

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 29 1985

date entered APR 25 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ATLANTIC CITY MERCANTILE

and/or common SAME

2. Location

street & number ROUTE 62, BOX 260 not for publication

city, town ATLANTIC CITY vicinity of

state WYOMING code 56 county FREMONT COUNTY code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name MERRILL E. OR DAWN JOAN HAWLEY

street & number 933 NORTH BROADWAY

city, town RIVERTON vicinity of state WYOMING

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. FREMONT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

street & number SECOND STREET

city, town LANDER state WYOMING 82520

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Wyoming Historical Society has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date n/a
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Atlantic City Mercantile located in Atlantic City, Wyoming, is one of the oldest buildings in the area and is a well-known landmark in the South Pass region. Constructed in 1893, the mercantile still conveys its late nineteenth century origins with its somewhat simple false front. Through the years the structure has been altered yet the building retains its integrity in terms of feeling, association, workmanship, location and setting. The mercantile is a one story building with a minimal rock foundation and full basement. Unusual because of its adobe brick construction, the mercantile's adobe walls are covered with the original metallic siding that was ubiquitous at the turn of the century. The false front's parapet wall best displays the original metallic siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with board and batten wooden planks and supports two chimneys. Recently a porch overhang with boardwalk was added to the front while weathered wood siding was attached to the rear and sidewalls. Fortunately these alterations are reversible and the original siding still remains underneath the weathered wood. Since modern buildings are located close to the mercantile, only the building itself is included within the nomination's boundaries.

The primary or south facing facade's false fronted parapet wall is the noteworthy architectural feature of the mercantile. The rectangularly shaped parapet wall is covered by light grey siding imprinted with square design to imitate rusticated stone. The facade's cornice consists of layers of molding. Three protrusions punctuate the cornice with a flower-like round design with a triangular cap and these round decorative details accent the three plain pilasters. During the construction phase, the entire primary facade with cornice was probably ordered from an eastern manufacturer. The fenestration pattern on the lower portion of the facade is irregular and most of the original doors and windows were retained. The mercantile's main entry is an offset double door which is recessed. Multi-paned display windows flank the original wood doors with one large glass pane. A stationary transom is placed over the entry. The recent frame porch overhang addition unfortunately somewhat obscures the structure's commercial character. The measurement of the south facade is 18 feet by 30 feet.

The east side contains a recent 1960's one story shed roof constructed of the same weathered wood which covers the older metallic. The newer addition has a green shingled roof and blends aesthetically with the main building. The west side has three windows with unpainted weathered wood trim, a bay window, and a door. The western and eastern sides each measure approximately twelve feet high and are sixty feet long. There are three windows with unpainted and weathered wood trim on the northern side or back of the building. This side is thirty feet long, twelve feet high at the eastern and western corners, and eighteen feet vertically at the center.

While some interior features such as hand-hewn long beams in the basement, and tin ceilings on the first floor remain unchanged, modern modifications to enhance the building's commercial activities have occurred through the years.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1893 **Builder/Architect** Lawrence Giessler

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Statement of Significance

The Atlantic City Mercantile should be placed on the National Register of Historic Places primarily because of its association with events and persons which have significantly influenced local history (Criteria A and B). Also it is historically important because of its relationship with important events in the broad patterns of history, specifically the Rocky Mountain mining frontier (Criterion A). The building also embodies the distinctive characteristics of type period and method of construction (Criterion C). The Building's construction is adobe block covered with tin. An architectural feature which was popular in small western communities before the turn of the century. This method was not widely practiced in Wyoming because of the unavailability of adobe construction materials. As an example of this type and method of construction the Atlantic City Mercantile is quite likely the only remaining in the state. The fact that it is in excellent condition and retains integrity which would make it eligible for a tax act project contribute to it's worthiness for designation as a National Register Site.

The Atlantic City Mercantile's primary significance stems from its important role in Atlantic City's history. First, it has served as the town's economic and social center from 1893 to 1929 and from 1964 to the present. Second, it is associated with people important to the community's past. Third, with the exception of Hyde's Hall built in 1868, the mercantile is the oldest building in the community. The bar-restaurant retains its physical integrity while Hyde's Hall is unfortunately abandoned and crumbling.

