

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Wyoming	
COUNTY: Fremont	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-04-49-0006	DATE 4/16/69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Fort Washakie

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SE 1/2 NW 1/2 & SW 1/2, NE 1/4 Section 4, T. 1 S., R. 1 W., 6th P.M.

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Washakie

STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49 COUNTY: Fremont CODE: 013

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:	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes:
Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	Indian Reser-	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	vation Headquarters	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Department of Interior

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1.5

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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

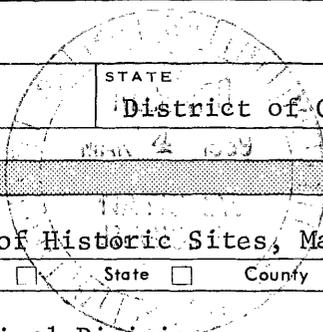
DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Wyoming Recreation Commission, Historical Division

STREET AND NUMBER:
604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input 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

Fort Washakie is presently a mixture of old and new structures. Research and investigation is necessary to determine which buildings are worthy of historic preservation. Fort Washakie's buildings and grounds are well kept and maintained as the Agency Headquarters of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian <input type="checkbox"/>	16th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	18th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	20th Century <input type="checkbox"/>
15th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	17th Century <input type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		

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

Fort Washakie is nationally significant representing Indian and Military affairs of the post Civil - War period. Its namesake relates to one of the outstanding Indian Chiefs of Western America.

See also addendum.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frazer, Robert W. Forts of the West. (Norman, Oklahoma, University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.)
 Hebard, Grace Raymond. Washakie. (Cleveland, Ohio, The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1930.)
 _____, Manuscript files, Western History Research Center, Coe Library, University of Wyoming.
 _____, Manuscript files, Historical Division, Wyoming Recreation Commission.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"		
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"		
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"		
	43	0	20	108	53	15		

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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Bill Barnhart, Assistant Historian

ORGANIZATION: Wyoming Recreation Commission DATE: Feb. 26, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 604 East 25th Street

CITY OR TOWN: Cheyenne STATE: Wyoming CODE: 82001

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 Charles R. Rodermel
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date February 26, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date APR 10 1969

ATTEST:
William J. Muntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Summary:

The Fort Washakie story represents one of the most notable examples of successful Indian-white relations in the Western United States. Fort Washakie was first established to protect the Shoshone and Bannock Indian Reservation against the wandering hostile Indian enemies of these two tribes. This protection was also extended to the miners of the nearby Sweetwater region. The amicable relations that existed between the Shoshonis and the military at the Fort are particularly significant in view of the warlike attitudes of the other Indian tribes on the Northern Plains. As a result the Fort provided a stabilizing influence for years over an extensive area of the Plains. During the 1870's and 80's Fort Washakie served a secondary function in providing a convenient supply base and springboard for expeditions entering Yellowstone National Park and the Big Horn country. Today the Fort serves as the Wind River Agency headquarters.

In accordance with the second treaty signed between the government and the Shoshonis at Fort Bridger, July 3, 1868, a military post was to be established within the boundaries of the newly defined Wind River Reservation. The purpose of locating a military post on the reservation was to prevent raids by traditional enemies upon the peaceful Shoshonis and Bannocks residing there.

On June 28, 1869, First Lieutenant Patrick Breslin established Camp C. C. Augur in the valley of the Popo Agie River, naming it for Brig. General Christopher C. Augur, Department Commander. Designated a sub-post of Fort Bridger it was never officially a military fort. Its close

proximity to the Sweetwater mining region allowed its troops to discourage full-scale Indian depredations upon the small mining communities in the area.

Reorganization resulted in Camp Augur's name being changed on March 28, 1870, to Camp Brown, honoring Captain Frederick H. Brown, 18th U. S. Infantry, killed at the Fetterman Massacre on December 26, 1866. The following year a decision was made to move Camp Brown a short distance northwest to a site determined upon as affording greater facilities for extensive military occupation. Captain R. A. Torrey, 13th Infantry, selected a site in the spring of 1871 at the junction of the North and South Fork of the Little Wind River. Accordingly, the Shoshone and Bannock Agency was established about a mile and a half south of the new "Camp Brown" site on the west bank of Trout Creek.

