| Form | No | 10- | 306 | (Rev | 10-74) |
|------|----|-----|-----|------|--------|

1 NAME

PH0368296

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

| | DAT | Ά | SH | E | ET |
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1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUL 16 1976

DATE ENTERED NOV 7

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

| HISTORIC | - 1 | | | |
|--|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Nam AND/OR COMMON | e Rock | | | |
| | tial Rock (preferr | A LA | | |
| | | SE of meneration | | |
| LOCATIO | N Custer Natio | mal Forest | | |
| STREET & NUMBER | | ouri National Grasslar | ıds | |
| - | Medora Range | | NOT FOR PUBLICATION | |
| CITY, TOWN | | | CONGRESSIONAL DISTR | |
| Medora | | | -= | 5* |
| state North | Dakota | CODE 38 | COUNTY Billings | CODE 007 |
| CLASSIFI | | | | |
| CATEGORY | •••••••••• | STATUS | PRES | ENTUSE |
| DISTRICT | X PUBLIC | OCCUPIED | AGRICULTURE | MUSEUM |
| BUILDING(S) | | XUNOCCUPIED | COMMERCIAL | PARK |
| structure <u>X</u> site | BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISIT | | EDUCATIONAL | |
| OBJECT | IN PROCESS | TION ACCESSIBLE | ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT | RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC |
| | BEING CONSIDERED | X_YES: UNRESTRICTED | INDUSTRIAL | TRANSPORTATION |
| | | NO | MULITARY | X_OTHER: (Hist. |
| | UARTERS: (<i>If applicable</i>) | Northern Region | | |
| STREET & NUMBER | | | | |
| F | ederal Building | | CTATE | |
| EITY, TOWN | ederal Building | | STATE Montana | |
| EITY, TOWN | | SCRIPTION | state Montana | |
| EITY, TOWN | ederal Building | | | |
| E CITY, TOWN M LOCATIO COURTHOUSE. | ^{ederal Building} lissoula Ν OF LEGAL DE DS,ETC. Billings Cou | SCRIPTION | | |
| ECITY, TOWN M LOCATIO COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEED STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN | Cederal Building Missoula IN OF LEGAL DE DS,ETC. Billings Cou | SCRIPTION | Montana | |
| E CITY, TOWN M LOCATIO COURTHOUSE. REGISTRY OF DEED STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN | ederal Building lissoula N OF LEGAL DE os,ετς Billings Cou ledora | SCRIPTION mty Courthouse | Montana | a |
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| E CITY, TOWN M LOCATIO COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEED STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN M REPRESE TITLE DATE DEPOSITORY FOR | Tederal Building Missoula N OF LEGAL DE DS,ETC. Billings Cou Hedora NTATION IN EX State Historic S 1974 | SCRIPTION mty Courthouse SISTING SURVEYS Sites Survey FEDERAL | Montana STATE North Dakota | |

7 DESCRIPTION

| CON | IDITION | CHEC | KONE | CHECK | JNE |
|-----------|--------------|---------|--------|------------|------|
| EXCELLENT | DETERIORATED | UNAI | LTERED | X_ORIGINAL | SITE |
| X.good | RUINS | XALTE | RED | MOVED | DATE |
| FAIR | UNEXPOSED | | | | |
| 1 | | · · · · | | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Present: Initial Rock is located in the Davis Creek drainage about eight miles southeast of the town of Medora. There is an exposed sandstone rock with two names of men assigned to General Custer's 7th Cavalry carved in soft brown sandstone.

| F. Neely | W.C. Williams |
|------------|---------------|
| M 7th Cav. | H 7 Cav. |
| May 1876 | 1876 |

The rock is approximately 6 feet high by 10 feet long and projects from a hillside. The topography behind the rock is hilly with a gentle flat in front of the rock. The flat extends to Davis Creek and beyond. The vegetation is varied with grass and sagebrush predominant in the flat and grass, sagebrush, shrubs and bare soil on the hills.

The names have been protected by a plate glass shield since 1964. In 1966 a road was built into the area and a shelter was constructed over the rock to prevent further deterioration from weathering. Also, a fence was put up for protection against vandalism. A sign was erected at the site in 1967. Other names and initials have been carved in the rock in recent times.

