

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAY 29 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUN 14 1979

**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

Baxter Ranch Headquarters Buildings

AND/OR COMMON

The Log Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

(Lots 7 & 8, Block 318)  
912-922 East 18th Street and  
1810-1920 Morrie Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Laramie

CODE

021

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Apts.

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John H. & Jessie L. Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

922 East 18th Street

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City and County Building

STREET & NUMBER

19th Street & Carey Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82001

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Wyoming Recreation Commission, Survey of Historic Sites, Markers and Monuments

DATE

1967 (revised 1973)

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Wyoming Recreation Commission

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

STATE

Wyoming 82002

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1904</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

The Log Cabin property is located just east of downtown Cheyenne and is directly across the street, west, of Holliday Park. Situated on the northwest corner of the intersection of Eighteenth Street and Morrie Avenue, the main, two-story log cabin structure faces south toward Eighteenth Street. A log barn north of the cabin faces east. The cabin and barn were once part of the George W. Baxter Ranch headquarters which was located in the Hillsdale area about twenty miles east of Cheyenne. The two structures, built about 1885, were moved to Cheyenne approximately in 1904, and the log cabin was converted into a two-story, four-unit apartment building while the log barn became a two-story duplex. To move the structures was a major undertaking. They were dismantled log by log, and each log was numbered and replaced in its exact, original position. Spaces between the logs were packed with oakum, and the logs and oakum remain in excellent condition. Sewer and water lines were installed in 1904, sidewalks were finished in 1910, and paving on Eighteenth Street was apparently completed by 1924.

The log cabin, described in local newspaper articles as a "palatial rustic mansion" represents a very late example of rustic architecture and construction. Moreover, the structure reflects some French Colonial influence, a style which came to the Mississippi Valley from Canada and the West Indies. High-hipped roofs with projecting gables are characteristic of the style, as well as the surrounding galleries, or piazzas, which were hot-climate additions. Dimensions of the cabin, including 1904 clapboard additions containing kitchens, baths and extra bedrooms, are approximately 81 feet by 58 feet. The logs used in its construction, each nine inches in diameter, were laid in alternating tiers and carefully cut and fitted into lock-notch cornerings. Faint traces of paint indicate that at one time the logs, shipped from the Pacific Coast by the Baxters, were brown in color. Outside trim is white and window screens are painted black. Capping the structure is a hipped roof covered with cedar shingles painted black. The roof covers a ten-foot-wide veranda that extends along the street sides, or along the east and south sides of the cabin. Two of the bedrooms at the 922 address (corner of Eighteenth Street and Morrie Avenue) extend into the roof of the veranda in the form of large, hipped gables. Windows in the original, or log portion, of the building are square, sliding sash windows. Each contains a total of eight panes, some of which are filled with old, wavy glass. Windows in the rear addition are rectangular, sliding sash, and four-lite in design. The walls in the basements of the log cabin and log barn are of stone, and walls within the basements are brick.

The floor plan of the cabin is similar to the Tennessee L-shaped or Virginia L-shaped House plan, although later, rear additions alter the plan to produce a row-house effect. Two of the apartments contain two bedrooms and two have three bedrooms. All have dining rooms. Floors and ceilings are supported by four-inch by twelve-inch wooden beams located two feet apart. In the owner's apartment the beams are exposed in the basement, dining room and living room. Interior walls of the cabin are lath and plaster, all of which are covered with paint and/or wallpaper.

Interior woodwork is oak and kitchens and baths have oak wainscoting. All inside doors have black ceramic, mushroom-shaped doorknobs fitted with brass escutcheon

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1880 Herman Kimme purchased the "Home Brewery" which stood on Cheyenne's Block 318, at the site of the present Log Cabin. The Kimmes expanded their brewery business and built a beer garden which is described by Daze Bristol in a Cheyenne newspaper article.

It was built by H. Kimme and sponsored by Anheuser Busch Co. and patterned after beer gardens in the East, where they were so popular.

Large shade trees gave a picnic glamor to the grounds; pretty little lattice summer houses dotted on the lawn. Inside the cottage was a long table with a bench around to sit on. Most families came with their picnic baskets in a street car drawn by horses for the picnic. . . .

