

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

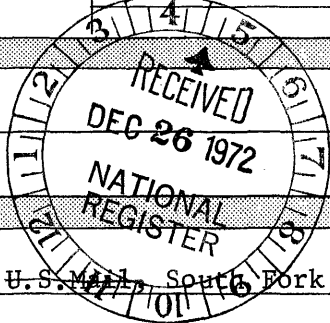
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:  
Wyoming

COUNTY:  
Park

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: APR 3



1. NAME

COMMON:  
T E Ranch Headquarters

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
T E Ranch House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
30 miles southwest of Cody on U.S. 161, South Fork Route 161

CITY OR TOWN:  
Cody *Wyo.*

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56 COUNTY: Park CODE: 029

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input 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) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Charles Duncan

STREET AND NUMBER:  
T E Ranch, South Fork Route

CITY OR TOWN: Cody STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Park County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1002 Sheridan Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Cody STATE: Wyoming CODE: 56

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Wyoming Recreation Commission

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 CODE: 56

6-11-73

SEE INST.CTIONS

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent     Good     Fair     Deteriorated     Ruins     Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered     Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved     Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As is typical of most western livestock enterprises, the original T E Ranch Headquarters was the ranch house. This was a low, single story, multi-roomed, white painted, log structure. Although its walls were raised to ordinary one story height, its broad gables were so gently sloped that its ridgepole (in this case an actual roof tree) perched at an only slightly greater elevation.

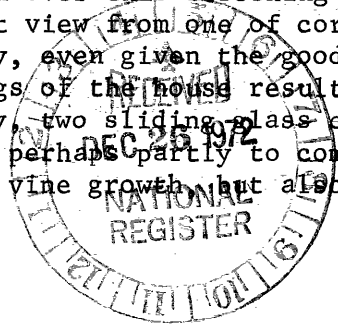
This ranch house stood, as it still stands, on river-bottom land of the then South Fork of the Stinkingwater (since renamed the Shoshone) but between one and two hundred yards back from the northwest bank of the stream itself. It was surrounded by a spacious lawn of native meadow grass, a white picket fence and numerous trees of which a few were evergreens but most were cottonwoods of the broad leaf and wide spreading variety.

The cabin of the original homesteader (a man named Bob Burns) may have been incorporated into this structure but it appears more than likely that it was not. At least the log end joinings at the building's several corners are all in the same saddle-v-notched style and, apparently, all of them the work of the selfsame craftsman. The length of the house parallels the course of the river, that is roughly from southwest to northeast, and is, in the central core, somewhat more than sixty feet long by eighteen or twenty feet wide. However, this long and narrow profile was broken on its southeast (front) side, not in the center but nearer to the northeast end, by an approximately twenty foot wide wing which protruded about fifteen feet from the general wall line. On the northwest (back) side a similar wing, but this one nearer to the southwest end, also protruded from the central axis. On the front, separated by the protruding wing, two shallow, open porches extended toward their respective ends of the building. This house originally contained a kitchen, dining room, living room, and two or three bedrooms. In the Wyoming of 1890 years it was considered a spacious, comfortable ranch home.

Presently, this basic building still exists and still functions as the headquarters of the T E Ranch. In that capacity it serves, as it has for many years past, as the home of the ranch foreman-manager.

The shallow, open porches on the front have been extended to the full protrusion of the above described wing and screened in against summer time river-bottom insect life. Vines have grown over this screening thus changing the aspect of the building in the front view from one of corners and angles to one of straight lines. Evidently, even given the good insulating quality of a log structure, the low ceilings of the house resulted in some uncomfortableness from summer heat. Anyway, two sliding glass cupolas have been raised on the roof of the house, perhaps partly to compensate for light lost because of porch extensions and vine growth but also to permit the escape of interior heat.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input checked="" 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)

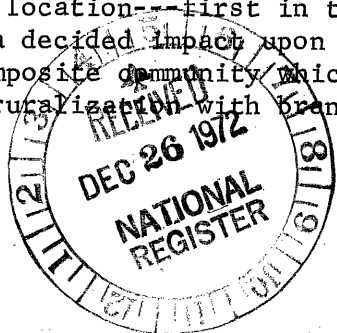
- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> 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>Cattleman's</u>                                  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | <u>Frontier</u>                                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A total of five historic places located in or near Cody, Wyoming and each possessing a specific relationship to Colonel William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) are believed to be worthy of nomination for enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places. These places are: one, T E Ranch; two, Buffalo Bill Campground; three, Pahaska Tepee; four, Irma Hotel; and five, (under slightly different circumstances), Buffalo Bill Historic Center.

