

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

(Ferdinand Lafrentz House

AND/OR COMMON

Lafrentz Home

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2015 Warren Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Laramie

CODE

021

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Alvin L. Wiedersphan

STREET & NUMBER

3400 Moore Avenue

Phone (307) 632-1363

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

City-County Building

STREET & NUMBER

308 West 19th Street

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

604 East 25th Street

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 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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ferdinand W. Lafrentz House is situated only a few blocks from downtown Cheyenne, in a neighborhood that is in the process of transition from residential to commercial and governmental. The house is approximately midway between 20th and 21st Streets and set back forty feet from Warren Avenue which it fronts. North of the Lafrentz House is the General Motors Acceptance Corporation Building and an adjoining parking lot, and south of the house is an alley and a small, two-story stucco home. Opposite the house, across Warren Street, is a parking lot, and in the rear of the house is a small yard, a parking lot and a frame garage. Property separation on the north and south edges is achieved by vegetation including lilac bushes and deciduous trees, and by a section of cedar plank fence between the garage and house. The entire lot upon which the Lafrentz House is situated measures 66 x 122 feet, and the building itself measures 47 x 37 feet.

According to available documentation, it appears that the Lafrentz House was built in the early 1880's. The gray-painted, two-story cottage is eclectic in style, but borrows principally from the Queen Anne. The latter is demonstrated by the changes in siding material from clapboard to square shingles to scalloped shingles and by the steep gable roof that is covered with black, composition shingles. The quasi-mansard roof along a portion of the east and north elevations is borrowed from the Second Empire Style. Although a few exterior changes have been made in the house, such as the addition of an entrance vestibule, they are not major changes affecting the integrity of the structure.

Principal features of the main, or west, elevation of the house are two gable dormers and a frame veranda with ornamental balustrade, columns and brackets. Fenestration is prominent in the house, particularly along the west face which contains seven, elongated, double-hung windows 75" x 27" in size. Three of the seven are set within a large bay window that is capped by standing seam, metal fascia. Stained glass is used in the entrance vestibule.

The south face contains a dormer wall, four elongated windows the same size as those in the west elevation, and one smaller, rectangular window. The first level of the east face contains three elongated windows, a smaller rectangular window, and an incongruous but interesting triangular window, while the mansard roof contains three shallow dormers. Adjacent a single door, rear entrance is a face brick chimney with three sides exposed. This chimney is newer than the original, corbelled, common brick chimney which penetrates the ridge. The north face of the house is dominated by a gable wall containing no windows. Just east of the gable wall is a rectangular window, smaller in size than the original opening of which it is part and which in size matches the other elongated windows.

Within the Lafrentz House are three offices. On the main floor, south, is the office of McInerney Company Realty consisting of a living room, dining room, kitchen and bath. A fireplace in the living room is no longer functional. The north portion of the main floor consists of a parlor, sitting room, kitchen,

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ferdinand W. Lafrentz House, which has not changed substantially since it was built in the 1880's, is representative of the type of frame cottage that was built in Cheyenne during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. During this brief but expansive period, Cheyenne was reputed to be the richest city of its size in the world. It was the headquarters of Wyoming's livestock industry which reached its apogee midway through the decade but declined following the severe winter of 1886-87. The men who were members of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and the Cheyenne Club at that time represented some of the most prominent families in America and Europe.

The Lafrentz property relates directly or indirectly to at least three people of importance on the local level, two of whom departed Cheyenne to rise to positions of national importance. One was Lloyd Fredendall, son of Army Captain Ira L. Fredendall. The latter owned the Lafrentz property in the year 1883 according to the records of the Laramie County Clerk's Office. Lloyd Fredendall entered the military and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point. He then advanced through army grades to the position of Lieutenant-General. In November, 1942 he was with units landing at Oran, North Africa and in June, 1943 he became Deputy Commander of the Second Army.

Ferdinand W. Lafrentz owned the house named for him during the years 1884-87. According to Historian John Rolfe Burroughs, Lafrentz came to Wyoming from Chicago to work for Alexander Swan as a bookkeeper for the Swan Land and Cattle Company, a livestock operation which at one time was among the largest in the nation. In 1888 Lafrentz served as a Laramie County Democratic Representative to the Tenth Wyoming Territorial Legislature. In that year he introduced the first formal appeal to memorialize the United States Congress for Wyoming statehood. Later Lafrentz left Cheyenne to pursue his fortune in New York City, and became Chairman of the Board of the American Surety Company of New York. He authored a book of poetry about life in the West entitled Cowboy Stuff and according to one source, sold the first ten copies for \$5,000 each and gave the money to Lincoln Memorial University in Cumberland Gap, Tennessee for the construction of a dormitory.

