature in the porch construction is that the board floor slopes very gently to the outer edge so that rain water will drain off.

From England on special order came the Buffalo Bill Bar of oak and mahogany. It was hauled into Sheridan by ox team from Gillette. The first bathtubs and first electric lights in the region were inn features. It opened June 18, 1893, and was rated the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco.

Col. William (Buffalo Bill) Cody led the grand march for the opening dance. The original registry book in the lobby today is opened to Monday, Jan. 8, 1894. The signature of "W.F. Cody, Nebraska" appears in bold black ink.

Seating capacity in the dining room was 160 at many large octagonal tables. It was plush--and costly. Breakfast was 25 cents; lunch and supper were 50 cents each. You could save by buying a week of meal tickets for \$7. A room cost \$1 a day. A discarded threshing machine engine was turned into a dynamo that powered 200 lights--on at dusk and off at midnight. At the rear of the long, rambling structure stood the elaborate barns and livery stable of the Cody Transportation Company. These buildings have long since disappeared.

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 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 checked="" 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 1893 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Thomas R. Kimball

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Sheridan Inn represents the establishment of modern culture in areas still "wild and wooly" prior to the coming of the railroad. When the Sheridan Inn opened in 1893, it was said by many to be the finest hotel between Chicago and San Francisco. It immediately became the social center for the Big Horn country area which at that time attracted many big game hunting parties, including notables from all parts of the United States.

The Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad built into Sheridan, Wyoming, and constructed the hotel as a feature of its development program. George Holdrege, general manager for the railroad, conceived the idea for the hotel and gave to Thomas R. Kimball, an architect of Omaha, Nebraska, the task of designing the structure. Kimball modeled the Inn generally after a Scottish inn that he had visited and liked. The Sheridan Inn is credited with having had the first bathtub and electric lights in that part of Wyoming.

William F. Cody, better known as Buffalo Bill, is said to have led the grand march at the opening of the Inn. This was a gala event with many distinguished invited guests who were served free champagne from iced tubs. William F. Cody operated the Inn from 1894 to 1896. In 1894, the year following the Inn's opening, Cody built barns and livery stables which he operated for the convenience of the Inn's guests. This was a considerable business at the time and catered principally to a large clientele of wealthy sportsmen. The Big Horn Mountain country, immediately at hand to the west, was one of the best large game hunting regions in all the west.

Some of the distinguished guests who stayed at the hotel were Generals O.O. Howard, Leonard Wood, Nelson A. Miles, Capt. John J. Pershing, the cowboy artist Charles M. Russell, William Jennings Bryan, William Howard Taft, Mary Roberts Rinehart, Senator Joseph H. Robinson, and, it is said, Calamity Jane. The building was condemned in 1967 but was purchased at the last moment by Ms. Neltje Kings. It has since been partially restored and continues to serve as a restaurant and bar, as well as an art gallery.

Remodeling of the Saloon included new wiring, plumbing, oak paneling and new bar equipment. Many features of the original Buffalo Bill bar remain.

The Inn opened in April 1968. An apartment for the manager was created on the second and third floors consisting of ten rooms including three bedrooms. In January 1969 the Inn was closed again for extensive remodeling of the parlor, dining room and kitchen. A large banquet room and bar was added on the main floor. Modern rest rooms and a

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CONTINUATION SHEET Sheridan Inn ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

basement elevator were also added. Aseparate laundry building to the rear of the inn was removed and a paved parking lot put in. At the saloon was remodeled a gabled doorway was added. The front lobby, using existing front desk facilities to serve as a gift shop, had another entrance extended into it at this time. Certain doors in the dining room and parlor were changed or omitted and the original showcase was slightly altered.

Over the years offices have been added at the head of the stairs and the manager's apartment has been functioning since June 1974 as an art gallery. The old top floor hotel rooms are too small for modern use and many remain in their original condition.

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Verbal Boundary

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Beginning at the southwest corner of Broadway and Fifth Streets, proceed south along the west curb of Broadway to the north curb of Fourth Street; thence west along said curb to the east curb of Gould Street; thence north along the east curb of Gould Street to the south curb of Fifth Street; thence east long the south curb to the point of origin.