Since every nomination to the National Register should---and under form chart guidance must---provide a purview of the prospective registry's significance and since each one of the places mentioned in the foregoing owes its founding in one way or another to a common vision and execution of the resulting plan, the immediately following introductory sketch applies equally to all five places and has been framed as a common section to all five of the separate nominations. Thus these five historic places form a little group of their own and their individual nominations for enrollment in the "Register" are submitted together, but this submission is not as a block with a "take all or none" implication. Indeed, and to the contrary, the five are offered on the basis of individual merit and the failure of any one of them to win approval by review-authority should not reflect on the decisions that authority may make as regards the other four.

Almost from the city's very founding date, at least only shortly thereafter, four of these five historic places were components of either Cody itself or its environs while the remaining one, though coming later, was a natural outgrowth of particular circumstances which contributed to that founding. Opening of the first of these (at least the first within the actual town site) together with the rise of several scattered business and residential structures plus the designation of a United States Post Office bearing the Cody, Wyoming title were all established facts by August, 1896. From the beginning, and probably in a greater extent than is normally the case, geographical location---first in the general sense and second in the exact sense---had a decided impact upon the commercial and the cultural development of a composite community which was a blend of already partially established ruralization with brand new urbanization.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See addendum

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

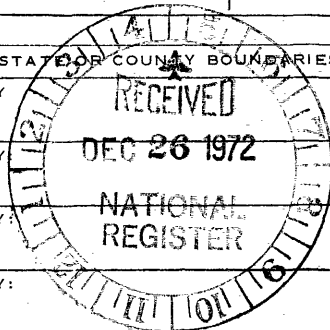
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		44° 16' 55"	109° 29' 33"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

12/620260  
4904010  
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Nedward Frost, Chief-Historic Division,**

ORGANIZATION: **Wyoming Recreation Commission** DATE: **Sept 22, 1972**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**P.O. Box 309**

CITY OR TOWN: **Cheyenne** STATE: **Wyoming** CODE: **56**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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. [Signature]

Title State Liaison Officer

Date September 22, 1972

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

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

Date 4/3/73

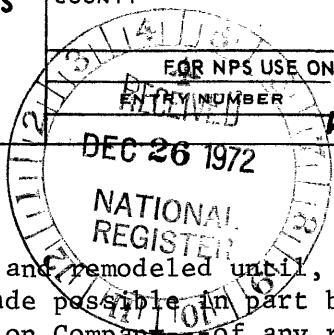
ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 3/22/73

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Statement of Physical Appearance - 2

Within, the house has been periodically upgraded and remodeled until, today, it presents all the aspects and conveniences---made possible in part by the services of the local Rural Electric Administration Company---of any recently constructed home.

The grounds of this "home-ranch house" have also received continuous care. Domesticated lawn grasses replace native river-meadow species; several tree varieties indigenous to the region but not necessarily to this valley floor locality, such as the blue spruce, have been planted and encouraged to grow; planned patches of flowers dot the lawn; as mentioned, vines cover the porches and climb the exteriors of native stone fireplace chimneys. One result of this effort in landscaping could scarcely have been possible elsewhere than on the grounds of a western mountain-ranch home. This is two or three carefully stacked piles of horns and antlers---some of them shed, some the result of winter kills and others trophies of the chase. Because these horn-pile collections must have been started as far back as the time of Buffalo Bill himself, they represent the best selections off of a great former wildlife winter range area.

Closing his eyes and focusing his mind on the historic heritage of this western mountain-ranch scene, one can visualize the routine under which candidates for these horn stacks were selected or rejected, brought in to add to the collection or left on the range to rot and enrich the soil.

