

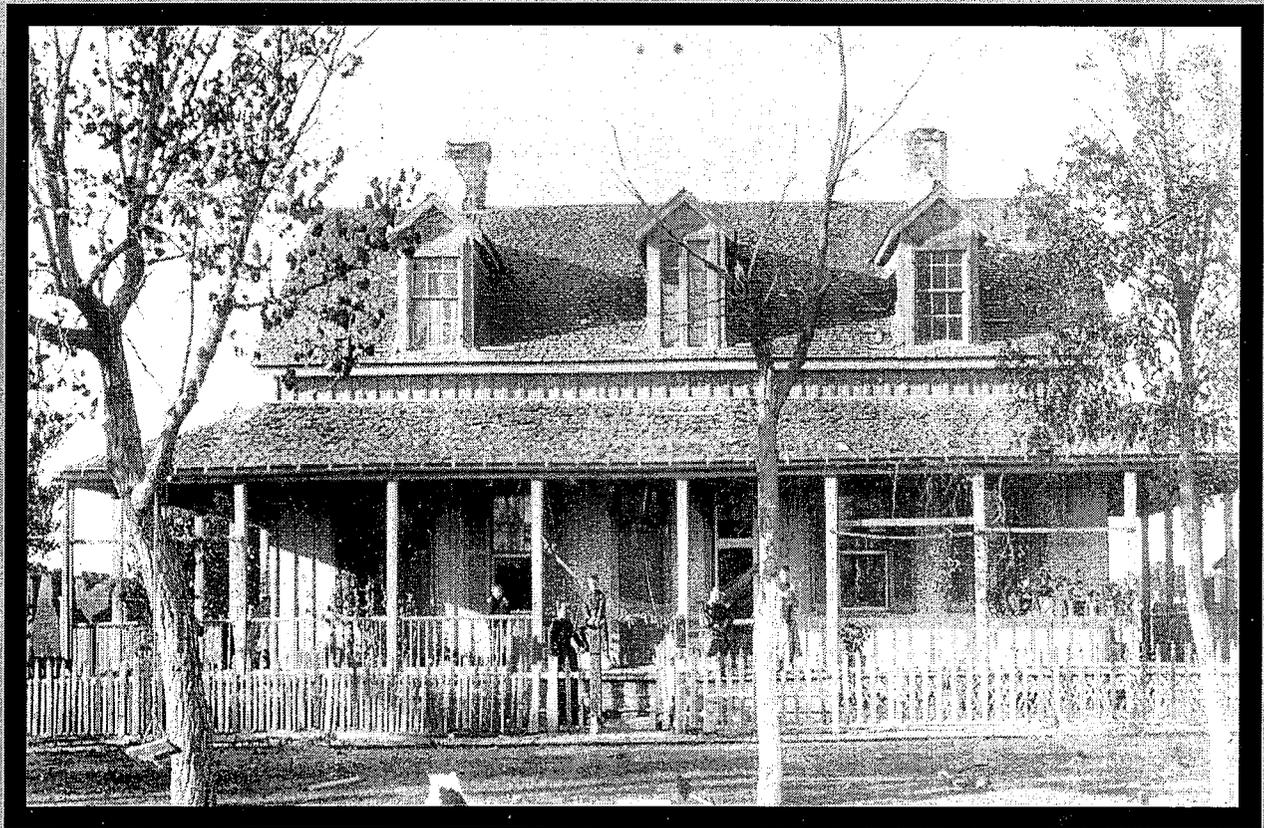
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Laramie, Wyoming



Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Cultural Landscape Report



Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Cultural Landscape Report

National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Denver

2006

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MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

PROJECT PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This cultural landscape report documents the Fort Laramie National Historic Site (NHS) cultural landscape, provides general guidance on appropriate treatment methods, and compiles data needed for the future management of the landscape. It presents the site's history, its existing conditions, an evaluation of its character-defining features and the integrity of the landscape, management objectives, and recommendations for a treatment strategy.

PROJECT TEAM

The project began in 1997 when Fort Laramie superintendent Jim Mack requested assistance from the NPS Intermountain Regional Office (IMRO) and Denver Service Center (DSC) for the preparation of a cultural landscape inventory, cultural landscape report, and a revised National Register nomination for the park. The cultural landscape report project team included historical architect Tom Keohan of the IMRO cultural resource program, DSC historians Joan DeGraff and Tom Thomas, DSC landscape architect Karen Vaage, DSC team leader Pat O'Brien, DSC editor Sandy Schuster, and IMRO editor Jane Harvey. In addition to Jim Mack, several Fort Laramie staff members also were involved with the project, including superintendents George Helfrich and Mitzi Frank, chief ranger Tammy Benson, park ranger Steve Fullmer, museum specialist Louise Samson, museum technician Kirk Dietz, exhibit specialist Donald LeDeaux, chief of maintenance Shawn Bryant, and administrative officer Kathie Perry. In 2006, the publication-ready editing and layout of the cultural landscape report was completed by Olivia Salmon, a graduate student at Utah State University, who also provided many of the report photographs. Funding for the cultural landscape report and publication was provided by Fort Laramie National Historic Site, the Heritage Partnerships Program of the NPS Intermountain Region, and the NPS Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit.

HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located in Goshen County, Wyoming, near the high plains community of Torrington in southeastern Wyoming. Between 1834, when fur traders founded Fort William, and 1890, when the U.S. Army abandoned the site, the sequential posts on the site witnessed the entire spectrum of westward expansion. Playing a part in its history are the heyday of mountain men, the long period of the overland migrations, major treaty councils with indigenous tribes and the conflicts that followed until the Indians were forced onto reservations, and the arrival in the region of cattlemen and homesteaders. For 56 years, the posts on the Laramie River witnessed and contributed significantly to the cavalcade of American history.

The fur trade prompted construction of the post that in time evolved into Fort Laramie. Because of its relative proximity to the mountain men's rendezvous sites in the Wind and Green river valleys, as well as its lucrative beaver-trapping potential, the area adjoining the junction of the Laramie and North Platte rivers drew the notice of entrepreneurs during the 1820s and early 1830s. (The Laramie was named after a French trapper, Jacques La Ramee, killed by Indians in 1821 on the stream bearing his name.) Two of them, William Sublette and Robert Campbell, constructed the Fort William stockade there in 1834. A year later, these two sold their interests in Fort William, and in 1836 the post was acquired by the American Fur Company (later Pierre Chouteau, Jr. and Company), which dominated regional trade, including that with bands of Lakota Indians who inhabited the region. Five years later, Choteau rebuilt the post out of adobe and renamed it Fort John, apparently after a stockholder named John Sarpy. The structure was popularly referred to as "Fort Laramie."

While the era of the fur trade contributed to the early development of Fort Laramie, the post achieved further prominence in the overland migrations and explorations that peaked in the 1840s and early 1850s. Emigrants and soldiers passed through the site as they traveled over the Oregon Trail and its subsidiary routes to California, Oregon, Utah, and other areas of the Far West. As early as the 1830s, the routes along the North Platte River brought missionaries and wagons of supplies and trade goods to the post on the Laramie. The first party of emigrants bound westward in covered wagons reached the fort in 1841, and in the following year Second Lieutenant John C. Fremont's party visited Fort Laramie on its way to explore the Rocky Mountains. Because the post strategically intersected the frontier routes in all directions, Fremont, among others, urged the erection of a military post there. In the meantime, the numbers of sojourners through Fort Laramie swelled from a thousand people in 1843 to three times that figure two years later. In 1847, some 8,000 people traversed the roads converging at the post, and in 1852, in the wake of the California gold discoveries, almost 60,000 emigrants took to the trails leading west. Many went seeking land, while others sought riches in the gold fields of California. Beginning in 1847 and continuing for a year, Mormon migrations dominated movement over the trails as they passed west in wagons and pushed handcarts seeking their new Zion in Utah Territory. For all of these people, Fort Laramie represented a welcome respite from their long journey. The continuing migrations brought repeated calls for protection of travelers over the trails, and in 1849, the U.S. government duly purchased Fort John for \$4,000, formally renaming it Fort Laramie. The first troops posted at the new station were soldiers from the U.S. Mounted Rifle regiment, who were shortly followed by soldiers from the Sixth Infantry. The adobe trading post proved inadequate for garrisoning the command, and the men set to work building a new facility. By winter, the construction of officer quarters, barracks, stables, and other amenities had been largely completed.

An important focus of the troops at the newly acquired post was relations with neighboring Indian tribes, in particular the bands of Minneconjous and Brules who had alternately traded with and threatened wayfarers in the area of the fort. As early as 1845, the government had sent dragoons under Colonel Stephen Watts Kearny to council with the tribesmen and gain assurances of continued amity toward the emigrants. In 1851, U.S./ Plains Indian relations reached another plateau when officials convened with the Sioux, Northern Cheyennes, Northern Arapahos, Crows, and neighboring tribes at Horse Creek, near Fort Laramie. Here they negotiated agreements to create tribal territorial sectors and exacted assurances of safe travel for whites using the overland routes.

Relations with the Indians proceeded peacefully for a time, but the impetus for open conflict was ever-present, especially as tribe members congregated near the fort each year to receive the annuities prescribed in the 1851 accord. Despite the treaty, the growing influx of emigrants alarmed the Sioux because of the competition over game resources they presented, as well as the potential for the spread of deadly diseases among them. Tensions mounted in June 1853, when a skirmish between the warriors and troops took place that resulted in several Indian deaths and injuries. Although peace was quickly restored, the incident proved a portent for future troubles between the soldiers and the tribesmen. In August 1854, Brevet Second Lieutenant John L. Grattan and 29 Sixth Infantrymen entered a Brule village and demanded the surrender of a man accused of stealing an emigrant's cow. When the Indians refused, a fight broke out and Grattan's entire party was annihilated. The incident was critical for the future of Lakota/U.S. Government relations, for it partially inspired the campaign of Brigadier General William S. Harney to punish the Sioux and Cheyennes in 1855. Harney's major battle with bands of Brules, Minneconjous, and Cheyennes at Blue Water Creek, Nebraska, 150 miles below Fort Laramie, in which many Indians - both combatants and non-combatants - died, established the tenor of distrust that characterized U.S. Army/Lakota and U.S. Army/Cheyenne relations on the Northern Plains for the next several decades.

The military value of Fort Laramie was reconfirmed in the years following the Harney expedition against the Sioux. In 1857, the post functioned as a supply facility in the campaign of Colonel Edwin V. Sumner against the Lakotas and Cheyennes inhabiting the area between the Platte and Arkansas rivers on the Central Plains. Later that year, Fort Laramie served as a requisite fixture for troops and supplies in the army movement against allegedly refractory Mormons in Utah Territory. In addition, during the 1850s and 1860s, the post played a major role in linking east and west via mail service. In the late 1850s, Fort Laramie served as a point of mail contact for miners working the gold fields of Colorado, 200 miles to the south. In the spring of 1860, Fort

Laramie became a way station on the Pony Express route between St. Joseph, Missouri, and San Francisco, California. In 1861, daily mail coaches were inaugurated between those points, taking 18 days to make the trip. Just as significantly, telegraph lines reached Fort Laramie in September 1861, helping to connect both coasts in a landmark communications achievement.

With the advent of the Civil War, 1861-1865, the national focus turned away from westward expansion and toward the cataclysmic military operations in the East and South. Regular army troops were withdrawn from the frontier to fill eastern armies, while state troops took their place manning the western garrisons. Although Indian relations in the region of Fort Laramie remained peaceable for much of the period of the war, events occurring elsewhere eventually affected the scene. Most notably, in 1862 the Santee Dakotas of Minnesota rose against the white settlers in their midst. That outbreak was quelled militarily, but its effect quickly registered among the Lakotas and their allies farther west. Similarly, the attack by Colorado militia on a village of Cheyennes and Arapahos at Sand Creek late in 1864 had immediate repercussions in the North. In response to Sand Creek, many Lakotas and Northern Cheyennes struck out against white settlements and emigrant trails in the Platte valley. State troops operating out of Fort Laramie found themselves fully involved in actions in Nebraska and the area of present Wyoming in what was then Dakota Territory. In the summer of 1865, major engagements took place near Platte Bridge Station on the North Platte. Farther north, troops of the Powder River Expedition, operating out of Fort Laramie under the overall command of Brigadier General Patrick E. Connor, encountered the Indians along the Tongue and Powder rivers and destroyed an Arapaho village. This attack in particular served to further heighten army/Indian tensions in the region.

The worsening state of army/Indian relations intensified following the Powder River expedition. During 1864, private interests had blazed the Bozeman Road through Wyoming to the gold fields around Virginia City, Montana. The route cut through the heart of the prime hunting lands claimed by the Lakotas, Cheyennes, and Arapahos, and their warriors responded by stepping up their attacks on citizen trains bound over the road. Attempting to halt this conflict, in June 1866, federal authorities called on leaders of the affected tribes to assemble at Fort Laramie to negotiate peace. During the negotiations, however, an army column inopportunistly arrived at the post under orders to erect military posts along the Bozeman Road and to guard American citizens using it from Indian attacks. Red Cloud, a major chief of the Teton Lakotas, quickly saw the duplicity and led his people from the peace talks determined to oppose the army presence. Over the next two years, emigrant travel fell off as incidents of warfare between troops and Indians flared. In December 1866, fighting climaxed when Red Cloud's warriors wiped out a contingent of 80 soldiers near one of the new posts – Fort Phil Kearny – in northern Wyoming. Further confrontations in the summer of 1867 led the government to advance new peace overtures, and in 1868 officials signed a treaty at Fort Laramie conceding the Indians' dominance in the region by abandoning the army posts along the Bozeman Road and closing the route to further use by whites. The tribesmen, in turn, accepted establishment of the Great Sioux reservation, comprising the western half of present South Dakota, with hunting privileges extending west to the Bighorn Mountains of central Wyoming and north to the Powder River country of Montana.

In the provisions of the Fort Laramie treaty lay the genesis for events leading to the nation's largest Indian conflict – the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877 – in which the post played a significant part. Peace lasted only until the mid-1870s. In 1873, railroad survey parties and their military escorts entering the region of the Yellowstone River encountered bands of Tetons under Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse who had not subscribed to the Fort Laramie treaty. Moreover, following the 1874 discovery of gold in the Black Hills section of the Lakota reservation, a rush into the country by white citizens ensued, and the government ultimately attempted purchase of the valuable tract from the Lakotas, who refused to sell. Thus pressured by commercial interests demanding access to the region, the government late in 1875 directed all Lakotas in the Yellowstone/Powder River country to report to agencies on the reservation. When for various reasons the tribesmen did not comply, the army fielded troops to force their submission.

Fort Laramie became a major staging point for troops and supplies during the Great Sioux War, which lasted for 15 months from March 1876 to May 1877, and involved many engagements between the army and the Lakotas and Northern Cheyennes. Principal campaigns involving Fort Laramie in a logistical role were those of Brigadier General George Crook, whose commands clashed with Sioux and Cheyenne warriors at Powder

River in March and at Rosebud Creek in June 1876. A week after Rosebud came the climactic Battle of the Little Bighorn, wherein the Indians resoundingly defeated Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer's Seventh Cavalry regiment. The warfare then turned into a series of lesser engagements in which armies headed by Crook and Colonel Nelson A. Miles found and defeated the scattered bands. Their efforts finally forced many Indians under Sitting Bull to seek refuge in Canada while others under Crazy Horse surrendered at the agencies in Dakota Territory and Nebraska. Throughout the conflict, Fort Laramie served as a central base through which troops passed and provisions were assembled en route to the war country. Also, important meetings of strategy involving senior commanders took place at the post.

After the Great Sioux War, Fort Laramie continued its active army presence in the region, overseeing the movement of miners and other citizens into the Black Hills, which the reservation Indians had finally yielded in the fall of 1876. In tandem with Fort Robinson, Nebraska, the post served as a sentry watching over the reservation and its agencies. During its last years, Fort Laramie's presence served as a federal bulwark to counter lawlessness, protecting ranchers and others who took up land in the region. In the late 1880s, however, the course of newly laid rail lines favored Fort Robinson over Fort Laramie, and despite a surge of construction activity, the post eventually came to be viewed as unnecessary. The last cavalry troops departed Fort Laramie in 1883, and six years later the government decided to abandon the station. On March 2, 1890, the remaining infantry troops pulled out and headed for Denver. A month later, the buildings and other property of the old post went on the auction block, realizing a total of \$1,395.

After sale of the property, the land encompassing the post and military reservation was opened to homesteading. In later years, area residents lived in some of the former quarters. Other buildings were converted into a social complex consisting of a hotel, saloon, and dance hall, which served regional patrons for more than a quarter of a century. Many buildings, however, were either torn down or had doors or window frames removed and their materials used in erecting area ranch houses and barns.

Efforts to preserve the surviving remains of Fort Laramie got under way early in the twentieth century, when locals raised a marker commemorating the post's history as a fixture on the Oregon Trail. However, time and changing land ownership led to further degradation of the site until the 1920s, when the establishment of the Wyoming Historical Landmark Commission brought opportunities for protecting it. In 1937, the state legislature appropriated funds to acquire much of the property, including surviving buildings. The property was then transferred to the federal government. On July 16, 1938, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the area Fort Laramie National Monument. Following years of restoration, the site was re-designated as a national historic site under the administration of the National Park Service (NPS) in 1960. Today, Fort Laramie exists as a premier example of historic preservation and the history of the post between 1834 and 1890, through the eras of the fur trade, overland migrations, Indian wars, and frontier settlement, drives an interpretive program highlighting Fort Laramie's past and legacy for all Americans.¹

TYPES OF CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

A cultural landscape is defined as "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." Four general types of cultural landscapes are outlined in NPS-28, Cultural Resources Management Guidelines (1981): historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, historic sites, and ethnographic landscapes. The Fort Laramie cultural landscape is considered a historic site because of its association with the settlement of the American West.

1. The historic context section of this chapter was prepared by NPS historian Jerome A. Greene based on the works of numerous authors including Hafen and Young (1938), Hedren (1988), NPS, Hieb (1959), NPS, Lavender (1983), and Nadeau (1967).

STUDY BOUNDARIES

By presidential proclamation, the fort became Fort Laramie National Monument in 1938. It was re-designated a national historic site in 1960, when the monument was enlarged by Congress from 214 to 571 acres. The 1960 boundary was amended in 1978, and the historic site currently consists of 832.85 acres.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located in Goshen County, in southeastern Wyoming (see figures 1 and 2). The lands adjacent to Fort Laramie are open and unobstructed, characteristic of many areas near the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. Farming and grazing lands surround the park. The area north of the fort is irrigated croplands, with a small area of native prairie; the land to the south is pasture and restored grassland; to the west is farmland that produces alfalfa; and to the east is farmland planted with corn.

The North Platte River separates the land adjacent to the north from the site boundary. The west boundary is a county road. Pastures and meadows bound the south side of the park. On the east side, dry pasturelands can be seen in the distance, with bluffs and the Fort Laramie Canal helping to define the southern boundary.

Fort Laramie was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1966 under criterion A for its nationally significant role in the western development of the United States. The National Register of Historic Places form completed in 1983 documented 36 significant physical remains within the 536 acres comprising the historic district within the Fort Laramie National Historic Site (Canaday, 1983). The historic district includes a mix of historic buildings, historic structures, visible foundations, and historic ruins. The study area for this project encompassed this historic district, as well as the full extent of the national historic site.]

RESEARCH METHODS

Fort Laramie has a richly documented history. Depending heavily on existing primary and secondary materials, this study undertook ~~no new research~~. The Site History, Existing Conditions, and Analysis sections were prepared by a historian and landscape architect from the Denver Service Center (DSC) working in conjunction with the staffs from Fort Laramie National Historic Site and the Intermountain Support Office-Denver. The Treatment section was prepared by a landscape architect from DSC. Research methods used by these specialists included literature reviews, field investigations, data compilation, and analysis.

Literature Reviews

The literature reviews focused on a variety of primary and secondary sources. These included natural and cultural resource legislation and their associated regulations, NPS and other federal policy and guidance documents, park management documents, primary and secondary historic documents, and contemporary research reports and interviews.

Field Investigations

Field investigations were conducted in October 1997 and documented features within the historic district and throughout the site. Members of the DSC team also conducted limited tours of the lands surrounding the park to increase the overall understanding of the area and to facilitate the analysis of character-defining features and integrity of the landscape. Views and vistas from inside the park looking out and from outside the park looking in were examined.

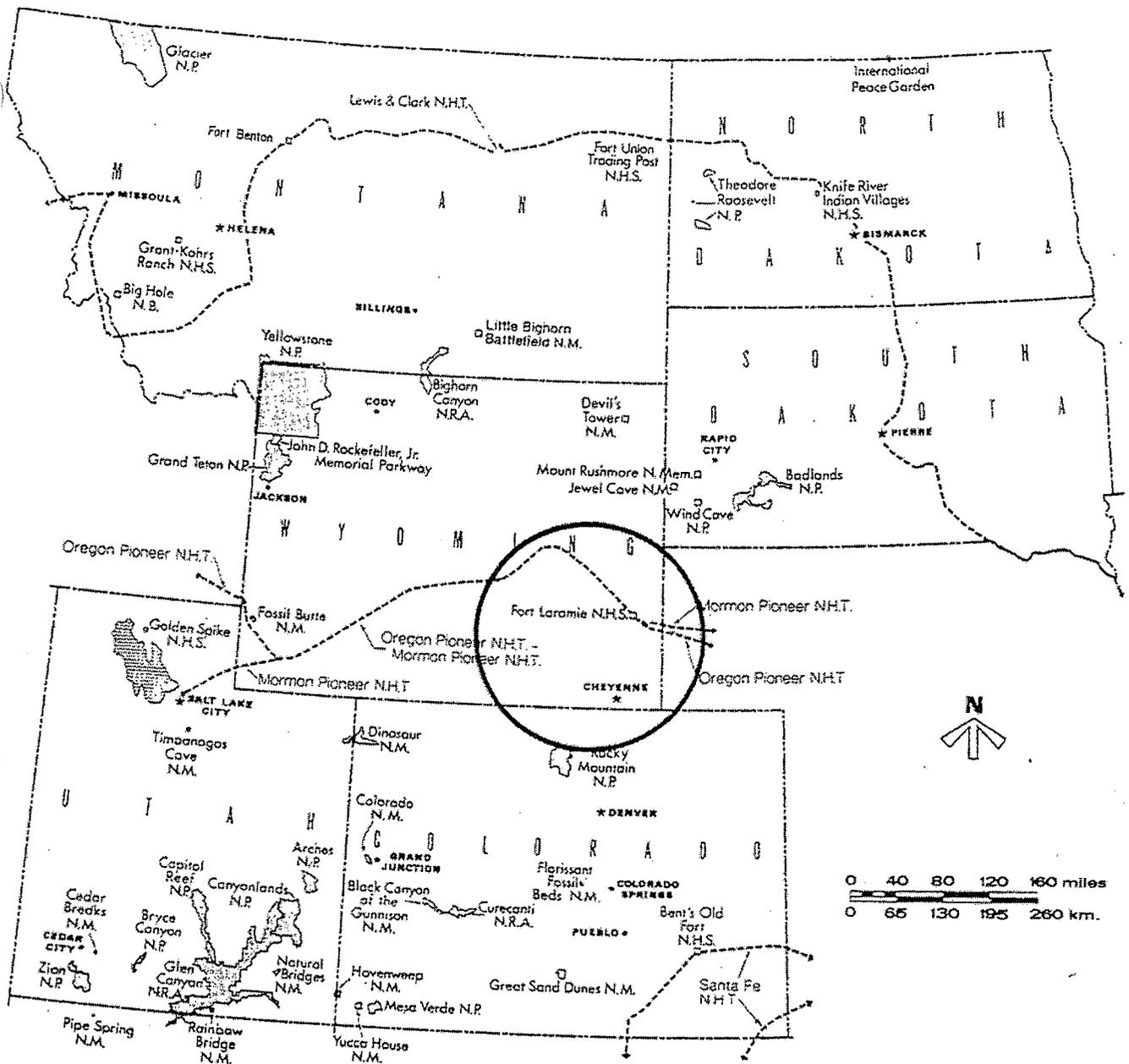
Data Compilation and Analysis

The reviews and investigations generated considerable data requiring careful analysis and synthesis. The DSC team focused primarily on existing park management documents, as well as National Register nomination forms, archeological assessments and reports, and numerous secondary historic documents. From this data, the landscape was documented, its existing condition was evaluated, and its integrity was analyzed within established standards for cultural landscapes (McClelland et al, 1989).

FINDINGS

The cultural landscape report (CLR) concludes that Fort Laramie National Historic Site's period of significance spans 1834-1890, the period named in the site's National Register documentation (Canaday, 1983). Furthermore, the CLR analyzed the site's landscape features and characteristics in accordance with National Register criteria for significance and definitions of integrity, and used the definitions of landscape characteristics in the *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide* (2001). Based on this analysis, the study finds that the site's cultural landscape has sufficient physical integrity to illustrate the fur trade and military eras that span this period. The study also recognizes that the site has potential as an ethnographic landscape, due to its long use by the region's Native American tribes, and recommends additional study and archeological investigation to determine the site's significance in this context. Some archeological investigations have been undertaken at the site, and some meetings with tribes historically linked with Fort Laramie have occurred. However, there has been no formal consultation with the tribes, nor have formal ethnographic overviews or assessments been undertaken. The cultural landscape report strongly recommends that these studies be undertaken in order to fill the gaps in the park's historical record. Finally, the report proposes a rehabilitative landscape treatment plan intended to minimize or mitigate the impact of intrusive elements introduced on the site since the end of the period of significance.