A third prominent person associated with the Lafrentz property was Robert N. LaFontaine, a Cheyenne contractor who constructed a portion of Fort D. A. Russell.*

*The site is today Warren Air Force Base, a National Historic Landmark.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Addendum Item 9

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than 1 acre

QUADRANGLE NAME Cheyenne North, Wyoming

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 515540 4553830

B

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The site to be enrolled in the National Register is located on the south half of lots 3 and 4, a rectangular plot 66' x 122' in size and situated within Block 263 in the city of Cheyenne.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Alvin L. Wiederspahn, Attorney
Mark Junge, Historian and Walter Sedovic, Jr., Historical Architect

ORGANIZATION Guy Williams and White Attorneys DATE May, 1978
Wyoming Recreation Commission May, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 1600 Van Lennen Avenue TELEPHONE 632-1363
604 East 25th Street 777-7695

CITY OR TOWN Cheyenne (both) STATE Wyoming 82001

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 L. Wilson*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE May 17, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *William H. Bradman*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7-17-79

DATE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Lafrentz House ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

corridor and closet, all of which are used as the office of Cheyenne Memorial Gardens. The second floor is the home of another private entity named Psychological Services. In addition to two main rooms used for office space on the second level are an L-shaped hallway, a bathroom, and a long, narrow storage room with a pitched ceiling faced with car siding and containing dormer windows facing west. Below ground level is a brick-walled, partial basement accessible from the rear of the building and containing a coal furnace converted to gas. Plaster walls painted white, off-white or light blue, are seen throughout the house. Noteworthy interior features include: ornamental, milled, softwood window and door casings and baseboards; functional iron radiators; and ornamental pressed and solid brass and brass-plate door hardware. Surprisingly, few interior changes have been made in the Lafrentz House in order to accommodate the three commercial enterprises established in it.

The garage is located east, or behind, the Lafrentz House. Although it is complementary to the house in design, it is not old enough to be included in the National Register. Measuring 20' x 23' the white-painted garage is a rectangular, clapboard-sided structure capped by a gable roof that has exposed rafters and is covered with wooden shingles. Single, overhead doors on the south elevation provide vehicle access to two garage bays. Other building openings include a single door entrance on the west side and four rectangular windows, two on the north side and one each on the east and west sides. Each window contains two lites divided by a single mullion.

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LaFontaine, who bought the Lafrentz House in 1909, was active in local politics, serving as a member of the Cheyenne City Council in 1908-09. In the latter year he was elected to the House of Representatives of the Tenth Wyoming State Legislature. In 1912 he was made chairman of the Republican Central Committee in Laramie County, serving in that post for two years. In 1914 he became the first man to serve as Mayor of Cheyenne under the commission form of government, and served a second term in that office.

There are gaps in the history of the Lafrentz House, just as there are gaps in the history of Cheyenne. This particular building, like so many others in the city, needs further research in order to not only document its various uses and the lives of its occupants, but also to help fill in the pieces of a mosaic of local history that is complex, and enriched by ties to history outside the city limits. Perhaps the architecture of Cheyenne, of which so much remains from one of the most exuberant periods of the city's history, can serve as the vehicle by which the town's past will be revealed.

In conclusion, the Lafrentz House, located in one of the oldest neighborhoods in Cheyenne, is a well-preserved survivor of early-day Cheyenne residential architecture. The house, or the property on which it stands, is associated directly or indirectly with three distinguished Cheyenne citizens, and is presently being preserved by its owner, Alvin L. Wiedersphan. Both its architectural and historical characteristics combine to qualify the Lafrentz House for enrollment in the National Register of Historic Places.

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ADDENDUM: ITEM 9

BOOKS:

Bartlett, I. S. History of Wyoming (Vol. II). Chicago: The S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1918.

Burroughs, John Rolfe. Guardian of the Grasslands. Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Company, 1971.

Heitman, Francis B. Historical Register and Dictionary of the United States Army. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1903.

Institution for Research in Biography. World Biography (Fourth Edition of the Biographical Encyclopedia of the World). New York: no publisher or date of publication listed, although company was incorporated in 1934.

Laramie County Chapter, Wyoming State Historical Society. Early Cheyenne Homes. Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Company, 1975.

Larson, T. A. History of Wyoming. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1965.

Mothershead, Harmon Ross. The Swan Land and Cattle Company, Ltd. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1971.

Trenholm, Virginia Cole (editor). Wyoming Blue Book (3 Vols.). Cheyenne: Pioneer Printing and Stationery Company, 1974.

Williams, Mary H. (compiler). United States Army in World War II (Vol. 4), Special Studies: Chronology 1941-1945. Washington, D. C.: Office of the Chief of Military History, Department of the Army, 1960.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Book II, Block 151-275, City of Cheyenne. Office of the Laramie County Clerk, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Vertical Files, "Block 263". Office of the Laramie County Assessor, Cheyenne, Wyoming.