

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

## 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 Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER 23 mi. south of Alcova on Wyoming State Highway 220

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Alcova <sup>Casper</sup>

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

 VICINITY OF

001

STATE

Wyoming

CODE

56

COUNTY

Natrona

CODE

025

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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: historic

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Multiple (Ned Frost, Wyoming Recreation Commission)

STREET &amp; NUMBER

604 East 25th Street, Box 309

CITY, TOWN

Cheyenne

VICINITY OF

STATE

Wyoming 82001

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Natrona County Courthouse  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Casper

STATE

Wyoming

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Historic Sites Survey

DATE

1964

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Sites Survey

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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 Rock is a rounded outcropping of granite sticking up out of a relatively level plain sparsely dotted by other similar outcroppings. Geologically it is the top of a buried mountain. The land in the area is level to gently rolling and one can see for 20 miles in every direction from almost any point. Vegetation is limited to short prairie grass, short sage, occasional rabbit brush and yucca, with the exception of a few juniper near the rock outcroppings and some willows and sparse cottonwood trees along the river. Fauna include rabbits, skunk, snakes, deer, antelope, range cattle and a variety of small rodents, eagles, ravens, hawks, sage grouse and several varieties of song birds.

In preparation for the Bicentennial, the State of Wyoming is purchasing land in the area for an Independence Rock State Park. Containing about 1,414 acres the Park will be east of and adjacent to the highway and bisected in the lower portion, next to the Rock, by the Sweetwater River. An alkali lake known as Piaya Lake lies northeast of the Rock. Development will include road construction, utilities, trails, fencing, signing, and the erecting of several long, low buildings. An enclosed map shows all development.

Scenic easements, (protecting views but prohibiting trespass), will be acquired along the highway, Sweetwater River and the Oregon Trail for a distance of approximately five miles each way beyond the limits of the Park. The easements will be 1500' wide and contain over 5,800 acres.

# 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 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 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 1830-1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Independence Rock was a well-known landmark on the Oregon Trail long before the great overland migrations of the 1840's. In 1840, Father Peter DeSmet called it "the great registry of the desert," since thousands of people travelling west scratched their names on its surfaces.

The Rock lies in the elevated plain between the emigrant crossing of the upper North Platte and the Sweetwater River. The Oregon Trail ascended the latter to South Pass. The Rock lies near the Sweetwater River where the Trail first approaches it, and because of this fact it become a favorite stopping and resting place for the travellers who had been struggling across the almost waterless reaches of the sagebrush upland after leaving the North Platte. Independence Rock soon became famous for the numerous names carved, painted, or written into and on it. It seemed that almost everyone who passed that way had to place his name and the date on the Rock. Some of the earliest travellers along the Trail noticed the word "Independence" carved on the Rock, but just who did it and when is not known. Rufus Sage, who passed the Rock in 1842, noted that its "surface is covered with the names of travellers, traders, trappers, and emigrants engraven upon it in almost every practicable part, for the distance of many feet above its base."



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mattison, Ray H., "Independence Rock," Historic Sites Survey report, 1959.

Wyoming Recreation Commission, "Development Plan for Independence Rock State Park," May 1975.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 170

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 3	3 2 5 3 1 0	4 7 0 7 2 5 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 3	3 2 4 6 1 0	4 7 0 5 9 7 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B	1 3	3 2 5 2 6 0	4 7 0 5 9 5 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1 3	3 2 4 6 4 0	4 7 0 7 2 5 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet)

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

Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Review Project

ORGANIZATION

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

DATE

October 21, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

1100 L Street NW.

TELEPHONE

202-523-5464

CITY OR TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C. 20240

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been designated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

Designated JAN 20 196

Boundary Certified: [Signature]

DATE Oct. 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

11/2/78

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1

Independence Rock is a rounded outcropping of granite thrusting upward from a nearly level plain. The vista from its summit extends twenty miles in every direction across ranchland undisturbed by any man-made intrusion other than Wyoming Route 220. This vista contributes greatly to the national significance of the landmark. The boundary itself includes only that part of the vista which provides an undisturbed and unobtrusive setting in the immediate Independence Rock area.

(As shown on the accompanying USGS map:) From a point at the intersection of Schounmaker Ditch and the west curb of Wyoming Route 220, proceed about 1060 meters along the curb to its intersection with the south bank of the Sweetwater River. Proceed east and north about 1000 meters along the bank to its intersection with the section line dividing sections 10 and 15. Proceed due north about 880 meters to Schounmaker Ditch, then about 540 meters west along the ditch to the point of beginning.

The boundaries include property owned by the Hub and Spoke Ranch (Bernard Sun), the Dumbell Ranch (Rusco Inc.), and the State of Wyoming. The State is in the process of acquiring much of the included property as part of the proposed Independence Rock State Park.

Property *Independence Rock*

405

**BOUNDARY DEFINITION  
RECEIVED 4/12/76**

State *Wyoming*

Working Number *WNK*

**TECHNICAL**

Photos \_\_\_\_\_

Maps \_\_\_\_\_

*UTM cor & be checked - CONTROL  
needs UTM map*

*LC  
8/31/76*

*Boundary drawn to include all of modern highway & very little of historic trail. IF State is acquiring easements for larger area, certainly landmark boundary could include more esp. on SE corner & generally East.*

**HISTORIAN**

*L. W. Suggs  
30 D 76*

**ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN**

*LEBOVICK*

*2.14.77*

***No JUSTIFICATION FOR BOUNDARY***

**ARCHEOLOGIST**

**OTHER**

**HAER**

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

**REVIEW UNIT CHIEF**

**BRANCH CHIEF**

**KEEPER**

National Register Write-up \_\_\_\_\_ Send-back \_\_\_\_\_ Entered \_\_\_\_\_

Federal Register Entry \_\_\_\_\_ Re-submit \_\_\_\_\_

INT:2106-74

Independence Rock

No Utm map available.

This is an old map and state highway 220 has been scarified and reseeded except as indicated. Very little of it is in the proposed boundary.

The boundary contains that part of the Oregon Trail that was specifically related to Independence Rock. The boundary was drawn in this manner to include the entire rock as well as to provide setting. We have a landmark commemorating the Oregon Trail. 170 acres seems adequate.

OK  
J. R. [unclear]  
Oct 17, 1978

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

XX VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Natrona

STATE  
Wyoming

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Stephen Lissandrello

DATE OF PHOTO August 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street  
NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facing east from Independence Rock. Vantage Rock to rear.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

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Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Natrona

STATE  
Wyoming

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Stephen Lissandrello

DATE OF PHOTO August 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street  
NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facing north from summit of Independence Rock

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Natrona

STATE

Wyoming

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Mark Junge

DATE OF PHOTO August 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Wyoming Recreation, Department Cheyenne, Wyoming

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facing northwest from Vantage Rock to Independence Rock.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM**

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HISTORIC

Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

XX VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Natrona

STATE  
Wyoming

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Stephen Lissandrello

DATE OF PHOTO August 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, 1100 L Street  
NW., Washington, D.C. 20240

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

PHOTO NO.

Facing north to Independence Rock.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON

Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Natrona

STATE

Wyoming

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

Wyoming Recreation Commission

SCALE

1"=800'

DATE

May 1974

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Independence Rock

AND/OR COMMON Independence Rock

**2 LOCATION**

CITY, TOWN

Casper

VICINITY OF

COUNTY  
Natrona

STATE  
Wyoming

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE USGS 7.5' series--Independence Rock, Wyoming Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24000 DATE 1951

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

# INDEPENDENCE ROCK STATE PARK

*Could take quadrilateral outlined in red!*

## CERTIFICATE OF SURVEYOR

STATE OF WYOMING  
COUNTY OF NATRONA

I, Maynard Johnson of Casper, Wyoming, hereby certify that this map was prepared and compiled from notes taken during actual surveys made by myself during the month of May, 1974 and from available records and maps of Worthington, Lenhart and Carpenter, Inc., Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors, from current maps and plots of the United States Department of Interior, Geological Survey and Bureau of Land Management Divisions together with County and Highway maps of the Wyoming State Highway Department. Said map has been field checked for general accuracy and conformance with ground conditions and details added in compliance with the specific requirements of the "WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION", Cheyenne, Wyoming, said map is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Wyoming Registration No. 510 Land Surveyor *Maynard Johnson*  
MAYNARD JOHNSON