The Camp Brown site was officially changed June 26th, 1871, and removal of the old Post began. The old Camp Brown structures were dismantled for serviceable lumber and the stores and other usable items transported to the new site. Soon new log and adobe buildings began to appear and by 1873 the garrison was comfortably settled at the new location. As the years went by more substantial buildings of stone and frame replaced the original structures. (Many of these buildings remain in use today.) The fledgling town of Lander located around the fringes of the old Camp Brown quickly absorbed the site after it was abandoned by the military. (Little evidence of this first site has survived but in downtown Lander a marker has been erected at the original location of Camp Augur and Brown.)

Shortly after Camp Brown was relocated a sister post was established to the south between the mining communities of Atlantic City and Miner's Delight. Named Camp Stambaugh, its garrison soon took over the responsibility for the safety of Sweetwater mining communities. Together these two posts protected the interests of the United States government on the western flank of disputed Indian country. Though isolated, supply and communication was not a major problem. A telegraph extended to Camp Stambaugh and supplies came up from Union Pacific rail points. Bryan was an early supply point until a freight road from Point-of-Rocks became popular. In later years a line from Rawlins to Lander became the main service route. A line known as the Pioneer Telegraph Company contracted and extended telegraph service to Camp Brown in 1877.

The name "Brown" carried through until December 30, 1878, when a government order designated the post as Fort Washakie to honor the Shoshonis' highly respected Chief Washakie.

Chief Washakie was born around 1800. Prior to his death on February 20, 1900, he had been the undisputed leader of the Shoshonis for many years. Washakie was an Indian of great character and always endeavored to exercise a good influence over his people. He was dignified and commanded respect yet exhibited a kindly disposition and was extremely fond of his family. No Indian of the Rocky Mountains was more favorably or extensively known. Even his enemies, Red Cloud and Crazy Horse, reportedly admitted Washakie to be the greatest general of them all.

Distribution of annual treaty annuities took place under military supervision at the fort. A typical occurrence of this transaction took

place in 1873. In October about 1,000 Indians presented themselves for the issuance of the annuities. The goods consisted of blankets of various colors and grades, coats, pants, socks, balmoral stockings, red flannel shirts, hats, shoes, bed ticking, cutlery and cooking utensils. After distribution, active bartering and selling commenced. Before dark most of the goods had been sold to agency employees and neighboring ranchmen. The red flannel shirts went for 50 cents while the hats changed hands for as little as 10 cents.

Since little lasting benefits came from the annuities, the Indians were required and preferred to supplement their economy with periodic hunting expeditions. Often these "hunts" proved quite successful until extensive settlement of the nearby regions limited such forays.

Trading with the post traders also added a measure of subsistence. As late as 1881, records show that the Shoshonis and Arapahoes sold 2,000 buffalo robes to the traders at Fort Washakie. Fort Bridger's Judge, W. A. Carter, extended his business interests to Fort Washakie, but best known of the Fort's post traders is J. K. Moore, Sr. His position as post trader extended over such a long period at Fort Washakie that his name has become synonymous with it. (Today Moore's descendants are still actively engaged in business at the Fort.)

During the final Indian Wars many Shoshonis enlisted with the Army at the Fort to serve as scouts. They participated in a number of engagements and campaigns against the Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapahoes. July 3, 1874, might be considered one of Camp Brown's greatest days. On that day, in the presence of General Phil Sheridan and General E. O. C. Ord,

word arrived of a village of hostile Indians within striking distance. General Sheridan issued a special order and Captain Bates with sixty troops of the 2nd U. S. Cavalry, 30 Shoshoni scouts and 160 additional Shoshonis lead by Chief Washakie hurried out for a fight. Contact was made with a band of Arapahoes on a fork of the NoWood River. In the Big Horn Mountains Captain Bates and his men were victorious and the Shoshonis returned home proudly displaying their trophies of war. (The site of this small conflict is today known as "Bates Battlefield.")