Riding the range a T E Ranch cowboy spots the bleached skull bone of a long dead bison bull, urges his shying horse to a nearby fidgety stand and leans from his saddle the better to study horn size and breadth of bone. Then he speaks partly to himself and partly to his horse: "Nope, bronc! We better not bring this one in. The old man fancies hisself as bein' just about the top authority on buffalo and he'd probably let us know in no uncertain terms that we'd been wastin' his and our own time---that this here one ain't good enough for his pile. Besides that, old hoss, it's plumb plain to see what's crossin' your mind. Your figurin' that if I was to reach down and grab one of them horns and lift that head up in the saddle in front of me that it might be a good chance to buck and unload me. And with me hangin' to one end of that horn and forty pounds of bone stuck to the other end of it and swingin', you just might be lucky enough to get the job done. Well, I ain't hankerin' for any foot exercise a chasin' you---or walkin' home either---so we'll just let this old bison set here and rest."

At least somewhat along such lines, must have been the circumstances under which these horn stacks grew or remained static---waiting for the next collected item on some cowboy who rode a gentler horse. Included in the stacks are prize specimens of bison and pronghorn heads; record book horns

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Statement of Physical Appearance - 3

and skulls of Bighorn rams are displayed; and, forming an intertwining frame-work that gives rigidity to each stack, are shed antlers and complete racks which once graced the brows of Shiras Moose bulls, of proud Wapiti herd masters, and of old and wily Mule Deer bucks.



11

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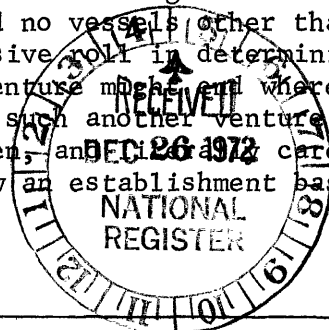
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Statement of Significance - 2

In the first or general sense, this community was located within the Rocky Mountain area and so the arid-lands west, a region just then very much a subject of national interest owing to the explorations, researches, teachings and lobbying efforts of a remarkable man, Major John Wesley Powell. This was the man whose theory of "arid-lands culture" was about to culminate in establishment of the United States Reclamation Service. In the second or exact sense, the community was so located as to cover what would shortly become the eastern gateway to Yellowstone National Park; equally important, it snuggled closely against the irregular---valley and mountain ridge following---boundaries of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. This was the reserve, set aside by President Harrison's 1891 executive order, which would shortly become the basis of several of the first National Forests and which was already recognized and receiving careful study by leaders of the then budding national conservation movement. Furthermore, and lying between these general and exact senses of location, this community was situated in the Bighorn Basin of north-western Wyoming, an area only recently and sparsely settled and so lacking any strongly developed local history which might shape the growth of a new town.

Throughout the Rocky Mountain region as elsewhere in the history of an ever receding until finally vanished western frontier, the materialization of towns and cities fell into two general categories: those that happened; and those that were planned. The first, probably the prevalent category, was the result of previous rural developments creating a demand for urban functions at an hitherto unconsidered location; the second was the result of planned urban development at a selected location exerting an anticipated influence on a surrounding rural area. The first might be called happenstance towns; the second were definitely planned towns. Since Cody, Wyoming was a planned town in an area where urbanization proclivity, in fact most proclivity, was toward the happenstance, it appears that a general characterization of urban happenstance in the time and the place of the Cattleman's Frontier will aid in understanding the differing and peculiar circumstances leading to the founding of Cody and establishment of the several historic places with which we are here concerned.

Happenstance towns appear to have been the usual occurrence on the Cattleman's Frontier. Seeing an opportunity in some local geographical site, some one opened a combined general store and saloon (or, more often, vice versa) for the trade of already established ranching concerns. On a frontier where rails, as yet, seldom intruded and no vessels other than prairie schooners navigated, horses played an exclusive role in determining the sites of commerce. Thus a store and saloon venture might be started and die a lone death, or it might be followed by such another venture as a combined livery barn and smithy service. Only then, and only if care for horseflesh was the first rule, there might follow an establishment based on human needs,



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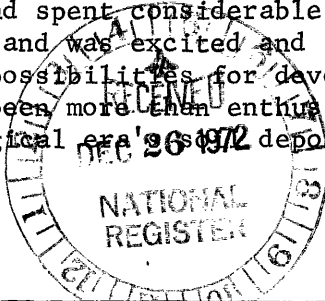
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Statement of Significance - 3

offering such services---not necessarily comforts---as beds and meals. Later, when such establishments as churches and schools might already have materialized, the place was finally incorporated and added to the growing list of officially recognized towns.