1834 -
1890



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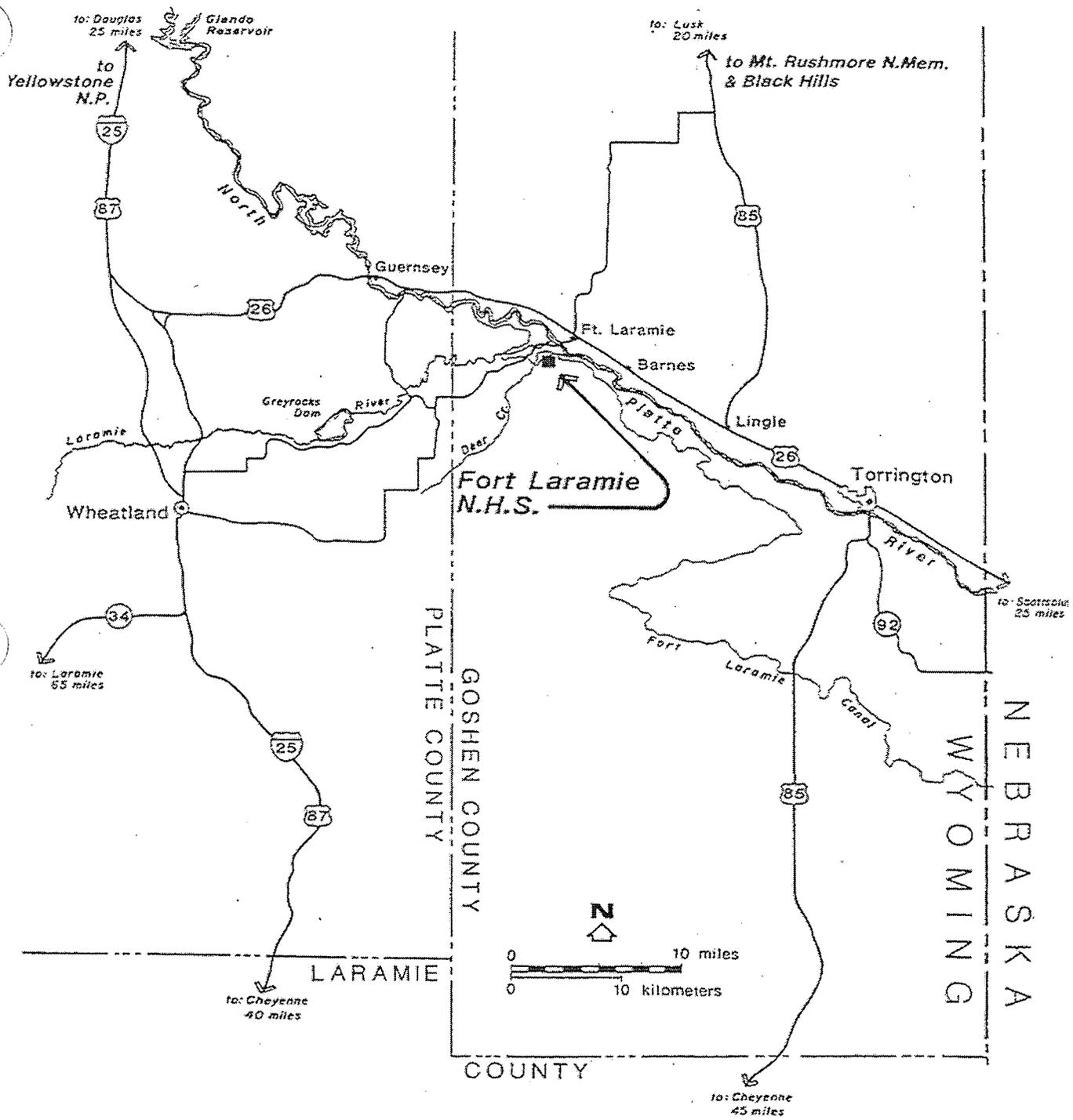
- Locations of Major Cities
- * Locations of State Capitals
- State Boundary Lines
- National Park Service Areas

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior

Figure 1. Regional Map



Vicinity Map
Fort Laramie National Historic Site
 United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service

Figure 2. Vicinity Map.

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SITE HISTORY

EARLY HISTORY BEFORE 1834

In prehistory, Pleistocene hunters pursued the great beasts that existed on the northern Great Plains. Although climatic changes gave rise to the Plains village cultures to the east, pedestrian Pleistocene game hunters continued to occupy the northwestern High Plains. Later, in the late seventeenth century, the Lakota and Cheyenne peoples left their homeland in what is now Minnesota to come to this region, lured by the millions of buffalo on the rolling plains. The introduction of the horse in the 1700s made possible a more intensely nomadic way of life, enabling them to travel great distances in search of buffalo. Until the nineteenth century, the Arapahos, Cheyennes, Lakotas, Kiowas, and other tribes freely roamed the American plains.

The native landscape was primarily undisturbed, because Indian encampments were temporary, and Indian horses could graze freely over the plains. Communities of native grasses such as blue grama and buffalo grass covered the landscape. Cottonwood, box elder, ash, and willow trees, as well as shrub species such as wild clematis, likely grew along riverbeds and in drainages. Strips of barren gravel bars would have interrupted these lush riparian areas along the Laramie River.

FUR TRADE PERIOD: 1834-1849

The confluence of the North Platte and Laramie rivers was historically an important point of contact between plains Indians and traders of European origin. This site had many natural advantages as well as being roughly equidistant from the Missouri River steamboat landings and the fur-trading rendezvous site along the upper Green River in present-day west-central Wyoming.

In 1834, William Sublette and Robert Campbell constructed a fur-trading post in the vicinity of the confluence. The exact site of the post, Fort William, is unknown. It may have shared the same site as Fort John, its successor built in 1841, roughly 1¾ miles upstream (west) of the confluence. A second argument places Fort William at Laramie's Point, believed to be the triangular piece of land at or near the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers.

In 1839, a St. Louis physician, Dr. F.A. Wislizenus, on a sight-seeing tour of the West with a fur caravan wrote (1912), "[A]t a distance it resembles a great block house and lies in a narrow valley enclosed by grassy hills, nearby the left bank of the Laramie, which empties into the North Platte about a mile below. Toward the West a fine background is formed by the Black Hills [now known as the Laramie Mountains], a dark chain of mountains covered by evergreen trees."

The wooden stockade that Sublette and Campbell constructed followed the typical pattern of trading posts of the time - rectangular with elevated blockhouses protruding at opposite corners so that defenders inside the bulwarks could sweep both adjoining walls with bullets in case of attack. Although officially known as Fort William, both it and its successor, Fort John, were commonly referred to as Fort Laramie.

Artist Alfred Jacob Miller, who painted several views of the fort during an expedition with Sir William Drummond Stewart in 1837, noted that the fort was a rectangle of about 80 feet by 100 feet, with an interior courtyard 50 feet square. One side was fenced off as a horse corral, leaving the rest of the interior open. "The middle space is free, with a tall tree in it, on which the flag is raised on occasions of state," Wislizenus noted (1912). Miller's renderings of the landscape at Fort William depict the fort on a treeless, flat plain. The land slopes gently to the river, which appears wide and shallow. The riparian edge surrounding the fort was most likely denuded of trees in order to build the stockade. In several sketches, the site is full of the activity of the Indians encamped there. Tipis are scattered around the fort between the fort structure and the river.

In 1836, the fort came under the control of the American Fur Company. In 1841, a competing trading post, Fort Platte, was built on the North Platte River about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile from the mouth of the Laramie. A Spanish-speaking crew from New Mexico, then a territory of the Republic of Mexico, built this fort of adobe with a whitewashed surface.

The proximity of Fort Platte, and the ruinous state of Fort William, prompted the American Fur Company to abandon Fort William and build a new structure. The original wooden stockade of Fort William, then six years old and rotting at the ground, was apparently abandoned. The American Fur Company, at a cost of \$10,000, built a whitewashed adobe fort patterned after the Fort Platte building and called it Fort John.

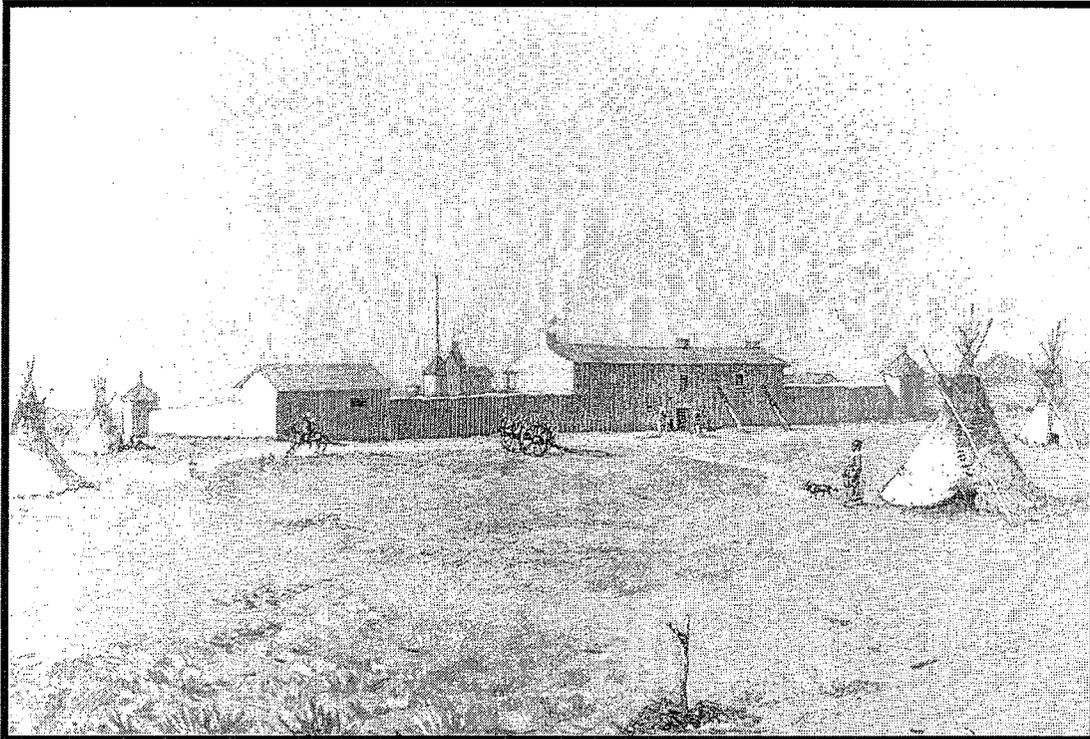


Figure 3. Frederick Remington, Sketch of Fort John, 1849. Based on a sketch by Charles Gillespie. Credit: SCBL National Monument.

In an 1842 report, explorer John C. Fremont described Fort John in his journal: "A large post, having more the air of military construction than the Fort at the mouth of the river. It is . . . on a rising ground some 25 feet above the water; and its lofty walls, whitewashed and picketed, with the large bastions at the angles, gave it quite an imposing appearance in the uncertain light of the evening . . . It is a quadrangular structure built with clay after the fashion of the Mexicans, who were generally employed in the building there" (1845). In sketches during the period 1842-1849, the fort is pictured high on a prominent bluff above the Laramie River, yet when the river was in flood stage, the water reached the toe of the slope of the bluff (see figure 4).

In 1847, Brigham Young and several of his followers passed through the fort and made a set of measured drawings of both Fort John and Fort Platte. Fort John was the larger fort, about 122 feet by 167 feet, and consisted of 18 rooms inside the stockade, each with one door and one window opening onto the courtyard.



Figure 4. Fort John. Lithograph from Stansbury. Credit: U.S. Army Signal Corps.

EARLY ARMY PERIOD: 1849-1879

In 1848, an Indian agent for the region recommended the construction of a military outpost at the site of Fort John for the protection of emigrants. In 1849, the U.S. Army purchased Fort John from the American Fur Company for \$4,000, intending to erect a new fort on or near the site. The original military reservation consisted of 34,000 acres surrounding the confluence. The site provided good timber, limestone, hay, and dry wood. Military personnel cut pine and quarried stone near the edge of the Laramie Mountains, 12 miles west of the post. A horse-powered sawmill was in operation at the fort. Later on, lime was burned in a kiln to make limestone grout, a concrete-like building material.

Daniel P. Woodbury of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was the architect for the proposed new fort. He designed a formally structured parade ground surrounded by buildings. The entire assemblage was to be enveloped by either a stockade or a rubble wall with two-story blockhouses at diagonal corners of the wall. Although the stockade wall and blockhouses were never built due to lack of funds, the envisioned parade ground, which set the main axis of the military site, was established. The adobe structure of Fort John acted as the southwest terminus of the parade ground axis, which was set roughly 45 degrees off the cardinal compass points, from southwest to northeast.

By winter of 1849, the construction of a two-story block of officers' quarters (later known as Old Bedlam), a barracks, a bakery, and two stables neared completion. The two-story barracks for enlisted men was built at the northeast end of the parade ground opposite Fort John. Stables were built along the southeastern edge, roughly parallel to the Laramie River. On the northwestern edge, Old Bedlam was constructed. Although much of the building at this time was temporary in nature, Old Bedlam remained a vital part of the activity of the military post throughout its entire history. This two-story frame building housed the officers' and the post commander's headquarters through the 1860s and early 1870s, and was the stage for military social life. Its sweeping two-story veranda gives it more the appearance of a southern United States mansion than a military structure (see figure 5).

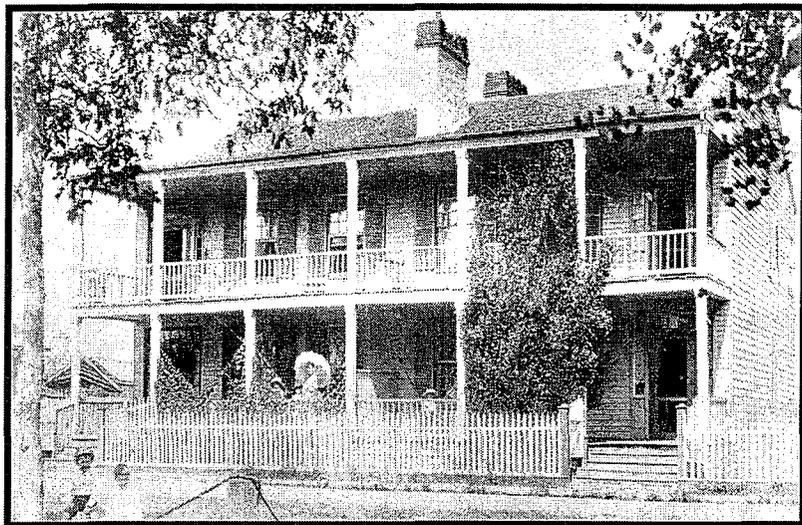


Figure 5. Old Bedlam, c. 1889. Credit: E.A. Brininstool

Just outside the parade ground and approximately equidistant from both Old Bedlam and the soldiers' barracks is the Sutler's Store, originally built of sun-dried adobe. The post sutler held a contract with the military to trade on fort grounds. The sutler managed a steady business with emigrants, as well as with military personnel. Later additions of stone and lime grout were added to the original adobe structure (see figure 6). The Sutler's Store and Old Bedlam remain today as the oldest surviving structures of the military period.



Figure 6. Sutler's Store, c. 1877. Credit: FOLA NHS.

Fort John remained part of the military post for more than 10 years – first used as soldiers' quarters and then for a corral and the first post hospital. The trading fort was abandoned in 1860 and razed after a wall collapsed.

Before the completion of sufficient barracks, many of the men pitched canvas tents behind the stables or across the river. Buildings were in a continuous state of decay, and the command constantly requested money for new structures.

Early Agriculture

The military attempted to raise crops on 30 acres located roughly 1½ miles south of the fort along Deer Creek. Laborers from New Mexico (recently acquired by the United States) were hired to develop an irrigation system and work the land. Agriculture at this scale was not successful, perhaps owing to insects and the harsh climatic conditions of the region. Later attempts were confined to small acreages in the vicinity of the fort grounds. In the 1850s, a potato field was planted on the opposite side of the Laramie River northwest of the parade ground. This field was also abandoned, according to later plans of the fort.

During the 1850s, a post garden was located in the vicinity of the cow and hay yards northeast of the parade ground. In the 1860s, the military replaced this garden with a three-acre tract northwest of the parade ground. A well on the garden site supplied fresh water for irrigation. An 1879 plan again shows the post garden in this location, enhanced by a water wheel and flume, which brought water directly to the garden from the Laramie River.

During its first decade, the military post was supplied with hay harvested at the Government Farm, a military outpost located 11 miles northwest of the fort along Cottonwood Creek. This was a marshy lowland area with a natural spring that provided adequate perennial grass. Military personnel also cut hay from the meadowlands that bordered both rivers. Various government contractors later supplied hay to the fort.

Emigrant Traffic

In 1849-1850, during the period of highest emigrant traffic, no bridge existed across the Laramie or North Platte rivers in the vicinity of the fort. From 1840 to 1860, most emigrants traveled on the Oregon Trail on the south bank of the North Platte River. To reach the fort, the emigrants forded the river at several locations from the confluence to a point directly across from Fort John. The Mormon Trail, less traveled than the Oregon, followed the opposite side of the North Platte. To reach Fort Laramie, emigrants ferried across the North Platte at a point northeast of the fort, where the iron army bridge now stands, or forded the river near the confluence (see figure A1 in Appendix A).

The bulk of the wagon trains reached the Laramie River in June and July, when it was in flood stage. The river at high water was described as a raging current up to 100 yards wide, and many emigrants and their stock lost their lives attempting to ford it. The current volumetric flow of the Laramie River has been greatly reduced by irrigation channeling.

A greater number of emigrants chose to travel on the south bank; thus, the first bridges spanned the Laramie River rather than the Platte. In 1851, two traders erected a toll bridge east of the post near the confluence with the North Platte. This had been an important fording point for early fur traders, and later, a ferry for emigrants had operated at this point. The bridge was washed out and rebuilt in 1853, and remained in use intermittently until at least 1868.

Before the military period, emigrants camped throughout the vicinity of the trading post. After 1849, in order to separate the emigrants from the soldiers, the emigrant camp was located on the south side of the Laramie River.

Growth and Expansion

After the Civil War, military attention in the West shifted to the war against American Indians. During the late 1860s through the 1870s; Fort Laramie was a strategic logistical and military supply base, resulting in a period of growth and expansion at the fort.

In 1867, the landscape of the fort, comprised of 44 structures, presented a purely utilitarian scene. A bed of gravel covered the dusty parade ground, and few trees remained along the riverbanks. However, the unique character of two buildings – Old Bedlam and an elaborate Victorian residence belonging to the post sutler – distinguished the post from other Western military establishments of the era.

During this period of brisk military activity, the aesthetics of the fort grounds were not a priority. However, some attempts were made to improve the parade ground: a wooden flagstaff was raised, and a bandstand constructed. A sundial was located in the southwest corner of the parade ground until 1885, when it was dismantled due to the construction of an administration building.

During the 1860s, a group of Indians who called themselves the Laramie Loafers camped west of the parade ground on the opposite side of the Laramie River. They ran errands, sold game, and made crafts for sale. Some tribal leaders believed this lifestyle was a dangerous alternative to a free, proud life. Other Indian encampments on the site were only temporary lodgings during peace councils (see figure 7).

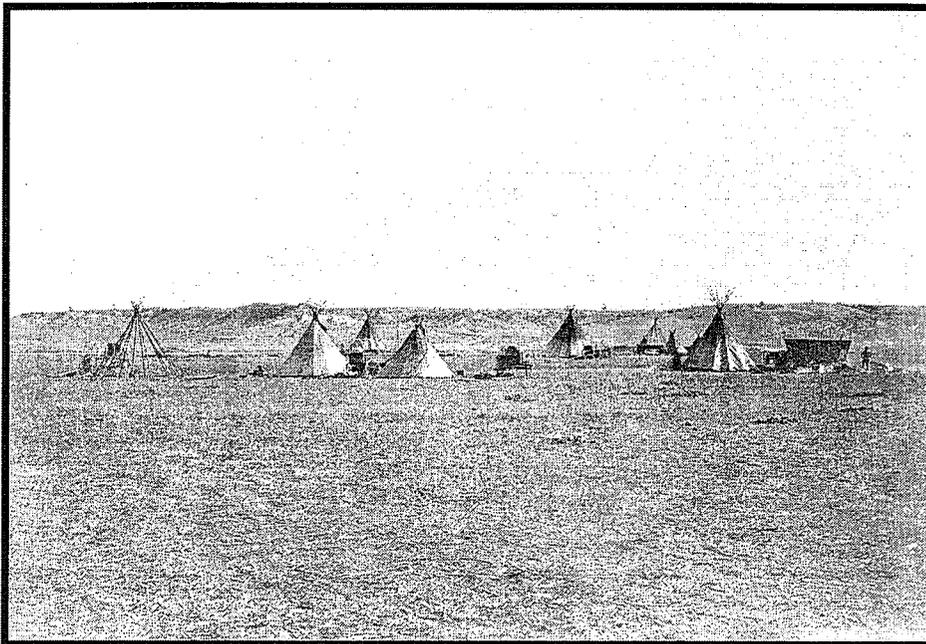


Figure 7. Indian Camp at Fort Laramie, 1868. Credit: Newberry Library.

A post cemetery was originally located on a plateau north of the parade ground. This section of the fort rises sharply from the first stream terrace, on which the majority of fort buildings were located. After 1867, due to overcrowding, the cemetery and a number of bodies interred there were moved to a site approximately ½ mile northeast. National Park Service archeologists have uncovered human remains on the plateau area. In the 1870s, the site was the location for a new hospital (see figure 8).

In 1865, a large semicircular trench connecting battery redoubts was dug along the plateau of the cemetery and down to the first stream terrace northeast and east of the parade ground, because the fort was most vulnerable to surprise attack from these directions. Archeologists have uncovered iron pipe in the trench, which indicates that water was piped from water tanks on the plateau directly to the quartermaster's stables. Thus, the trench served both defensive and utilitarian purposes. Slight depressions in the ground of the plateau area are all that remain of the trench today.



Figure 8. Soldiers at Hospital, 1888. Credit: FOLA NHS.

Another defensive structure was constructed in 1866 - a roughly quadrangular adobe enclosure 8 feet high and 3 feet thick, with two flanking hexagonal blockhouses. The fortification covered roughly 2 acres northeast of the parade ground near the bank of the Laramie River. The 1865 trench was extended to surround this enclosure. When threat of Indian attack was no longer serious, the structure was used as a corral for the quartermaster's horses and mules, and the blockhouses at the corners served as teamsters' quarters (see figures A3, A4, and A5 in Appendix A).

Water Resources and Irrigation

Several icehouses were constructed along the banks of the Laramie River southwest of the parade ground. These structures were partially underground, lined with rock, and had thick frame or adobe walls. In the 1860s, 300 tons of ice cut from the Laramie River were stored in the icehouses. Ice was distributed daily, and if properly stored, the supply could last until the fall of the next year. Ice storage foundations and depressions can be found on the fort grounds today.

Until the late 1870s, water used for culinary and household purposes was obtained from the Laramie River upstream from the post. The water was hauled in a large tank on wheels and stored in wooden barrels throughout the fort. During the period 1879-1888, a ditch system was developed to provide water directly to the post. Oral histories conducted in the 1930s, as well as plans of the post, suggest that well water was pumped from the sawmill or pump house into water tanks located on the plateau north of the parade ground. Water flowed from these storage tanks into an aboveground wooden pipe that reached the bath house and post sutler's residence. A subsurface iron pipe spur ran southwest to the parade ground area directly supplying water to post buildings. This pipe surfaced into a series of open ditches circling the parade ground that drained into the Laramie River. Another spur ditch of the wooden pipe led to the cavalry barracks, as well as to the other buildings and structures northeast of the parade ground.

The post records of 1868 discuss a proposed acequia 1 ½ miles long to bring water directly to the post from the Laramie River. Most likely, this ditch was at least partially constructed during the 1870s, and may have

preceded the Fort Laramie ditch (built in the 1890s) which crosses the northern portion of the site today (see figure 9). Many spurs of this ditch traverse the site, but their exact dates of construction cannot be determined.

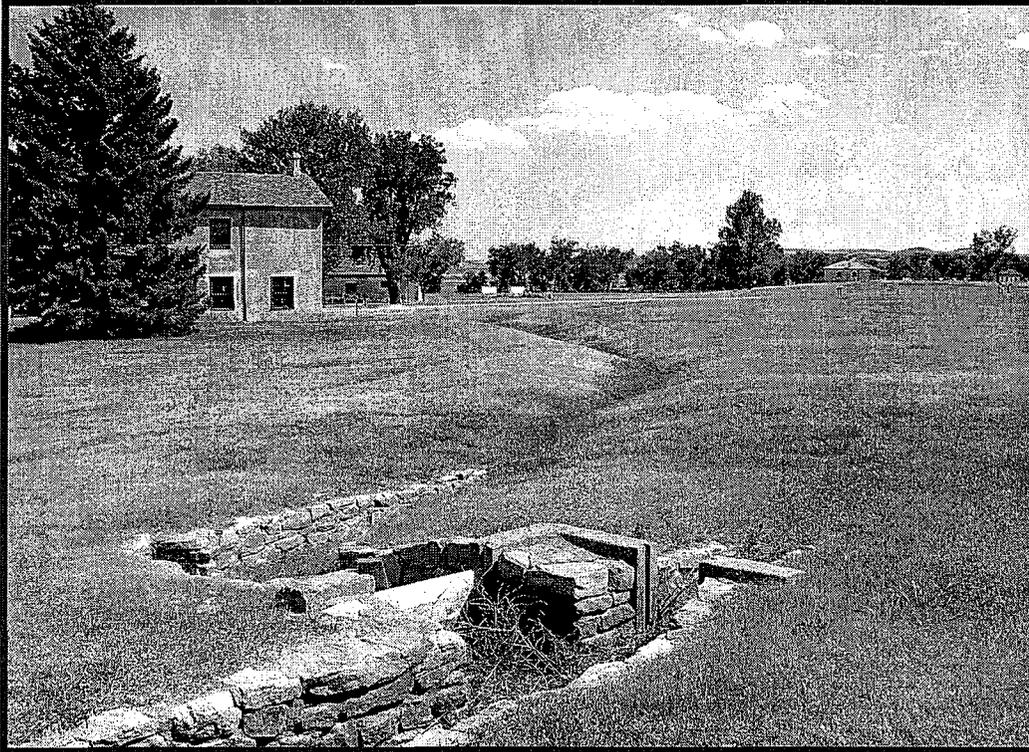


Figure 9. Fort Laramie Ditch. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

From about 1868 to 1890, four successive bridges were located in line with the commissary building east of the parade ground. These bridges connected the fort grounds with the emigrant camp, a married men's quarters, a hotel, and laundress facilities on the opposite side. Other footbridges were located several hundred yards upstream in 1854 and 1863. Bridges across the Laramie River were frequently washed out during high water, and were continually rebuilt and relocated (see Map 1 in Appendix A).

In 1860, the short-lived Overland Pony Express was established along the Oregon Trail. Fort Laramie was a relay station along the route. In 1861, the first transcontinental telegraph and overland stage, both also served by Fort Laramie, replaced the Pony Express. Telegraph lines traversed the fort grounds heading in three directions - Fort Fetterman to the west, Cheyenne to the southwest, and Deadwood to the northeast (see figure A1 in Appendix A).

Staging and Freighting

With the completion of the transcontinental Union Pacific Railroad in 1869, covered wagon migration along the trails slowed. The Laramie River was no longer an important crossing for migrants; after 1875, emphasis shifted to staging and freighting along the Cheyenne-Deadwood route. Military officials at Fort Laramie were interested in bridging the North Platte River, an important connection for miners to reach the gold fields in the Black Hills, and controlling Sioux Indians confined to reservations north of the Platte River.

The existing ferry system was not efficient, because the river was not fordable for two to three months every year, and the ferry was often carried away during high water. The government agreed to sponsor the construction of an iron bowstring arch bridge across the North Platte at Fort Laramie. It was erected during 1875-1876, and remains today (see figure 22).