Because of its significant role in Atlantic City's history, the building also reflects many of the regional themes of the Rocky Mountain mining frontier. The continued survival of the Mercantile demonstrates the importance of stores and similar enterprise in the economic and social stability in settlements composed primarily of nomadic prospectors.

(SEE ADDENDUM)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Archives, Museums, and Historical Department Files, South Pass City State Historical Site, South Pass City, Wyoming.
Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Deed Records, Miscellaneous Records, Miscellaneous Subdivision, Quick Claim Deeds, Warranty Deeds.
(See Continuation Sheet, Item 9, Page 2)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than $\frac{1}{2}$ acre

Quadrangle name Atlantic City Quad

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

(SEE ADDENDUM)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael A. Massie

organization

date September 8, 1983

street & number Route 62, Box 164

telephone 307-332-6182

city or town South Pass City

state Wyoming 82520

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 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Alvin J. Baston

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 13, 1985

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

John Pelrus Bryan
Keeper of the National Register

date 4-25-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Essay

Atlantic City lies in the foothills of the Wind River mountains in Western Wyoming. Approximately 100 people live in this small, rural town which is composed of historic structures, log cabins, and a few modern buildings. The Atlantic City Mercantile, one of the area's oldest buildings, is in the center of this community. The history of the Mercantile is closely tied to the town's past.

Atlantic City's origins reflect several characteristics of the nineteenth century Rocky Mountain mining frontier. Beginning in 1849, many Easterners travelled to California in search of gold and instant riches. After failing to find a wealthy lode, many miners began to look for precious metals outside of California, especially in the Rocky Mountain area. In 1859, gold was discovered at Pikes Peak, and for the next forty years, the region experienced hundreds of gold, silver, and copper strikes.

Mining camps were economically and socially unstable. Most towns were founded on the rumors of large gold deposits, and until miners discovered several productive claims, the miners rushed to other areas which reported more promising mineral lodes.

Prospectors controlled the social institutions of early camps. Since a large majority of the residents were men, saloons, dance halls, and houses of prostitution dominated the business sector, while schools, churches, and public service facilities often did not exist. When the miners eventually exited to other towns, these enterprises of entertainment moved with them.

The architecture of the camp reflected the instability and temporary nature of these early mining camps. Many businesses were tents with wooden false fronts.

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

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makeshift facilities crudely built of sod, stone, or logs. Businessmen easily constructed and dismantled these inexpensive structures in order to follow the nomadic prospectors from one camp to another. Permanence and aesthetic appeal were secondary to transience and function.

If a mining camp endured beyond these initial years of uncertainty, then the settlement acquired a more permanent image. Since most of the prospectors were not self-sufficient, merchants provided the necessary goods and services. Freighters, storekeepers, blacksmiths, butchers, hotel owners, farmers, ranchers, and bankers opened businesses in mining towns. Because they did not exist to reap instant wealth in a short period of time, these entrepreneurs did not possess the itinerant characteristics of miners, saloonkeepers, and gamblers. Instead, their economic success depended upon the stability and long term survival of the camp. Thus, these businessmen often invested time and money into the settlement's continued existence. Schools and churches were constructed. Merchants supplied taxes for the creation of social services such as sanitation, fire protection, and law enforcement. Women, the representatives of culture and civilization, soon became an important element in the social environment.

The architecture imitated this drive for permanence. Merchants carefully constructed their business structures out of hand-hewn logs, milled lumber, or cut stone. Many buildings contained two or three stories, which promoted the image of wealth and permanence. Other, less wealthy merchants erected false fronts on their one-floor structures in order to create this desired image.²

Most gold mining towns such as Atlantic City adhered to this economic and social pattern in which camps evolved from a temporary settlement dominated by itinerant miners to a more permanent town controlled by the merchants and agrarians. Businessmen, farmers, and ranchers often formed a nucleus which allowed a town to survive after the mining camp boom eventually died and the prospectors left. Thus, one of the primary legacies of the gold miners was their inducement to merchants to move into an area and establish a permanent town where no White settlements existed previously.