The Bighorn Basin of northwestern Wyoming, an interior mountain valley comprising (depending on amount of included mountainous terrain) some 12,000 to 15,000 square miles, was one of the last large areas of the west to be settled. Its turn finally came during the last year or two of the 1870 decade when several operators brought in herds of Oregon and/or Texas cattle and founded ranches. Settlement though not rapid was steady and based on the general Cattleman's Frontier pattern. By 1895 when Colonel William Frederick Cody (Buffalo Bill) and several associates came into the Basin country to put their preconceived development schemes into practice, three or four small towns---separated by distances of 50 or more miles---had already been established. The 1890 authorization for a new county, Big Horn, had been passed by the Wyoming Legislature and, following a few years wait for accumulation of sufficient supporting valuation, its organization was in the immediate offing. Still, there was no real urban community in the entire northwestern quadrant of the Basin and this was the area upon which the new developers had focused their attention. The already established ranching industry throughout the main valley and the various branch valleys of the Stinkingwater (later Shoshone) River appealed to them as one resource which would help to support their proposed town but they had other considerations in view.

Those considerations involved primarily a grandiose project which would ultimately place more than 100,000 acres of arid but fertile land under irrigation (see Buffalo Bill Dam enrollment in the "National Register"). They also intended to capitalize on the general public's growing disposition to see, travel through and play in such unspoiled natural environments as Yellowstone National Park and the new National Forests soon to be formed from the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. And, finally, they saw yet another opportunity for urban growth in proposals for exploitation of indicated mineral wealth, largely carboniferous but not overlooking some evidence of precious metals. As regards the last potential, it is interesting to note that Buffalo Bill's first personal interest in the Bighorn Basin occurred in 1870 when General Phil Sheridan detailed him to guide O. C. Marsh, famous Yale professor of paleontology. He guided Marsh around Ft. McPherson, Nebraska, on some hunts, mostly buffalo, and spent considerable time with him on Marsh's return from the Bighorn Basin and was excited and interested in what Marsh told him about the area and its possibilities for development. Marsh and other scientists in the party had been more than enthusiastic concerning both the richness in the present geological era's deposits and in past era's carboniferous





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Statement of Significance - 4

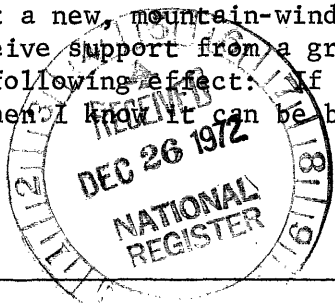
deposits as discovered in coal beds and indicated by structures favorable to the formation of large pools of petroleum. Their guide had been so greatly impressed by the scientists' enthusiasm that he always retained that impression.

That growth based on all contributing factors was slower in developing---and took stranger twists---than Buffalo Bill and his fellow founders foresaw should not be set down so much as a fallacy in vision as an error in timing. They certainly woefully underestimated the period of necessary growth time before profitable returns could be expected, but both growth and profits did eventually materialize.

Even in its earliest years the town of Cody became an urban center marked by the correlation, if not the rapidity and magnitude, with which its growth responded to the foresight and plans of its founders. While it provided all of the usual features characteristic of urban development on the then just commencing to vanish Cattleman's Frontier, it demonstrated a propensity to become something more---to become, however small, a true city embodying its own multiple, peculiar and distinctive attributes of culture and commerce.

Any and every place has at least one characteristic attribute. Therefore, within the just given definition of a city the key word is, of course, multiple; it is the multiplicity of interests, of characteristics, of attributes which distinguishes a city from a place, possibly larger, that has only one compelling reason for existence. That Cody, this embryonic town of 1896 founded in a remote corner of what was itself only a pastoral and hence scantily populated region, could have achieved transformation into true city status was certainly more than a little due to the vision and genius of its principal founder. Granting that it needed almost a half century to attain that status, it was clearly the early years---the getting off to the right start---which, no matter the length of time involved, made the achievement possible.

There in that remote locale and in the circa 1900 years it was Buffalo Bill, a man known and esteemed throughout the world, whose wish was magic. It was Buffalo Bill who could induce a captain of industry to build a seventy miles long railroad spur; who could, from among a long list of waiting and qualified sites, persuade a new founded bureaucracy and the purse string holders in Congress to choose a particular reclamation project; who could pick out a new, mountain-winding route of entry into a great national park and receive support from a great President of the United States with words to the following effect: If my friend Bill Cody says a road can be built there then I know it can be built, so let us get on with building it.