LATE ARMY PERIOD: 1880-1890

During the 1880s, as the military activity of the fort waned, emphasis shifted to construction and site improvements. The post assumed the appearance of a settled community. Contemporary photographs reveal a well-maintained landscape. Trees circled the parade ground with birdbaths at three corners. Picket fences surrounded residences, and boardwalks and gaslights fronted the row of officers' living quarters at the perimeter of the parade ground (see figures 10 and 11).

Tree and shrub plantings, flowerbeds, and vine-covered verandas decorated Officer's Row. A garden fountain was in the front yard of one of the officer's quarters. In the spring of 1876, Stewart T. V. Brown, a hospital steward, fenced off and fertilized a plot of ground behind the hospital (the former cemetery site), installed an irrigation system, and planted trees and flowers. Within two years, he produced a pleasant park for the use of patients.

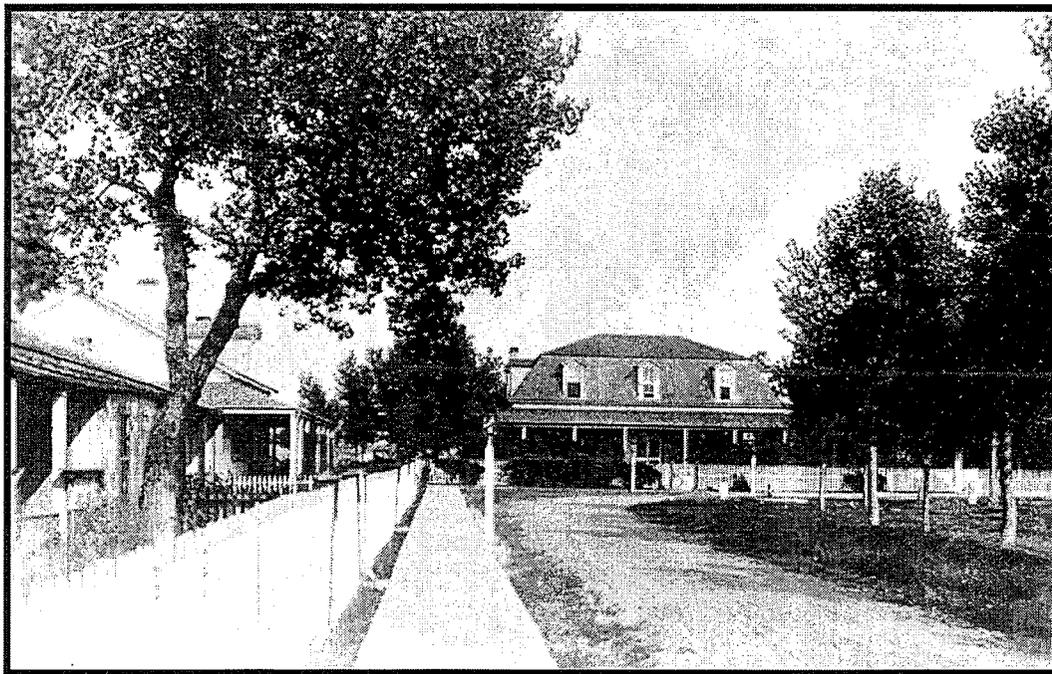


Figure 10. Officer Quarters, Orphanage, CO Quarters, late 1880s. Credit: U.S. Military Academy Libraries.

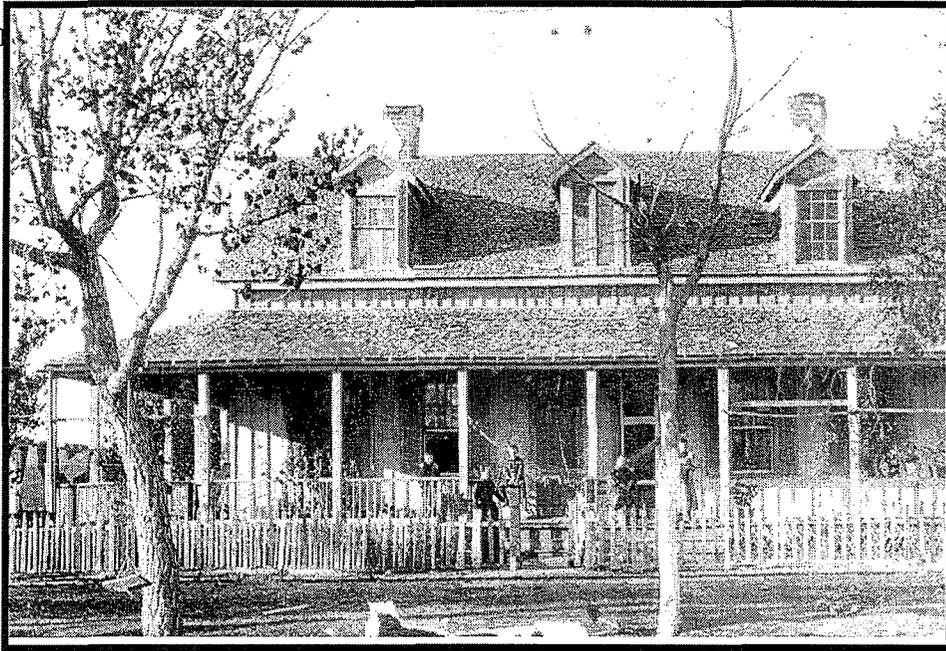


Figure 11. Officer Quarters A, c. 1891. Credit: FOLA NHS

In 1881, the timber supply upon which Fort Laramie depended was threatened by increased settlement in the area, resulting in the setting aside of a wood and timber reservation that included 62 sections of land near Laramie Peak.

Construction of new, substantial masonry buildings continued through the 1880s. An 1882 post report recorded 50 buildings, including 18 officers' quarters, a fire engine room, a chapel, a combination court-martial room and library, an adobe schoolroom for children, band quarters, and a night school room for men. The post plan of 1888 recorded 65 buildings, 38 percent of them wood frame, and the rest adobe, concrete, log, stone, or a composite of materials. Many of the earlier frame, log, and adobe buildings were replaced by lime-concrete structures.

A flood in 1883 destroyed the adobe enclosure of 1866, the bridges spanning the Laramie River, and the structures on the first stream terrace across the river from the fort. The 1865 trench was a ruin by the 1880s.

Post abandonment, first recommended in 1886, was ordered in 1889. Between 1849 and 1885, the army constructed at least 180 buildings on fort grounds (see figure A1 in Appendix A). Most of the original army buildings did not last for the 40 years in which Fort Laramie was a military post. On April 9, 1890, the last troops marched away. The military salvaged moveable property and auctioned buildings and fixtures to the public.

HOMESTEAD ERA: 1890-1938

The land in the vicinity of the parade ground was split into three homesteads belonging to the Hunton, Wilde, and Sandercock families. Most of the military buildings were auctioned in 1890. Homesteaders bought many of the structures, dismantled them, and reused the materials on their ranches and farms. During this era, several of the remaining fort buildings served as residences, businesses, and barns. In 1894, Congress donated the iron army bridge and two wooden bridges across the Laramie River to Laramie County. (Goshen County was later formed out of Laramie County.)

The parade ground design initiated by Woodbury in 1849 soon lost its definition as buildings were dismantled or fell into ruin. Without irrigation, the trees surrounding the parade ground and the untended gardens along the officers' row soon died, and the grounds took on the appearance of an abandoned field.

John Hunton, a homesteader and the last post sutler, paid less than \$400 for 12 buildings, including Old Bedlam, the store, the magazine, and two officers' quarters. He lived on the site until around 1924. He died in Torrington, Wyoming in 1928.

The Wilde family converted the cavalry barracks into a combination hotel, store, dance hall, and saloon. The commissary storehouse south of the barracks was used as a combination dairy and store. Although cottonwoods were planted in front of the Wilde's hotel, other forms of decorative landscaping on the fort grounds are not evident.

The Sandercock homestead included the old guardhouse and the captain's quarters, as well as land across the Laramie River near the mouth of Deer Creek. The captain's quarters continued to serve as a residence, and the guardhouse was used as a barn. In addition, the Sandercock family used lumber gathered from fort buildings to construct a residence on their land across the Laramie River from the fort grounds. The Sandercocks built a swinging footbridge across the Laramie River to connect the two pieces of their homestead.

In the 1920s, a homesteader graded a circular path for an auto racetrack north of the fort, below County Road 160. The site was the location of local rodeos and other gatherings.

In the 1890s, the Fort Laramie Ditch Company constructed a ditch across the northern edge of the fort boundary. Several spurs that flowed across fort grounds were constructed from the 1900s to the 1930s. In 1900, the Fort Laramie canal was built to the south of the fort below the Laramie River. The canal and irrigation ditches diverted much of the water from the Laramie and North Platte rivers, resulting in the development of a rich agricultural area in the valleys of the two waterways.

The site was intensively ranched and farmed during this era. Both dryland hay farming and irrigated agriculture occurred. Homesteaders raised alfalfa, corn, sugar beets, and potatoes. Pickling cucumbers were also grown for a short-lived pickle factory in the area. During this era, homesteaders constructed fences around farm fields and grazing areas. Cattle grazing disturbed nearly all of the native grass communities not already disturbed by horse grazing, building, and agriculture during the late army period, and led to the introduction of noxious annuals and other non-native species.



Figure 12. Fort Laramie, c. 1900. Credit: FOLA NHS.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ERA: 1938-PRESENT

Transition

In 1913, a group of interested citizens erected a monument on the fort grounds commemorating the Oregon Trail and the importance of Fort Laramie in western migration. In 1927, the state of Wyoming purchased 214 acres of the original fort grounds from private owners, and in turn presented it to the United States for purposes of establishing a national monument at the site. In 1938, President Franklin Roosevelt declared Fort Laramie a national monument.

The original purchase of 214 acres was increased to 571 acres in 1960, when Fort Laramie was designated as a national historic site. Today, the historic site consists of 833 acres (compared to the 34,000 acres of the original military reservation), and additional parcels are being considered for acquisition.

Preservation Efforts

After the 1938 acquisition, the NPS took emergency stabilization measures. A Civilian Conservation Corps crew performed the initial site cleanup of the accumulated debris from nearly 50 years of private ownership. The NPS removed old fences and erected new boundary fences. Stabilization efforts between 1939 and 1941 included reshingling, constructing new footings and foundations, substituting material (rotting wood), and straightening and plumbing walls.

The NPS's preservation philosophy for Fort Laramie was to undertake no reconstruction of ruins or razed buildings. Today, there are 11 restored and refurbished structures, several standing and visible ruins, and 36 interpretive wayside exhibits that provide information concerning early buildings and activities, including the

fur-trading post, Fort John. The surviving buildings are predominately from the 1873-1890 period. The 1875 bridge continued in use for motorized traffic until 1958, when an adjacent concrete bridge was constructed. In 1961, Goshen County waived its rights to the bridge, allowing it to revert back to the ownership of the United States. It is now a protected part of the national historic site.

Interpretation and Construction

The NPS planted ash and cottonwood trees around the parade ground, and installed an irrigation system. A new entrance road provided access to the site from County Road 160 from the north – an approach historically valid from a late military period perspective (1880-1890) – following the Cheyenne-Black Hills Trail on a north-south axis. A parking lot and picnic area were constructed within walking distance from the parade ground (see figures 38 and 39 in Treatment).

The park offices and library were established in the cavalry barracks, and the visitor center, museum, and administrative offices were established in the old commissary storehouse (see figure 40 in Treatment). The Sandercrock residence across the Laramie River from the fort grounds was dismantled, and maintenance facilities were located there.

A grass reseeding program was initiated in the late 1980s, and native grasses have slowly begun to reestablish on fort grounds. However, the turf of the parade ground is currently irrigated, hindering the establishment of native grasses there. Heavily used areas are mowed for appearance and to reduce fire hazard.

The NPS obliterated the Fort Laramie Ditch Company's open irrigation ditch south of the hospital and restored the original contours. Other portions of the ditch still remain visible (see figure 9). One of these trenches connects with the Fort Laramie ditch several yards behind the cavalry barracks northeast of the parade ground. It then runs under the parking lot and across fort grounds toward the new guardhouse, where it serves to irrigate a clump of cottonwood trees planted by the NPS. The ditch then drains back into the Laramie River.

Land Uses

Recreational and educational uses have replaced residential and agricultural uses. The Laramie and North Platte rivers provide opportunities for fishing. Large-scale ranching and agriculture operations continue on adjoining properties. Thus, the vast, open character of the landscape as portrayed in historic photographs of the fort has been largely undisturbed. Small patches of native, untouched prairie exist on the site, and native grass communities again grow on the fields and meadows of the fort grounds. Riparian areas have matured and provide a relatively lush, green canopy in an area that was historically barren.

SUMMARY

Over the centuries, the landscape at the confluence of the North Platte and Laramie rivers has evolved from a prehistoric seasonal encampment to a fur-trading post, and then to a highly developed military post. After the departure of the military, the fort grounds took on the appearance of a rural village in which agriculture and ranching were the major themes. Today, park visitors experience this complex history through interpretive signs placed on known sites and ruins, as well as through the restored structures of the military period.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

INTRODUCTION

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located in Goshen County, Wyoming, near the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers. Goshen County is a high-plains environment in the southeastern corner of the state. The park's elevation varies between 4,230 to 4,270 feet above sea level. The lands surrounding the site are open and remarkably unobstructed, evoking a sense of the historic periods when the site served as a fur-trading post, a Native American and emigrant encampment, and a military post (see figures 13 and 14). Most of the land surrounding the park is in private ownership, although parcels of federal land under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management are located to the northwest, south, and southeast of the park.

The land surrounding the fort site is largely open grassland, although there are stands of cottonwood, ash, and willow along the riverbanks. Numerous grasses, both native and exotic, are found within the park boundaries. The site's flora has changed significantly since the nineteenth century, due to grazing, agriculture, and the importation of exotic species. The fort site and remaining structures are located within the floodplain of the two rivers. Wetlands are located south of the Laramie River and in some isolated pockets near the rivers and along existing roads.

The park supports a varied wildlife population. Numerous bird species inhabit the meadows and bottomlands. Waterfowl live near the rivers, and bald eagles winter along the riverbanks as well. Deer, coyotes, rabbits, and various rodents live within the park boundaries; beavers and muskrats are found in the Laramie and North Platte rivers. Both rivers support several game and non-game fish species. No threatened or endangered species are known to inhabit the site, although the bald eagle and peregrine falcon may occur as migrants; the black-footed ferret may inhabit prairie dog colonies near the fort.



Figure 13. View from Parade Ground Flagpole, looking west. Credit: Kevin Haberman, January 2005.

Cultural resources at the park include 36 significant historic structures. Of this number, 16 are intact historic buildings or structures, 11 are standing ruins of historic structures, and nine are visible foundations of historic structures. In addition, there exist a large number of archeological resources relating to the early and late military periods, the fur trade era, and historic and prehistoric Native American occupations. The park's archeological resource base may total hundreds of distinct resources and artifacts.

As noted previously, the landscape and viewsheds surrounding the fort remain clear of visual intrusions, providing visitors with an insight into what Native Americans, mountain men, emigrants, and soldiers experienced a century and a half ago – a sense of Fort Laramie as an isolated outpost in a seemingly endless landscape. However, trains can be heard and felt as they pass the site, constituting a modern intrusion on the historic scene.

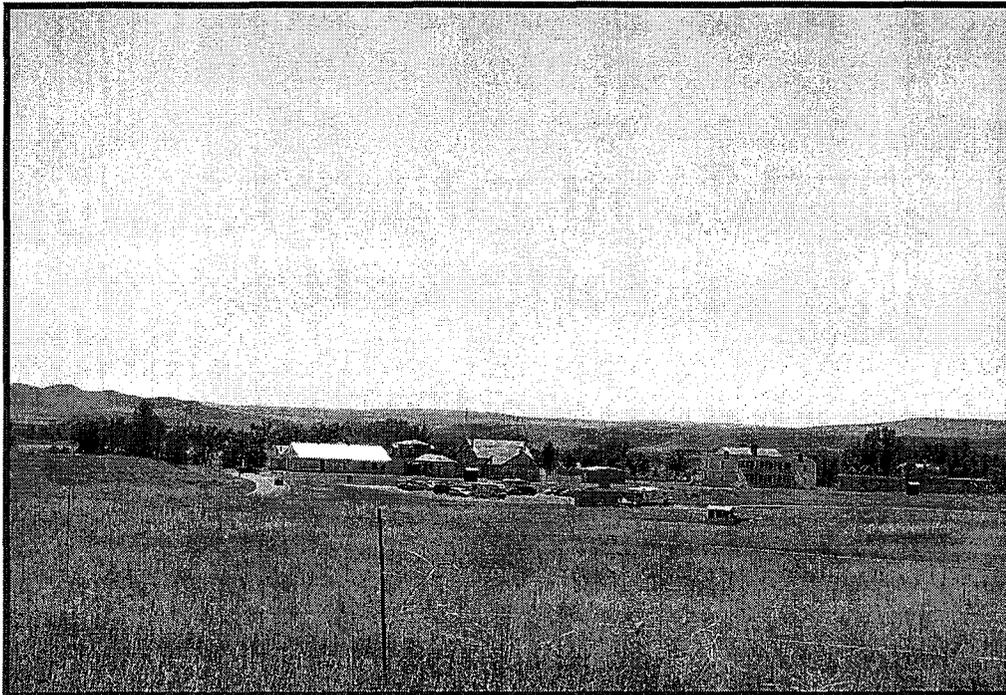


Figure 14. Parade Ground and Surrounding Landscape. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

SPATIAL ORGANIZATION AND LAND USE

Early History before 1834: Non-contributing

Plains Indians most likely used the Laramie River valley for seasonal hunting. Hearth sites are close to riparian areas where fresh water and fuel would have been abundant. With the introduction of the horse in the eighteenth century, horses grazed the bluffs and meadows surrounding the river valley. Trails and footpaths no longer remain, but would have followed hunting and food gathering routes.

The natural systems and topography that help define this spatial organization – the rivers, plains, and bluffs – are still in evidence at the site. In addition, the existing transportation systems follow the corridors of historic transportation routes. However, there is currently no physical evidence remaining of Native American

encampment or other use of this area. It is recommended that additional study, including archeological excavations, be conducted in order to determine the site's significance as an ethnographic landscape.

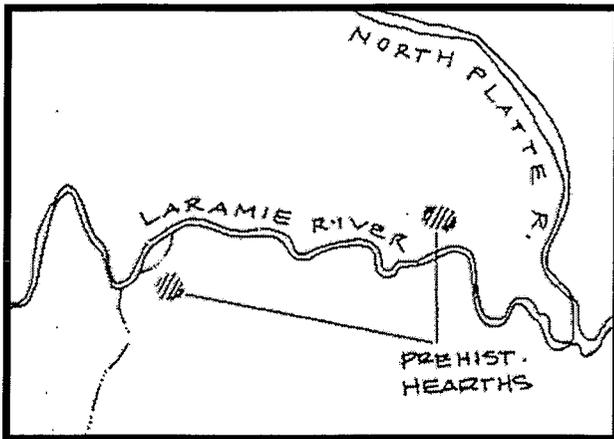


Figure 15. Spatial Organization and Land Use: Early History Before 1834

Fur Trade Period: Contributing

During the era of the fur traders, the trading post served as a way station and gathering place, but did not reach the level of a settled community. Indians camped near Fort John, and probably near Fort William as well. There is no evidence that the traders attempted agriculture in the vicinity. In sketches from this period, the landscape surrounding the trading posts, rather than the fort structure, is the most dominant element (see figure 4 in Site History).

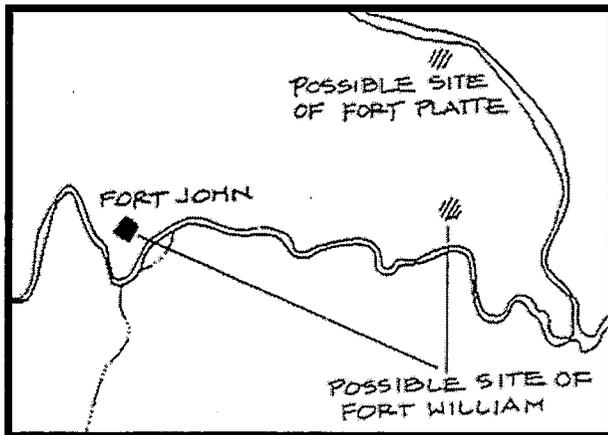


Figure 16. Spatial Organization and Land Use: Fur Trade Period

Military Period: Contributing

The installation of the military post altered the spatial organization of the landscape significantly. In contrast to the nomadic lifestyle of the fort's inhabitants during the fur-trading era, the post during the military period was a settled community that practiced agriculture. Army officers and quarters were built in a rectangle surrounding an open field, which served as a parade ground. Woodbury initiated the parade ground design in

1849. Stables, shops, and storehouses were built to the northeast, and on a plateau north of the parade ground were the early cemetery, hospital, and living quarters. The cemetery was later moved to a larger site farther north.

Military personnel cultivated a garden northwest of the parade ground, and several of the officers' families maintained ornamental garden plots at their residences. The hospital steward also maintained an ornamental garden for patients.

Emigrants camped across the river from the fort in a lowland area also used by the fort's laundresses. Horses probably grazed in the meadows surrounding the fort.

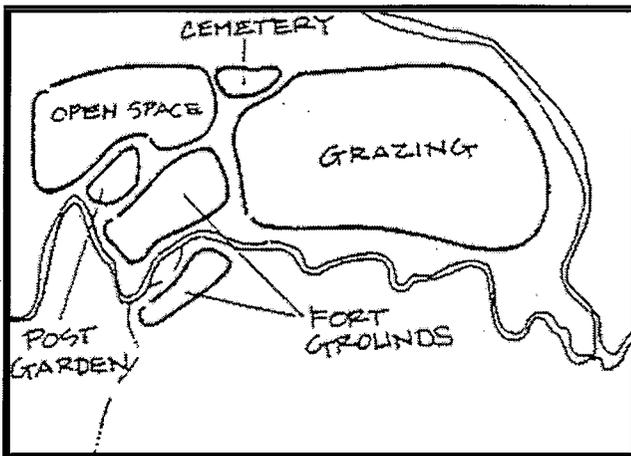


Figure 17. Spatial Organization and Land Use: Military Period

Homestead Period: Non-contributing

Agricultural use began in the military period, but it was greatly expanded during the homesteading era due to the introduction of more extensive irrigation systems. Agricultural fields were located east of the surviving buildings, and cattle grazed in the lowlands near the North Platte River.

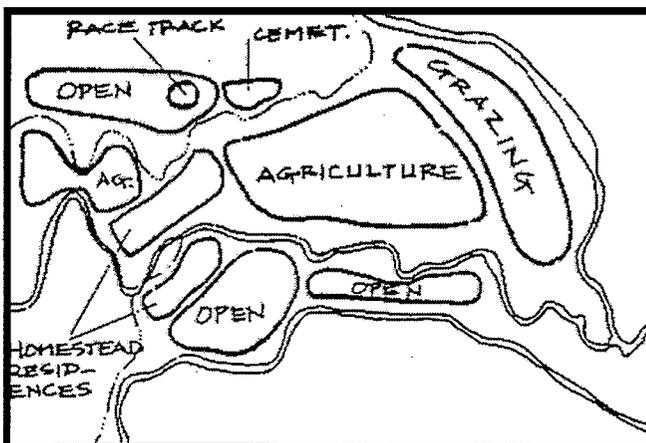


Figure 18. Spatial Organization and Land Use: Homestead Period

NPS Period: Non-contributing

Establishment of the national monument, and later national historic site, again altered land-use patterns at the fort. Educational and recreational land uses replaced residential and agricultural pursuits. Maintenance facilities were located on the site of the Sandercock homestead across the Laramie River on the east bank of Deer Creek. Large-scale ranching and farming operations continued on adjoining properties; thus, development did not encroach on the site. The cemetery south of the county road remains, but is not within the boundaries of the historic site.

The existing landscape clearly reflects the site's ongoing use as an educational and recreational resource. While this period does not contribute to the site's historical significance, it has had a profound impact on its physical evolution, and is a defining element of the setting as it exists today.

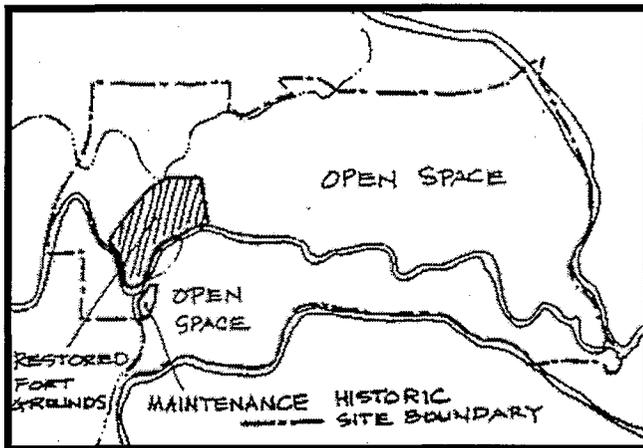


Figure 19. Spatial Organization and Land Use: NPS Period

CIRCULATION

Early History before 1834: Non-contributing

Evidence suggests that the confluence of the Laramie River and North Platte River was part of a system of natural transportation corridors used by native peoples. This area is adjacent to a network of trails that had been used for centuries. Some of these trails ran north-south along the front range of the Rocky Mountains; others followed the rivers in a generally east-west pattern. The intersection of these early transportation corridors established the Laramie/North Platte confluence as a gathering place for Indian and Euro-American traders.

Fur Trade Period: Contributing

Trappers followed both sides of the North Platte to reach the confluence. In later decades, emigrants followed these same routes to reach Fort Laramie en route to the South Pass through the Rocky Mountains.

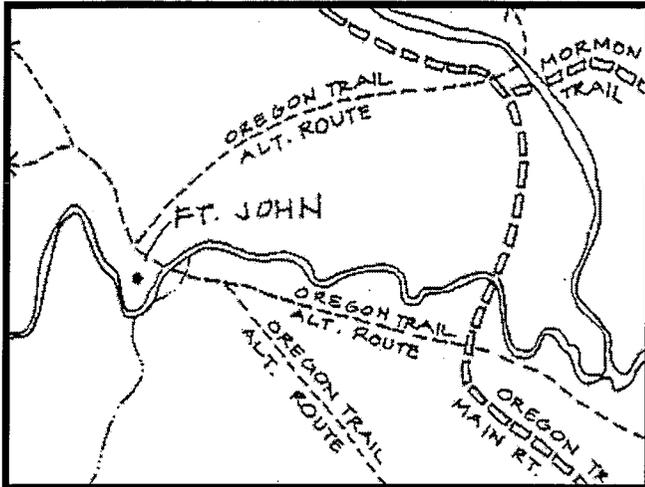


Figure 20. Circulation: Fur Trade Period

Military Period: Contributing

Emigrant traffic from east to west continued until the completion of the transcontinental railroad. From the 1860s, a north-south route from Cheyenne to Deadwood, South Dakota, was heavily used. Circulation within the fort grounds was informal, with the exception of the parade ground, which, by the 1880s, had a well-worn circular path surrounding it. By the mid-1850s, bridges spanned the Laramie River at various points. In 1875, the iron army bridge was erected over the North Platte River (see figure 22).