Atlantic City's history parallels this regional theme. Even though the first indications that gold existed in the South Pass region occurred in the 1840's, no one filed a claim in the area until 1867. When this mine immediately began to produce significant amounts of gold, the rush to South Pass began. South Pass City was founded that year, and Atlantic City and Miners Delight were built in 1868. Approximately 3000 people lived in the area by 1869.³

Much of the gold mining activity transpired around Atlantic City. Hundreds of placer claims dotted Rock Creek, and several mines existed north of town. These workings included the Rose, Buckeye (Garfield), Diana, Caribou, and Snowbird mines. By 1871, twelve stamp mills and two arrastas operated in the area.⁴

In addition to the economic activity, the miners dominated the town's social institutions. Single men comprised a large majority of the population. Thus, saloons, dance halls, and houses of prostitution were prevalent. Most of the buildings were hastily and crudely constructed, and many businesses were operated from tents.

However, by 1869, more permanent enterprises moved into the town. Merchants constructed hotels, blacksmith shops, butcher shops, law offices, and livery stables. The residents built public service facilities such as a jail and a sheriff's office. Operating a general store proved to be one of the most profitable and important businesses in Atlantic City. The Leighton Brothers, Mr. Hoffman, Carle Melin, Jules Lamoureux, A. Amoretti, and Louis Poire owned mercantiles in Atlantic City by 1870. Many of these people used the money earned from their stores to start ranches and freighting companies. As a result, the mercantilists contributed significantly to the town's economic diversification.⁵

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This trend proved critical to the survival of Atlantic City. By 1872, the gold mining boom had ended, and the town was nearly deserted. The miners had moved to other gold mining camps in Montana, Utah, and Colorado which offered more promises of wealth. However, some of the more permanent businesses continued to operate in Atlantic City. Although transactions greatly declined, the remaining freighters, hotel keepers, restaurant operators, and mercantilists served the ranchers who settled in the area. Emigrants travelling on the region's stage roads and a few remaining miners also utilized the services of these entrepreneurs. As a result of this diverse economy, Atlantic City survived, albeit a shadow of its former self.⁶

In the next one hundred years, the town experienced several mining booms, although none approached the 1867-68 rush. Throughout these years of fluctuating populations, the store owners were a force of economic and social stability. They provided all the basic necessities to a small, isolated town, and their establishments represented a social center for the local citizens. Lawrence Giessler's Atlantic City Mercantile reflected these traits more than any other store or business from the 1890's to 1929. Mr. Giessler sustained the tradition of permanence which the previous mercantilists initiated in the 1867-72 period and which was such an important aspect of Rocky Mountain mining towns.

Giessler was born in Germany in 1855. He moved to Wyoming in 1873 where he worked as a cowboy near the Sweetwater River. After moving to South Pass City in 1889, he married Emma Stegmiller. They eventually opened a store in Atlantic City in 1890.⁷

Giessler built the Atlantic City Mercantile on Block 1, Lot 8 in 1893. He leased the land on August 14, 1893 from Emile Granier for one dollar. This tract already contained a house and a former store, probably the one erected by Jules Lamoureux or Louis Poire in 1868.⁸

Thus, the Mercantile is connected with Emile Granier, an important person in local and state history. Granier attempted the most ambitious irrigation and hydraulic mining scheme in nineteenth century Wyoming. With foreign money, mostly from France, he formed the Rock Creek Ditch Company in Atlantic City in 1884. Through a series of ditches, flumes, and dams, Granier diverted water from Christina Lake to his claims on Rock Creek, twenty-five miles to the south. Granier employed approximately 135 people, and his operation precipitated a minor gold rush to the area. He hoped to overcome the shortage of capital and lack of sufficient water which he believed caused the 1872 bust. In order to uncover the gold, Granier used a twenty inch hose to spray his placer diggings. This process of hydraulic mining worked successfully in some places in California and the Rocky Mountain West but was not suited to the rather loose soil and small slopes of the Atlantic City area. The project eventually lost \$150,000, and Granier later spent many years in a French debtors prison. However, the Frenchman's fiasco affected the town due to the money injected into the local economy and the influx of many miners and businesses. In addition, Granier owned most of the land in Atlantic City, including the tract containing the Atlantic City Mercantile.⁹

After leasing the land from Granier, Giessler used adobe blocks to erect the walls of the new store. He covered the adobe with a tin siding and constructed a large false front on the south side. Giessler also used tin on the interior ceiling and walls. In 1894, the store-keeper built a barn to the northwest of the mercantile. Before 1900, he erected a home behind the store. On March 21, 1900, Giessler purchased the piece of land from Granier for five dollars.¹⁰