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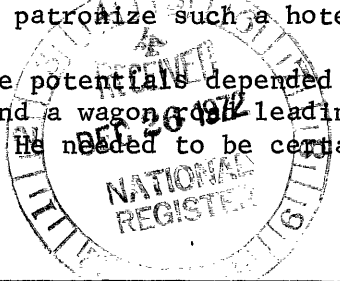
Statement of Significance - 5

This was a Buffalo Bill who was desperately trying to save and invest some of the profits from his Wild West show business, sometimes very great profits which were always, somehow, slipping from his grasp. But it wasn't just a case of investment with him. Here he had found a country that he loved, a country which still possessed---in that far reaching mountainous and forested wilderness against which it backed---at least the semblance of a frontier and with that semblance a way of life that had always appealed to him. He meant this place to be his home; and he meant to so invest his money that this homeland would support him throughout his years of retirement.

So, knowing his Cattleman's Frontier towns and knowing how they developed, he was certain that this town, whatever else happened to it, would need from the start a livery barn including necessary hayracks and loafing corals. He also knew that visitors and sojourners using this stabling service would themselves need a place to stay and that many of them, by choice or consideration for expense, would want to camp as, in coming, they had camped along the way. In short, some visitors to this new town would be looking for a campground close by the stables where their more favored livestock were provided feed and shelter. He proposed to establish those two business services, stables and campgrounds, himself.

Buffalo Bill, of course, foresaw the need for a hotel, but he thought that need was for something more than just the ordinary cow-town "meals and beds" venture. The same thinking governed as regarded the saloon business. He was content to let someone else provide the first services along all such human need lines. For he had in his mind the plans for a really outstanding hotel, one featuring lobby, bar, dining room and other accommodations that would appeal to the type of worldly visitors he envisioned as coming to Cody in ever increasing numbers. He believed the town would become a staging point and outfitting headquarters for sight-seers touring Yellowstone Park; for big game hunting sportsmen; for vacationers making summertime pack-horse trips into the mountains; and for clientele patronizing a newly developed industry, the dude ranches. And he believed it would also serve as a base of operations for businessmen while investigating ranching, mining and other industrial potentials throughout the surrounding country or while on inspection trips to undertakings already in a developing or operating phase. He also saw that with the many different opportunities for rural development that a fairly numerous class of country dwellers would be settling in the surrounding area who, when they came to town for business or pleasure, would patronize such a hotel as he had in mind.

But all of these potentials depended upon two other things, a railroad leading into Cody and a wagon road leading from such a railhead into Yellowstone National Park. He needed to be certain of both before building his hotel



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Statement of Significance - 6

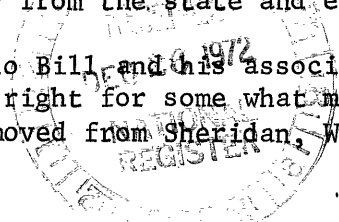
and, in 1896, neither of these things was yet a certainty. Four years later they were, and then Buffalo Bill went ahead with plans for the hotel which opened for business in 1902.

But before then, indeed from the beginning in 1895, Buffalo Bill had two other enterprises, both of a rural nature, which he wanted to get started. He wanted a ranch of his own in this country and, when the road to Yellowstone was finished, he wanted to have established just outside the entrance to that Park, a place offering accommodations---meals, lodging, guiding and hunting services, etc.---to vacationers following that route of entry into the national park, or to such other charms of an extensive and variable mountain-wilderness as might attract them. The first of these enterprises, named for the brand its cattle wore, was the T E (E) Ranch which he acquired and stocked the very year, 1895, of his arrival. The second, bearing a Crow Indian language name meaning "Longhair's Lodge" was Pahaska Teepee and it was completed and open for business in 1901---almost as soon as the completion of the road whose wayfarers it was intended to serve.

In light of the various reasons that have been cited so far for establishment of this "planned" town, it seems necessary to further explain and stress the original purpose that had brought these associates together and that resulted in development of Cody and the surrounding country.