### EXPLANATION:

#### OWNERSHIP

- Federal Land (BLM) ①
- State of Wyoming Land ②
- Hub and Spoke Ranch (Sun) ③
- Natrona Alkali Company ④
- Dun Bell Ranch (Rosco Inc.) ⑤

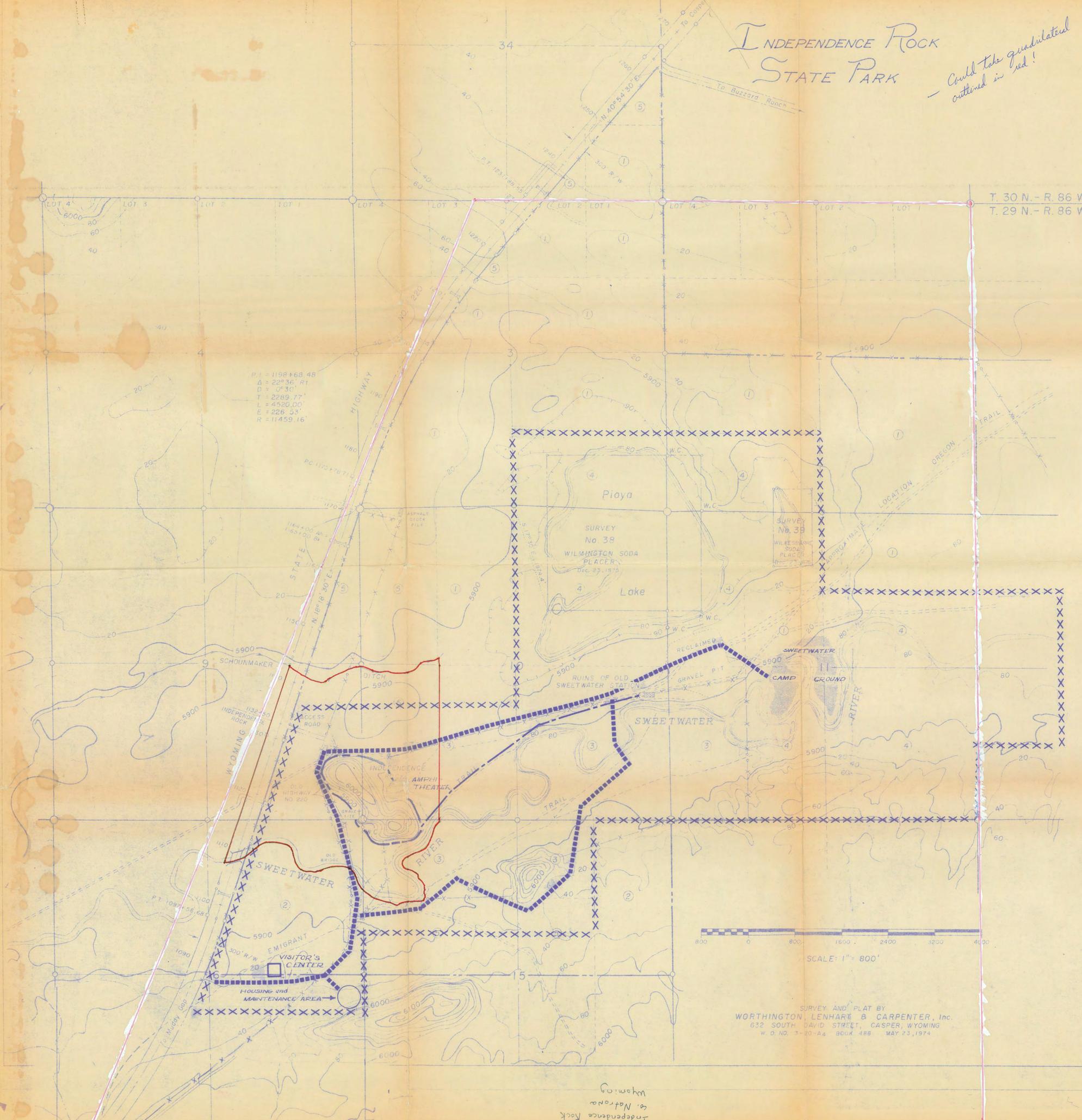
#### LINE SYMBOLS

- Recreation Area Boundary
- Sectional Subdivision Line
- Old Highway - In Use
- Highway Right-of-Way Marker and Station
- Trail Roads
- Trails
- Fences and Gates
- River, Streams and Lake (water)
- Irrigation Ditch

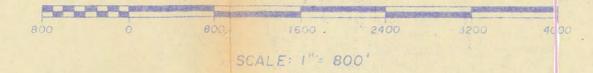
#### OTHER, BY IDENTIFICATION

NOTE: Former location of Wyoming State Highway No. 220 has been scarified and reseeded except as indicated.

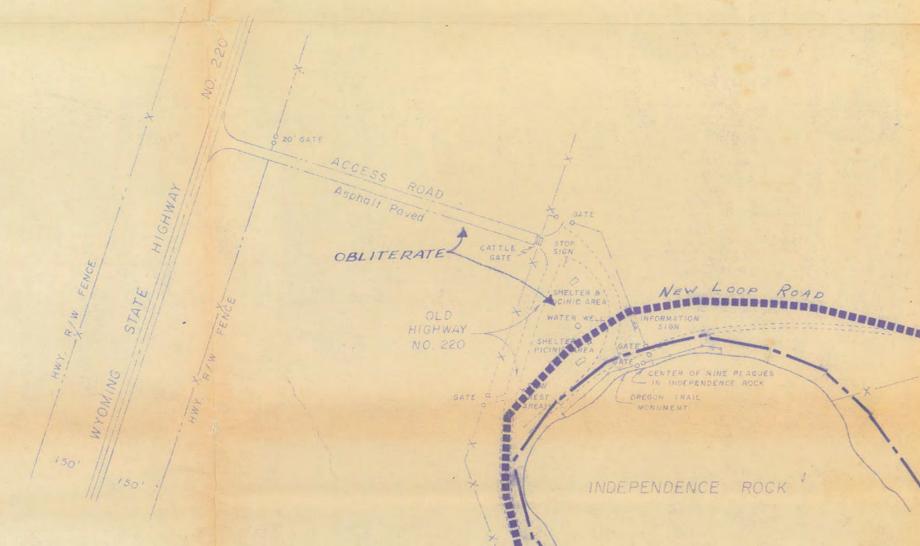
- Proposed Park Boundary
- Main Road
- Parking Area
- Hiking Trail
- Parking Area
- NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BOUNDARY



P.1 = 1198+68.48  
Δ = 22°36' R1  
D = 0°30'  
T = 2289.77  
L = 4570.00'  
E = 226.53'  
R = 11459.16'



SURVEY AND PLAT BY  
WORTHINGTON, LENHART & CARPENTER, Inc.  
632 SOUTH DAVID STREET, CASPER, WYOMING  
W. O. NO. 3-20-A4 BOOK 488 MAY 23, 1974



DETAIL  
INDEPENDENCE ROCK HISTORICAL SITE  
SCALE: 1" = 200'

PLAT  
INDEPENDENCE ROCK - SWEETWATER RIVER  
RECREATION AREA  
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING  
FOR  
WYOMING RECREATION COMMISSION  
CHEYENNE, WYOMING  
SCALE: 1" = 800'

Independence Rock  
Natrona Co.  
Wyoming

INDEPENDENCE ROCK  
ALCOVA VIC., WYOMING  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute series  
Independence Rock, Wyo. (1951)  
UTM REFERENCES: A 13/325310/4707250  
B 13/325260/4705950  
C 13/324610/4705970  
D 13/324640/4707250



E 319,116.8 mE  
N 4,707,522 mN

Long 107°07'30" W  
Lat 42°22'30" N

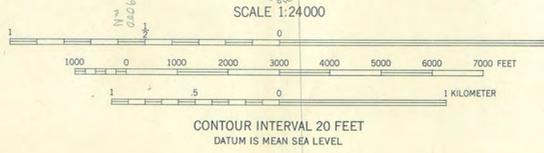
Point # of Easting Northing

A	13	325,310 m	4707,250 m
B	13	325,260 m	4705,950 m
C	13	324,610 m	4705,970 m
D	13	324,640 m	4707,250 m
E	13	329,070 m	4708,080 m
F	13	329,070 m	4702,810 m

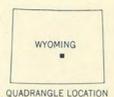
E 314,746.8 mE  
N 4,693,651 mN

E 325,041.0 mE  
N 4,699,386.5 mN

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey as part of the Department of the Interior program for the development of the Missouri River Basin Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography from aerial photographs by multiplex methods Aerial photographs taken 1946 and 1948. Field check 1951  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum 10,000-foot grid based on Wyoming coordinate system, east central zone  
zone 13  
APPROXIMATE MEAN DECLINATION, 1951



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty 4 LANE @ 1 LANE Light-duty  
Medium-duty 4 LANE @ 1 LANE Unimproved dirt  
U.S. Route State Route



INDEPENDENCE ROCK, WYO.  
N4222.5-10707.5/7.5

### Independence Rock

The forty acres of Independence Rock are under four owners. Presently, the State of Wyoming is in negotiation with the ranchers owning property to acquire the entire acreage covered by the monolith. Videotape running 27.0 minutes to 29.7 minutes of the several plaques placed by various organizations on the Rock are shown. National Park Service National Landmark status has not been made. Site is eligible. Land status of the eligible landmark may be obtained from Mr. Ned Frost, Wyoming Recreation Commission Chief Historian.