The Kimmes owned the property until after the death of Margaretha Kimme, and in 1899 the lots were acquired by the F. E. Warren family. In 1904 Warren moved a log cabin residence and barn to the site which had previously belonged to George W. Baxter. The relationship of the two structures to the Baxter family is historically significant, and pertinent to enrollment of the site in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Baxter log cabin residence and log barn were built during the 1880's when Cheyenne was reputed to be the richest city of its size in the world. It was a boom period for cattlemen, when immense fortunes were made and mansions were raised in the prairie. The Wyoming Stockgrowers' Association, with headquarters in Cheyenne, had on its rolls some of the most prominent men in the West, including George W. Baxter. Born in Hendersonville, North Carolina in 1855, Baxter graduated from West Point in 1877. Shortly thereafter he became a lieutenant in the Third Cavalry, and for four years fought in the Indian Wars. Resigning his commission to go into the cattle business, he bought \$15,000 worth of cattle. These he grazed on the LU, a ranch he had founded on Gooseberry Creek, where it emerges from the Absaroka Range in what later became Hot Springs County. In 1886 he obtained a contract with the Union Pacific Railroad to purchase 50,000 acres of land. When he eventually received the warranty deed in 1892 he sold 20,000 acres to Col. Charles McGhee, his father-in-law. This was land located in the Hillsdale area where, in 1885, the ranch home was built. Baxter was active in the Wyoming Stockgrowers' Association, and was president and general manager of the North American Cattle Company and the Frontier Land and Cattle Company. He also was once manager of the Western Union Cattle Company. Baxter is mentioned in A. S. Mercer's book, Banditti of the Plains. Mercer's polemic book, implicating prominent cattlemen in an extralegal adventure, was probably the most controversial ever written in Wyoming and at one time was banned, burned or stolen.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

(See Addendum)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cheyenne North, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,3 5,1,6,3,5,0 4,5,5,3,9,8,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B                    
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                  

D                  

E                  

F                  

G                  

H                  

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Jessie Johnson; Mark Junge, Historian; Greg Kendrick, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Owner Wyoming Recreation Commission

DATE

October 17, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

922 East 18th Street 604 East 25th Street

TELEPHONE Junge (307)777-7695  
Johnson (307)632-5087

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE   

LOCAL X

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Jan D. Wilson*

TITLE

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 17, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

6.14.79

ATTEST:

*William H. Brennan*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

6.8.79

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plates displaying an art nouveau, floral-and-bow, raised design on a dark pebbled background. Original Victorian bathtubs may be found in all but one apartment, and some original gaslight fixtures remain. The owner's apartment (922) is a three bedroom complex which, with the exception of its kitchen, is located in the original log portion of the cabin. This apartment is larger than the others and has a double fireplace between the living room and dining room. It contains what was probably the original stairway to the second story, as the stairway is wider than those found in the other apartments. It also has an exceptionally large master bedroom.

The log barn, which is presently a duplex apartment building, is a rectangular building located between 1808 and 1810 Morrie Avenue. Building dimensions are 32 feet by 52 feet, and include an attached, covered porch and a rear shed addition containing kitchens and pantries. The two-story structure is covered by a shingled, Swedish gambrel roof. Shingles on the roof are painted black, shingles on the east and west faces of the second story are painted green, and outside trim is painted white. Windows are generally that of the rectangular, sliding sash, two-lite variety, and the top lites of the east face windows on the main story contain etched glass. The log barn duplex contains the same wainscoting, woodwork and hardware as that found in the cabin.

In summary, the facades of both buildings remain much as they were when constructed. Certain alterations, however, should be noted. A cement porch was added to the log duplex, and in 1974 the wooden steps of the cabin were replaced by brick and concrete steps. The veranda skirting the cabin has been replaced although it is very close to the original in design. Temporary, horizontal lath, privacy screens have been provided on the east side of the veranda and will remain until nearby foliage provides a cover. In 1977 wooden steps at the rear of the rental unit apartments were replaced by red-wood decks, and a five-foot-high cedar fence was built around the backyard of the cabin. In that year also a new roof was installed on the north side additions to the cabin. Since 1974 much painting has been done on both the cabin and barn, the color used being brown, to match the building logs.

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When Baxter died in 1929 at the age of 75, Author William C. Deming was quoted in a Washington, D.C. newspaper: "George W. Baxter's life history reads like a romance of the Old-Time West."