Major John Wesley Powell and his theory of "arid lands culture" has already been mentioned in the foregoing but, although undoubtedly the most informed student of the subject, it would be a mistake to believe that he was the only man interested in providing for irrigation development of the many promising sites throughout the arid western states. In 1894 the Carey Act, named for Senator Joseph M. Carey of Wyoming, became a national law. Under its provisions the federal government could give, to a participating state, lands found feasible for irrigation projects when the state provided proof of ability and determination to proceed with development. Wyoming so arranged its participation that private developers secured a water right for some definite large or huge acreage and built a canal to bring the irrigation waters to numerous smaller, privately owned tracts of land. The state sold these small tracts for a nominal price per acre to the individual; the developer's profit was in the water right and the water which he delivered and sold to these private owners. But the developer's expense was not entirely in the engineering and construction of the project; he also had to colonize that project, that is find the prospective owners and induce them to buy from the state and establish their farmsteads.

Buffalo Bill, and his associates undertook such a Carey Act project, with a water right for some what more than 100,000 acres, in 1895. Mr. George T. Beck moved from Sheridan, Wyoming (where he had established a ranch and



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built a flour mill at a place named Beckton) to manage development of the project. He laid out the new townsite as well as a canal that would carry water to about 10,000 acres, and these two implementations of the total project the private developers were able, but only with great difficulty, to carry through to a conclusion. The larger scheme, the Shoshone Reclamation Project---still in 1972 not entirely completed but with 94,000 acres currently under irrigation---they were totally unable to finance. In 1904 they turned the water rights for these lands back to the State of Wyoming; the State re-issued those rights to the Federal Reclamation Service which commenced actual construction in 1905 and was serving water to the settlers under the project's first unit, about 15,000 acres, previous to 1910.

George T. Beck laid out the townsite of Cody using numbered streets on the north-south axis and avenues bearing names of the associates on the east-west axis. Thus there was a Salisbury Avenue; a Rumsey Avenue; a Bleistein Avenue; an Alger Avenue; and a Beck Avenue. To this sequence of names there were one or two exceptions---a Wyoming Avenue and the town's main street, a Sheridan Avenue. Remembering that Buffalo Bill had served as scout under Phil Sheridan it isn't difficult to conclude for whom that main street is named. Beck recommended, and the others agreed, that a teamster should be able to easily turn a six horse team and freight wagons around on any street of the new town, so the streets were all 100 feet wide.

Buffalo Bill, in 1896 the principal founder of a town, died January 10, 1917. By that time the total community (urban and rural) which he had done so much to advance was securely established, being solidly based on multiple, strong and growing enterprises. As he had foreseen, this land possessing a varied natural and aesthetic wealth had attracted a cosmopolitan population. However, these cosmopolites proved to hold one united interest; they, or at least a majority of them, recognized the genius of the founder who had departed. Within days following his demise they had organized a Buffalo Bill Memorial Association and this is an association that has grown and thrived since birth. Very shortly it acquired property on what was then the western edge of small but growing Cody and out of this real estate there arose the Buffalo Bill Historical Center. The present Center comprises two great museums and a gallery of western art that must be ranked as truly a treasury of national importance; it is, in its composite, one of the outstanding cultural loci in all of Wyoming.

These then---T E Ranch, Buffalo Bill Campground, Pahaska Teepee, Irma Hotel and Buffalo Bill Historical Center, in order of founding---are the five historic places making up this grouping. The theme from this point on is concerned with the individual historic significance of each of these five separate places.



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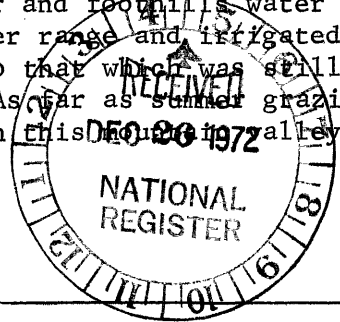
Colonel W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) acquired his T E Ranch Headquarters property, with improvements amounting to at least a homestead cabin, from an early day rancher named Bob Burns. Before Mr. Burns' ownership and in the early 1880's, possibly as early as the year 1880 itself, and while the site was still federally owned public domain, old Captain Belknap (not a Civil War title, he having been a retired sea-going ship master) had used the site as location for a summer range cow-camp.