The State of Wyoming Highway Department has a turnout parking area and wooden interpretive sign established at the site in addition to the metal signs affixed to the Rock. Protection of the signatures on the Rock is minimal. Plaques and early signatures are protected by a high aluminum pole and wire fence. However, the gate was unlocked at the time of the inspection and some vandalism, notably spray can painting of the Rock, is being noticed.



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR INFORMATION SERVICE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

For Release JANUARY 20, 1961

SECRETARY SEATON RECOMMENDS ADDITIONAL SITES FOR HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS

Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton has recommended an additional 51 sites as being eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status, it was announced today.

The sites possessing exceptional historic and archeological value are described in three new "theme studies" in the National Park Service series which eventually will cover all the major periods of human history in the United States. The three studies are: Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers; The War for Independence; and a sub-theme under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries, entitled: Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River.

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks was approved by Secretary Seaton and established by the National Park Service in October 1960. Eleven theme studies covering the English, French, and Spanish Exploration and Settlement; the Development of the English Colonies, 1700-1775; The Advance of the Frontier, 1763-1830; Political and Military Affairs, 1783-1830; The Civil War, 1861-1865; and four sub-themes under Westward Expansion and Extension of the National Boundaries, entitled: The Santa Fe Trail; the Cattlemen's Empire; Military and Indian Affairs; and The Texas Revolution and the War with Mexico, 1820-1853, were announced.

A total of 324 sites have been recommended, with 213 declared eligible for Landmark status and the remainder already in the National Park System or having received Federal recognition.

National Park Service Director Conrad L. Wirth said that the Registry of National Historic Landmarks is designed to recognize and endorse the preservation and protection of structures and sites now administered by States, other public agencies, or historical societies, and to encourage private owners of historic landmarks to maintain them.

The Registry is an outgrowth of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings program of the National Park Service. This program was authorized by the Historic Sites Act of 1935, which provided for a "survey of historic and archeological sites, buildings, and objects for the purpose of determining which possess exceptional value as commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States."

Administrators of sites found eligible for Landmark status may apply to the National Park Service for such recognition and will receive a certificate. Arrangements are also being made to make available a suitable marker.

Descriptive summaries of the sites in the presently announced theme studies are attached. A list of themes under study is also attached. Additional studies will be announced from time to time. The various theme studies may be published later for public distribution. Only reading copies are currently available.

x x x

## Prehistoric Hunters and Gatherers

The Advisory Board has recognized 20 sites as having exceptional value. Nineteen of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are:

1. Iyatayet, Alaska. One of the earliest sites yet found in Alaska. This is the type site for the Norton Culture which flourished from 500 B.C. to A.D. 300.
2. Ipiutak, Alaska. A large spectacular Paleo-Eskimo site with house remains and elaborate burials.
3. Double Adobe, Arizona. The first site where the early and distinctive Cochise Culture was recognized. It contained evidence of food gathering peoples who lived in the area about 5,700 B.C.
4. Ventana Cave, Arizona. Contained a deep stratified deposit showing human use during a period of about 5,000 years, ending in historical times.
5. Lindenmeier Site, Colorado. The first recognized and investigated Folsom camp site in the United States. A recent radiocarbon date places the Folsom occupation at this site at over 10,000 years ago.
6. Stallings Island, Georgia. Probably the most famous shell heap site in the deep Southeast, this site gave a knowledge of prehistoric Indians from the Archaic pre-pottery people through those who made the earliest pottery in the southeastern states.
7. Modoc Rockshelter, Illinois. A deep, stratified Archaic site. This is one of the oldest Archaic sites east of the Mississippi. Earliest occupation began around 8,000 B.C. Work here yielded clear indication of an Archaic occupation in the East as early as the early hunters of the West.
8. Graham Cave, Missouri. The first site to provide radiocarbon dates for an Archaic occupation in the time range previously considered typical of the Paleo-Indian stage. It presented the first association of fluted projectile points with spear points of Archaic type. The earliest occupation occurred around 9,700 years ago.

9. Signal Butte, Nebraska. This was the first Plains Middle Prehistoric site to be described. It provided much of the data necessary for determining the cultural sequence of the Northern Plains. The earliest occupation seems to have begun around 2,500 B.C.
10. Leonard Rock Shelter, Nevada. This stratified site provided evidence for three periods of prehistoric occupation in the Great Basin, the first beginning about 7,000 B.C.
11. Sandia Cave, New Mexico. This was the type site for Sandia points and was one of the first sites to provide evidence of man's occupation of North America at a time earlier than that of Folsom bison hunters.
12. Anderson Basin (Blackwater Draw), New Mexico. A well preserved section of a locality famous for its important archeological and palentological remains, this site has yielded Folsom points and the earlier Clovis type of human weapons in association with a variety of extinct mammal remains.
13. Folsom, New Mexico. Here scientists first made their dramatic find of man's weapons unquestionably associated with the bones of an extinct species of the bison. This evidence profoundly modified scientific thought about the antiquity of man in America.
14. Lamoka, New York. This is the type site of the Lamoka culture. It provided part of the basis for the initial definition of the Archaic stage in the Eastern United States.
15. Fort Rock Cave, Oregon. This cave yielded the famous Fort Rock sandals which are the oldest dated artifacts in the New World. It also indicated that Indians occupied Central Oregon at the time of the Newberry eruption of Mount Mazama.
16. Plainview, Texas. This is the type station for Plainview points. Excavations here demonstrated an association of the Plainview point with bones of an extinct bison species.
17. Danger Cave, Utah. Danger Cave is the most important of the Great Basin finds. It led to the formulation of the "Desert Culture" concept, and showed that early peoples of the Great Basin lived in an entirely different environment from that of the High Plains Paleo-Indian hunters. It indicated that weaving was known in America prior to 7,000 B.C.

18. Oconto Site, Wisconsin. This was a site where implements of the "Old Copper" Culture were found in association with human burials. It provided what appears to be an accurate date for the Old Copper Culture, and places this occupation of the Western Great Lakes region at roughly 6,000 to 7,000 years ago.

19. Horner Site, Wyoming. This is the type station for the Cody Complex which includes Scottsbluff and Eden points and the distinctive Cody knife. Radiocarbon dates indicate a period of occupation about 5,000 B.C.

In addition, one site recognized as having exceptional value has been accepted by the Secretary of the Interior as a donation from the National Geographic Society. This site is Russell Cave, Alabama.

## The War for Independence

In the study of the War for Independence, thirty-two sites have been recognized as possessing exceptional value. Twenty-two of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. The Webb House, Wethersfield, Connecticut. This fine Colonial structure, built in 1752 by Joseph Webb, was the scene of the historic May, 1781, conference between Gen. George Washington and Count de Rochambeau, Commander of the American military forces in Newport, Rhode Island. The result was an agreement by which the French and American Allies marched south to cooperate with Admiral de Grasse's French fleet, to oppose and surround Lord Cornwallis, the British Commander in Virginia. The meeting may not have produced specific plans for the victorious Yorktown Campaign, but it laid the ground work leading to Cornwallis' defeat. Owned by the Connecticut Society, Colonial Dames of America, and open to the public.
2. The John Dickinson House, near Dover, Delaware. The restored Dickinson House is the surviving structure most eminently associated with the great writer so aptly termed the "Penman of the Revolution." In the patriotic literature of that struggle, Dickinson was as pre-eminent as was Washington in war, Franklin in diplomacy and Morris in finance. With the help of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, the State of Delaware restored the Dickinson House in 1952, and it is now exhibited to the public by the Delaware State Museum.
3. Bunker Hill Monument, Boston, Massachusetts. The famed Bunker Hill Monument, situated on Breed's Hill, commemorates the first full-scale action, on June 17, 1775, between American militia and British troops. The battle was a repulse for the raw American Army, but as a costly victory, it convinced the British Command that defeating the rebellious Colonists would not be easy. The courage of the American defenders at Bunker Hill has become a classic in American military history. The monument is owned by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and administered by the Metropolitan Commission of Boston.