George Baxter's political career, in addition to his ties with the powerful Stock-growers' Association, also has historical significance. He served in the Wyoming Territorial Legislature and was appointed Territorial Governor by President Cleveland in 1886. In 1889 he served as a delegate to the Wyoming Constitutional Convention where, as an advocate of Woman Suffrage, he said, "I yield to no man in the homage and adoration which I feel and which upon all proper occasions I gladly pay to a pure and lovely woman." He was a Democratic candidate in the first Wyoming state gubernatorial race, but Francis E. Warren won the election. From 1895 until 1903 he lived in Denver, where he served on the commission that built the Colorado State Capitol Building. The Baxters eventually went to Knoxville, Tennessee, where they lived until 1920 when they moved to East Hampton, Long Island.\*

From 1899 until 1961 the Cheyenne lots upon which the Baxter log cabin and adjacent structures are situated were owned by the F. E. Warren family. The relationship to the Warrens is important because the family is one of the best known in Wyoming history. Francis E. Warren, twice Territorial Governor of Wyoming (1885 and 1889), was elected the state's first governor. He served as a United States senator for 37 years, and was Chairman of the Military Affairs Committee. At his death in 1929, the same year George Baxter died, he was the oldest and senior member of the Senate. He was a prominent stockman and merchant, and established the Warren Livestock Company and the Warren Mercantile Company. He fought for laws favorable to the woolgrowers and was called the "greatest shepherd since Abraham." When Warren died, Fort D. A. Russell in Cheyenne was changed to Fort Francis E. Warren. The post was an army base that in 1947 became Warren Air Force Base.

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\*One of Baxter's granddaughters married Conde Nast, a New York publisher. Mr. Baxter's wife, Margaret White McGhee, was born on her father's plantation in Munroe County, Tennessee, and was educated at Ward Belmont College in Nashville, at Convent of the Sacred Heart in Georgetown, and in European schools. Active in educational, charitable and patriotic work, she was a Colonial Dame and was the first Wyoming State Regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

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In 1961 the Warren's Log Cabin property was bought by a Cheyenne realty company and later advertised for sale as a condominium or apartment house. It was bought by the Johnson family on May 9, 1974, and has since that time been in the care of a family that is interested in historic preservation. Mrs. Johnson and her daughter, Alice Johnson Siglin, are artists and collectors who are interested in paintings and art objects done by local artists and artisans. The Johnsons are probably the first resident owners of the property since the Baxters.

The Log Cabin property derives its significance as a late example of "rustic" architecture and for its association with prominent people involved in the early social, economic and political life of Wyoming. The Log Cabin and barn are among the last log structures remaining in Cheyenne, and the log cabin is the only "log mansion" in the city. For both its historical and architectural significance, therefore, the Log Cabin property should be enrolled in the National Register of Historic Places.

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ITEM 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BOOKS:

- Grolier Society, Inc. Grolier Encyclopedia. New York: Doubleday Doran and Company, Inc., 1958.
- Laramie County Historical Society. Early Cheyenne Homes. Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Co., 1964.
- Larson, T.A. History of Wyoming. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965.
- Mercer, A. S. The Banditti of the Plains. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.
- Nicholson, Arnold. American Houses in History. New York: The Viking Press, 1965.
- Polk, R. L., and Co's. Cheyenne City Directory, 1905-1906 (Vol. I) Salt Lake City.
- Sloan, Eric. An Age of Barns. New York: Funk and Wagnalls, 1966.
- Williams, Henry Lionel and Ottalie K. A Guide to Old American Houses, 1700-1900. New York: A. S. Barnes and Co., Inc., 1962.

NEWSPAPERS:

- Bristol, Daze, "Cheyenne Once Boasted a Beer Garden," (probable Cheyenne, Wyoming newspaper-Frontier Days Special Edition, about 1975. Available at Johnson residence.)
- Deming, William C., "As Seen in Washington," Newspaper unknown, 20 December 1929.
- "Former Governor of Wyoming Dies," Wyoming Eagle, 20 December 1929.

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"Governor of Wyoming for Brief Period," Newspaper unknown, 19 December 1929.

Putnam, Eva T., "Frances Warren Pershing's Gracious Personality Made Her  
Conspicuous at Capital," Wyoming State Tribune, 17 May 1922.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Abstract of Chain of Title on Lots 7 and 8, Block 318, City of Cheyenne,  
Laramie County, Wyoming.

Vertical Files, Wyoming State Historical Department, Cheyenne, Wyoming.