Belknap, not the first but one of the first to establish an open-range cattle operation in the Bighorn Basin, probably, (as was customary on the cattlemen's frontier) erected a crude cabin, shed or stables, and corrals at his summer cow-camp site. It may well be that Burns came into possession of such a rudimentary development by virtue of "proving-up" his homestead thereabouts. In which case he may or may not have improved upon what was already there.

All facts point to Buffalo Bill as having purchased and taken active possession of the Burns' homestead during the fore-part of 1895. He had not ventured into the Bighorn Basin prior to that year, but by that summer he was already ordering the movement of Nebraska and South Dakota cattle to his new holding on the South Fork of the Stinkingwater River in northwestern Wyoming.

The Nebraska cattle had always belonged to him, they came from his Scout's Rest Ranch nearby the town of North Platte. But that part of the new herd which came out of Dakota carried the T E (E thus burned) brand. These cattle he had purchased from his old Deadwood, South Dakota friend, Mike Russell. Theirs had been one of those not so unusual transactions covering an entire herd where the purchaser had bought the brand, irons and registration, along with the livestock. Now the Colonel determined to make this the regular brand of his new ranching enterprise---hence the name T E Ranch.

By 1895 it was no longer possible to found a vast or even small livestock operation by homesteading a mere quarter section of oasis and turning a herd of cattle loose to shift for themselves and hopefully increase---while simultaneously rendering annual profits---from off the rich grasses of the public domain's semi-arid lands. Buffalo Bill found it necessary to buy small holdings along the valley floor and foothills water courses and put together enough privately owned winter range and irrigated hay lands to at least provide supplementary forage to that which was still freely available on the public lands winter ranges. As far as summer grazing was concerned, that was the least of his problems on this mountain valley ranch.



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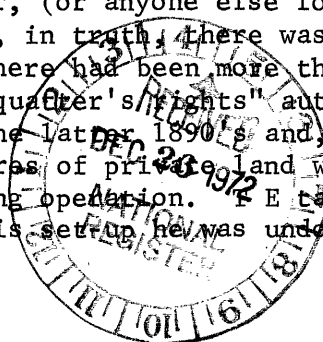
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By no other right than closeness and ease of access, he and other mountain ranchers similarly situated had first priority on the lush highland pastures of the Yellowstone Timberland Reserve. This immense reserve, a belt in some places more than one hundred and fifty miles wide, completely circumscribed Yellowstone National Park and, along its highly irregular perimeter, penetrated sometimes deeply and sometimes shallowly into northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana and east central Idaho. It had been created by President Harrison's executive order in 1891 and it was the forerunner to the Shoshone and several other present day national forests. Though not in 1895 subjected to administrative regulations of an as yet unborn U. S. Forest Service, its high mountain meadows, open parks and foothill grasslands provided a wealth of summer forage that was much more readily available to such mountain valley ranches at the T E Than it was to the larger plains-type ranches set up to utilize the much broader but more drought exposed and so more variable pastures of the Bighorn Basin's Central floorway.

The late 1890's were relatively prosperous years for Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show and he used some of the profits to accumulate lands which were added to the T E holdings. Finally he had something more than four thousand acres of good grasslands plus several hundred acres of rich, irrigated hay fields. Then he acquired the Carter Ranch, a neighboring place which also owned some thousands of acres including about two or three hundred acres of cultivated hay meadows.

The Carter Ranch possessed an interesting history of its own, it being ---in 1878--- the very first cattle operation established in all the twenty thousand square miles area of the Bighorn Basin. Its founder had been Judge W. A. Carter who, besides being post sutler at Fort Bridger, was then the greatest business entrepreneur in all the Territory of Wyoming. As Fort Bridger post sutler Carter had always befriended and maintained fair business relationships with the Shoshone Indians. Desirous of showing their appreciation, the Shoshones had told Carter of the opportunities for a cattle enterprise in the little known northern reaches of their Wind River Reservation---had indeed indicated the exact location and presented to him the land on which to establish the business. That this land happened to be about eighty-five miles on north of the Wind River Reservation's northern boundary didn't seem to bother either the Shoshones or Judge Carter, (or anyone else for that matter), if indeed they realized the fact. And, in truth, there was no reason why either party should have been bothered, there had been more than one early day ranching enterprise established on "squatter's rights" authority! Anyway, Buffalo Bill acquired this place during the latter 1890's and, combining it with the T E, held about eight thousand acres of private land with which to supplement an otherwise "open range" grazing operation. T E tallies for 1890 years have not been found, but under this set-up he was undoubtedly able to run about



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a thousand head---and maybe several hundred more---of good "brood" cows along with their calves and the necessary young, replacement stock.