In June of 1876, Shoshoni scouts set out from the Wind River Reservation to assist General George Crook on his second Powder River Expedition. They found him encamped on Goose Creek of the Tongue River and joined his advance northward to search out hostile Indians. A head-on collision with Crazy Horse and his Sioux and Cheyenne forces occurred at the "Battle of the Rosebud." The Shoshonis fought along side Crook's men with outstanding courage and determination, received many casualties but obtained several enemy scalps during the engagement. Unfortunately, the indecisive outcome of the fight prompted Crook to retire to his camp on Goose Creek. No longer needed, the Shoshonis soon began returning to the reservation bringing to the outside world the first word on Crook's engagement.

The fall of 1876 again saw the Shoshonis in the field as military scouts. This time they saw action with Colonel Ranald MacKenzie who inflicted a severe defeat upon Dull Knife's band of Cheyenne camped at Red Forks in the Big Horn Mountains. The valorous Shoshonis again received heavy casualties while contributing significantly to the final victorious outcome.

The Shoshonis last major participation in Plains warfare took place in August of 1877. Col. Wesley Merritt, 5th U. S. Cavalry arrived at Camp Brown to organize a force to block the flight of Chief Joseph and his Nez Perce followers. The Nez Perce had broken away from their reservation. At the time of Col. Merritts arrival at the Fort they were reportedly just north of the Wind River Reservation. Seventy-five scouts lead by Dick Washakie, son of Chief Washakie, enlisted for the movement. However, the elusive Nez Perce passed through Yellowstone Park and turned north leaving Merritt and the Shoshonis out of the picture. The same year the Shoshonis also participated in military action against the Bannocks making a similar, though less spectacular, "run-for-it" through the Yellowstone Country.

Late in 1877 the Shoshonis old enemies, the Arapahoes, needed a home for the winter. The government temporarily placed them on the Wind River Reservation. Washakie accepted the Arapahoes reluctantly though he asked repeatedly that they be removed the following year. Finally the decision was made to leave the Arapahoes on the Wind River Reservation and Washakie's people were required to share their reservation permanently. After the cessation of Plains warfare the two tribes settled down to peaceful co-existence and reservation life. (This condition exists to the present time.)

In addition to serving the needs of the Indians and local residents, Camp Brown and Fort Washakie became the outfitting base for parties headed into the Big Horn Basin and Yellowstone Park area. From the time of the abandonment of the Powder River Forts in 1868 until the end of the "Indian

Wars" around 1877, many groups going to Montana utilized Bridger's trail along the western base of the Big Horn Mountains. Though not located on the Bridger Trail many preferred, for safety sake, to go through Camp Brown and Fort Washakie. Such was the case with a number of the so-called "Big Horners"; groups of gold-seekers who spent considerable time and effort prospecting for gold lodes rumored to be in the Big Horn Mountains.

Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872, the first and largest of its kind. Originally known as "Colter's Hell" it had long been a source of controversy and disbelief. Through the 1870's and 1880's the Park's natural wonders began attracting an increasing number of expeditions; military, governmental and private. Approaching the area from the south, Camp Brown and Fort Washakie's strategic location represented the last outpost of civilization from which to enter the Park.

In July, 1873, the Army's Yellowstone Expedition, commanded by Captain William A. Jones, arrived at Camp Brown. Their mission was to determine the practicability of a stage line from the Union Pacific Railroad to the area of the Park, to place the government in possession of knowledge concerning the character of the country and to provide scientific descriptions of the numerous natural wonders. One of the most remarkable discoveries of the "Jones Expedition" was a series of petroglyphs in Dinwoody Canyon on the Wind River Reservation not far from present-day Fort Washakie. (These well defined "picture writings" may still be seen though the site has not yet been developed for public visitation.)