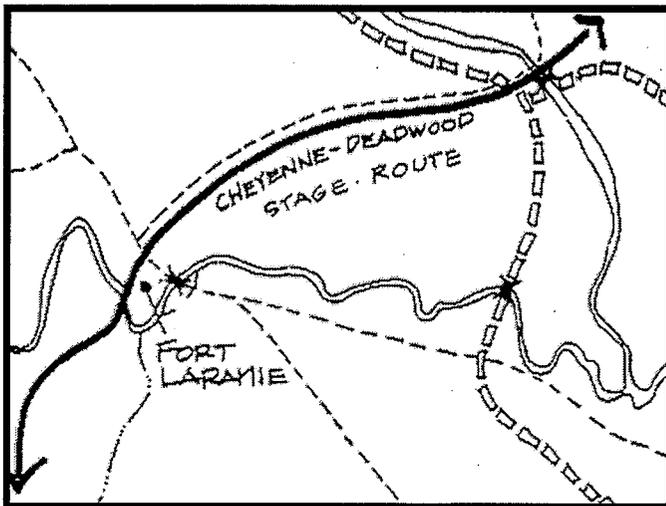


Figure 21. Circulation: Military Period



Figure 22. North Platte Bridge. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005

Homestead Period: Non-contributing

Circulation networks were formalized during this period with the building of county roads in all directions from the fort grounds. Goshen County Road 160 follows the northern and part of the western boundary of the historic site. Additional roads (some now abandoned) provided access to homesteads and agricultural fields.

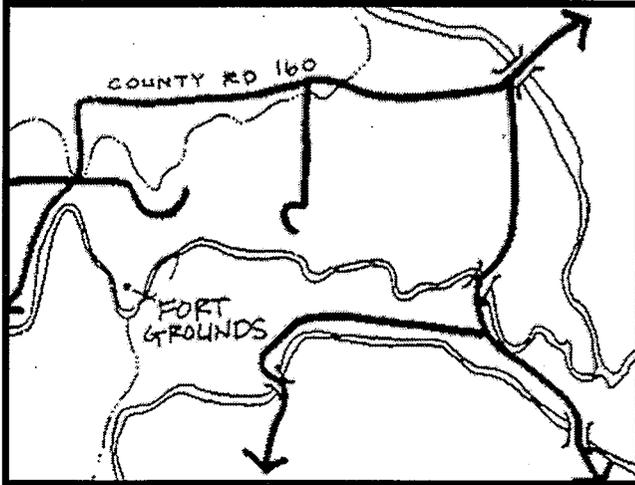


Figure 23. Circulation: Homestead Period

NPS Period: Non-contributing

In 1938-1941, a new approach road from County Road 160 to the historic site was constructed. Pedestrian circulation was formalized in the form of a circuitous path that provided access to historic buildings and wayside exhibits on the fort grounds.

A road and bridge were constructed, connecting the fort grounds to the maintenance and storage area south of the Laramie River and east of Deer Creek. Automobiles and heavy trucks crossed the iron army bridge at the North Platte until 1958, when Goshen County constructed a new concrete bridge a few yards north

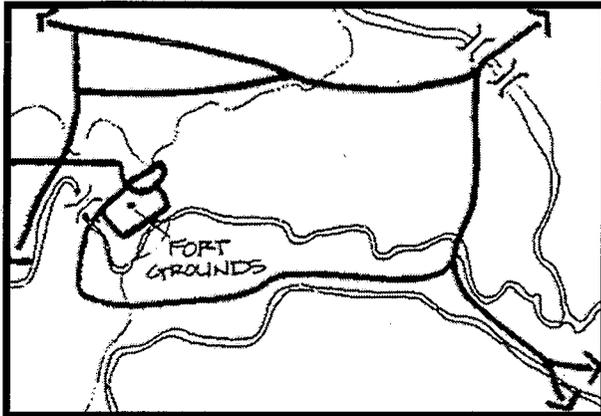
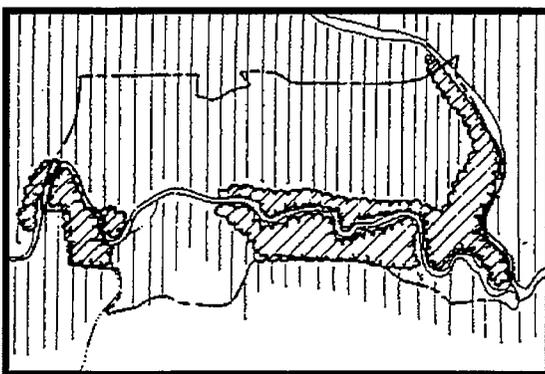


Figure 24. Circulation: NPS Period

VEGETATION

Early History before 1834: Non-contributing

Prior to 1834, the landscape most likely was comprised of native northern plains vegetation. This included communities of perennial grasses, wildflowers, and forbs in the valley of the two rivers and on the plateaus, and riparian species such as cottonwoods and willows along rivers and drainages. Before Euro-Americans entered the valley, beaver activity, prairie fires, and periodic flooding would have controlled (but not eliminated) tree growth in riparian edges. Intermittent grazing of Native American horse herds would have had occasional substantial impact on the short-grass prairie.



- ☁ CANOPY LAYER
- + + CROPLAND
- /// RIPARIAN
- ||| PERENNIAL (NATIVE)
- ANNUAL (DISTURBED)
- - - WETLAND
- POTATO FIELD

Figure 25. Vegetation: Early History before 1834 through Fur Trade Period

Fur Trade Period: Contributing

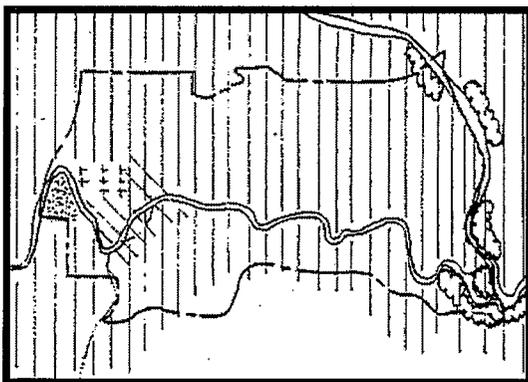
During the fur trade period, the cottonwood log construction of Fort William and the need for fuel at the post left riparian areas mostly denuded of trees. Landscape disturbances resulting from grazing were most likely confined to pockets of land surrounding trading posts and Indian encampments. Again, grazing of Native American horse herds and the stock owned by the American Fur Company and fort employees would have had an impact on native grasses and forbs.

Military Period: Contributing

Development of the military post profoundly altered the native vegetation. Disturbances associated with the construction of buildings, the earthwork trench and irrigation ditches, and the establishment of croplands, all greatly impacted native plant communities. Disturbances due to grazing increased as open-range cattle ranching was introduced to the region. Lowland grasslands were intensively cut for hay to feed horses. Both grazing and cutting enabled the introduction of invasive and noxious annuals, which overtook native grasses.

Contemporary photographs from this period reveal a seemingly barren, treeless landscape. In reality, numerous short-grass prairie species existed on the site. Riparian areas immediate to the fort were comprised of low-growing shrubs and forbs, the trees having all been cut for use as construction materials or fuel (see figure 27).

In the 1880s, with decreasing military activity, more attention was focused on the appearance of the fort grounds. Ash and cottonwood trees were planted around the parade ground (see figure 28). Non-native flowers, shrubs, and vines, such as roses and the hop vine, were planted in flowerbeds and gardens at living quarters and at the hospital.



- ☁ CANOPY COVER
- + + + CROPLAND
- /// RIPARIAN
- ||| PERENNIAL (NATIVE)
- ||| ANNUAL (DISTURBED)
- - - WETLAND
- POTATO FIELD

Figure 26. Vegetation: Military Period.

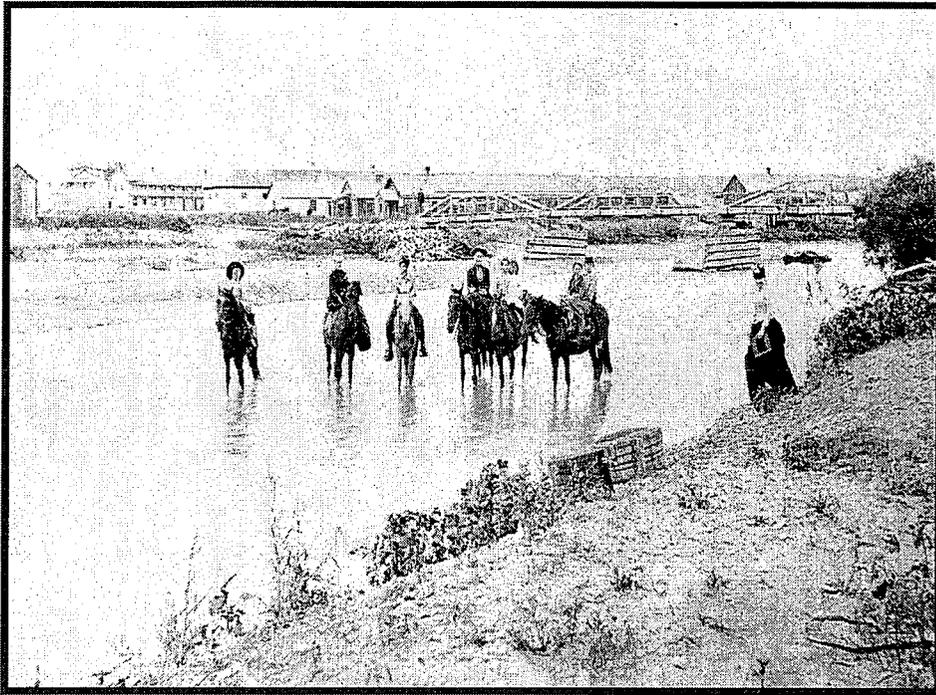


Figure 27. Q.M. Building and Mounted Group, 1888. Credit: FOLA NHS.

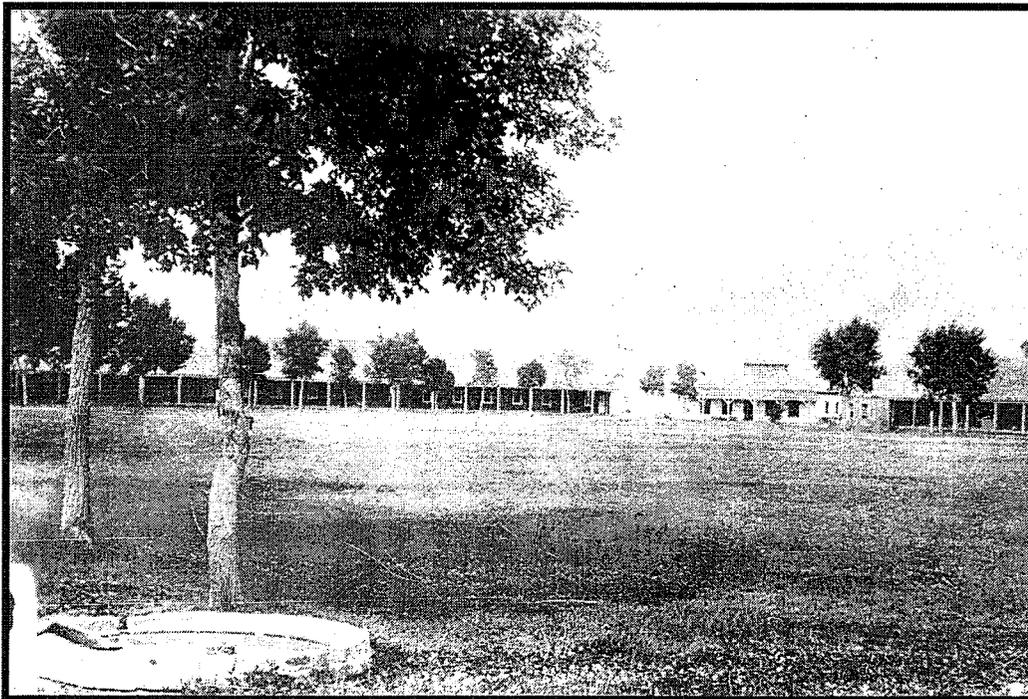


Figure 28. Barracks and New Guardhouse, c. 1889. Credit: U.S. Signal Corps.

Homestead Period: Non-contributing

During this period, the site was intensively ranched and farmed, eliminating most of the native perennial grasses. Except for small pockets of high ground, which could not be reached by irrigation, most of the site was cultivated. Cucumbers, sugar beets, and corn were raised, and native hay was cut. Lands not suitable for cultivation were used for cattle grazing.

Vegetation in the riparian areas began to recover. Seepage from the Fort Laramie canal created a ribbon of marshy land between it and the Laramie River, resulting in unnatural pockets of vegetation. Early twentieth-century photographs show large stands of cottonwood, ash, and willow along the Laramie River at the fort site. Early homesteaders planted a small grove of cottonwoods on the fort grounds.

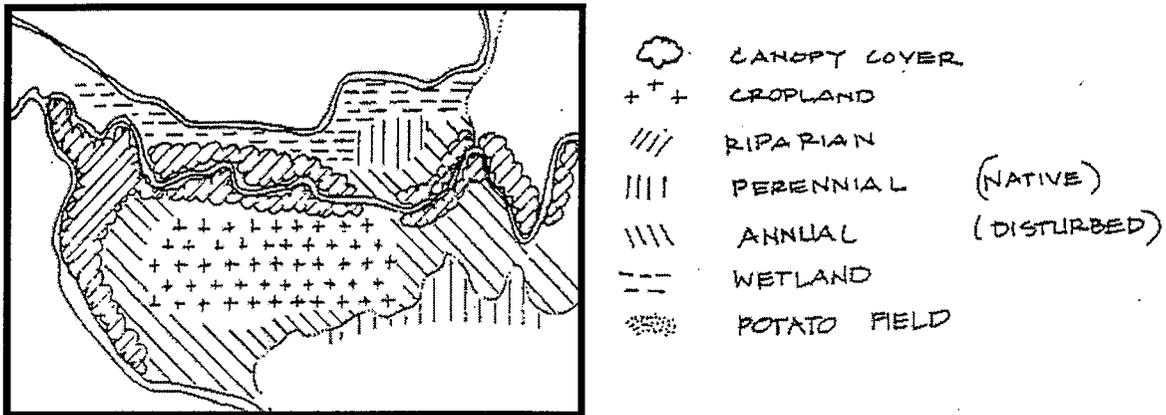


Figure 29. Vegetation: Homestead Period.

NPS Period: Non-contributing

After acquisition by the NPS, no crop production and only limited grazing occurred on the site. The landscape was comprised of a combination of native and introduced species. NPS employees planted ash and cottonwood trees at the parade ground, reflecting its appearance during the military era (compare figures 28 and 32). Two non-historic rows of cottonwood and ash trees were also planted along spur irrigation trenches that flow through the fort grounds. Riparian areas along the Laramie River matured and filled in the previously disturbed areas (compare figures 27 and 31). Changes in flooding patterns from the historic eras to the present day have also had an impact on the types of plant species present.

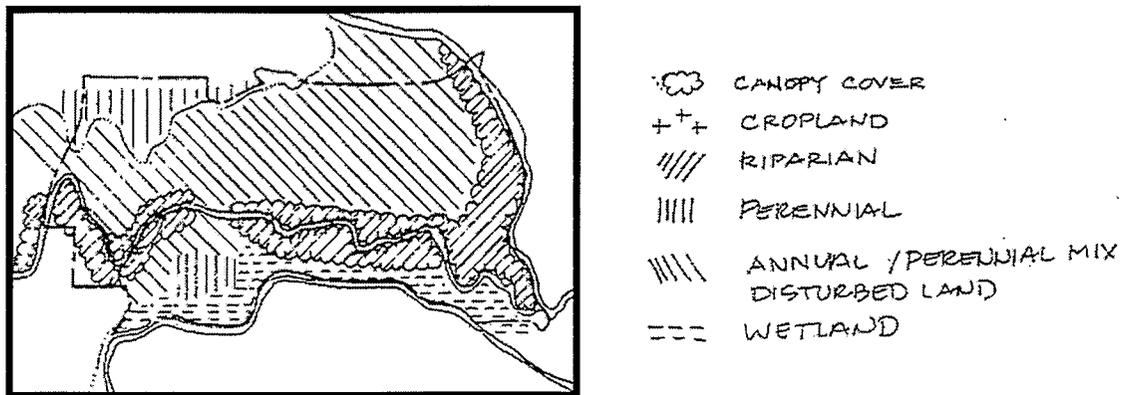


Figure 30. Vegetation: NPS Period

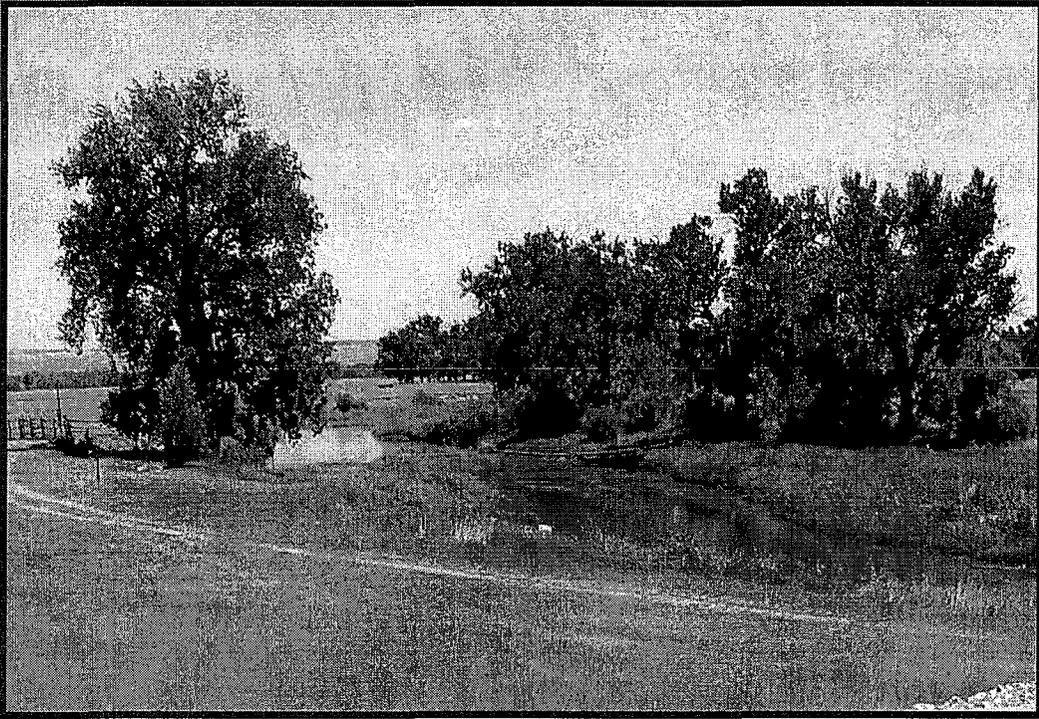


Figure 31. Laramie River. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

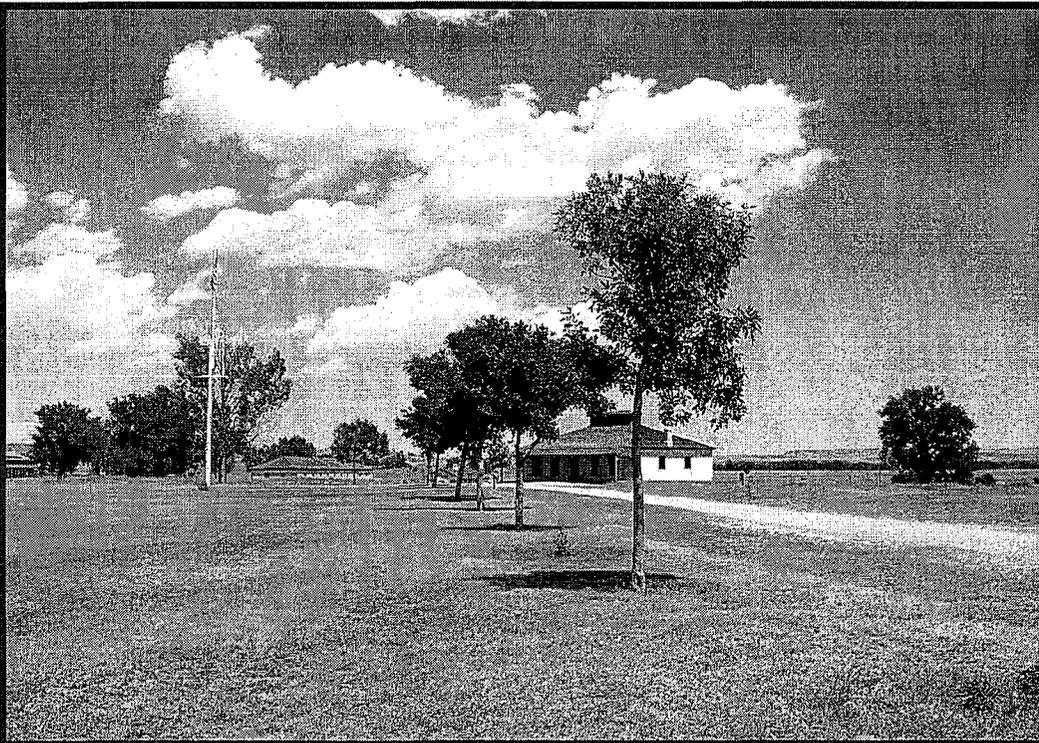


Figure 32. Parade Ground Trees. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

CULTURAL TRADITIONS, BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AND CLUSTER ARRANGEMENT

Early History Before 1834: Non-contributing

The confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers was an important encampment site for the tribes that inhabited the region in the prehistoric and historic periods. However, the physical evidence of their influence on the landscape is minimal at best. Archeological investigations may yield additional information about Native American cultural traditions at the site, and possibly the arrangement of their villages. Considering the extensive Native American occupation of the site, it is possible that tipi rings will be found, further defining the relationship of Native American cultures to the site and to Fort Laramie.

Fur Trade Period: Contributing

Two substantial buildings related to the Rocky Mountain fur trade occupied the site: Fort William, constructed around 1834, and a larger post, Fort John, built in 1841. Fort William was a log palisade-type structure that deteriorated rapidly. Its replacement, Fort John, was a much more substantial adobe structure. In their use of materials, its builders observed a vernacular architectural style that characterized a number of other fur-trading posts from Bent's Fort on the Arkansas River to a number of posts on the South Platte, including Fort St. Vrain, Fort Lupton, and Fort Vasquez. In this sense, Fort John represented one link in a chain of posts that extended almost 400 miles across the plains and along the front range.

There are no obvious physical remains of either Fort William or Fort John. However, one of the earliest surviving buildings at Fort Laramie, the Sutler's Store, is an adobe structure (see figure 33). It reflects the continuation of a vernacular style that Fort John introduced at the site, and reflects some continuity between the fur trade and military periods.

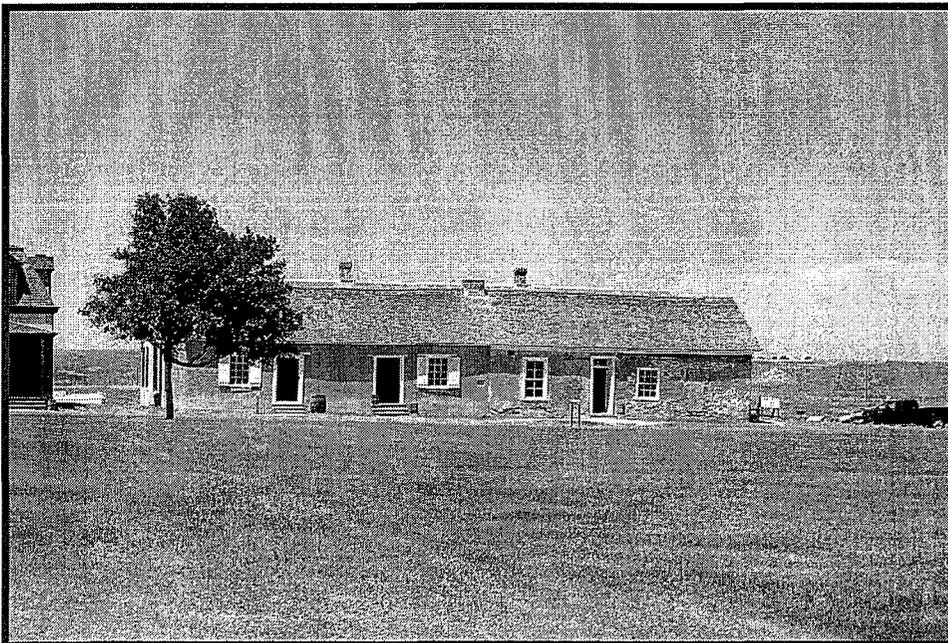


Figure 33. Sutler's Store. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005

Military Period: Contributing

The cultural traditions, buildings and structures, and cluster arrangement of the military period are well represented at the site. Thirty buildings, structures, building foundations, and archeological remnants remain, and their relationships to one another are clearly evident (see Appendix B; figures 33-41).



Figure 34. Old Bedlam. Credit: Kevin Haberman, January 2005.



Figure 35. Officer Quarters A. Credit: Kevin Haberman, January 2005.