Original:

n in the second state of t

: This was a camp site for General Custer on the Custer Trail of 1876. There is no visible evidence of the camp other than Initial Rock.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AF | REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH | IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| PREHISTORIC | ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | COMMUNITY PLANNING | LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | RELIGION |
| 1400-1499 | ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | CONSERVATION | LAW | SCIENCE |
| 1500-1599 | AGRICULTURE | ECONOMICS | LITERATURE | SCULPTURE |
| 1600-1699 | ARCHITECTURE | EDUCATION | X_MILITARY | SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| 1700-1799 | ART | ENGINEERING | MUSIC | THEATER |
| <u>X</u> 1800-1899 | COMMERCE | EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | PHILOSOPHY | TRANSPORTATION |
| 1900- | COMMUNICATIONS | INDUSTRY | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | OTHER (SPECIEV) |
| | | INVENTION | | |
| · · | | | | |
| | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

May 28, 1876

General George Armstrong Custer left Fort Abraham Lincoln near Bismarck, North Dakota on May 17, 1876 as regimental commander of the 7th Cavalry and under General Alfred H. Terry's command. Their mission was a campaign against hostile Sioux in the Montana Territory. Initial Rock was the twelfth camp site selected on "Custer's Trail." Camp was made on May 28, when a wagon was lost off a bridge. This was about 200 feet downstream from Initial Rock. One night was spent at that site and camp was broken at 5:00 am. on May 29.

General Custer made his famous "Last Stand" on June 25, 1876 on the Little Big Horn River. Privates Frank Neely and William C. Williams were not assigned to General Custer's battalion at the time of the massacre. Private Neely's Company M was under Major Reno's command and Private Williams' Company H was under Captain Benteen during the battle. Many historic accounts of the Battle of the Little Big Horn are available.

The signatures of Neely and Williams appeared on a petition on July 4, 1876 which was circulated at the regimental camp among the survivors of the battle. The petition was addressed to the President and Congress requesting that Major Reno be promoted to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Custer and that Captain Benteen be then promoted to fill Reno's vacancy.

The names carved in the rock may have been done as a desire to be recognized, a form of recreation, or a lack of something better to do by F. Neely and W.C. Williams. The rock definitely forms a landmark on Custer's Trail and records General Custer's travels leading up to the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- North Dakota History, State Historical Society of North Dakota, 1. Vol. 31, No. 2, April 1964.
- 2. Overfield, Loyd J., The Little Big Horn 1876, The Official Communications, Documents, and Reports, Arthur H. Clark Company, Glendale, California, 1971, pp. 176 & 188.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

9.9 ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY UTM REFERENCES

प्रमुख अवस्थ

| VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION | A 1 3 6 2 1 2 5 0 5 1 8 4 8 2 0 ZONE EASTING NORTHING C | B ZONE EASTING NORTHING |
|-----------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |

| LIST ALL STATES | AND COUNTIES FOR PROPER | TIES OVERLAPPING STATE | OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES |
|-----------------|-------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
| | | | 7. I 7 |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

| | Charles H. Rodgers | | Dispatcher | : |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------|---|
| ORGANIZATION | | | DATE | |
| | U.S. Forest Service | an a sector Carlo | April 1975 | |
| STREET & NUMBER | 1 | ی ہے۔ جانب کی میں ا | TELEPHONE | |
| | Drawer "T" | | 406-549-4181 | 1 |
| CITY OR TOWN | | | STATE | |
| | Missoula | | Montana | 1 |

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION YES_X_

NO

NON STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNAT BF

DATE

DATE

يورجيه وحيدان

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is _ . National f.__State Local. FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

DATE TITLE Director of Recreation Management

FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

AC USHECTOR, OFFICE OF ABCHEOLOG AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST as LA **KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER**

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED JUL 1.6 1976 NOV 7 1976 DATE ENTERED

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| | | | | |

3. Graham, Colonel W.A., <u>The Custer Myth</u>, Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1953, pp. 283-285.