4. Old North (Christ Episcopal) Church, Boston, Massachusetts. From the belfry of this church on the night of April 18, 1775, lanterns notified patriots on the opposite shore of the Charles River that British troops were beginning their march to Lexington and Concord, where they were engaged next day with the Minute Men in the opening skirmish of the American Revolution. Boston's oldest surviving church, this structure is one of the nation's most cherished landmarks, both historically and architecturally. Old North Church is owned by the Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts and is open to the public.

5. Paul Revere House, Boston, Massachusetts. Although extensively restored, this colonial structure retains its original framework and, in addition to its significance as the home of the Revolutionary patriot, is important as downtown Boston's only surviving 17th century dwelling. Through its back door, Revere probably passed for his famous ride on the night of April 18, 1775, to warn the patriots in Lexington and Concord. The structure is owned and exhibited to the public by the Paul Revere Memorial Association.

6. Lexington Green, Lexington, Massachusetts. Here on the morning of April 19, 1775, occurred the short but momentous skirmish between the Minute Men and the British forces from Boston that initiated the armed struggle for American independence. Lexington Green is owned by the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts.

7. Buckman Tavern, Lexington, Massachusetts. Located on the east side of Lexington Green, the Buckman Tavern is the oldest of the Lexington inns and is the one most intimately associated with the famed opening struggle of the American Revolution. Owned by the Town of Lexington, it is leased to the Lexington Historical Society, which exhibits the building to the public.

8. Wright's Tavern, Concord, Massachusetts. A landmark more memorable and significant than is sometimes realized today is Wright's Tavern at the center of the Town of Concord. Built in 1747, it was the scene, within a few hours on April 19, 1775, of meetings by both Minute Men and British Redcoats. It was also associated in October 17, 1774, with the meeting of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts, which gathered in the adjacent meeting house of the First Parish to prepare the way for the Revolution in Massachusetts. Wright's Tavern is owned by the Society of the First Parish, in Concord.

9. Monmouth Battlefield, near Freehold, New Jersey. The Battle of Monmouth on June 28, 1778, marked the combat debut of the American Army after the hard winter's training at Valley Forge. Washington failed at Monmouth to stop British movement across New Jersey after these forces left Philadelphia. But this last major battle in the north demonstrated that a new American Army, able to engage the British forces on equal terms, had been forged. The major scene of the battle, northwest of Freehold, New Jersey, retains much of its original character and is now largely privately-owned farm land.

10. Princeton Battlefield State Park, Princeton, New Jersey. Washington's victory at Princeton on January 3, 1777, had a generally encouraging effect on the American Revolution at a time when the spirits of the American people were at a very low ebb. This victory, coming so soon after Washington's Christmas night defeat of the British at Trenton in 1776, brightened the American cause and strengthened Washington's army. A New Jersey State Park on the southern edge of Princeton preserves the scene of the heaviest fighting on the Princeton Battlefield. State owned.

11. Washington Crossing State Parks, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Washington's crossing of the Delaware on Christmas night 1776, for the brilliant raid on Trenton, was a crucial episode in the struggle for independence. By this daring act he carried the war to the enemy and gave the new nation and his often-defeated army a taste of victory at the war's lowest ebb. On the Pennsylvania side of the Delaware, the well-maintained State Park of approximately 500 acres preserves the site of the embarkation of Washington's main force. On the New Jersey side of the river is a 372-acre State Park preserving the scene of the landing above Trenton.

12. Bennington Battlefield State Park, New York. The American militia's victory at the Battle of Bennington, August 16, 1777, was a significant contribution to the defeat of Burgoyne's British Army at Saratoga, two months later. The 208-acre Bennington Battlefield Park includes the center of heaviest fighting on the high ground overlooking the little village of Walloomsac and affords a wide view of the battle terrain. The Park is administered by the New York State Education Department, Albany, N. Y.

13. Morris-Jumel Mansion, New York City. In addition to its distinction as the only important pre-Revolutionary house still standing in Manhattan, the Morris-Jumel Mansion is the major surviving landmark of the Battle of Harlem Heights, September 16, 1776. One major result of the battle was the restoration of the

offensive spirit of the American Army, after a succession of defeats and retreats. The Jumel House was Washington's headquarters from September 14 to October 18, 1776. The house was saved from demolition in 1903 when the City of New York purchased the property and by special legislation gave its care to the Washington Headquarters Association of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

14. Stony Point Battlefield Reservation, New York. By the action at Stony Point, July 16, 1779, Gen. George Washington asserted his grip on the Hudson and especially on West Point, "the key to the Continent." The Battle of Stony Point was the last major military action in the northern theater of war during the Revolution. This property, owned by the State of New York, is administered by State Conservation Department in cooperation with the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society.

15. The Gundelo Philadelphia, New York. The United States Gundelo Philadelphia is the only surviving gunboat built and manned by American forces during the Revolutionary War. Further, it is one of the 15 small craft with which Benedict Arnold fought 29 British vessels in the battle off Valcour Island, Lake Champlain, October 11, 1776. The year of grace won by the building of Arnold's "fleet" and the battle off Valcour Island paved the way for the decisive American victory at Saratoga the following year. Privately owned, the vessel is now located on the west shore of Lake Champlain, on New York Route 22, in Essex County, N. Y.

16. Valcour Bay, New York. Benedict Arnold's daring fleet action off Valcour Island, in Lake Champlain, on October 11, 1776, had a far-reaching effect on the outcome of the War for American Independence. Although the Americans were defeated on the lake, their very presence and stubborn fighting proved to be a strategic victory. British invasion of the northern colonies was delayed while a fleet was built to engage Arnold's small flotilla. By the time the lake had been cleared of American vessels, the season was too far advanced to carry out the projected British movement to Albany. The site is marked by a small monument on the mainland about five miles south of Plattsburgh, N. Y., in view of the island. This was erected in 1928 by the New York State Education Department and the Saranac Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

17. Washington's Headquarters, Newburgh, New York. None of Washington's military headquarters during the War for Independence is of greater historical significance than the Hasbrouck House at Newburgh. Arriving at Newburgh on April 1, 1782, the Commander-in-Chief remained at the Hasbrouck House, save for occasional enforced absences, until August 19, 1783. This was a longer period than Washington spent at any other headquarters. Aside from its intimate association with Washington, the Hasbrouck House has the distinction of being the first historic site preserved by a state. The state obtained the property in 1850 for non-payment of debt. It is administered by the New York State Education Department, Albany.

18. Brandywine Battlefield Park, Pennsylvania. The Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777, was the only major clash of the two main armies during the campaign which resulted in the British capture of Philadelphia. Although defeated, Washington extricated his force in good order, and the Continentals demonstrated their ability to withstand the determined attack of British regulars. Brandywine Battlefield Park comprises 50 acres of rolling ground overlooking the main battle areas to the north and west. Owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Park is administered by Brandywine Battlefield Park Commission.

19. Chew House (Cliveden), Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. This fine Georgian home is the most important surviving landmark of the hard-fought battle of Germantown, October 4, 1777. In that action, Washington's Army narrowly missed winning a significant victory over a large contingent of the British Army guarding the northwestern approaches to newly-occupied Philadelphia. It also proved to be a major influence in the consummation of the alliance with France that spelled final victory for the new American nation. The house is privately owned and is not open to the public except on special occasions.

20. Valley Forge State Park, Pennsylvania. No name in American history conveys more of suffering, sacrifice and triumph than Valley Forge. The bitter winter of 1777-1778 endured here by Washington's ragged, hungry troops saw the emergence of a real American Army, risen from the wreckage of the defeated force which staggered into the camp on December 19, 1777. The military training and discipline imposed at Valley Forge created a force which from that time on would meet its professional enemy on equal terms and at last defeat him. Owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Park is administered by the Valley Forge Park Commission.