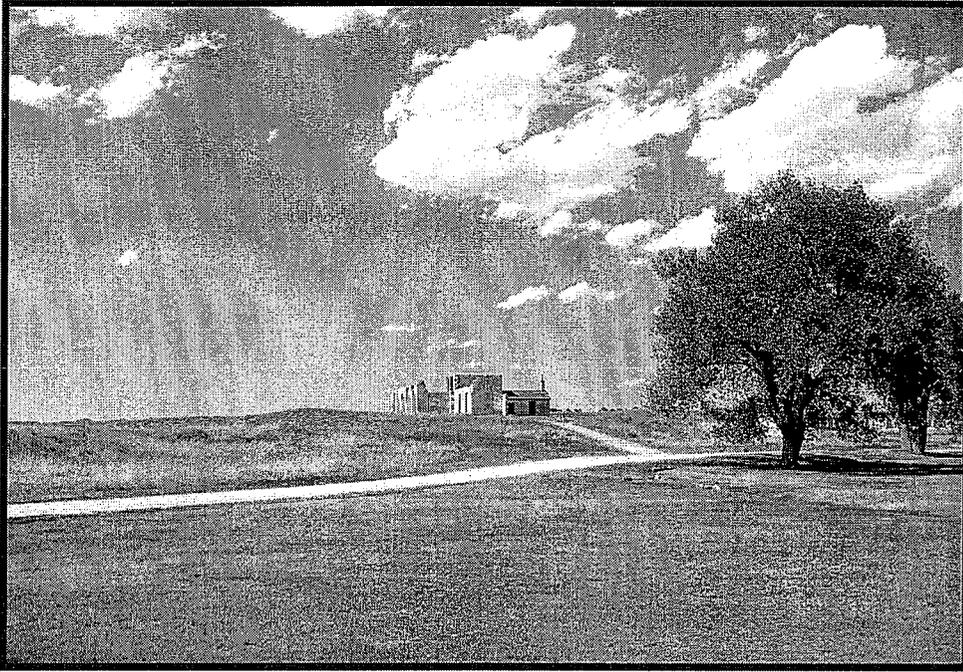


Figure 36. Hospital. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

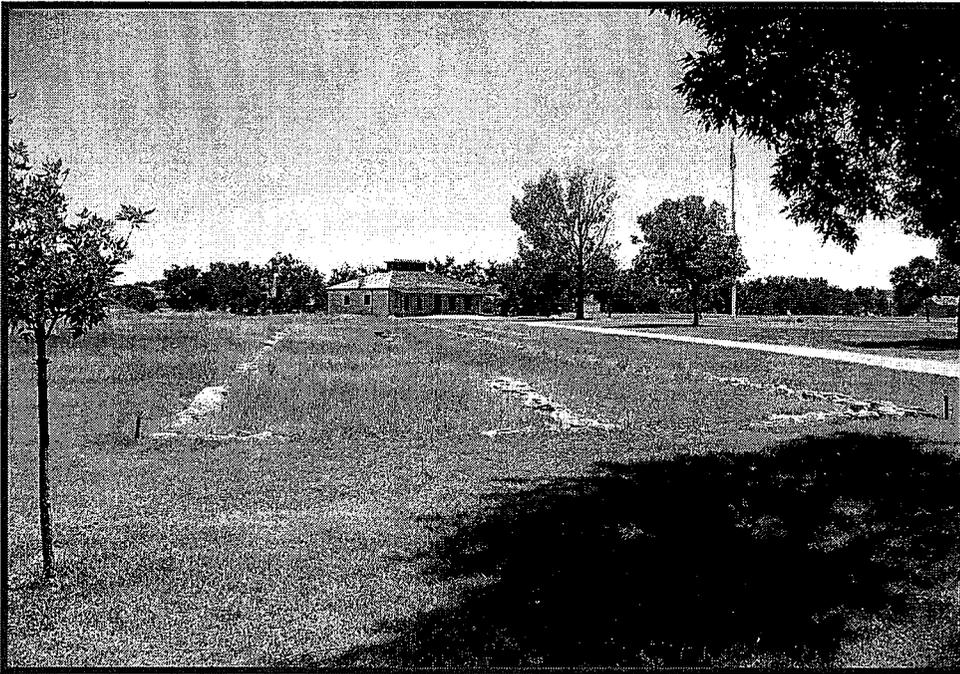


Figure 37. Three Company Barracks Foundation and New Guardhouse. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.



Figure 38. Married NCO Quarters. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

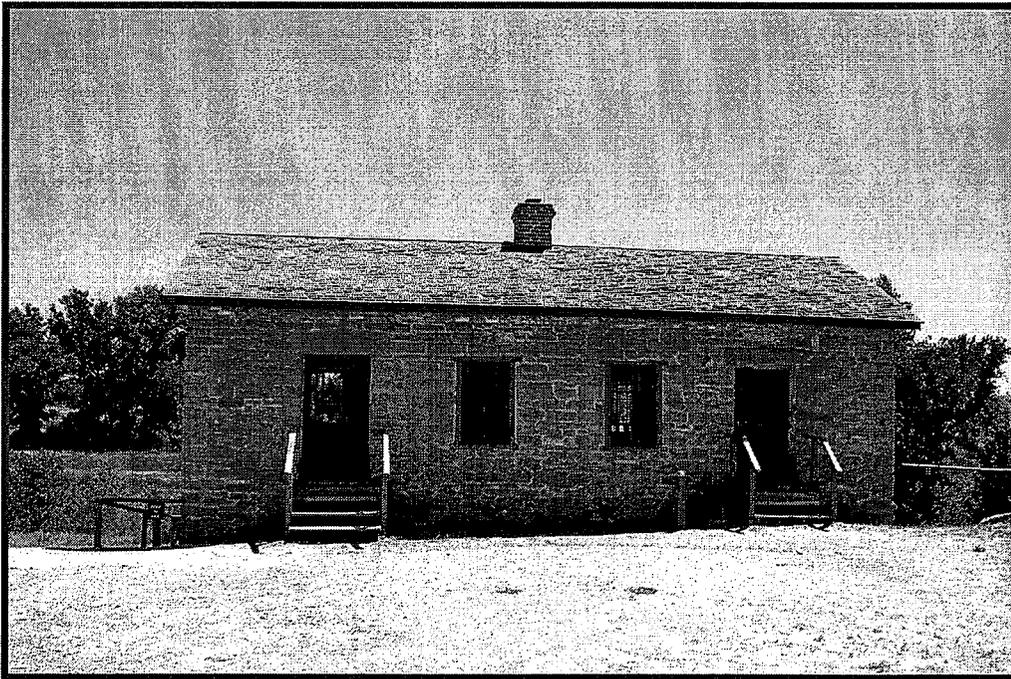


Figure 39. Old Guardhouse. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

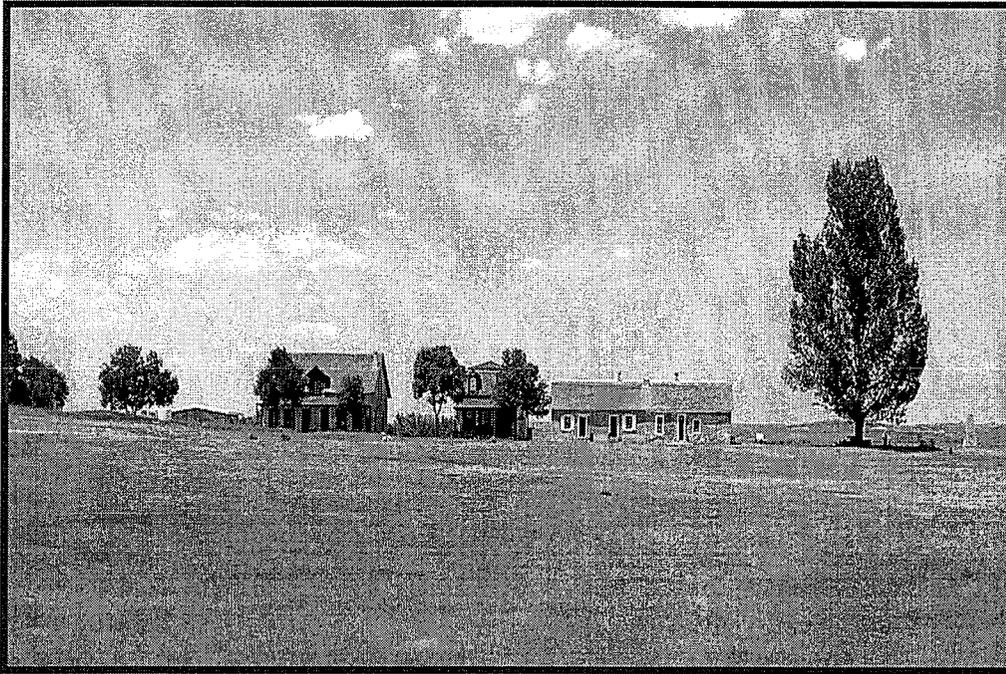


Figure 40. Officer Quarters E, Officer Quarters F, and Sutler's Store. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.



Figure 41. Old Bakery. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

Homestead Period: Non-contributing

Some features of the site were utilized during the homestead era. No additional structures built during this era remain on the site.

NPS Period: Non-contributing

Several structures were built during this time to facilitate visitor experiences and to accommodate park activities. A fee station (see figure 42) is located at the entrance of the park, and maintenance facilities are found across the Laramie River. Toilets were also constructed for visitor use.



Figure 42. Fee Station, located alongside Entrance Road. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

VIEWS AND VISTAS

The views of the larger landscape surrounding Fort Laramie are largely unimpeded by modern intrusions. They still reflect the character of the historic scene during the period of significance, 1834-1890. The presence of numerous buildings, structures, and small-scale features from the military and NPS eras compromise the immediate view's ability to convey a sense of the fur trade era, but the larger view along the bluff lines still reflects the sense of unlimited space that characterized the site during that time. The vistas of the parade ground and fort site retain a high degree of integrity in reflecting the historic scene of the military era (see figures 43 and 44).

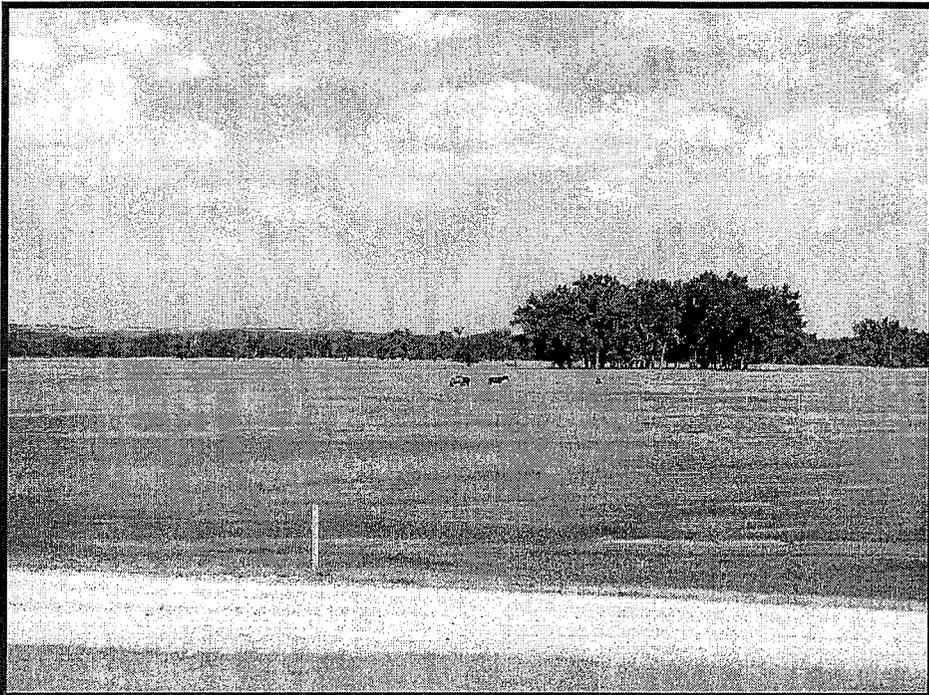


Figure 43. View from Cavalry Barracks to the east. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

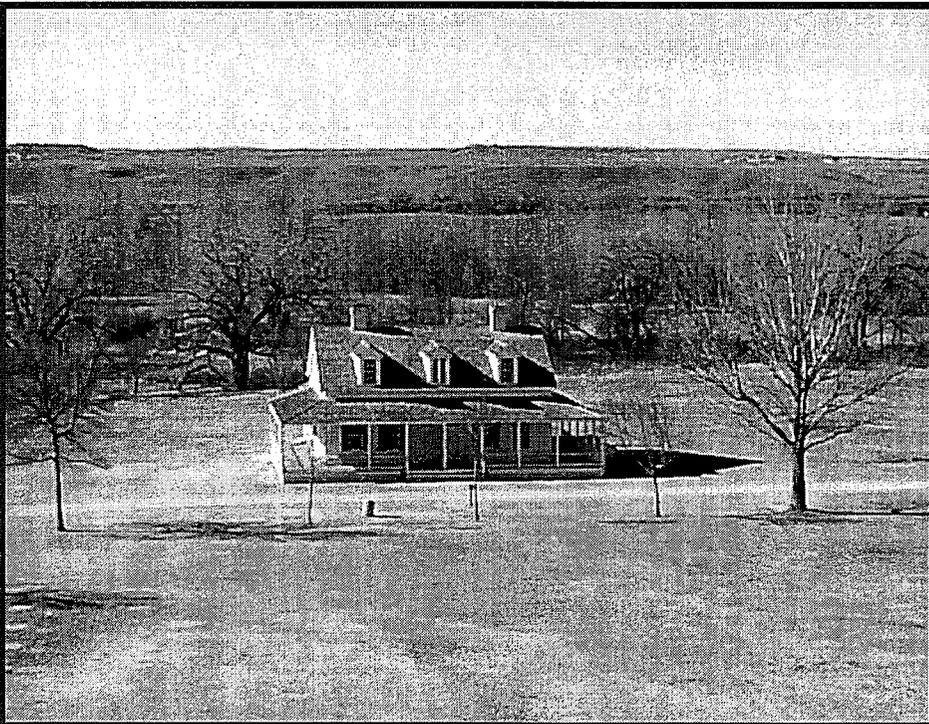


Figure 44. View from Parade Ground Flagpole to the south. Credit: Kevin Haberman, January 2005.

SMALL-SCALE FEATURES

Early History Before 1834: Non-contributing

There are no small-scale features related to this era on the site.

Fur Trade Period: Contributing

There are no small-scale features related to the fur trade period on the site.

Military period: Contributing

A birdbath, constructed in 1880, is the only small-scale feature remaining from the military period (see figure 45).

Homestead era: Non-contributing

No small-scale features remain from the homestead era.

NPS Era: Non-contributing

A number of small-scale features reflect National Park Service influence on the site. These include an entry sign, trash receptacles, information and interpretive signs, fences, drinking fountains, and a wood platform used for interpretive programs (see figures 46 and 47). They do not contribute to the site's integrity.



Figure 45. Birdbath. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

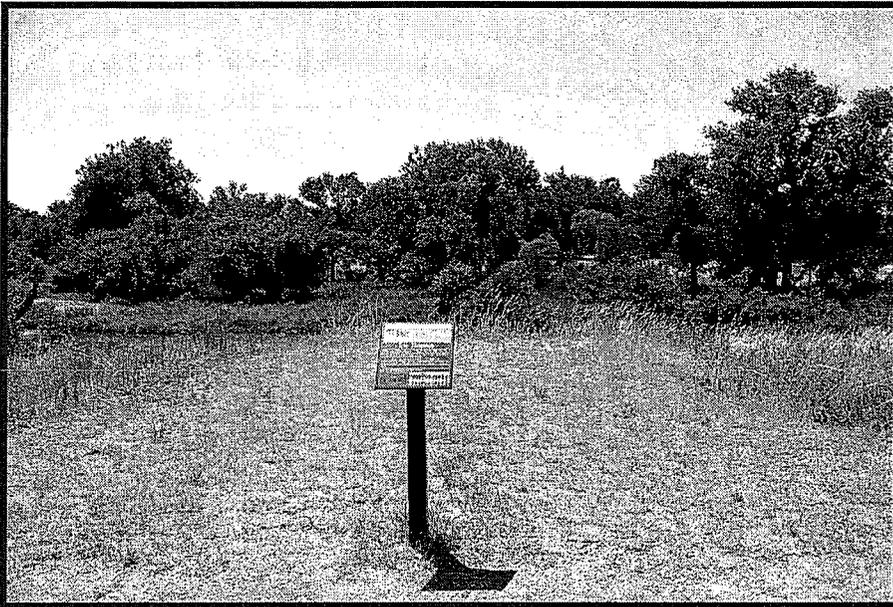


Figure 46. Interpretive Sign for Icehouse Depressions. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

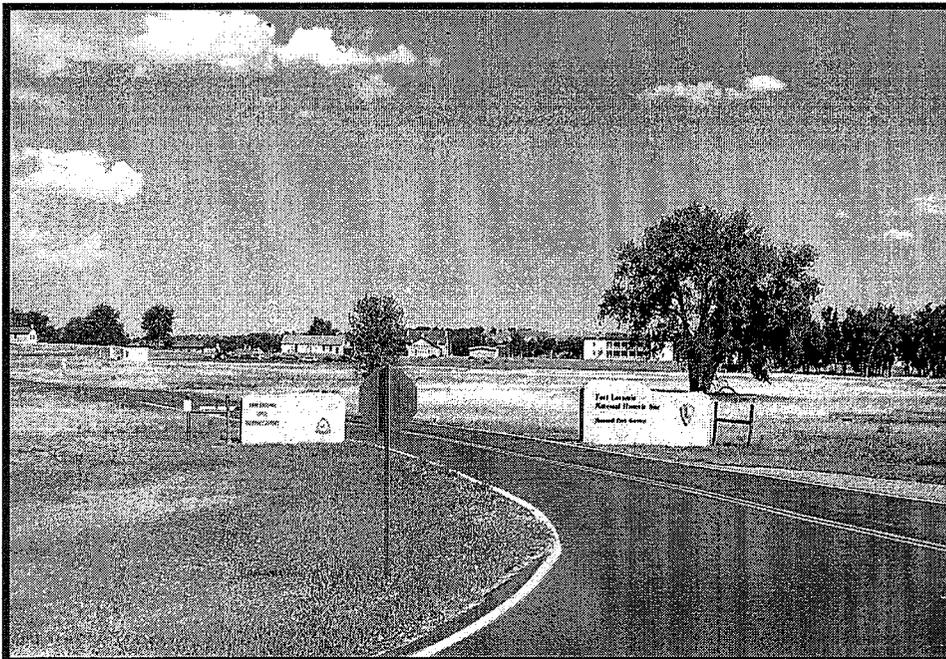


Figure 47. Entrance Signs. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

ARCHEOLOGICAL SITES

A number of archeological sites remain from the military era. Additional archeological investigation is required to identify archeological sites related to Native American occupation of the site, and any physical remains from the fur trade era.

CONSTRUCTED WATER FEATURES

The only constructed water feature on the site is the Fort Laramie Ditch. It is an intrusion on the historic scene.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places criterion A (see National Register Consideration-section), because of the role it played in the development of the western United States. The fort was a crucial component of the northern Rockies' fur trade. As the only outpost of civilization in the 800-mile span between Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort Bridger, Wyoming, Fort Laramie was also an oasis for westward-bound emigrants. The historic trails that passed through the fort included the Oregon, California, and Mormon Trails; the Bozeman Trail; the Pony Express route; the transcontinental telegraph route; and the Deadwood and Cheyenne Stage route. In addition, Fort Laramie served as headquarters for military campaigns on the northern plains. Great councils that attempted to broker peace between the United States and numerous Indian tribes were held there.

Fort Laramie is also nationally significant under National Register of Historic Places criterion D, due to the historic archeological remains of the fur trade era. Today its physical remains and its history enable visitors to understand that short, swift-moving era in which the United States swept to the Pacific Coast and then washed back to absorb the high plains and mountains of the interior West. Fort Laramie NHS focuses, in one small spot, the triumph and tragedy of American expansion in the nineteenth century.

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1834-1890

The period of significance determined for Fort Laramie is 1834-1890. During this period, the Fort Laramie cultural landscape was the site of numerous activities that advanced the western development of the United States. Built near the junction of the Laramie and North Platte rivers in 1834, Fort William quickly became an important fur-trading post for trappers and Native Americans of the central and northern Rocky Mountains. Immigrants moving west often took trails and routes passing through Fort William, Fort John, and Fort Laramie. From the late 1840s until it was closed in 1890, Fort Laramie served as headquarters for military campaigns on the northern plains. It was also host to several important councils with the tribes of the northern plains and mountains during this time (adapted from Canaday, 1983).

ANALYSIS OF LANDSCAPE CHARACTERISTICS

Introduction

Landscape characteristics are the natural and cultural aspects of a landscape that contribute to its historical significance. These characteristics can be biological or cultural in origin, but generally, they are a combination of both. They can be restricted to a certain area (e.g., a structure) or may be linear, extending through multiple zones and habitats (e.g., a stream). All existing characteristics serve as evidence of the previous activities of those who occupied, developed, and used the land.

+ areas / zones

This analysis deals with seven categories of landscape characteristics: topography and drainage, structures and buildings, circulation, vegetation, spatial organization, small scale features, and views and vistas. The various components of these landscape characteristics were analyzed to determine their condition, integrity, and contribution to the period of significance.

Table 1. Fort Laramie National Historic Site: Inventory of Site Features and Assessment of Significance and Integrity.

ABBREVIATIONS:

S=SIGNIFICANCE

(C) CONTRIBUTING – the feature was present during the period of significance (1834-1890) and continues to contribute to the character of the historic landscape;

(NC) NON-CONTRIBUTING – the feature was not present during the period of significance and does not contribute to the character of the historic designed landscape;

C=PHYSICAL CONDITION

(G) GOOD – the features of the landscape need no intervention, only minor or routine maintenance is needed;

(F) FAIR – some deterioration, decline, or damage is noticeable; the feature may require immediate intervention; if intervention is deferred, the feature will require extensive attention in 3-5 years;

(P) POOR – deterioration, decline, or damage is serious; the feature is seriously deteriorated or damaged, or presents a hazardous condition; due to the level of deterioration, damage, or danger the feature requires extensive and immediate attention.

In=INTEGRITY

(Note: integrity is only listed for those resources that are contributing.)

(H) High integrity

(M) Moderate integrity

(L) Low integrity

(N) No integrity

TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE FEATURES <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 49 and 50).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
(a). Open ditch	NC	F	Post-military irrigation ditch with stone lining at 3 locations. Homestead era.	NC
(b) Remnants of open ditch	C	P	Originally open water ditches. Ditches first appear on 1879 historic map.	M
(c) Depressions	C	P	Underground waterlines that first appear on 1888 historic map.	L
(d) Depressions	C	P	Assortment of barracks and kitchens constructed during the early and late military periods.	L
(e) Numerous mounds and depressions	C	P	1870s kitchen.	L
(f) Foundation depression	C	P	Assortment of icehouses constructed during the early and late army periods.	L
(g) Foundation depressions	C	P	Approximately 4 feet deep. Unknown source, possibly basement of outbuilding, which first appears on 1863 map.	L
(h) Sloping terrain along riverbank of Laramie River	C	P	Approximately 6.5% slope to river. Slope varies slightly along river	L
(i) Depression	C	P	Printing office	L
(j) Sloping terrain east of picnic area and parking area (picnic area is at a lower elevation)	C	P	Approximately 10% slope. Slope has eroded from visitor traffic. Cultural resource damage is occurring.	L

(k) Terrain of parade grounds	C	G	Level. Blue grass mix.	H
(l) Depression of entrenchment – HS 37	C	P	3 feet in depth. Varies in different locations.	L
(m) Sloping topography to hospital site (hospital sits on highest point within park boundary)	C	G	Approximately 9% slope. Existing trail is not accessible to physically challenged.	M
(n) 1922 racetrack	NC	P	Some minor scarring of landscape from wheels.	NC
(o) Wagon wheel ruts from the river route of the Mormon and Oregon trail	C	F	Minor earth depressions	M
(p) Open ditch	NC	G	Post-military irrigation ditch. Recently, a large portion within the park boundary has been lined with concrete.	NC

STRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 51 and 52).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
1. Old Bedlam (roofed structure)	C	F	Restored. Built in 1849. Adobe and wood frame construction.	H
2. Sutler's Store (roofed)	C	F	Restored. Built in 1848. Adobe, stone and lime grout structure.	M
3. Historic privy (roofed)	C	F	Built in 1884. Frame structure with fir siding and gable roof.	H
4. Officer Quarters (roofed), with well and pump in rear	C	F	Restored. Built in 1885. Lime grout structure with mansard roof (wood shingles).	M
5. Cavalry barracks (roofed)	C	G	Rehabilitated. Built in 1875. Lime grout structure with gable roof (wood shingles).	H
6. Officer Quarters E (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at rear of building	C	F	Restored. Built in 1875. Lime grout structure with gable roof (wood shingles).	M
7. Officer Quarters A (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at side of building and stone circular ruin in rear, possibly well	C	F	Restored. Built in 1873. Lime grout structure with gable roof (wood shingles).	H
8. Old Guardhouse (roofed)	C	F	Restored. Built in 1866. Stone masonry structure with gable roof (wood shingles)	H
9. Commissary storehouse (roofed)	C	F	Restored. Built in 1883. Lime grout structure with hip roof (wood shingles).	H
10. Old Bakery (roofed), with non-historic bat structure on side of building	C	F	Rehabilitated. Built in 1876. Lime grout and brick structure, with gable roof (wood shingles)	H
11. Officer Quarters ruins	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1880. Roofless ruin. All that remains is part of a lime grout wall.	L
12. Chicken house (roofed)	C	F	Restored. Built in 1881. Lime grout structure with gable roof (wood shingles)	H

13. Hospital (partial roof)	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1873. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
14. Magazine	C	F	Restored. Stone structure with built up shed roof.	H
15. New Guardhouse (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at rear of building	C	F	Stabilized. Built in 1876. Lime grout structure with sand/lime render, hip roof (wood shingles).	M
16. Army Iron Bridge	C	F	Built in 1875. 4 piers constructed of riveted wrought iron "I" beams. "Tubular Arch" trusses for spans.	H
17. Administration Building	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
18. Officer Quarters D	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
19. Officer Quarters C, with stone, circular ruin in rear, possibly well	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
20. Officer Quarters B, with stone, circular ruin in rear, possibly well	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
21. Married NCO Quarters	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
22. Powerhouse/sawmill	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
23. New Bakery	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1885. All that remains is lime grout walls with some wood.	L
24. Three Company Barracks	C	P	Built in 1867. Foundation only.	L
25. Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks	C	P	Built in 1866. Foundation only.	L
26. General sink	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1886. All that remains is the rectilinear lime grout foundation, including a ditch with sloping central brick-lined drainage channel to the south, leading to the Laramie River.	L
27. 1850 Guardhouse	C	P	Built in 1850. Foundation only.	L
28. Sutler residence	C	P	Built in 1863. Foundation only.	L
29. Married E.M. Quarters	C	P	Foundation only.	L
30. 1850 Officer house	C	P	Foundation only.	L
32. Icehouse	C	P	Built in 1880. All that remains is part of the stone-lined pit wall.	L
33. Outbuilding	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1880. All that remains is part of the stone-lined pit wall with no remains of the roof.	L
34. Outbuilding	C	P	Stabilized. Built in 1880. All that remains is part of the stone-lined pit wall.	L
35. Footbridge	C	P	Foundation only.	L
38. Officer Quarters	C	P	Foundation only.	L
39. Flagpole	C	P	Reconstructed. Built approximately 30 years ago.	M
A. Ferry Abutment	C	P	Remnants of wood.	L

B36. Chicken Coop	NC	F	Post-military. Wood structure.	NC
1003. Pit Toilet on historic foundation (roofed)	C	G	Reconstruction. Wood structure.	H
2003. Pit Toilet on historic foundation (roofed)	C	G	Reconstruction. Wood structure.	H
B216. Equipment Shed (roofed)	NC	F	Wood sheathing with steel frame.	NC
B221. Pump Shed (roofed)	NC	F	Concrete block.	NC
B222. Shop Building (roofed)	NC	F	Wood sheathing with steel frame.	NC
B223. Carpenter Shop (roofed)	NC	F	Wood sheathing with wood frame.	NC
a. Fee station	NC	G	Wood structure with shingles	NC
b. Concrete Obelisk	C	F	Restored. Built in 1913. 12' high poured concrete obelisk on concrete foundation. Total of 5 plaques.	NC
c. Toilets (2)	NC	G	Non-historic. Metal construction; portable.	NC
d. Interpretive areas with wood platforms (2)	NC	G	Open wood structures used for seasonal interpretation.	NC
e. Memorial	NC	G	Concrete with 2 plaques.	NC