One year following the Yellowstone Expedition, in July 1874, Lt. General Philip Sheridan, Brig. General E. O. C. Ord and their respective

parties and staff laid over at Fort Brown on their journey to Yellowstone Park. (Present day Fort Ord, California, is named in honor of General Ord.) General Sheridan was again present at the post during the summer of 1877. This time he was accompanied by General George Crook, their respective staffs and 150 pack animals. Their purpose was to hunt and explore through the Big Horns and Yellowstone region. No doubt General Crook welcomed this diversion after his rigorous campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne the preceding year. General Sheridan, as Secretary of War, was again at Fort Washakie in the summer of 1883. This time his distinguished companion was none other than the President of the United States, Chester A. Arthur. The President and his party traveled from Fort Washakie to Yellowstone Park to view first hand its famed natural wonders.

Religious conversion of the Shoshonis around Fort Washakie became the province of the Episcopal Church and the Reverend John Roberts. As a pioneer teacher, priest and missionary, Roberts befriended both the Shoshonis and Arapahoes. In 1883 he founded the Shoshone School for Indian Girls and personally supervised the erection of a mission building in 1889. (This building has remained in use to the present day as a boarding school.) The Reverend Roberts baptized Chief Washakie shortly before his death and remained the faithful pastor of his beloved Indian people until his death in 1939.

Abandonment of Fort Washakie was proposed by the military in 1899 but Chief Washakie intervened and managed to prevent it. By the time of Washakie's death it was readily apparent that the Fort had outlived its usefulness as a deterrent against Indian outbreaks. The inevitable end

came March 30, 1909. The post and military reservation became the property of the Interior Department and shortly thereafter began serving as headquarters for the Shoshoni Agency.

Chief Washakie lies at rest in the post cemetery. Upon his death in February, 1900, the military gave him full honors and erected a granite marker at his grave. According to Shoshone Tribal information, Sacajawea, member of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, also lies buried in the Shoshone cemetery near Fort Washakie. The date of her death is recorded as being 1884.

Modern day reservation life continues around Fort Washakie. The Wind River Reservation is much smaller now having been cut down by agreements made in 1872, 1896 and 1904. Joint ownership of the reservation by both Arapahoes and Shoshonis was achieved in 1938. The tribal populations on the roles, recorded as of January 1967, are 1,983 Shoshones and 2,676 Arapahoes. Not all members reside on the reservation. The tribes of the Wind River Reservation have been more fortunate than some of their counterparts in having their agricultural economy supplemented by revenues from oil and gas royalties. While these provide the tribe's main source of income; historical development and recreational activities such as sight-seeing tours, camping, hunting, fishing and skiing offer great prospects for socio-economic benefits in the future.

FORT WASHAKIE

County: Fremont

Location: Sixteen miles northwest of Lander, Wyoming, on U. S. Highway 287 at the present day community of Fort Washakie.

Ownership: Federally owned. Presently Agency headquarters for Wind River Indian Reservation.

Interest Phase: Fort Washakie Historic Area is nationally significant representing Indian and military affairs of the post Civil-War period. *It was named for*
~~Its namesake~~ relates to one of the outstanding Indian Chiefs of Western America.

Sources:

Manuscript files, Western History Research Center, Coe Library,
University of Wyoming.

Manuscript files, Historical Division, Wyoming Recreation Commission.

Frazer, Robert W. Forts of the West. University of Oklahoma Press,
Norman, Oklahoma, 1965.

Hebard, Grace Raymond. Washakie. The Arthur H. Clark Company,
Cleveland, Ohio. 1930.

Prepared by: Bill Barnhart

8. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Fort Washakie's buildings and grounds are well kept and maintained as the Agency Headquarters of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

9. HISTORICAL SUMMARY (significance, physical history, events, personages, sources of information)

Fort Washakie is nationally significant representing Indian and Military affairs of the post Civil-War period. Its namesake relates to one of the outstanding Indian Chiefs of Western America.

See addendum