

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Sweetwater	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-449- 003 5007	DATE 4/3/78

1. NAME

COMMON:
Point of Rocks Stage Station

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Almond Stage Station

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 27, R. 101 W., T. 20 N., 6th P.M.

CITY OR TOWN:
Rock Springs Wyo.

STATE Wyoming	CODE 49	COUNTY: Sweetwater	CODE 037
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
State of Wyoming, administered by the Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

STATE:
Wyoming

CODE:
49

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

STATE:
Wyoming

CODE:
49

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers & Mon.

DATE OF SURVEY: Summer-Fall 1967 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Cheyenne

STATE:
Wyoming

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49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Point of Rocks Stage Station was originally built of native sandstone taken from the surrounding hills. Mud mortar chinked the walls. Since the station was burned out on at least one occasion, it is difficult to determine the construction of the original roof but it was likely wooden poles covered with sod. Some of the original beams burned in raids have been replaced with telegraph poles. Presently the structure consists of the original stone walls, still relatively intact, and various modifications and attachments constructed of wood and metal. The roof and the later modifications readily appear inconsistent with the structures historical character.

The site of Point of Rocks is located in a valley of the Bitter Creek; an alkaline stream that runs a few feet north of the station. Rising south of the station a high perpendicular formation with large outcroppings of sandstone gives the site a very picturesque setting. Presently the terrain surrounding the site is heavily covered with dense sagebrush. A county dirt road leading off Interstate 80 provides access to the site.



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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

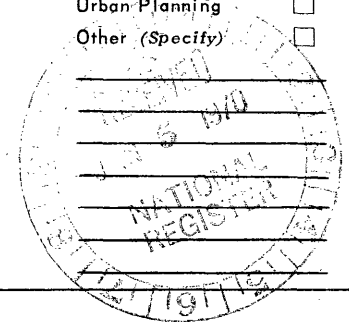
- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1862

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Point of Rocks Stage Station has at various times served as a stage stop, a freight station, a store, a school, a ranch headquarters and a home. In some references the Station is also known as "Rock Point" or "Almond" station. Point of Rock's principal significance is as a stop on the Overland Stage Line during the 1860's and as the junction of the Overland Trail and the Union Pacific Railroad in 1868. For a number of years the Station was the starting terminal for the stage and freight operations running north to South Pass City and the Sweetwater mines. By virtue of its strategic location the Point of Rocks Station is now indirectly related to a third phase of transcontinental transportation, that of automobile travel along U.S. Highway Interstate 80.

There is no recorded history available concerning Point of Rocks prior to the arrival of the Overland Stage Line in 1862. However, the flowing springs located near the station site no doubt prompted wandering Indian bands and trappers to camp in the vicinity for years prior to its use by the stages.

At the beginning of the Civil War the Federal government allowed military strength in the West to decline to such an extent that transportation routes and communications were in constant jeopardy of Indian raids. Along the Oregon-California route the Indian depredations increased to a point that stages carrying the United States mails could not be taken through the disputed territory. Ben Holladay, proprietor of the Overland Stage Line carrying the mails, appealed to the government for help. The decision was made to move the hardest hit section of the route south in an attempt to avoid further disruptions. Point of Rocks was chosen as the location for one of the new stations. The date of construction was late 1861 or early 1862. Fourteen miles to the east of Point of Rocks was the Black Buttes station and fourteen miles on west was Salt Wells station. The station was 1,009 miles west of Atchison, Kansas and 904 miles from Placerville, California, the two terminals of the Overland Stage operation.

From 1862 to 1868 Point of Rocks station served the Overland Stage and the Wells, Fargo and Company operation when the latter purchased the business from Ben Holladay. Specific references to events that occurred around Point of Rocks are scarce but the entire vicinity was the scene of considerable Indian hostilities during the Civil War years. The station was burned out at least once. According to one account the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, Annals of Wyoming, Volume 33, Number 2 (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, October, 1961) pp.212, 213.
 _____, Annals of Wyoming, Volume 40, Number 1. (Cheyenne: Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, April, 1968) pp. 108-110.
 _____, Manuscript files, Wyoming Recreation Commission.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		41° 40' 30"	108° 47' 30"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

NO
41
23

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:
 Bill Barnhart, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE: Dec. 19, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne

STATE: Wyoming

CODE: 49

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. Overholt

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 19, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Conroy
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: APR 4 1970

ATTEST:

William J. Davis
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: FEB 26 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
Wyoming	
COUNTY	
Sweetwater	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70.4.49.0023	4/2/70

Point of Rocks Stage Station
Statement of Significance (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

station was also the scene of a robbery staged by a "Jim Slade, ex-stage line superintendent, turned bandit." Seven passengers on the coach were reportedly killed in the holdup.

The westward construction of the transcontinental railroad reached Point of Rocks in the summer of 1868. The two routes met at this point for the first time and the Overland Stage was, for all practical purposes, then out of business. At about the time the Union Pacific railroad was supplanting the transcontinental stage a "gold rush" was underway to the Sweetwater mines located directly north of Point of Rocks. A rail supply point was established at Point of Rocks since it was closely and conveniently situated for access to the mines. A stage and freighting road was laid out immediately to South Pass City, Atlantic City and the other settlements in the mining district. Point of Rocks became a hub of activity and the old original Overland station became a terminal for two stage lines; one owned by Larimore and Ganno, the other by Alexander Benham. The hundred mile trip to South Pass City took ten hours and cost \$10 per person one-way. William Halte, George Flick and Charles Rador operated the Point of Rocks station as a freight depot also.

In 1877, when the mining activity had declined to a point that stage and freight operation were no longer profitable, Lawrence Taggert, a Union Pacific section foreman, moved his family into the building. His wife turned one room of the station into a schoolroom and served as teacher. A daughter of the Taggerts, Mrs. Charles Rador, lived in the station as a child and in 1897 moved with her husband into the building. Mr. Rador operated his sheep-ranching outfit from the station and the Radors resided there until 1910. The last person to reside at the stage station was Jim McKee, supposedly at one time a member of the Hole-in-the-Wall gang. McKee is said to have spent much of his time looking for a cache of unrecovered loot from one of Butch Cassidy's robberies.

The Point of Rocks Stage Station became the property of the State of Wyoming in 1947 and is presently being preserved and maintained as a State Historic Site.