CIRCULATION SYSTEMS <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 53 and 54).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTIONS	In
(A) Paved parking (visitors)	NC	G	Non-historic. Asphalt parking. Approximately 50 vehicles.	NC
(B) Paved entrance road	C	G	Historic. Asphalt. Approximately 20' wide.	M
(C) Gravel walk around parade grounds	C	G	Historic. Gravel. Approximately 6' wide.	M
(D) Concrete walk	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 5' wide.	NC
(E) Unpaved, no gravel walk	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 3' wide.	NC
(F) Gravel parking (maintenance)	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 10' wide.	NC
(G) Unpaved, no gravel road	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 8' wide.	NC
(H) Gravel road and parking (picnic area)	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 20' wide.	NC
(I) Paved road	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 20' wide.	NC
(K) Gravel walk	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 10' wide.	NC
(L) Gravel road	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 15' wide.	NC
(M) Gravel walk with wooden handrail	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 5' wide.	NC
(N) Gravel road	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 10' wide.	NC
(O) Paved County Road 95	C	G	Historic. Approximately 24' wide.	M
(P) Unpaved, no gravel road	NC	G	Non-historic. Approximately 8' wide.	NC

VEGETATION <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 55 and 56).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
1. Cottonwood species	NC	G	Naturalized along irrigation ditches. Were not present during period of significance.	NC
1a. Cottonwood species	C	G	Several cottonwoods exist as a part of the tree grouping that encircles the parade ground. These specific trees may be the remains of an early planting around the parade ground during the late military period.	H
2. Green Ash species	C	G	Grouping around parade ground.	H
2a. Green Ash species	NC	G	Extension of tree line past the parade ground tree grouping.	NC
3. Spruce species	NC	G	Donated to park in 1947 by a group of Mormons. Originally planted in river lowland, but replanted behind the cavalry barracks, immediately afterwards by the park custodian.	NC
4. Willow species	NC	G	Located in maintenance area. Probably naturalized.	NC
5. Naturalized vegetation along river	NC	G	Vegetation along the river did not exist during the period of significance.	NC
6. Native grasses	C	G	In areas that have not been cultivated or seeded with exotics.	H
7. Cultivated grass species	NC	G	These areas were predominately farmed.	NC
8. Blue Grass mix	C	G	Documentation suggests that blue grass and white clover were planted on the open parade ground in 1883.	H
8a. Blue Grass mix	NC	G	Areas other than the parade ground.	NC

VIEWS AND VISTAS <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 57 and 58).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
(a) Views from U.S. Route 160	C	G	Views of the hospital and married NCO quarters, M ruins on landscape's high point. Fort Laramie was most likely viewed from these same vantage points by travelers, since Route 160 has historic precedent in the emigrant trails that tied into other main trail systems.	M
(b) Views from within site	C	G	Views of ruins and background views of naturalized vegetation and open landscape	M
(c) Views from within site	C	G	View of Old Bedlam and Officer Quarters	M
(d) Views from within site	C	F	View of Sutler's Store and glimpse of parking area	L
(e) Views from within site	C	G	Foreground view of non-historic fence. Background view of open landscape, good representative of historic viewshed.	H

(f) Views beyond Laramie River	C	G	Views of open landscape	H
(g) Views from hospital site, beyond park boundaries	C	G	View of open landscape. Representative of the period of significance.	H

<i>SMALL SCALE FEATURES</i> <i>(these resources and their reference numbers are depicted in figures 59 and 60).</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
1. Trash receptacle	NC	G	Wood barrel style with metal straps.	NC
2. NPS informational sign	NC	G	Wood with painted letters.	NC
3. Interpretive signage	NC	G	Fiberglass panel with wood stand, various sizes.	NC
4. Fencing	NC	G	Split wood with horizontal bracing.	NC
5. Drinking fountains	NC	G	Wood, barrel type with fountain inside.	NC
6. Benches	NC	G	Wood benches with backs.	NC
7. Propane tank	NC	G	Metal.	NC
8. Picnic tables	NC	G	Wood with metal support.	NC
9. Fencing	NC	G	2-3 foot high barrier fencing, white.	NC
10. Fencing	NC	G	Split wood.	NC
11. Trash receptacle	NC	G	Metal cans.	NC
12. Crossing	NC	G	Wood.	NC
13. Dumpster	NC	G	Metal.	NC
14. Boundary fencing	NC	G	Wood and wire.	NC
15. Wood structures	NC	G	Flat platform with rails. Used for interpretation.	NC
16. Entry sign	NC	G	Wood with painted letters.	NC
31. Birdbath	C	F	Stabilized. Built in 1880. Poured lime grout round dish with fire-brick framing.	M

<i>SPATIAL ORGANIZATION</i>	S	C	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	In
Parade ground, structures and foundations immediately adjacent to parade ground and circulation around parade ground	C	G	Military geometric pattern still intact. Parade ground is open, non-developed space, as it was during the period of significance.	H
Patterns of circulation on site other than around parade grounds	NC	G	No historic patterns.	NC
Patterns of existing structures, foundations, and depressions of extant structures in areas other than parade ground and with the historic core area	C	G	Military geometric patterns still intact.	H

Topography and Drainage

*- doesn't relate to list of contrib features -
- narrative needs to discuss earthwork patterns*

Natural landforms and waterways greatly influenced settlement, land use, and historic development at Fort Laramie. The land surrounding the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers was an important gathering place beginning in the early nineteenth century. Both the Laramie and North Platte rivers were sources of food and water, and the trees along the banks supplied fuel for seasonal encampments near these resources. The bluffs above the floodplain of the Laramie provided level ground for structures and arable soils for croplands and livestock grazing. Indians, traders, and emigrants followed both banks of the North Platte to reach destinations farther west. However, at flood stage, the Laramie and North Platte rivers were threatening boundary elements controlling the pace of emigrant travel through the area. The construction of reliable bridges over these waterways decreased the isolation of the fort grounds, and permitted safer and faster passage through the region.

Fort Laramie NHS continues to reflect the varied responses to the natural systems that define the site. While the rivers' precise courses have undoubtedly changed since the early nineteenth century, they flow in the same directions as they did historically; similarly, the river valleys remain virtually unchanged. Other elements of the site's hydrology have changed, due to canal construction and the creation of wetlands that did not exist during the period of the site's significance.

The site's geomorphology and geology remain constant. The climate remains much the same as was found historically; the ecology and native vegetation have experienced substantial change as a result of human intervention during the historic and subsequent periods.

Buildings and Structures

The majority of the existing structures within the park boundary are contributing features, although much of the integrity has been compromised. Most of the military buildings were auctioned in 1890. Many of the structures were dismantled and the materials used on ranches and farms. These structures are now viewed as ruins, but still contributing features to the period of significance. All of these contributing structures retain their historic fabric. These structures and ruins are excellent examples of several different types of construction methods. Of particular note are the remaining lime-grout structures. The addition of the bat houses does compromise the integrity somewhat, but this is not irreversible.

Contributing structures built during the early military include: Old Bedlam, the Powder Magazine, Sutler's Store, Cavalry Barracks, Officer Quarters E, Officer Quarters A, Old Guard House, Old Bakery, Hospital, New Guardhouse, Army Iron Bridge, Three Company Barracks, Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks, 1850 Guardhouse, Sutler's Residence, Historic Privy, and the Ferry Abutment. The remaining contributing structures were built during the late military era. Although portions of the American Fur Company Trading Post were incorporated into structures at Fort Laramie in the early military era, there are no visible features remaining from the adobe-walled post of the fur-trading era. However, Steve DeVore, archeologist with the Midwest Archeology Center, believes that there is a good chance of unveiling features from the American Fur Company Trading Post behind the Officer Quarters A.

Since the above structures built during the early military were also in use during the late military, the current landscape is primarily viewed as a late military landscape.

The structures in the maintenance area are non-contributing, as well as visually intrusive to the historic landscape. The fee station and the memorial are located near the historic iron bridge are also non-contributing features. The concrete obelisk was added in 1913 and is not contributing.

Circulation

Some of the early patterns of circulation established during the period of significance exist and contribute to the historic landscape. The main route of the Oregon Trail is reflected in County Road 95, which is east of the fort grounds and runs north to south. This paved road crosses the Laramie River at or near the site of the first emigrant wagon bridge (1851). County Road 160 (Greyrocks Road) has historical precedent in the emigrant trails that tied into other main trail systems. This trail connected the Platte River crossings with the fort and rejoined the Oregon Trail northwest of the fort. Its maximum use came after 1876 when travel shifted to the north, crossing the North Platte at the iron army bridge. Fragmented sections of the Oregon Trail remain in the ruts found on the site. Refer to figure A1 in Appendix A for further reference to the historic routes.

The trail around the parade ground reflects historic circulation of the period of significance, as does the entrance road to the park. All other defined circulation features are non-contributing, including the parking areas.

Vegetation

Historically, the landscape was comprised of northern plains vegetation. This included communities of perennial grasses, wildflowers, and forbs in the valley of the two rivers and on the plateaus, and riparian species such as cottonwoods and willows along rivers and drainages. Landscape disturbances from agricultural use, grazing, and structural development left few native plant communities, with the exception of two areas of relict prairie.

The existing vegetative features that contribute to the period of significance include: the ash and cottonwood tree grouping around the parade ground (with the exception of additional trees planted in front of the Officer Quarters E and F), two areas of native perennial grasses depicted in Existing Conditions, Vegetation, and the blue-grass lawn mix found on the parade ground. These features have not been compromised.

A blue spruce tree located behind the cavalry barracks is a non-contributing element to the historic scene; it was donated and planted in 1947 by members of the LDS Church who were commemorating the centennial of the founding of the Mormon Trail (see figure 48). Because the harvesting activities of the fort during the period of significance left riparian areas of the site nearly barren, the relatively dense vegetation that currently exists along the Laramie River is also non-contributing. The cottonwoods and willows dispersed throughout the historic core were not planted in the period of significance and are non-contributing elements to the historic scene.

Spatial Organization

The spatial organization of the military era is still evident. Although some of the integrity has been compromised due to the total loss of several structures, overall, the historic patterns and spatial relationships of the landscape still exist in the historic core. The parade ground, as well as the structures and circulation immediately surrounding the parade ground, are contributing features and continue to define the original military geometric patterns. This pattern mimics the same geometric northeast-southeast grid that was used for the layout of the American Fur Company Trading Post. The patterns of the existing structures, foundations, and depressions located outside of the parade ground are also contributing but have been somewhat compromised by the land use practices of the homestead era. This is not irreversible, however.

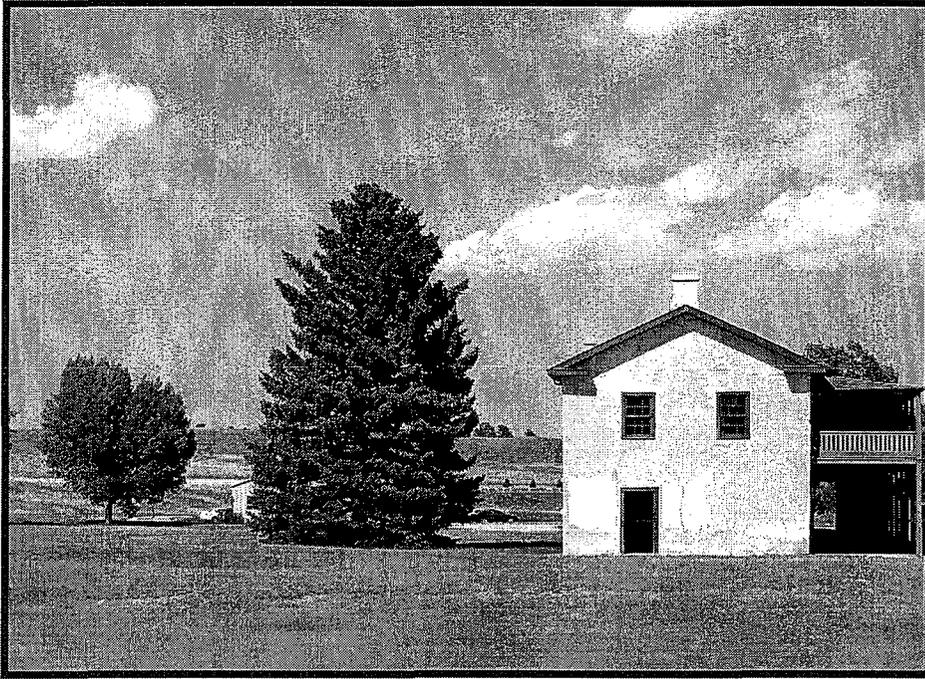


Figure 48. Blue Spruce behind Cavalry Barracks. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

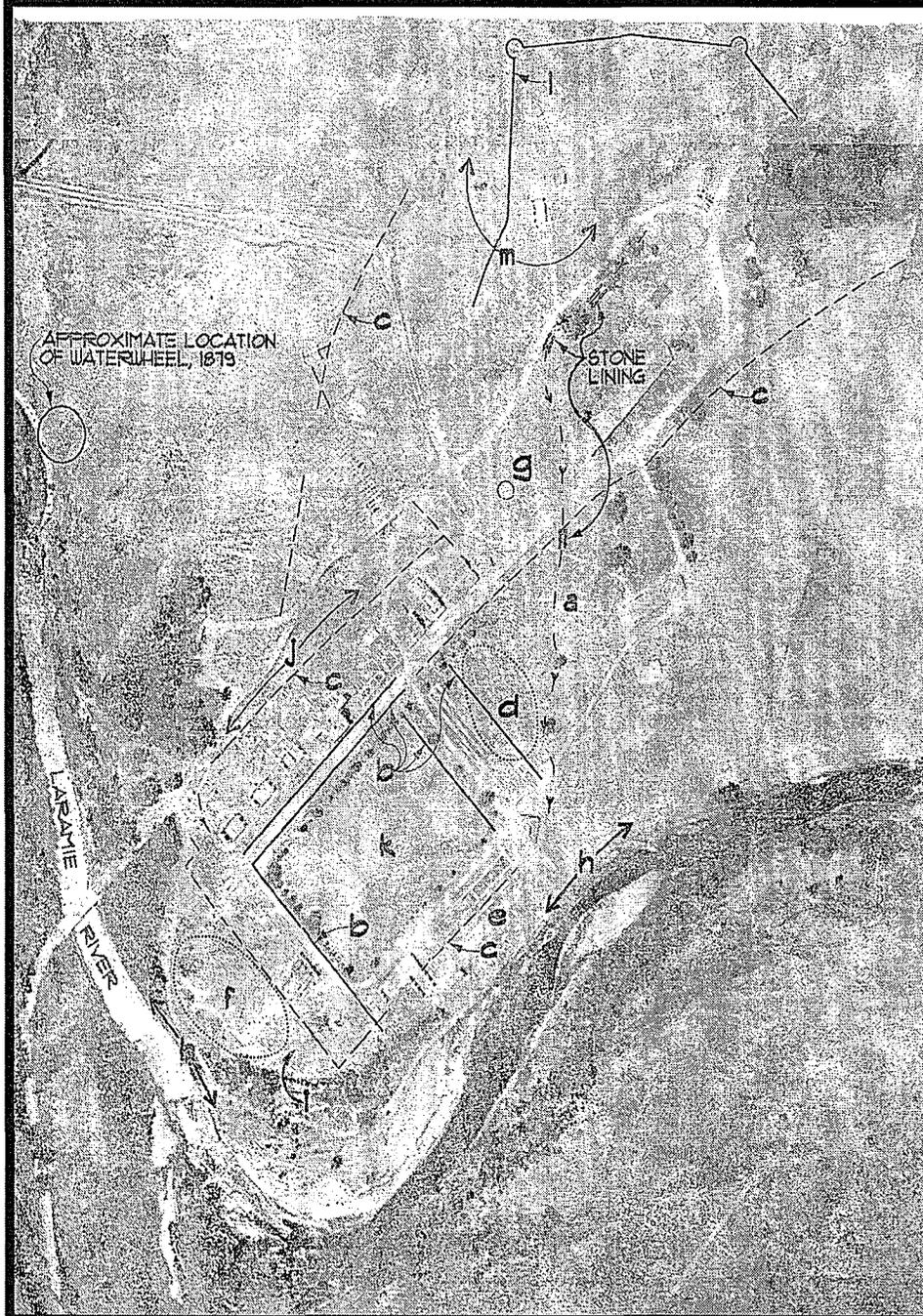
Small Scale Features

The only contributing feature is a birdbath built in 1880. It is in fair condition and has a moderate level of integrity. Non-contributing elements include many of the features constructed during the NPS era, such as drinking fountains, trash receptacles, picnic tables, interpretive signs, and fencing.

Views and Vistas

Upon analysis, all views proved to be contributing features to the period of significance. While the foreground vegetation and structures have evolved, the open, expansive background views and vistas retain the historic character of the period of significance. (However, a smoke plume from the Wheatland power plant is visible from the grounds, looking southwest.) These expansive views, which include the land-adjacent ridgelines to the north, west, and south, have high integrity and are extremely important in maintaining the overall historic integrity of Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

FIGURES 49-60



TOPOGRAPHY AND DRAINAGE LEGEND

- a - OPEN DITCH WITH STONE LINING AT 3 LOCATIONS-NC
- b - REMNANTS OF OPEN DITCH-C
- c - DEPRESSIONS OF UNDERGROUND WATERLINES-C
- d - MOUNDS AND DEPRESSIONS OF ASSORTED BARRACKS AND KITCHENS-C
- e - DEPRESSION OF KITCHEN-C
- f - ICEHOUSE DEPRESSIONS-C
- g - DEPRESSION, UNKNOWN SOURCE, POSSIBLE BASEMENT OF OUTBUILDING-C
- h - SLOPING TERRAIN ALONG RIVER BANK OF LARAMIE RIVER-C
- i - DEPRESSION OF PRINTING OFFICE-C
- j - SLOPING TERRAIN EAST AND NORTH OF PICNIC AREA (PICNIC AREA AT LOWER ELEVATION)-C
- k - FAIRLY LEVEL TERRAIN OF PARADE GROUNDS-C
- l - EARTH ENTRENCHMENT - H6 31-C
- m - SLOPING TOPOGRAPHY TO HOSPITAL SITE (HOSPITAL SITS ON HIGHEST POINT WITHIN PARK BOUNDARY)-C
- n - 1922 RACETRACK-NC (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON FOLLOWING PAGE)
- o - WAGON WHEEL RUTS FROM THE RIVER ROUTE 'SPUR' OF THE MORMON AND OREGON TRAIL-C (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON FOLLOWING PAGE)
- p - OPEN DITCH-NC (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON FOLLOWING PAGE)

SYMBOLS

- C-CONTRIBUTING - THE FEATURE WAS PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1834-1890) AND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.
- NC-NONCONTRIBUTING - THE FEATURE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE.

NOTES

- SEE FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN FOR ADDITIONAL FEATURES.
- THE LEGEND ON THIS PAGE ALSO PERTAINS TO OVERALL PLAN ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
- REFER TO 'THE INVENTORY OF SITE FEATURES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY' IN THE APPENDIX FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON FEATURES.

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Figure 49.

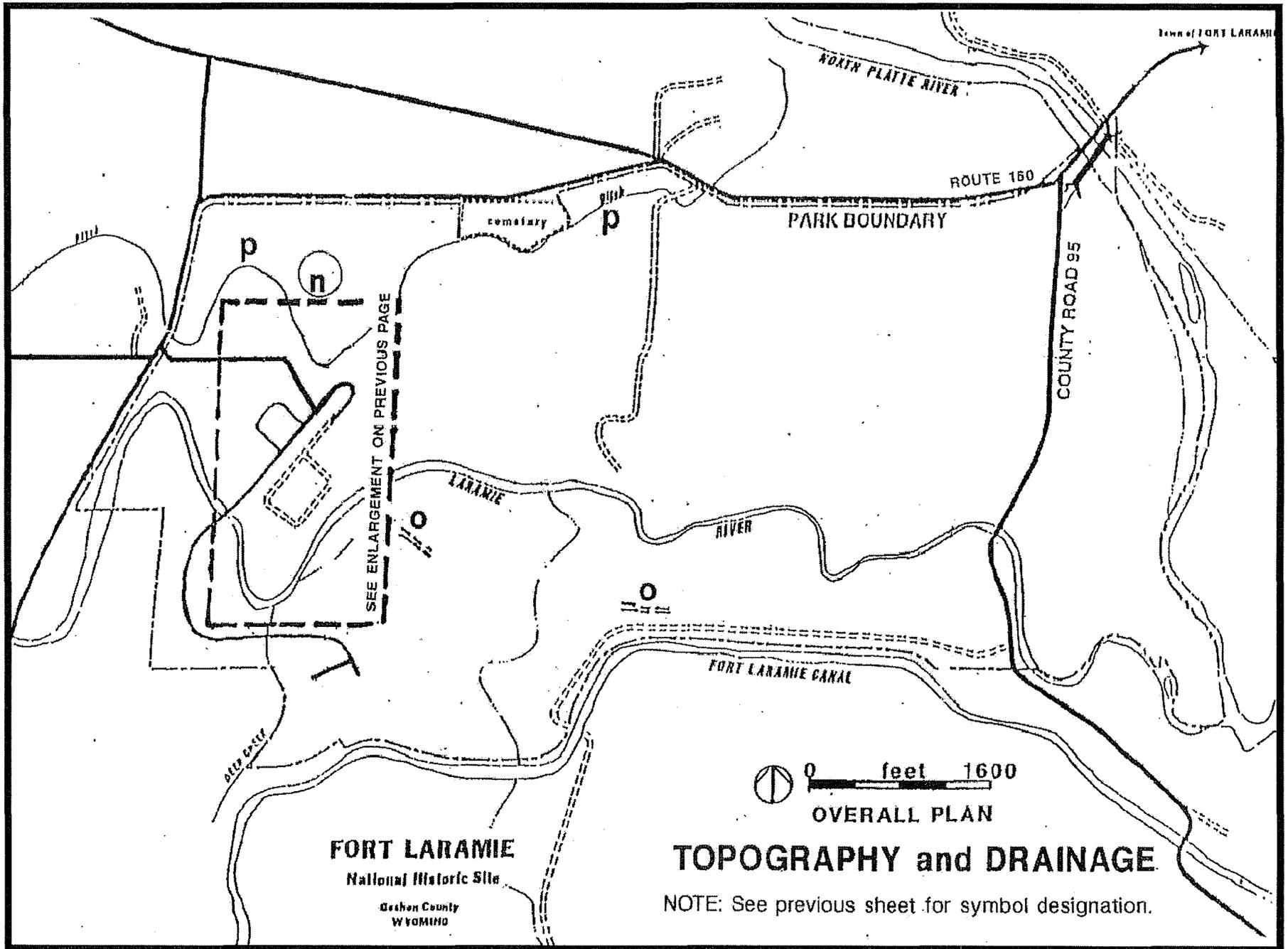


Figure 50.

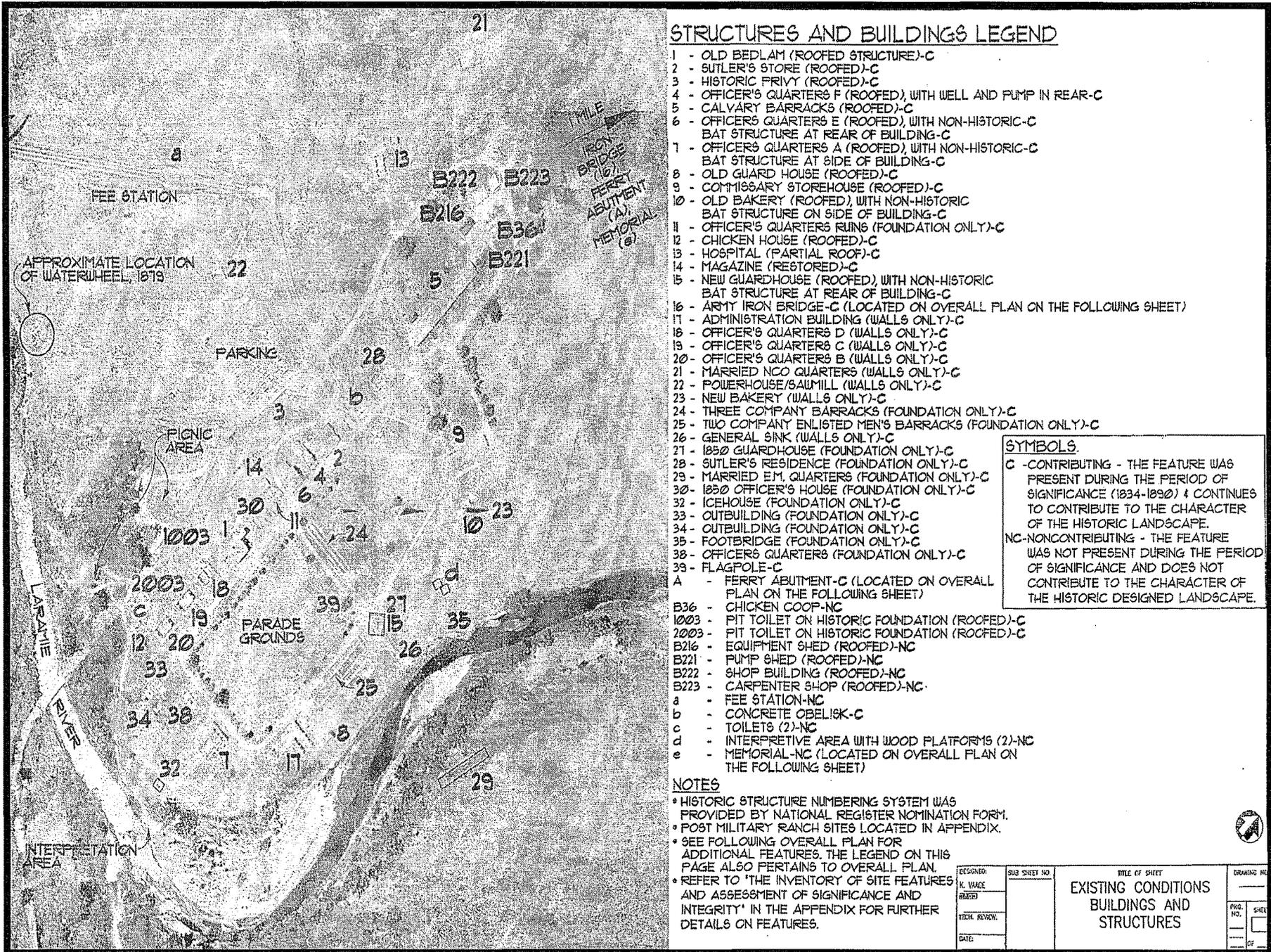


Figure 51.