The Atlantic City Mercantile was the economic and social center of the town from the 1890's to 1929 when the store closed. During most of this period, the Mercantile was the only store in town. Giessler sold food, clothing, mining equipment, some medicine and other necessities. He transported most of the items from the Union Pacific Railroad settlements, eighty miles to the south of town. In the early 1900's, the mercantilist used some of the profits from

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the store to start a freighting company from Point of Rocks to Atlantic City. With his brother, Bill, as a partner, Giessler hauled freight for the store and the entire town.¹¹

The Giesslers utilized the Atlantic City Mercantile to provide many necessary community services. In addition to selling basic goods, the family operated the post office during the 1910's and 1920's. Giessler also helped finance and managed the town's first telephone company in the early years of the twentieth century. The store was the center of the telephone network with lines to the Dexter Mine, Garfield Mine, and Giessler's Bar 73 Ranch.¹²

In her book, Atlantic City Nuggets, Betty Carpenter Pfaff, an elderly resident of the town, noted that "...the Giessler store sat in the middle of the town like it had been a hub in the wheel of activity many years ago."¹³ This statement is an accurate description of the Atlantic City Mercantile's role in the community. The Giesslers, through the operation of the store, provided the town with the necessities of life, hauled goods from distant railroad stations to an isolated mining and ranching community, offered telephone and postal services, cooked many fine German meals, and furnished a social center for games, conversations, and events.

When he died in 1929, Lawrence Giessler was one of the principal property owners in Atlantic City. In addition to the store and freighting company, he owned a ranch near the Sweetwater River. There were approximately 100 head of cattle, sheep, and 125-150 horses on the ranch. He also possessed several pieces of property and many mining claims in and around the town. Thus, Giessler became one of the town's leading property owners by investing the profits from his store.¹⁴

After Giessler's death, the store remained closed until 1964 when a local steelworker bought the building from Giessler's descendants and reopened it as a beer tavern and a spring water concession. Recognizing its historical significance to the community, Lyle F. Moerer retained the building's past name and restored the Atlantic City Mercantile to its original appearance. Terry Wehrman purchased the Mercantile in 1971 and operated it as a tavern. In 1977, Wehrman sold the establishment to Bob Rice, the present owner. Mr. Rice manages a tavern and a restaurant in the Atlantic City Mercantile.¹⁵

The Mercantile endures as the economic and social center of Atlantic City. It is the only business which remains open during the entire year. Beside being a social gathering place for the local residents, the Mercantile hosts most local events, such as weddings, parties, and other celebrations. In the waiting room, Mr. Rice presently displays several artifacts associated with the town's past. These items include jars, jugs, bottles, dishes, caps, tools, photographs, and newspaper articles. Reflecting the increasing importance of tourism to the area's economy, the Mercantile has been featured in several publications, including a New Jersey magazine, Esquire, a Japanese magazine, National Geographic, and a book, The Outlaw Trail.

With the exception of Hyde's Hall, the Mercantile is the oldest surviving building in Atlantic City. Hyde's Hall is a stone building which was built in 1868 as a store and dance hall. This structure is in disrepair, abandoned, and crumbling. Thus, the Mercantile represents the community's oldest structure which retains its physical integrity.

In addition, the Mercantile predates all of the remaining stores in the local area. Even though South Pass City contains several restored structures which were erected from 1867-1890, the town's general store was built in 1898. The earliest stores in Lander date to the late 1900's and early 1910's.

Some changes have occurred to the Mercantile's physical appearance, but these alterations have not compromised the building's architectural integrity. In the 1960's, an extra room was added to the east side of the building. Also, the present owner dismantled the barn which Giessler built behind the store and used the wood to construct a porch and to cover the tin

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sides. However, these modifications are reversible, and the facade retains the tin siding. With the exception of the eastern addition, the building remains the same as in 1893 when Giessler constructed it. The Mercantile is in excellent physical condition.

The Atlantic City Mercantile is an important historic site. It reflects some of the themes of a nineteenth century gold mining frontier which accounted for the creation of Atlantic City and other area towns. The former store played a critical social and economic role in the town from the 1890's to 1929. It is also connected to Emile Granier and Lawrence Giessler, two prominent persons of local significance. Finally, the Mercantile continues to serve today as "...the hub of the wheel of activity..." for Atlantic City.