At least in Wyoming the days of huge---twenty thousand head and upwards---livestock enterprises had pretty well ended with the disastrous winter of 1886; in the 1890's as today one thousand head of "brood" cows was at least a medium sized operation. However, Colonel Cody couldn't hold it. Always needing cash to promote some venture or cover some loss, he sold the Carter Ranch to Mr. W. R. Coe of New York City and Cody, Wyoming in 1903. The T E Ranch was thus cut back to a size of about four thousand acres, supporting some five hundred head of breeding stock, and this much he was able to keep intact up until his death in 1917. Throughout all of this time and subsequently, federal agencies and federal controls have grown and the western ranch livestock business based on grazing the public domain has had to make many adjustments. But the T E held typical "favored ranch" status under the "adjacency grazing rights" formula set up in the early days of the U.S. Forest Service and the grazing permits granted to the T E on the Shoshone National Forest at that time have always been maintained by the several later owners of the place.

In 1916, once again under heavy financial pressure, the Colonel entertained thoughts of establishing a dude ranch operation at the T E. This particular type of vacation resort business was then a fast growing phenomenon and a number of old line ranchers had already successfully combined it with the livestock operation which remained their prime business. He even went so far as to have literature printed---pamphlets and letterheads---to promote bookings for the 1917 season. But his death in January of that year put an end to that scheme. Still, in another way---and from the first years of his ownership in the mid-1890's---Buffalo Bill did operate a sort of a free dude ranch and pack horse camping trips and big game hunting business at and from the T E Ranch. The ranch was the outfitting point for many of the famous hunting trips whereby, during his affluent years as a showman, he entertained notable guests from Europe and the more urbanized regions of America. In fact it was in no small measure the need to accommodate his guests, at the start and the finish of these hunting expeditions, that he had built what, for that time and place, was indeed a spacious and comfortable ranch house.

In 1918 the executor of the William Frederick Cody estate sold the T E Ranch to Mr. Stanley Groves a wealthy Philadelphian. Mr. Groves continued to operate the place as a cattle ranch but he also made of it a summer-long vacation home for his family. Apparently he appreciated the then quite young but already historically significant ranch house which Buffalo Bill had left. Although he built other log cabins for family accommodations and, in 1926, a log octagon building which was a library and game house, these were kept at some distance from the main ranch house. And that house, the

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ranch house, continued to be the residence of the ranch foreman-manager. Following Mr. Groves death about 1930, the T E Was sold to a man named Paul Patton from Kansas City.

Mr. Patton was a lieutenant in the Pendergast organization of that Missouri city and when "Boss" Pendergast got into tax troubles with the federal government Mr. Patton was also in trouble. In the course of these troubles the T E Ranch was again put on the block.

Mr. Robert Woodruff of Atlanta, Georgia was the next owner of the T E. Then President and later Chairman of the Board of the Coca Cola Company of America, Mr. Woodruff continued for years to operate the T E much as Colonel Cody himself, and later Mr. Groves, had operated the place. Recently, in 1972, Mr. Woodruff sold the T E to Mr. Charles Duncan, also of the Coca Cola Company, who is the present owner.

In one way all five owners of the T E, (subsequent to the original owner, Bob Burns, and his ownership anteceded both brand and name) have been similar. All of them have been most of the time absentee owners and have so provided that the main ranch house be the home of the foreman-manager. This has provided continuous occupation of the house and so constant upkeep. Today the building stands in exceptionally fine condition, especially so for an old log house built in a river bottom, close by the stream, and so subjected to much more dampness than is indicated by the general region's well documented and well known semi-aridity.

This main ranch house is and has been, then, the headquarters of the T E Ranch. It and its immediate surrounding grounds---lawn, trees, flower plots and stacks of horns---are the symbols of the ranch and its history. That house and its grounds, as described in the "present and original (if known) physical appearance" heading, so much and no more of the ranch---not even barns and other nearby buildings, is the subject of this nomination for enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places.





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