CIRCULATION SYSTEMS LEGEND

- A - PAVED PARKING (VISITORS)- **NC**
- B - PAVED ENTRANCE ROAD- **C**
- C - GRAVEL WALK AROUND PARADE GROUNDS- **C**
- D - CONCRETE WALK- **NC**
- E - UNPAVED, NO GRAVEL WALK- **NC**
- F - GRAVEL PARKING (MAINTENANCE)- **NC**
- G - UNPAVED, NO GRAVEL ROAD- **NC**
- H - GRAVEL ROAD & PARKING (PICNIC AREA)- **NC**
- I - PAVED ROAD- **NC**
- K - GRAVEL WALK- **NC**
- L - GRAVEL ROAD- **NC**
- M - GRAVEL WALK WITH WOODEN HANDRAILS- **NC**
- N - GRAVEL ROAD- **NC**, (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN WHICH FOLLOWS) **NC**
- O - PAVED COUNTY RD. 15 (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN WHICH FOLLOWS) **C**
- P - UNPAVED, NO GRAVEL ROAD, (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN WHICH FOLLOWS) **NC**

SYMBOLS

- C** CONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1834-1890) AND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.
- NC** -NONCONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE.

NOTES

- SEE FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN - MAP 4 - FOR ADDITIONAL FEATURES.
- THE LEGEND ON THIS PAGE ALSO PERTAINS TO MAP 4 ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
- REFER TO HISTORICAL BASE MAP (1841-1890) IN APPENDIX FOR HISTORIC ROUTES.
- REFER TO "THE INVENTORY OF SITE FEATURES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY" IN THE APPENDIX FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON FEATURES.



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Figure 53.

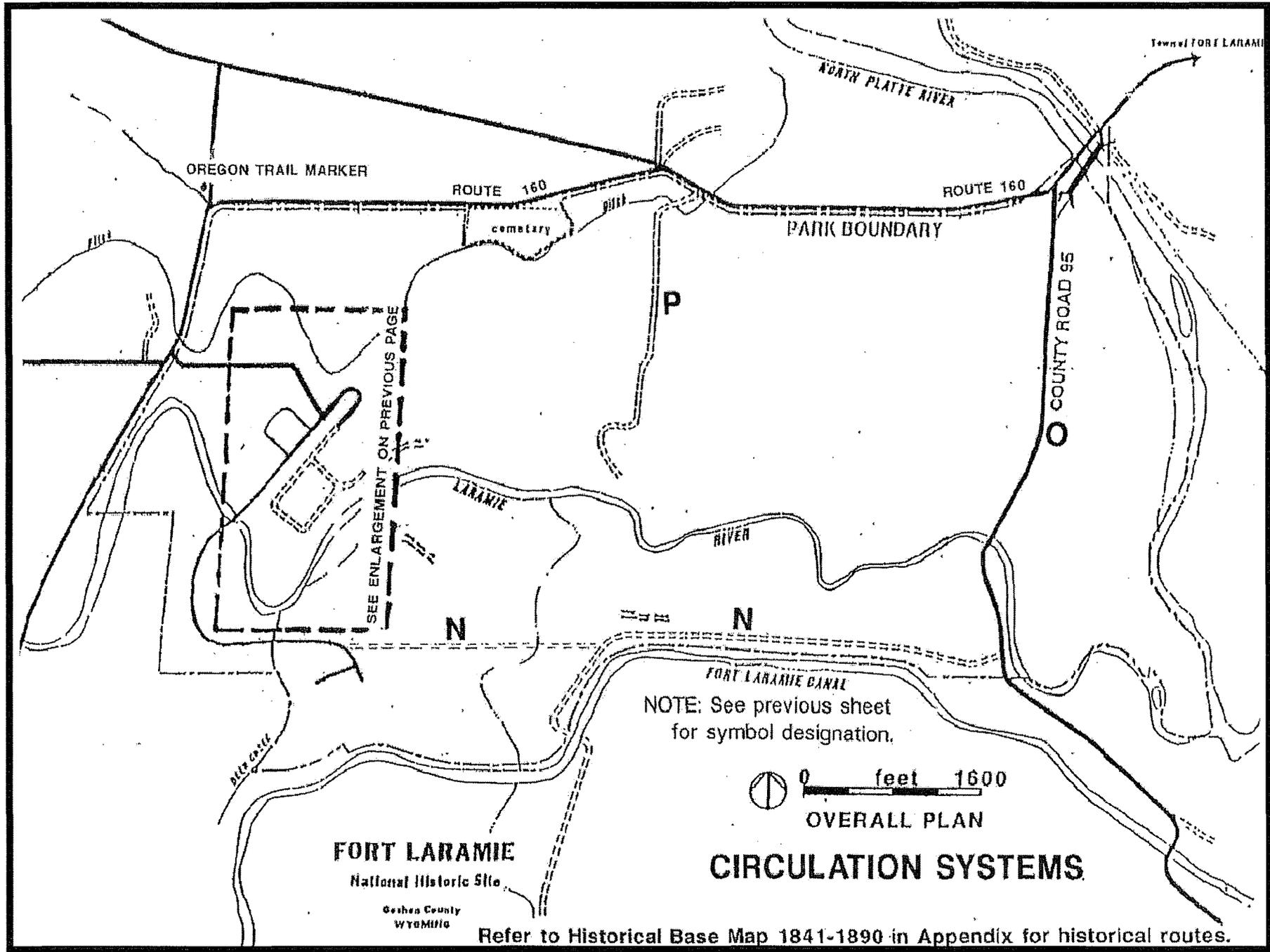


Figure 54.



VEGETATION LEGEND

- (1) - COTTONWOOD SPECIES- **NC**, WITH EXCEPTION OF TREE GROUPING AROUND PARADE GROUND- **C**
- (2) - GREEN ASH- **C**
- (2a) - GREEN ASH- **NC**
- (3) - SPRUCE SPECIES- **NC**
- (4) - WILLOW SPECIES- **NC**
- (5) - RIPARIAN VEGETATION- **NC**
- (6) - NATIVE PERENNIAL GRASS- **C**
- (7) - ANNUAL/ PERENNIAL MIX- DISTURBED LAND- **NC**
- (8) - BLUE GRASS MIX- **NC**, WITH EXCEPTION OF PARADE GROUND AREA- **C**
- (9)- WETLAND VEGETATION- **C** (LOCATED ON FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN)

SYMBOLS

C CONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1834-1890) AND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.

NC -NONCONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE.

NOTES

- THE LEGEND ON THIS PAGE ALSO PERTAINS TO OVERALL PLAN - MAP 6 - ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
- REFER TO "THE INVENTORY OF SITE FEATURES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY" IN THE APPENDIX FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON FEATURES.



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Figure 55.

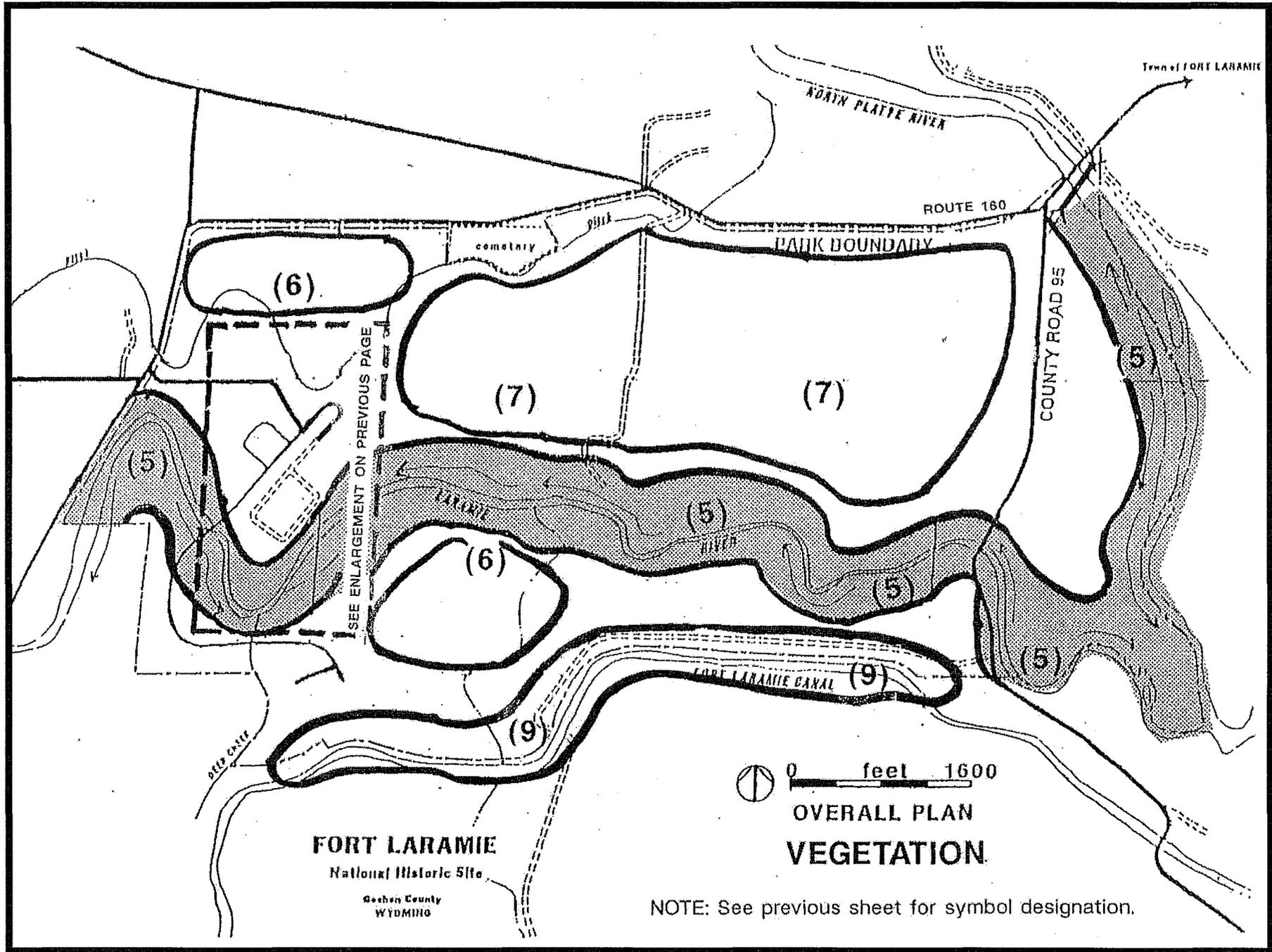
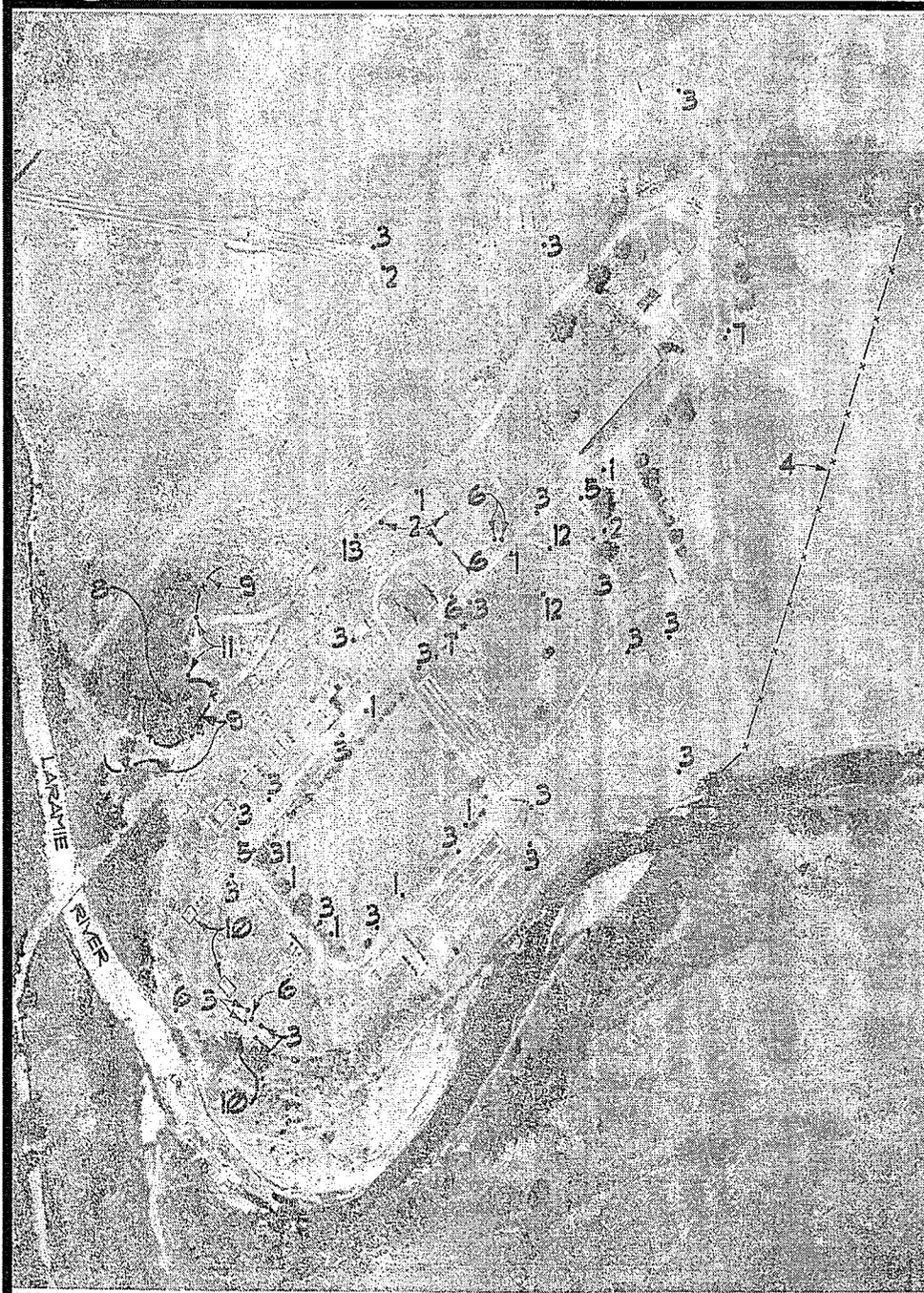


Figure 56.



SMALL SCALE FEATURES LEGEND

- 1 - TRASH RECEPTACLE (BARREL TYPE)- **NC**
- 2 - NPS INFORMATIONAL SIGNAGE- **NC**
- 3 - INTERPRETATION SIGNAGE- **NC**
- 4 - BOUNDARY FENCING- **NC**
- 5 - DRINKING FOUNTAIN- **NC**
- 6 - BENCH- **NC**
- 7 - PROPANE TANK- **NC**
- 8 - PICNIC TABLES- **NC**
- 9 - FENCING- **NC**
- 10 - WOOD FENCING- **NC**
- 11 - TRASH RECEPTACLE (PLASTIC)- **NC**
- 12 - WOOD CROSSING- **NC**
- 13 - METAL DUMPSTER- **NC**
- 14 - BOUNDARY FENCING- **NC** (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON THE FOLLOWING SHEET)
- 15 - WOOD STRUCTURES- **NC** (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON THE FOLLOWING SHEET)
- 16 - ENTRY SIGN- **NC** (LOCATED ON OVERALL PLAN ON THE FOLLOWING SHEET)
- 31 - BIRD BATH- **C**

SYMBOLS

- C** CONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1834-1890) AND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.
- NC** -NONCONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE.

NOTES

- SEE FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN - MAP 10 - FOR ADDITIONAL FEATURES.
- THE LEGEND ON THIS PAGE ALSO PERTAINS TO MAP 10 ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
- REFER TO "THE INVENTORY OF SITE FEATURES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY" IN THE APPENDIX FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON FEATURES.



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Figure 57.

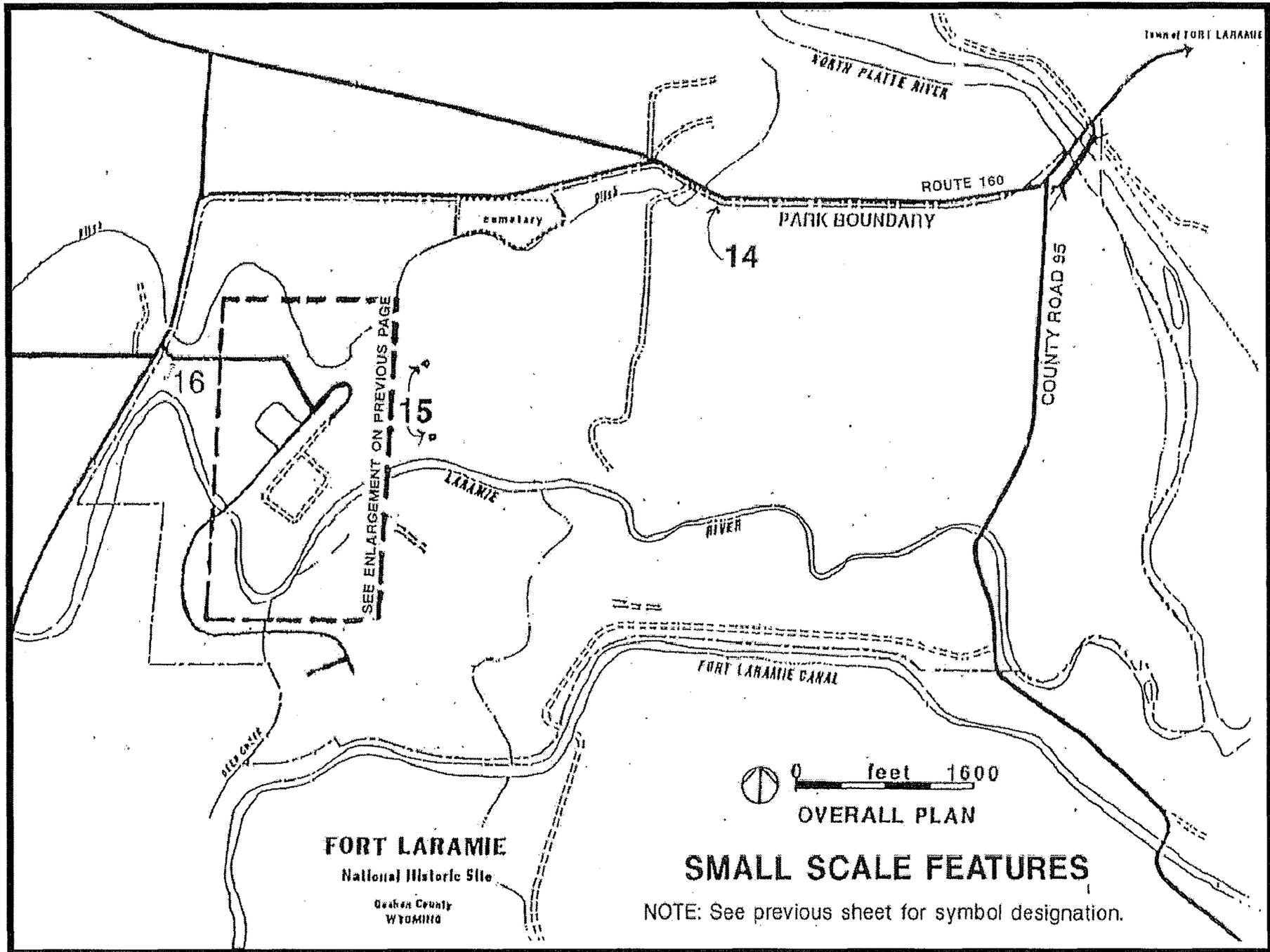
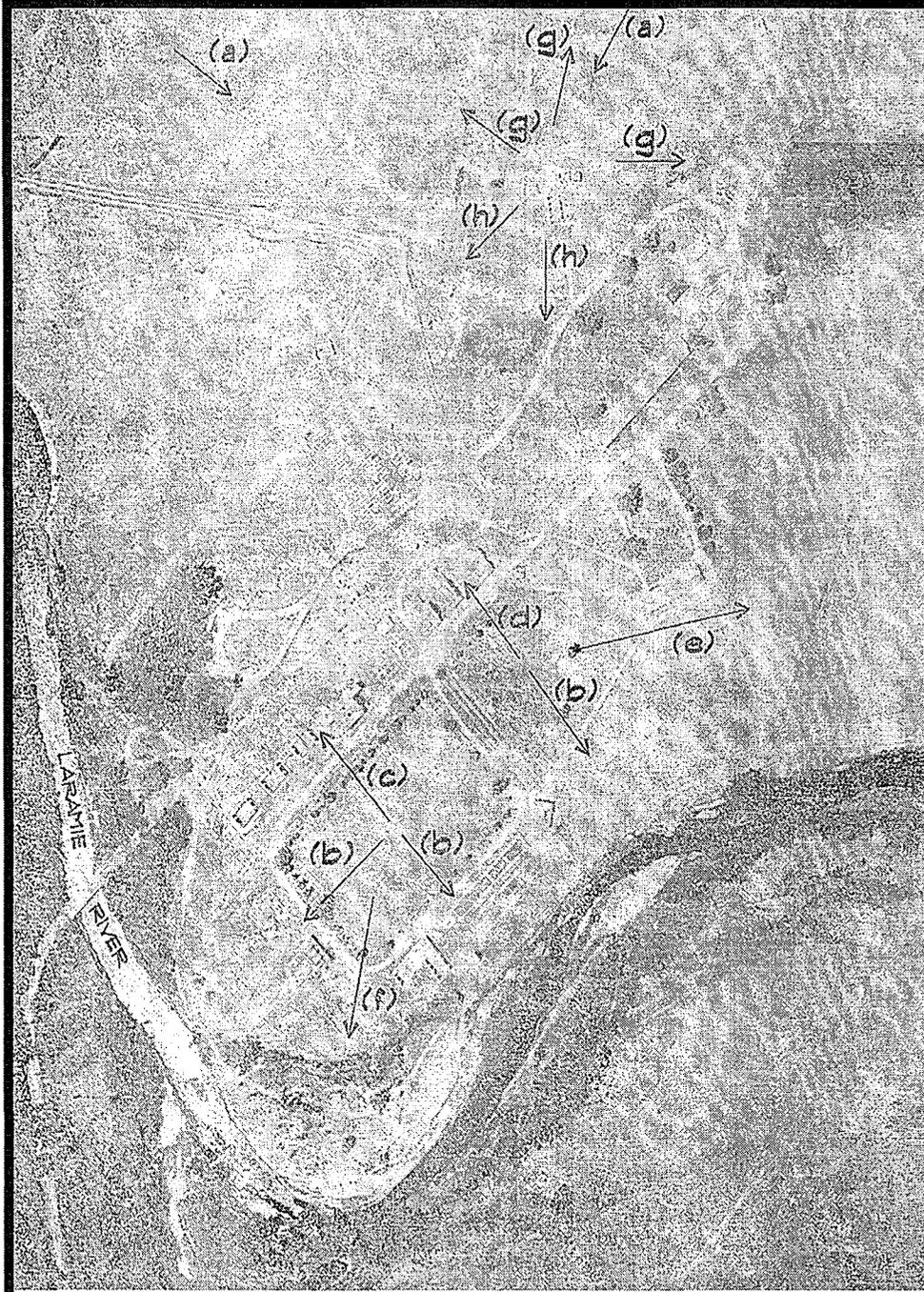


Figure 58.



VIEWS AND VISTAS LEGEND

- (a) - VIEWS FROM ROUTE 160, WHICH HAS HISTORICAL PRECEDENT IN THE EMIGRANT TRAILS THAT TIED INTO OTHER MAIN TRAIL SYSTEMS-**C**
- (b) - VIEWS FROM WITHIN SITE- **C**
- (c) - VIEWS FROM WITHIN SITE- **C**
- (d) - VIEWS FROM WITHIN SITE- **C**
- (e) - VIEWS FROM WITHIN SITE- **C**
- (f) - VIEWS BEYOND LARAMIE RIVER- **C**
- (g) - VIEWS FROM HOSPITAL SITE- **C**
- (h) - VIEWS FROM HOSPITAL SITE- **C**
- (i) - VIEWS FROM US ROUTE 160- **C**(LOCATED ON FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN)
- (j) - VIEW OF IRON BRIDGE FROM US ROUTE 160- **C**
(LOCATED ON FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN)

SYMBOLS

- C** - CONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE (1834-1890) AND CONTINUES TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE.
- NC** - NONCONTRIBUTING-THE FEATURE WAS NOT PRESENT DURING THE PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE AND DOES NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE.

NOTES

- SEE FOLLOWING OVERALL PLAN- MAP 12 - FOR ADDITIONAL VIEWS.
- THE LEGEND ON THIS PAGE ALSO PERTAINS TO MAP 12 ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
- REFER TO "THE INVENTORY OF SITE FEATURES AND ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE AND INTEGRITY" IN THE APPENDIX FOR FURTHER DETAILS ON FEATURES.



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Figure 59.