21. Camden Battlefield, South Carolina. The Battle of Camden, August 16, 1780, was the climax to a series of disasters which began with the fall of Charleston to Clinton's British army in May. Though a tactical defeat for the Americans, it brought Nathanael Greene to the American command. The Daughters of the American Revolution own 2 acres of the battlefield located 5 miles north of Camden, S. C., and the rest is owned by various private citizens.

22. St. John's Episcopal Church, Virginia. In St. John's Church on March 23, 1775, Patrick Henry delivered the stirring "Liberty or Death" speech which sounded a clarion call for his fellow Virginians. There, in the third great speech of his career, the spellbinding orator of the War for Independence attained a measure of undying fame. The church has been altered several times since 1772. The Church and southern half of cemetery is owned by the congregation of St. John's Episcopal Church; the northern half of cemetery, by the city of Richmond.

In addition, 10 sites are represented and interpreted in the National Park System as follows:

1. Cowpens Battlefield Site, South Carolina
2. Guilford Courthouse National Historical Park, North Carolina
3. Independence National Historical Park, Pennsylvania
4. Kings Mountain National Military Park, South Carolina
5. Minute Man National Historical Park Project, Massachusetts
6. Moore's Creek National Military Park, South Carolina
7. Morristown National Historical Park, New Jersey
8. Saratoga National Historical Park, New York
9. Statue of Liberty National Monument, New York
10. Yorktown Battlefield, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia.

## Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River

In the study of Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River, 16 sites have been recognized as having exceptional value in illustrating and commemorating the history of the United States. Nine of these, not administered by the National Park Service, are eligible to receive certificates as Registered National Historic Landmarks. They are as follows:

1. Emigration Canyon (at point of the Pioneer Monument), Utah. Brigham Young and his Mormon followers arrived at the Salt Lake Valley in 1847 by way of Emigration Canyon. Here at the mouth of the Canyon, now the east edge of Salt Lake City, there is a fine panoramic view of the land that was to be their home.. It is perhaps the best place to commemorate the long, history-making migration of the sect. Owned by the State of Utah.
2. Nauvoo, Illinois. The place from which the great Mormon migration westward to Utah began in 1846 following mob violence and persecution of the sect. By 1842 more than 10,000 Mormons had settled in Nauvoo, and it soon became the largest city in Illinois. Many of the structures originally built by and associated with the Mormon leaders of that time survive. Some of them are preserved by the Reorganized Church, others by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Salt Lake City, and still others are privately owned.
3. Robidoux Pass, Nebraska. A significant landmark and campsite on the old Oregon and California Trail. The great migrations of the 1840's passed through it, and from its crest the westbound travelers had their first view of Laramie Peak, which most of them considered to be the Rocky Mountains.
4. Independence Rock, Wyoming. This huge rock-mass, rising like a monster out of the sagebrush plain near the Sweetwater River, became known as "the great registry of the desert" because of the large number of names and dates carved, painted, or written on it. It was one of the best known landmarks on the Oregon and California Trail.
5. South Pass, Wyoming. This was the long looked for crossing of the Continental Divide on the Oregon and California Trail, and as such was one of the great landmarks on the Trail. It also is the easiest passage of the Rocky Mountains, and was famous in the days of transcontinental animal-drawn transportation.

6. Donner Camp, California. Site of the snowbound winter camp of the Donner Party, 1847-1848, in which tragedy struck this California-bound party of 89 people. Only 45 survived the ordeal, one of the worst episodes of overland migration. In a sense, it epitomizes the hardships and dangers encountered by those who made the overland crossings in those days.

7. Sutter's Fort, California. The Fort and settlement established by John A. Sutter in 1839 on the Sacramento River which became the objective of nearly all westbound emigrants to California from the United States by way of the central and northern routes. Sutter was a generous benefactor to the emigrants and his Fort and assistance proved an invaluable aid in the American settlement of California. Sutter's Fort has been restored and is now a State Historical Monument.

8. Warner's Ranch, California. This ranch, 75 miles northeast of San Diego, established by Jonathan T. Warner, an American citizen from Connecticut was a famous place on the southern emigrant and wagon road into California. It was the first place the traveler could find shelter and food after enduring the hardships of the desert crossing, and almost everyone traveling by this route stopped there. Owned by the San Diego Water Company and leased to private ranchers.

9. Fort Hall, Idaho. Established by Nathaniel Wyeth in 1834 and one of most famous of all landmarks and stopping places on the Oregon and California Trail. The Oregon and California Trails, westbound, separated at Fort Hall. The Fort was associated importantly with the fur trade, the overland migrations to Oregon and California, and the transportation and supply network to the Inland Empire and the gold mines of Montana. Located in the Fort Hall Indian Reservation, and under the jurisdiction of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The National Park Service presently administers several federally owned areas associated with Overland Migrations West of the Mississippi River. The seven established areas in the National Park System are the following:

1. Death Valley National Monument, California
2. Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming
3. Fort Union National Monument, New Mexico
4. Fort Vancouver National Monument, Washington
5. Lassen Volcanic National Park, California
6. Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska
7. Whitman National Monument, Washington

L58-IBH

Miss Lola M. Homsher, Executive Secretary  
Wyoming Historical Society  
State Archives and Historical Department  
State Office Building  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Feb 16 - 61

Owens

Independence Rock

Dear Miss Homsher:

It is a pleasure to inform you, that in addition to the properties announced in our letter of February 3, the site described on the enclosure has also been found to possess exceptional value as commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.

It has been studied by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosed folder, the site is eligible for Registered National Historic Landmark status. A certificate attesting to this status may be obtained upon your application and your agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. Should you wish to apply for the certificate, copies of the application form are enclosed. These should be completed in triplicate for the site to be certified. Two copies should be returned to the National Park Service. You may retain the third copy as part of your own records.

At the present time, the work of the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings is incomplete. From time to time, announcements will be made of additional sites eligible for Landmark certification.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site, the National Park Service is not seeking ownership of the property but we wish to encourage its preservation as one of the Nation's landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

Tolson  
acting assoc Director

Enclosures -- for Independence Rock

Copy to: Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 2/7/61

✓



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FEB 28

FEB 27 10 21 AM

WYOMING  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
CHEYENNE  
February 21, 1961

*Kahler Littleton*  
ZAN LEWIS  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT  
*Logan*

JACK R. GAGE

E. T. Scoyen, Acting Director  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Scoyen:

I have just received a report from the Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department on the status of Independence Rock, located in Western Wyoming, and referred to in your letter of February 3rd as eligible for Registered National Historical Landmark status.

This historic landmark is not the property of the state, but is in the private ownership of Mr. Tom Sun, Rawlins, and a part may also be owned by a neighboring rancher. The state has approached Mr. Sun for the purpose of securing the site but an agreement could not be reached.

Under these circumstances, I am assuming there is no state action to be taken on the decision by the Secretary of the Interior. If I am in error in this assumption, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Jack R. Gage  
Governor

WYOMING STATE  
ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL DEPARTMENT  
STATE OFFICE BUILDING  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

RECEIVED  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
MAR 9 10 27 AM '61  
LOLA M. HAMSHAR  
Director

March 6, 1961

L58

MAR 8 1961

Kal. ler  
Lindstrom

Mr. Hilroy A. Tolson  
Acting Associate Director  
U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Tolson:

Thank you for your letter regarding Registered National Historic  
Landmark status for Independence Rock.

This property is privately owned, and I do not believe the State  
could properly fill in the forms you enclosed. I suggest you write to  
Mr. Tom Sun, Rawlins, Wyoming, who is part owner of this most important  
landmark.

Sincerely yours,

*Lola M. Hamshar*  
(Miss) Lola M. Hamshar

LHM:lbc

L58-IBH

March 31/61  
Ind. Rock, Wyoming

Hon. Jack R. Gage  
Governor of Wyoming  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Governor Gage:

Mr. Scoyen has asked us to reply to your letter of February 21 regarding the status of Independence Rock, Wyoming.

We have made note of the error in our ownership information, and will notify Mr. Tom Sun of the site's eligibility under the Registered National Historic Landmark program.

You are correct in assuming that no state action is necessary in the absence of state ownership.

We regret that this error in our Survey records has caused us to issue you an inappropriate notification, but we appreciate your consideration in providing us information on the correct ownership.