Endnotes

¹Rodman Paul, Mining Frontiers of the Far West, 1848-1880 (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1974), pp. 12-55; Duane Smith, Rocky Mountain Mining Camps: The Urban Frontier (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1974), pp. xi-xii, 3-15; Granville Stuart, Prospecting For Gold: From Dogtown to Virginia City, 1852-1864, edited by Paul C. Phillips (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1977), pp. 57-132.

²Several works describe the economic and social environment of early mining camps. These books include Duane Smith's Rocky Mountain Mining Camps, Rodman Paul's Mining Frontiers of the Far West, Granville Stuart's Prospecting For Gold, and David Lavender's The Rockies (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1981).

³Lola M. Homsher, editor, South Pass, 1868: James Chisholm's Journal of the Wyoming Gold Rush (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1960), pp. 3-7, 204-208; Phillip Dodd Smith, Jr., "Sagebrush Soldiers," Nevada Historical Quarterly, Vol. V, Number 3-4 (Fall-Winter, 1962):54; Frederick B. Rogers, Soldiers of the Overland (San Francisco: The Grabhorn Press, 1938), pp. 116-117; Virginia J. Scharff, "South Pass Since 1812: Woman Suffrage and the Expansion of the Western Adventure," (M.A. thesis, University of Wyoming, 1981), pp. 26-29; James Sherlock, South Pass and Its Tales (New York: Vantage Press, 1978), pp. 1-4.

⁴Rossiter W. Raymond, "Statistics of Mines and Mining in the States and Territories West of the Rocky Mountains," House of Representatives Executive Document No. 207, 41st Congress, 2nd Session (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1870), pp. 328-329, 331-337; Betty Carpenter Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets (Printed by author, 1978), pp. 100-123.

⁵Archives, Museums, and Historical Department Files, South Pass City State Historical Site, South Pass City, Wyoming; Wyoming Recreation Commission Files, South Pass City State Historical Site; Homsher, South Pass, 1868, p. 78.

⁶Arthur H. Spencer, "The Atlantic Gold District, Fremont County, Wyoming," United States Geologic Survey, Bulletin 626 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1916), p. 24.

⁷Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, p. 27.

⁸Quick Claim Deed, Book C, pp. 214-216, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office, Lander, Wyoming; Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, pp. 27-28.

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⁹Scharff, "South Pass Since 1812," pp. 97-98; Spencer, "The Atlantic Gold District," p. 25; Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, pp. 11-13; Deed Record 54, pp. 373-376, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office.

¹⁰Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, pp. 27-28; Deed Record F, pp. 54-55, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office; Interview with Terry Wehrman, Atlantic City, Wyoming, April 11, 1983.

¹¹Archives, Museums, and Historical Department Files, South Pass City State Historical Site; Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, pp. 29-31.

¹²Pfaff, Atlantic City Nuggets, pp. 29-31.

¹³IBID, pp. 26-27.

¹⁴Miscellaneous Record Book R, p. 472, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office.

¹⁵Miscellaneous Subdivisions Book, Atlantic City Section, Township 29, Section 12, Block 1, Lot 8, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office; Warranty Deed Record 104, p. 483, Fremont County Courthouse, County Clerk's Office; Riverton Ranger, 24 Sept. 1969, p. 11; Interview with Terry Wehrman, Atlantic City, Wyoming, April 11, 1983; Interview with Bob Rice, Atlantic City, Wyoming, March 31, 1983.

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The boundary for the Atlantic City Mercantile is located in the southwestern corner of Lot 8 Block 1, defined by a square measuring one hundred feet in each direction. The southern boundary parallels Main Street and the western boundary parallels Geisler Street. The northern boundary is defined by a dirt wall located approximately ten feet behind the Mercantile which separates it from three modern structures situated on the back of the lot. The eastern boundary is defined by the lot line for Lot 8 Block 1 which is located approximately ten feet from the exterior wall of the building. This boundary defines and protects the historic structure while excluding modern intrusions to the rear. There are no curbs or gutters so existing surveyed lot lines provide the best legal definition of the site while the arbitrary boundary on the north is tied to the dirt wall, an existing geographical feature.