Sincerely yours,

*Broad*

Chief, Division of Interpretation

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Two. W/c of inc.  
Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 3/28/61

L58-IBH

March 30, 1961

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Region Two

From: <sup>Acting</sup> Chief Historian

Subject: National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings:  
Ownership of Independence Rock, Wyoming

*Ind. Rock*  
*X 11/13/61*

We are attaching copies of correspondence with Governor Gage of Wyoming, and Miss Lola Homsher, Director of the Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department.

As you will note, these letters indicate that Independence Rock, Wyoming, is not the property of the State. The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings inventory form for this site, dated October 5, 1959, and submitted from your office, gave the following ownership data: "Partially owned by the State of Wyoming and partially private ownership."

In cases of dual or multiple ownership, where one of the owners is a public agency or institution, it has been the Director's policy to offer the Landmark certificate to the public agency or institution, as the owner most likely to maintain the site in a condition compatible with historic preservation practices. Hence the Governor of Wyoming received the Director's letter of notification on the site's eligibility under the Landmark program. In view of the statements in the attached letters, we now plan to notify Mr. Tom Sun of Rawlins, Wyoming.

We are forwarding you this information so that you may correct your records to reflect the ownership as given by Governor Gage and Miss Homsher.

/S/ CHARLES W. PORTER III

Acting Chief Historian

Attachments 3

✓ Copy to: Mr. Littleton

WDLogan:bfr 3/30/61



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
GRAND TETON NATIONAL PARK  
P. O. Box 67  
MOOSE, WYOMING 83012

December 14, 1972

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H3417

## Memorandum

To: Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Grand Teton

Subject: Bi-annual Inspection, Wyoming Historic and Natural Landmarks, November, 1972

### Fort Phil Kearny

The visit to Fort Phil Kearny site was made with John Logan, Manager of Reynolds Mining Company of Wyoming, a subsidiary of Reynolds Metals, Box 980, Buffalo, Wyoming 82834, and Mr. Milton Chilcotte, publisher of the Sheridan Press, Mr. Ned Frost, Chief Historian, and Mark Junge, Historian, Wyoming Recreation Commission, Tony Bevinetto, Management Assistant, and Frank Betts, Chief Ranger, National Park Service, Grand Teton National Park. Black and white photos and video recorder tapes were made of the area, the landmark plaque and interpretive plaques provided by Reynolds Mining Company. This site is administered by the Wyoming Recreation Commission and the integrity of the area is being maintained. A building on the site constructed by the CCC's is not historically valid and is scheduled for removal. Archeological digs under the supervision of the State of Wyoming are scheduled for this summer in the stockade area. Black and white photographs of the area and videotapes are enclosed. This portion runs from 0. to 5.2 minutes on the enclosed tape as marked. The sign at Fort Phil Kearny is the largest cast aluminum sign made. It gives pictorial and narrative history of the Fort and two major battles there--Fetterman Massacre and the Wagon Box Fight.

The plaque has been installed on the monument as shown in the videotape and a self-guided nature trail (also shown on videotape) establishes the sites for the visitor of the Fetterman Massacre and the Wagon Box Fight.

### Sheridan Inn

The inspection was made of the Sheridan Inn with black and white photos taken of the exterior, the display of the plaque and also videotape recordings made of the exterior and interior. The videotape portions run 5.2 minutes to 9.3 minutes showing location of the plaque and restoration of the interior. The landmark is in excellent condition retaining it's integrity and interview with the owner, Mrs. Neltje Kings, indicates that she will be moving her domicile in February, 1973, to England; however, she will retain ownership of the Inn and will return for six to eight week periods during the summer months. Mrs. Kings fully understands the program and recognizes the importance of landmark status. Mr. Ned Frost, State Historian, also accompanied Mr. Bevinetto and Mr. Betts on this inspection.

### Tom Sun Ranch

Site is an eligible site. No agreement has been reached with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Sun, on accepting landmark status. Suns indicated that by accepting landmark status, the next step would be a National Historic Site or a take-over by the Park Service of their lands. Further contact could be made with the Suns, carefully explaining the conditions and limitations of landmark status on this eligible site. The original ranchhouse is in excellent condition. The museum at the ranch was built in 1919. Videotape portions start at 9.4 minutes and run to 26.9 minutes including interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Sun and other family members. Mr. Bernard Sun (a son) is currently managing the cattle ranch and living on site.

### Independence Rock

The forty acres of Independence Rock are under four owners. Presently, the State of Wyoming is in negotiation with the ranchers owning property to acquire the entire acreage covered by the monolith. Videotape running 27.0 minutes to 29.7 minutes of the several plaques placed by various organizations on the Rock are shown. National Park Service National Landmark status has not been made. Site is eligible. Land status of the eligible landmark may be obtained from Mr. Ned Frost, Wyoming Recreation Commission Chief Historian.

The State of Wyoming Highway Department has a turnout parking area and wooden interpretive sign established at the site in addition to the metal signs affixed to the Rock. Protection of the signatures on the Rock is minimal. Plaques and early signatures are protected by a high aluminum pole and wire fence. However, the gate was unlocked at the time of the inspection

and some vandalism, notably spray can painting of the Rock, is being noticed.

#### Oregon Trail Ruts

Videotape and accompanying black and white photographs show the display of the Park Service Registered National Historic Landmark plaque which is located about 25 feet from the actual trail ruts. The State of Wyoming has also placed interpretive signs, a new parking area, trails and a self-guided nature walk, installed by the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

Visit was also made to the Register Cliff, located two and one-half miles east of the Oregon Trail Ruts. Although Register Cliff is not on landmark status, it is on the register of historic places and is maintained as a State Historic Site by the Wyoming Recreation Commission, and is a complementary area to the Trail Ruts site. The Trail Ruts portion of the videotape runs 0. minutes to 5.1 minutes and the adjacent area of Registered Cliff runs 5.1 minutes to 9.6 minutes.

#### Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters

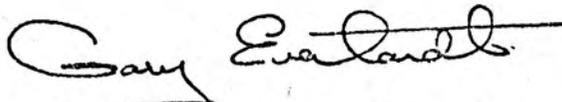
Videotape portions run 9.6 minutes to 12.9 minutes showing Headquarters building in Chugwater, Wyoming, and subsidiary buildings. The mayor of Chugwater, Mr. Russell Staats, has been manager of the Swan Land and Cattle Company since 1927. The new owner, Mr. John Burns, Wheatland, Wyoming 82201, should be contacted concerning landmark status. Former manager, Curtis Templin, did not desire landmark status as the headquarters ranch was his domicile. Mr. Staats is currently assembling all of the ranch records and negotiating with the Wyoming Archives and Historical Department to act as a repository for the large volume of records that have accrued over the years in operating this large cattle operation. No one is currently living at the headquarters area.

#### Areas Scheduled for Inspection in 1973

We plan to visit the following areas:

- Upper Green River Rendezvous Site in Sublette County;
- South Pass;
- Como Bluff;
- Lance Creek Fossil Area;
- Two Ocean Pass;
- Expedition Island;
- Crooked Creek Natural Area;
- Horner Site;
- Medicine Wheel

We will contact you for the files on these areas prior to our inspection. Inspections are tentatively scheduled for late Spring, 1973.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary E. Everhardt". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Gary E. Everhardt

Enclosures

Photographs

Videotapes (2)

*Green*

*H. J. Sheely*



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
H34-HH

FEB 23 1973

Memorandum

To: Director, Midwest Region  
From: Chief Historian  
Subject: Receipt of National Historic Landmark Biennial  
Inspection Report[s]

We are pleased to acknowledge the receipt of [a] biennial inspection report[s] for the following national historic landmark[s]:

- Fort Phil Kearny, Wyoming
- Sheridan Inn, Wyoming
- Tom Sun Ranch, Wyoming
- Independence Rock, Wyoming
- Oregon Trail Ruts, Wyoming
- Swan Land and Cattle Company Headquarters, Wyoming

Your continued cooperation in keeping us informed of further developments regarding landmarks in your Region, including changes of ownership and any potential threats to their integrity or existence, will be greatly appreciated.

(Sgd.) A. R. Mortensen

A. R. Mortensen

PHH:HJ Sheely:kr 2/21/73  
bcc: PHHS-Mr. Sheely

HP - Wyoming - Fort Phil Kearny  
Sheridan Inn  
Tom Sun Ranch  
Independence Rock  
Oregon Trail Ruts  
Swan Land and Cattle Company  
Headquarters



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

*Green*

Advisory Council  
On Historic Preservation  
1522 K Street N.W. Suite 430  
Washington D.C. 20005

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Mr. Derrell P. Thompson  
Regional Director  
Mid-Continent Region  
Bureau of Outdoor Recreation  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
P. O. Box 25387  
Denver Federal Center  
Denver, Colorado 80225

Dear Mr. Thompson:

On June 6, 1975, the Advisory Council received the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation's (BOR) adequately documented determination that grant assistance to the Wyoming Recreation Commission for acquisition of land and scenic easements would have no adverse effect on the Independence Rock National Historic Landmark, Casper vicinity, Natrona County, Wyoming, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Council staff has reviewed BOR's determination of no adverse effect and notes no objection to the determination.

In accordance with Section 800.4(d) of the Advisory Council's "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 C.F.R. Part 800) BOR may proceed with the undertaking.

Your continued cooperation is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

John D. McDermott  
Director, Office of Review  
and Compliance

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

1. STATE <b>Wyoming</b>	2. THEME(S). IF ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE, WRITE "ARCH" BEFORE THEME NO. <b>Theme XV "Westward Expansion" (Overland Migrations West of <sup>the</sup> Mississippi)</b>
3. NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Independence Rock</b>	4. APPROX. ACREAGE <b>20</b>
5. EXACT LOCATION (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) <b>Wyoming State Highway No. 220, about 60 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming.</b>	
6. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PRESENT OWNER (Also administrator if different from owner) <b>Mr. Tom Sun, Rawlins, Wyoming</b> <del>Partially owned by the State of Wyoming and partially private ownership.</del>	
7. IMPORTANCE AND DESCRIPTION (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains are extant)	

**Significance:** Located on the Sweetwater River near the southern boundary of present-day Natrona County, Wyoming, Independence Rock was another famous landmark along the trail. After crossing the North Platte at the site of the Upper Platte ferries, the emigrants left the river, travelling southwestward across a generally waterless desert to the banks of the Sweetwater. Independence Rock was located a short distance from the point where the trains first encountered the river; consequently, it became a general resting and camping place for the emigrants. Most emigrants looked forward to the Rock with great anticipation. Major Cross wrote that it had been "the theme of conversation with us since leaving Fort Laramie. It was a spot often spoken of by those who had passed before us, known as the great resting place."\*

A large, oblong mass of rock, over 1,900 feet long and 850 feet wide, it stands isolated on the plain, looking according to one traveller, "like some huge monster rising from the ground."\* The rock received its name from a party of fur traders who were reputed to have celebrated the Fourth of July there early in the history of the penetration of the West. It was a well-known landmark long before the emigrations of the 1840's. Because of its association with the anniversary of the nation's independence, many wagon trains made conscious efforts to reach the rock on July 4th.

The greatest attraction of Independence Rock was in the thousands of names carved or painted on its rock faces. Perhaps the trappers who gave it its name were the first to place an inscription on the rock, for some of the earliest travellers noted the word "Independence" carved on it. By 1840, the rock was so covered with names that Father Peter De Smet dubbed it "the great registry of the desert."

8. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works) * <b>Raymond W. Settle, ed., <u>March of the Mounted Riflemen</u>, (Glendale, California, 1940); Le Roy R. Hafen and Ann W. Hafen, <u>Rufus B. Sage: His Letters and Papers, 1836-1847, With an Annotated Reprint of His "Scenes in the Rocky Mountains and in Oregon, California, New Mexico, Texas and the Grand Prairies,"</u> (2 vols., Glendale, 1956), I, 323</b>
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9. REPORTS AND STUDIES (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

10. PHOTOGRAPHS* ATTACHED: YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>	11. CONDITION <b>Good</b>	12. PRESENT USE (Museum, farm, etc.) <b>Partially State park and Partially farmuly, 1959</b>	13. DATE OF VISIT <b>October 5, 1959</b>
14. NAME OF RECORDER (Signature) <b>RAY W. MATTISON</b>	15. TITLE <b>Historian</b>	16. DATE <b>October 5, 1959</b>	

\* DRY MOUNT ON AN 8 X 10½ SHEET OF FAIRLY HEAVY PAPER. IDENTIFY BY VIEW AND NAME OF THE SITE, DATE OF PHOTOGRAPH, AND NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER. GIVE LOCATION OF NEGATIVE. IF ATTACHED, ENCLOSE IN PROPER NEGATIVE ENVELOPES.

(IF ADDITIONAL SPACE IS NEEDED USE SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET, 10-317a, AND REFER TO ITEM NUMBER)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS  
SUPPLEMENTARY SHEET

This sheet is to be used for giving additional information or comments, for more space for any item on the regular form, and for recording pertinent data from future studies, visitations, etc. Be brief, but use as many Supplement Sheets as necessary. When items are continued they should be listed, if possible, in numerical order of the items. All information given should be headed by the item number, its name, and the word (cont'd), as, 6. Description and Importance (cont'd) . . .

STATE <b>Wyoming</b>	NAME(S) OF SITE <b>Independence Rock</b>
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**Remains:** The rock together with its engravings is little impaired. A State Highway No. 220, runs by the site. A marker has been placed on the highway by the site. Some of the names are still very much in evidence.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Independence Rock, Wyoming

Independence Rock, called by Father Peter DeSmet in 1840 "the great registry of the desert," was a well-known landmark on the Oregon Trail long before the great overland migrations of the 1840's. The huge mass of rock, rising like a huge monster from a sagebrush plain, is more than 1,900 feet long and about 850 feet wide. It received its name from a party of fur traders who allegedly celebrated the Fourth of July there at an early date when the trapper and Mountain Man were the only whites to be found in this western wilderness.

Independence Rock lies in the elevated plain between the emigrant crossing of the upper North Platte and the Sweetwater River. The Oregon Trail ascended the latter to South Pass. The Rock lies near the Sweetwater River where the Trail first approaches it, and because of this fact it became a favorite stopping and resting place for the travelers who had been struggling across the almost waterless reaches of the sagebrush upland after leaving the North Platte. The great Rock soon became famous because of the numerous names carved, painted, or written into and on it. It seemed that almost everyone who passed that way had to place his name and the date on the Rock in some form. Because most of the wagon trains stopped here for a camp there was an opportunity to do this. Some of the earliest travelers along the Trail noticed the word "Independence" carved on the Rock, but just who did it and when is not known. Rufus Sage, who passed the Rock in 1842, wrote that its "surface is covered with the names of travelers, traders, trappers, and emigrants engraven upon it in almost every practicable part, for the distance of many feet above its base."

The famous old landmark and its environs are little changed from a century and more ago. While a small part of Independence Rock is in State ownership, most of it is privately owned. State Highway 220 passes the site.

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LANDMARK VISIT REPORT

I. GENERAL BACKGROUND

1. Name of Site: Independence Rock, Wyoming

2. Type of Landmark: Historic  Natural  Environmental  
Education

3. Name of Visitor: R. H. Maeder

4. Title: Superintendent

5. Organization: Fort Laramie National Historic Site

6. Name and title of person contacted: Ned Frost, Chief, Historical  
Division, Wyoming Recreation Commission

7. Name and title of person responsible for the management of the  
site: Paul Westedt, Director, Wyoming Recreation Commission

8. Owner - telephone and address: \_\_\_\_\_

9. Briefly state why site was declared a landmark:

Famous natural landmark on the Oregon Trail. Emigrant names painted,  
carved, or written on its face.

II. OWNERSHIP

1. What is the attitude toward continued participation in the  
landmark program? Wish to continue . Does not wish to continue   
Is not participating .

2. Have any changes in land ownership taken place since designation?  
Yes  No . If yes, if possible, list new owners and addresses.

See ownership discussion under item 9, General Comments.

3. If ownership changes have taken place might these changes nullify  
"registered" status or allow a change from "eligible" to "registered"  
status? Yes  No . If yes, please explain:

4. Does the present owner wish to change from "eligible" status to "registered" status? Yes x No    . At the time the State acquires the land, the Wyoming Recreation Commission will probably apply for a plaque.

III. CONDITION AND MAINTENANCE OF SITE

1. Condition includes any structures(s), grounds, furnishings, etc. that are a part of the landmark. Please check applicable box(s). (Cross out "no" as needed)

- a.  Condition of the site is excellent, signs of regular maintenance.
- b.  Condition of the site is good, regular maintenance performed.
- c.  Condition of the site shows decline, no regular maintenance performed.
- d.  Condition of the site shows serious deterioration, no regular maintenance performed.

e.  Condition of the site threatens integrity of the landmark.

f.  \_\_\_\_\_ shows signs of deterioration but the rest of the site is in good condition, no regular maintenance performed.

g.  Other

2. If c, d, e, f, or g has been checked, please explain.

Being outside of state ownership, there is no regular maintenance, but there is little there to deteriorate. The barrier fence needs some repair.

3. Measures that are being taken or planned to improve condition of site:

Independence Rock is planned to become a state park.

IV. SITE INTEGRITY

1. Has there been any destruction or alteration of all or part of the landmark? Yes x No    . If yes, please explain:

Modern day travelers occasionally scratch or carve their names on the rock.

2. Have there been circumstances or events on the lands adjacent to the landmark that have resulted in serious impairment, diminishment, or destruction of landmark resources, character, and/or significance? Yes     No x. If yes, please explain.

3. Has there been an introduction of visual, audible, or atmospheric elements that are out of character with the property and its setting? Yes     No x. If yes, please explain.

14.1 Have any other threats to the integrity of the site taken place? Yes     No x. If yes, please explain.

15.1 Are there any threats likely to occur in the future? Yes     No ?. If yes, please explain:

I suppose this depends upon one's point of view. When the state acquires the land and develops the state park, a visitor center of some kind is planned for construction. It will be clearly visible from the rock. But while it may intrude upon the scene, it can be done harmoniously and be in character.

16.1 Is there urgency regarding any of the threats? Yes     No x. If yes, please explain:

7. Do any financial problems exist in maintaining the landmark? Yes     No    . If yes, please describe.

Under its present private ownership, the State has no authority to maintain the site. Thus no financial problems.

8. Are there any special problems, or special problems that we can assist in solving? Yes x No    . If yes, please explain.

The problems relate to non-public ownership of the site. The State is capable of solving this problem, and is doing so.

V. ACCEPTABILITY OF USE

1. How is the landmark used:

Residential property  Mixed use

Commercial property  Private property

x Public property

2. Is present use of the site acceptable to maintenance of the landmark's integrity? Yes x No    . If no, please describe unacceptable uses.

3. Is the landmark interpreted to the public via brochures, signing or other means? Yes x No    . If yes, describe the nature and accuracy of the interpretation.

**Wayside signing**

4. If a registered landmark, is the bronze plaque displayed? Yes      
No    . If no, explain.

5. Where is the landmark certificate located?

RECOMMENDATIONS

1.7 On the basis of this report is landmark designation recommended to continue for this site? Yes x No    . If no, explain citing specific examples from this report and any other sources.

2.7 What follow-up action do you suggest for the RMRO and/or others?

Following State acquisition, the NPS should invite the State to apply for plaque and certificate.

3.7 Is a special team needed to assess threats, problems, or special items? If so, what type of expertise is needed, approximately how long, and when will they be needed?

N O N E

4. Is there any new information, corrections, or comments on the significance of the area as described in the original report or brief? Yes      
No x

5. Did you offer any suggestions to the owner/administrator? Yes      
No x. If so, please note.

6. Did you give the owner/administrator the tax and grants-in-aid handouts? Yes     No x.

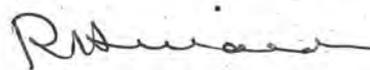
7. Did you contact local/state agencies to ascertain threats? Yes x  
No    .

8. Did you attach to this report dated, captioned photographs of threats, site condition, site use, display of plaque, and other conditions? Yes      
No x. [camera trouble.]

## 9. General Comments:

The State of Wyoming owns a very small piece of Independence Rock. Most of the Rock is owned by Bernard Sun, Alcova, Wyoming. The remainder is owned by the Dumbell Ranch (Rusco Inc., K.C., Mo.). A series of land exchanges and leases will place Independence Rock and surrounding land under the control of the State, to be administered by the Wyoming Recreation Commission as a state park. The total acreage at that time will be 203.93 acres. A map accompanying this report shows the future boundary as well as present owners.

Following the negotiations underway at present, the State will either own or control all of the land within the boundary. The Dumbell Ranch will continue to use the bridge across the Sweetwater for the movement of cattle, and will have right-of-way across park lands for the same purpose.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Visitor

Richard H. Maeder

Date: July 22, 1977

## Bike Controversy

(Continued from page 7)

NST and the Appalachian NST—where bicycles are banned in those areas the Forest Service administers.

"It has become evident that some personnel within the Forest Service do not embrace the vision and philosophy that national scenic trails are intended to be premier hiking trails," says Menke. "Nor do they believe that national scenic trails should be accorded a little different (special) management treatment compared to other forest trails that do not have the NST designation."

In a letter to Kelley following the decision, Tom Gilbert, Superintendent of the Ice Age, North Country, and Lewis and Clark National Trails summarized his objections:

"The order leaves the steepest, most sensitive portions of the trail open to mountain biking. Almost certainly resource damage and user conflicts will continue and grow on those portions. The portions remaining open to biking also happen to be, in our opinion, the most scenic portions of the trail in the Forest.

"The issue paper statement that hikers can experience solitude on the closed portions of the trail sets a low standard for a national scenic trail. The primary users for which the trail is intended — hikers — should have the opportunity to

## NPS Calls on Trail Partners To Guard Against Mountain Bikes

*In the wake of the Manistee mountain bike decision, the Madison Trail Office of the NPS issued the following statement. (Reprinted from North Star, newsletter of the NCTA, Oct.-Dec. 1996).*

"During the last several years, the Partnership for the National Trails System has, on many occasions, stressed the importance of a unified voice to speak for the National Trails System, based on the belief that what affects one trail in the System affects them all. It is imperative that hikers, trail enthusiasts and fellow members of the National Trails System stick together on this issue. The mountain bike community is a potent force already working to secure access to more of the North Country Trail, as well as portions of the other national trails. We must work together to reverse the Manistee National Forest decision and to prevent similar decisions from taking effect along other national trails.

"The ultimate tragedy, we believe, would be an outcome in which hikers are displaced by the volume or pattern of mountain bike use, or the trail deterioration attributable to mountain bike or horse use, and find themselves having to relocate and rebuild to obtain a trail that provides the kind of experience they are seeking. The trail we have today was created to be the North Country National Scenic Trail. Hikers should not be pushed off to other routes of secondary scenic quality and recreational enjoyment."

experience solitude along the most scenic segments that the trail has to offer. It seems that the Congressional intent of making national scenic trails the nation's 'superlative' trails is somehow being lost in the process of trying to make our limited resources 'all things for all users.'"

This decision in the Manistee National Forest has created the conditions for upper level talks between the Forest Service and the Park Service regarding ways in

which local decision making can occur without damaging the value and intent of the components of the National Trails System. What is needed is a communications system which sensitizes district and park staff about the importance of the trails and sets up an appeal process so that both sides can take unwelcome decisions to a higher level for arbitration. In addition, ongoing monitoring must be in place to determine if decisions should be altered to minimize adverse environmental impacts.

## Foundation Established to Save Threatened Independence Rock

by Lesley Wischmann, OCTA

To those who traveled west in the 19th century, Independence Rock was an important landmark. Its significance is testified to in numerous historical documents as well as on the rock itself, where dozens of emigrant signatures remain. But today Independence Rock is threatened.

Independence Rock is a designated Wyoming State Historic Site, but in 1992 the Wyoming Legislature cut all funds for its protection and interpretation. With no one guarding the site, modern-day graffiti has proliferated on the rock. Even more alarming, pieces of rock are being removed as souvenirs. With the Mormon Trail Sesquicentennial celebration scheduled for this summer, there is real reason to be concerned that Independence Rock may be loved to death.

Pat Thompson, administrator of the Independence Rock Historic Site for the Wyoming Division of State Parks & Historic Sites, is working to address these concerns. She is seeking funding from the Wyoming Legislature and the National Park Service to staff the site on a seasonal basis. She has also established the Independence Rock Protection Fund to be used specifically for needed equipment, repair, hand tools and maintenance. The Fund is accepting donations at P. O. Box 1596, Evansville, WY 82636.

For further information, please contact Pat Thompson by telephone (307-577-5150) or e-mail (PTHOMP@misc.state.wy.us).

WY PHL

**INDEPENDENCE ROCK (56-72-00048-00).**  
*Devil's Gate, Natrona Co.* State and private  
ownership. A site associated with early fur  
trade, emigration, and cattle frontier history.  
Design and installation of six interpretive plaques  
and a sign. \$1,500.00.

**FUNDED**