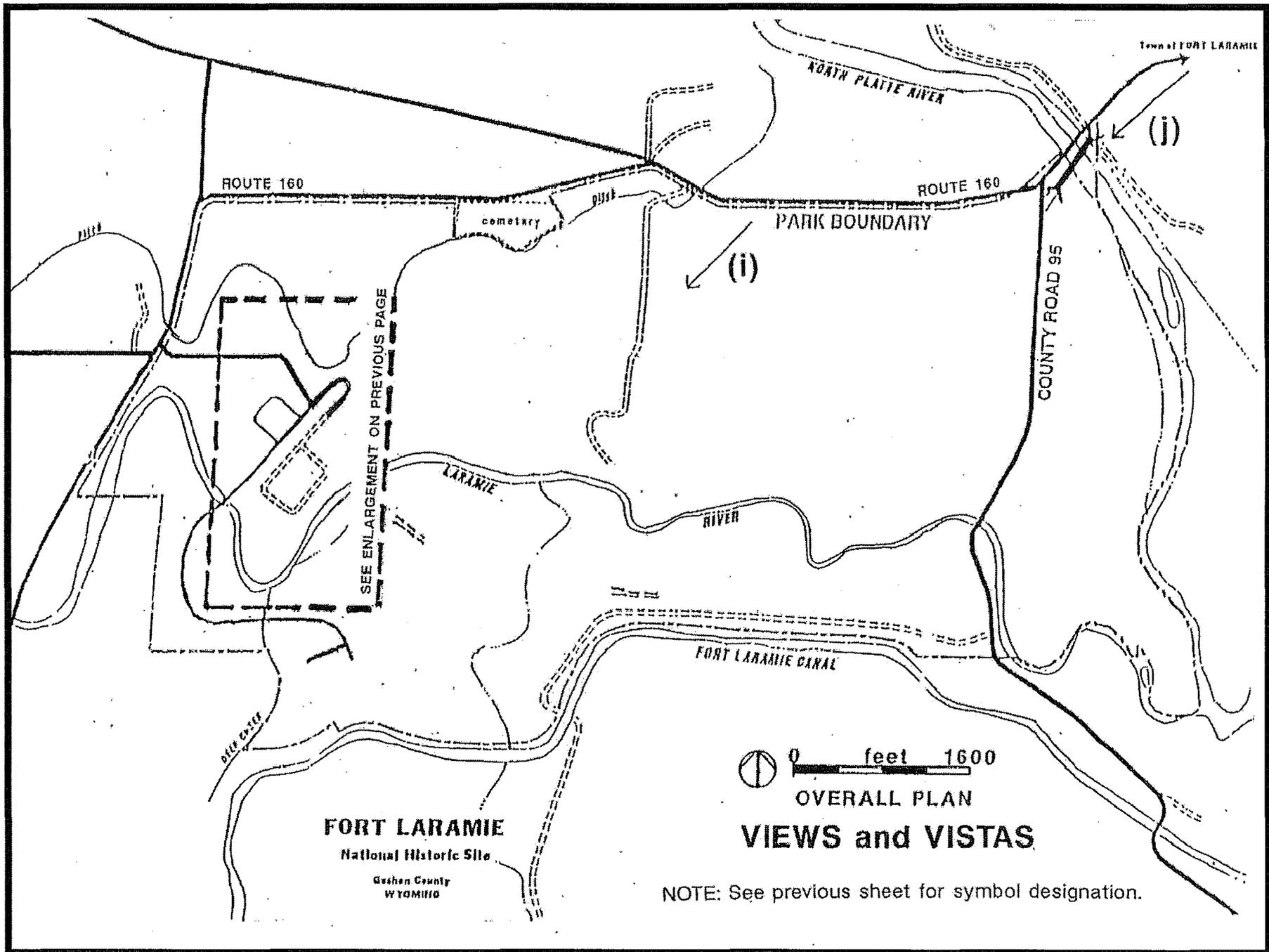


Figure 60.

ASSESSMENT OF RESOURCE INTEGRITY

Introduction

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance. Within the concept of integrity, National Register criteria recognize seven qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity. These qualities are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. To retain historic integrity, a property always possesses several, and usually most, of these qualities.

Location: The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

Archeological investigations, supported by historical narratives, confirm that the cultural landscape analyzed here is the historic location of Fort Laramie. However, land use and circulation patterns undoubtedly changed with the development of each successive fort. The specific locations of Fort John and Fort William have yet to be determined to the satisfaction of all specialists. The location of Fort John is known, but has not been precisely mapped. Archeological testing to date does indicate the general area in which the Fort William site might be found, and this area is within the park boundary.

Design: The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure and style of the property.

The designs of specific structures at Fort Laramie, as well as the overall site design, are clearly evident and retain a high degree of integrity. No obvious physical evidence of the fur trade era is evident. No design integrity from this era, including spatial organization, circulation, or cluster arrangement, remains. However, the adobe construction of Old Bedlam and the Sutler's Store reflects an architectural link between the late fur trade era and the early military period.

Setting: The physical environment of the historic landscape; the character of the place in which the property played its historic role.

The setting for Fort Laramie NHS illustrates three eras (the fur trade period, the early military period, and the late military period) and includes the lands surrounding the park, as well as the area within the park boundaries.

Within the park, little remains to illustrate the fur trade era. There are no above-ground remains of the two forts from that era. Numerous changes took place during the period of significance after the transition from the fur trade era to the military era. Roads, buildings, bridges and other structures, and landscape design fundamentally altered the setting within the park boundaries. The setting surrounding the fort, however, still reflects features consistent with those of the fur trade era. While ranches and farms are located within the immediate vicinity, the views from Fort Laramie remain largely open and undeveloped, providing dramatic views from the site to the plains and snow-covered peaks beyond. The open grasslands and unbroken horizons offer a glimpse into the fort's setting as it existed over 150 years ago - a single outpost in a vast, almost limitless environment.

The setting within the park boundaries retains many structures and other elements from the early military period. The setting surrounding the park, the open landscape, and the vistas also reflect a sense of the surrounding landscape as it existed during this era.

The current built environment and circulation patterns within the park boundaries clearly reflect the setting as it existed during the late military period. The agricultural activities in the surrounding area suggest the diverse

activities that occurred at the site during the late military era, when Fort Laramie resembled a small town almost as much as it did a military establishment.

Some elements of the setting have changed since the historic era. Agriculture and grazing both within and adjacent to the NHS have left few native plant communities. In contrast to the historic period, trees and low brush have reestablished along the edge of the rivers. The parking lots and maintenance facility are negative intrusions into the landscape.

Most of the negative influences on the military setting that occurred after the period of significance within the site can be removed or mitigated through restoration and rehabilitation. Therefore, while the current integrity of setting has been compromised, it is not necessarily a permanent or irreversible condition.

Materials: The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

All the buildings remaining from the historic period retain their historic fabric. Other features, such as roads and trails, have lost a substantial amount of their historic fabric. Some evidence remains of the gardens from the military era. Again, while most materials intrude on the fur trade era's historic scene, the adobe materials in the Sutler's Store provide a link between this era and the military era. Modern additions such as the bat houses, maintenance buildings, and metal interpretive wayside panels reduce the overall integrity of materials for the landscape.

Workmanship: The ways and manner people fashioned their environment for functional and decorative purposes.

Of the numerous structures and features built at Fort Laramie during the historic period, relatively few remain. Those structures and ruins that remain are excellent examples of several different types of construction methods. Of particular note are the remaining lime-grout structures.

Feeling: The intangible experience that is evoked by the presence of physical characteristics that reflect the historic scene.

Fort Laramie and its environs convey a sense of feeling associated with the fur trade, emigrant, and military activities that occurred on the site. The relationship of the rivers and floodplain to the surrounding grasslands and ridges articulates the reasons why trappers, traders, and the U.S. military chose this place to build their forts. The surrounding landscape evokes the undeveloped wildness of the early nineteenth-century West. The remaining structures, ruins, pathways, and parade ground continue to invoke the spatial relationship of the late military period. While foreground vegetation has changed, the openness and relative lack of development within the panorama of Fort Laramie's vistas has remained.

Association: The direct link between a cultural landscape and the important events or persons that shaped it.

Fort Laramie is important for the site's association with the western development of the United States. The landscape of Fort Laramie continues to evoke elements of the historic settings of the fur trade and early and late military eras. The feeling and association, combined with the views and vistas, mitigate to some extent the absence of integrity in design, materials, and workmanship associated with the fur trade era.

NATIONAL REGISTER CONSIDERATIONS

General

Properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places cover a wide range of cultural resources, including archeological sites, historic buildings and structures, ships, aircraft, and battlefields, as well as cultural landscapes. If these properties are found to be significant at a national, state, or local level after professional evaluations, they may be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Properties are determined to be eligible to the National Register of Historic Places if they meet at least one of the established criteria for significance, and if they possess physical integrity. The National Register criteria for significance are:

Criterion A. Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

Criterion B. Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

Criterion C. Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

Criterion D. Properties that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to assess their actions for possible effects to the characteristics that contribute to a property's significance. If there is potential for damage, the federal agencies are required to take into consideration the effect on the historic property or properties.

Status

Currently, a historic district encompassing approximately 536 acres has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Fort Laramie National Historic Site currently consists of 832.45 acres. The district boundary was drawn to include all of the historic structures, buildings, ruins, and sites. The boundary includes land on which many building sites representing the fort period are found but not exposed. The site of the trading posts and encampment south of the Laramie River are also included. The nomination provides a discontinuous boundary for the army iron bridge of less than one acre.

The nomination form was completed prior to the development of the cultural landscape concept. The cultural landscape was not included as part of the National Register documentation, which only addresses buildings and structures.

Evaluation

It has been determined that Fort Laramie's landscape is nationally significant under criterion A, due to its association with the development of the western United States. The historical documentation and analysis of landscape characteristics presented in this report demonstrate that the Fort Laramie cultural landscape retains sufficient integrity to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register.

Based on the data and analysis presented here, it is proposed that an amendment to the existing nomination be prepared which discusses the cultural landscape aspects of the site (as a result of this cultural landscape project, the NPS is currently preparing a new National Register nomination form that will incorporate the landscape information.)

CONCLUSION

The cultural landscape of Fort Laramie National Historic Site retains physical integrity relating to the early and late military eras. The features and characteristics of the current landscape appropriately illustrate the period of significance, determined to be 1834-1890. While no physical features from the fur trade era have been uncovered, the landscape's feeling and association with that era are still apparent. Feeling and association are two of the National Register criteria for site integrity. The remaining adobe structures represent a linkage to a vernacular architectural style introduced during the fur trade period. Although these factors are not enough to establish historic integrity for the fur trade era, they do provide a basis for the interpretation of this period.

The landscape illustrates the military period even more clearly. All seven of the national standards for physical integrity are represented in some degree by the site's landscape characteristics and features. Clearly, some non-contributing or intrusive elements diminish the site's overall integrity to a certain degree. However, they are not substantial enough to outweigh Fort Laramie's high level of physical integrity and its ability to illustrate the site's historical significance.

TREATMENT

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS

General Management Plan

Any treatment of a cultural landscape is based upon an understanding of the site's history and the integrity of its resources. Also informing the recommendations that are developed must be the park's enabling legislation. Listed below are the programmatic and management objectives of the General Management Plan (GMP) for Fort Laramie (1992). These objectives guided the treatment approaches recommended for the site.

1. **Natural Resource Management.** Reestablish and promote native plants and animals that contribute to and enhance the park's historic scene, to the greatest degree possible.
2. **Cultural Resource Management.** Reestablish and protect, to the fullest extent possible, the integrity of the buildings, ruins, structures, and collections of the area, assuring their availability, and assuring their survival, for the benefit of the public, in perpetuity. Assist and work with local officials, private landowners, neighbors and others, in promoting and preserving the historic scene and historical appearance of the surrounding landscape.
3. **Interpretation and Visitor Services.** Provide highest quality and quantity of professional services, addressing various themes.
4. **Management, Administration, and Support.** Increase local and state support for the park and NPS. Provide direction, supervision, and support to the various divisions and functions of the park.
5. **Visitor Orientation.** Consider alternative locations and/or methods of improved visitor orientation and interpretation.
6. **Surrounding Landscape Values and Uses.** Analyze existing in-holdings, surrounding uses, and lands adjacent to the park boundary to determine what actions are necessary to minimize their impacts and protect the historic integrity of Fort Laramie NHS.
7. **Visitor Services, Administration, Operations, and Maintenance Requirements.** Determine the location, type, and size of facilities necessary to effectively carry out visitor services, administration, operation, and maintenance.
8. **Resource Protection.** Develop alternative strategies for resource protection.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards

In addition to the overall management objectives for Fort Laramie NHS outlined above, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* provided the necessary framework for making consistent and holistic decisions about treatment options (1996). According to these standards, cultural landscape treatment options involve one or more of the following approaches: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize

the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than on extensive replacement and new construction. New exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment. However, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate with a preservation project.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

PRESERVATION

The goal of preservation is the retention of the landscape's existing form, features and materials, provided that such actions will not result in degraded landscape conditions or threaten historic resources. Preservation treatments may be as simple as basic maintenance of existing materials and features, such as upkeep of the fort's parade grounds. In all cases, protection, maintenance, and repair are emphasized, while replacement is minimized. Many of the materials, features and spatial organization for the early and particularly late military periods remain intact. This is not true for the fur trade era, however. Application of this treatment is appropriate for Fort Laramie because significant historic fabric and character-defining features remain. Identifying, retaining, maintaining, stabilizing and protecting these features are important goals at the site.

Criteria For Selecting Preservation Treatments

Preservation may be considered as a treatment:

- When the property's distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and thus convey the historic significance without extensive repair or replacement;
- When depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate; and
- When a continuing or new use does not require additions or extensive alteration.

Recommended Preservation Treatments

1. Replace contributing plant material only. Non-contributing plant material in decline should not be replaced.

The tree grouping that encircles the parade ground is a contributing feature. Since the majority of the existing trees are ash, it is suggested that the same species of ash be replanted when they decline.

Review of some late 1880's historic photographs show the trees surrounding parade ground were green ash, but an earlier partial planting of cottonwood is documented in 1872 (see figures 5,10, and 11 in Site History,

and figure 18 in Existing Conditions). The military record (O'Reilly 1872) reads, "Lieut. Buchanan and a detail of 10 enlisted men are procuring cottonwood trees for the parade ground at a point on the Laramie River about 12 miles above the post. These trees are being planted on the N.W. and S.W. sides of the parade grounds. Leveling still continues." There were several documented plantings that took place between 1872 and 1887. An 1880 comment in the *Army and Navy Register* reads, ". . . the commanding officer at this post, Gen. Merritt, 5th Cav., is transplanting trees around the parade ground. . . ." In 1887, another military periodical, the *Army and Navy Journal*, reads, ". . . in the LEADER of a few months back I noticed an article saying that Capt. London had the parade ground enclosed by water, or words to that effect. Sorry to say the ditch is a failure, so far. However, Lieut. Foster made the trees stick; that is they are planted. Time will tell whether or not they will grow." It is not clear which species of trees were planted each time, but these records help to explain why differing tree species currently exist around the parade ground.

Park ranger Steve Fullmer, who has been on staff since 1980, speculates that the majority of the ash trees currently surrounding the parade ground were planted between 1976 and 1978, with additional plantings in the 1980s. The cottonwoods, which are currently intermingled with the ash, are probably "volunteers."

The current vegetation along the river is non-contributing and should not be replanted when it declines. However, a live root system must be maintained to keep the river from re-channeling and to assist in screening the Fort Laramie ditch.

Historically, the banks of the Laramie River were practically barren due to the intensive harvesting practices of the fort's occupants (see figure 17 in Site History). Therefore, the current riparian vegetation is considered a non-contributing element. However, if the vegetation along the river were to be removed, there would be a chance of the river re-channeling, due to the lack of a root system to stabilize the soil in the riverbanks. Damage to cultural resources would most probably result. Furthermore, the current vegetation assists in screening the Fort Laramie ditch. For these reasons, removing the current vegetation is not recommended.

Maintain current vegetation of the open parade ground lawn area. Supplemental native grass seeding is an option.

The parade ground has had various appearances during the period of significance, going from an open area with no ground cover to a more refined lawn area, as it currently exists. A March 1883 telegram from Fort Laramie to Major Taylor in Omaha, Nebraska, reads, "I want six bushels of blue grass and two bushels of white clover, to sow on parade ground. . . ." ("Telegram," 1976). The parade ground is a contributing feature because of the integrity of the open space and the retention of the late military era lawn mixes described above. Because it is unclear how much blue grass and clover were originally planted, supplemental seeding with native grass seed would not destroy integrity and might assist in conserving water. Research was recently conducted to determine an appropriate native grass and forb mix, and the park is now using this mixture.

The remaining vegetation, including the spruce tree located behind the cavalry barracks, is non-contributing and should not be replanted when in decline.

The Blue Spruce located behind the cavalry barracks was donated to the park in 1947 by a group of Mormons on a trek to re-enact the first Mormon journey from the Missouri River to the Great Salt Lake in 1847. The original planting was in the Laramie River bottoms near the site where this group camped in 1947. The spruce was subsequently replanted behind the cavalry barracks by Park custodian Hieb. The remaining trees in the historic core area are either "volunteer" trees along the ditch lines or remnants of the homestead era.

2. Preserve the rural landscape of adjoining properties.

The integrity of the properties adjoining the fort is very high, and the feeling of a rural setting still exists. These values should be preserved as much as possible. Views from the fort to the south, west, and north are of particular concern. Purchasing conservation easements from neighboring landowners, or leasing this property, would be the preferred methods for managing these viewsheds. Alternately, the purchase of this land would

enable the park to control its future. Computerized geographic information systems (GIS) is a very helpful tool to assist with viewshed analysis, and the park has recently initiated the development of this technology to aid in viewshed management.

3. Study the potential historic use of the service road behind the Sutler's Store.

This road currently has no specific use and is contributing to the deterioration of nearby resources (see figure 61). However, it may be a historic resource. It is recommended that further study be conducted to determine the historic transportation corridors through and around the fort – specifically, this road's significance and relationship to the history of Fort Laramie. If the road is found to be a historic resource, preservation measures should be undertaken.



Figure 61. Road behind Sutler's Store. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

4. Preserve the spatial organization of the parade ground.

The parade ground, the circulation around the parade ground, the tree grouping encircling the parade ground, the structures, and the earthworks (which include the mounds and depressions of past structures) all contribute to the spatial organization and a sense of enclosure. The square geometric pattern that is created by the landscape features listed above has a high degree of integrity. Management of some of these landscape features has been discussed earlier. Because the spatial organization of this area has such a high degree of integrity, it is not advisable to add any new horizontal elements (i.e. trails).

5. General Recommendations

Careful consideration needs to be given when adding any vegetation to the site. This is a prairie landscape where trees historically existed near natural water sources only. Less on-site watering is suggested. Historically, the site was not as green, with the exception of the parade ground during the late military era. However, watering around the buildings for fire protection is necessary. A park review may help in locating areas that need less water coverage.

REHABILITATION

In rehabilitation, a cultural landscape's character-defining features and materials are protected and maintained as they are in the treatment for preservation. However, a determination is made prior to work that a greater amount of existing historic fabric has become damaged or deteriorated over time and, as a result, more repair and replacement will be required. The standards for rehabilitation allow for the replacement of extensively deteriorated, damaged, or missing features using either traditional or substitute materials. The application of this treatment is appropriate for Fort Laramie because some repair and replacement of deteriorated features is necessary and desirable. The current use of the site is different from the historic use; thus, there are new requirements in order to accommodate and continue the existing use.

Criteria for Selecting Rehabilitation Treatments

Rehabilitation may be considered as a treatment:

- When repair and replacement of deteriorated features are necessary;
- When alterations or additions to the property are planned for a new or continued use; and
- When its depiction at a particular period of time is not appropriate.

Recommended Rehabilitation Treatments

1. Relocate existing maintenance area and associated parking to a less prominent location.

Based on the GMP programmatic objective of preserving the historic scene, it is suggested that the existing maintenance area and parking be relocated. The park has considered several locations that need further analysis. As was mentioned above, it is suggested that viewsheds be considered when design alternatives are analyzed.

2. Consolidate pedestrian trails when the visitor center is relocated.

Currently, these trails are necessary because of the pedestrian flow to the visitor center. Upon relocation of the current visitor center, consolidation and realignment of the trails is advised. Only the interpretive trail needs to remain. The incorporation of historical paths into the interpretive trail would be advised (see site plans in Appendix A). Too many trails can confuse the interpretive story. If possible, emergency access should be incorporated into a portion of the interpretive trail system, so that additional trails and roads are not needed.

The surface material should be consistent with the decomposed granite trail material currently being used on the other park trails. This material has a low visible impact on the site and is accessible for all users.

3. Maintain all existing ditch lines.

The existing ditch lines at the site are not historic resources. However, they will be maintained, because they are used to irrigate the site.

*if veg
preservation
only near
natural
water ?*

4. Research opportunities to relocate the picnic area.

Research is needed to examine the option of relocating the existing 1979-era picnic area and rehabilitating the site (see figure 62). A location that is farther away from the historic core would address the GMP concerns regarding the preservation of the historic scene. It would also help to address erosion. The current picnic area should be rehabilitated to its natural vegetative state. Relocation of the picnic area would be undertaken after the completion of additional location studies



Figure 62. Picnic Area. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005

5. Explore fence replacement designs for the existing fencing located east of the cavalry barracks.

The fencing east of the cavalry barracks is split wood with horizontal bracing. Because this fence line is a dominant feature as you view the open landscape to the east, it is suggested that this fencing be replaced with the wood and wire design used for the site's boundary fencing. This design would be significantly less intrusive on the eastern viewshed.

6. Supplement the land east of the cavalry barracks with native grasses and forbs.

In recent years, this area has been under cultivation and grazing. Since this area is in close proximity to a concentration of cultural resources, it is recommended that the native grasses and forbs be supplemented. Supplementing areas that have been identified as containing non-native grass species is also recommended, as funding becomes available. This treatment recommendation should be re-evaluated once the vegetation study, currently underway, is completed. //

7. If the picnic area is not relocated, add a low barrier fence along the lowest edge of the slope leading to the Officer Quarters.

This fence would assist in deterring visitors from climbing the slope and eroding resources. Adding stairs to this area for visitor access is not recommended, because this additional circulation did not exist during the period of significance. A wire-and-wood post design similar to the site's boundary fencing is suggested for the fence. The proposed fence would be approximately 3 feet high. It would have low visibility and no historical significance.

8. Research the historic fencing of Officer Quarters rear yards.

Historic maps of the site indicate that the Officer Quarters had some type of rear yard fencing during the period of significance (see Appendix A). Photographs from the late 1880s depict a picket fence in the front yards of the Officer Quarters (see figures 10 and 11 in Site History), so it could be assumed that this fencing continued around to the back. However, because erosion has claimed much of the historic space in the rear yards, and the historic interpretation of the site has not been resolved, a picket fence would not be suggested at this time. Further research would be needed to confirm the type of rear yard fencing.

9. Relocate the parking area to a site less visible from the historic core. Also, reevaluate the actual size needed. Study alternative sites and consider overflow-parking options.

Based upon the GMP programmatic and management objectives of preserving the historic scene, it is suggested that the parking area be relocated (see figure 63). It was built in the 1980s and is not a contributing feature. The park staff has considered several locations, which need further analysis.

Among other design considerations, there are several prominent views to consider when relocating and redesigning the parking. Views from within the historic core looking out should be taken into consideration, as well as the views from the hospital site, which have high integrity. Views from Route 160 looking towards the site should also be preserved.

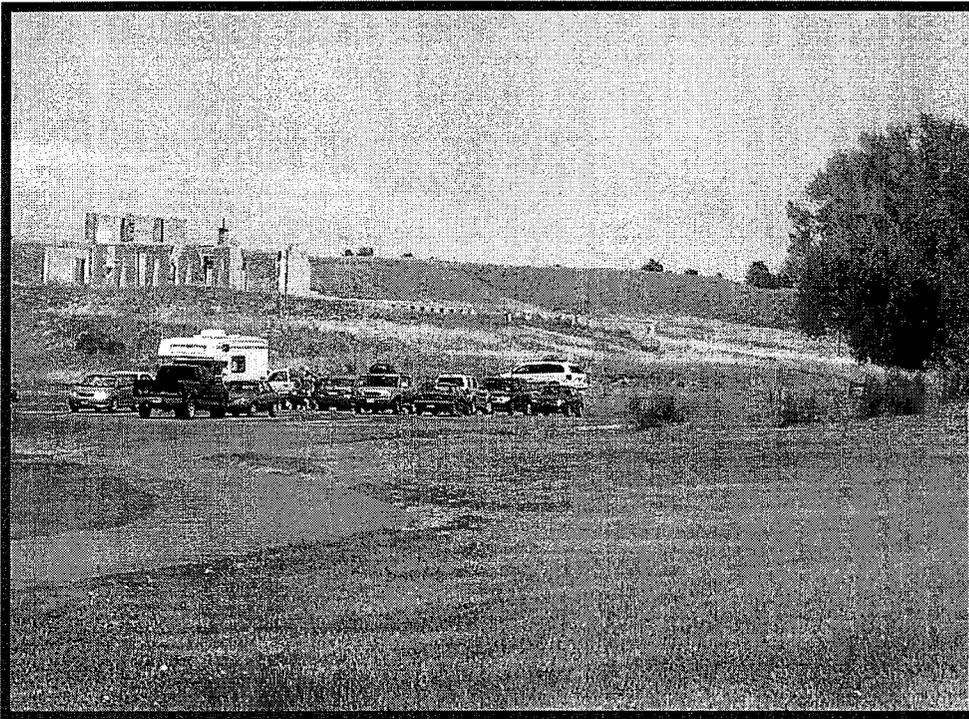


Figure 63. Parking Area. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

RESTORATION

Rather than maintaining and preserving a landscape as it has evolved over time, the expressed goal of restoration is to make the landscape appear as it did at a particular - and the most significant - time in its history. First, those materials and features from the "restoration period" are identified, based on thorough historical research. Unlike other treatments, the scope of work in restoration can include removal of features from other periods and missing features from the restoration period may be replaced, based on documentary and physical evidence. At Fort Laramie, there is substantial physical and documentary evidence for the early and late military eras which provides opportunities for application of this treatment on a limited basis. The cost of restoring and maintaining landscape features needs to be evaluated prior to applying this treatment.

Criteria for Selecting Restoration Treatments

Restoration may be considered as a treatment:

- When the property's design, architectural, or historical significance during a particular period of time outweighs the potential loss of existing materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other periods
- When there is substantial physical and documentary evidence for the work; and
- When contemporary alterations and additions are not planned.

Recommended Restoration Treatments

1. Remove visitor center from the commissary storehouse, and restore its exterior to an era consistent with the interpretive plan.

With reference to the GMP, it is suggested that alternative locations for the visitor center be considered (see figure 64). One suggested alternative location for the visitor center is the hospital site. This location is a high point in the landscape and would be excellent for visitor orientation and interpretation of the entire site. However, more analysis is required before the move could take place. As mentioned above, it is recommended that all views be considered when site alternatives are analyzed.

Once the visitor center is moved, it is recommended that the exterior of the commissary storehouse be restored to its military-period condition and that the non-contributing features be removed.



Figure 64. Commissary Storehouse/Visitor Center. Credit: Olivia Salmon, July 2005.

RECONSTRUCTION

The goal of this standard is much like restoration, to make the landscape appear as it did at a particular - and most significant - time in history. The difference is that in reconstruction, there is far less, if any, existing historic material prior to treatment and, in some cases, there may be nothing visible. Because of the potential for historical error in the absence of sound physical evidence, this treatment can be justified only rarely and thus it is the treatment least frequently undertaken. There are limited opportunities for reconstruction of the cultural landscape at Fort Laramie. However, it may be desirable to reconstruct missing features for interpretive purposes.

Criteria for Selecting Reconstruction Treatments

Reconstruction may be considered as a treatment:

- When the property's design, architectural, or historical significance during a particular period of time outweighs the potential loss of existing materials, features, spaces, and finishes that characterize other periods;
- When there is substantial physical and documentary evidence for the work; and
- When contemporary alterations and additions are not planned.

Recommended Reconstruction Treatments

1. Reconstruct one of the several vegetable gardens identified as existing during the period of significance.

The garden is important to the interpretation of life at Fort Laramie. Historic site plans (see Appendix A) show several different garden locations during the period of significance. It is apparent that there was no ideal location. Further research will be required to identify the vegetables grown, if the desire is to interpret the garden as a whole.



TREATMENT PLAN

- 1- Replace contributing plant material only. Non-contributing plant material in decline should not be replaced. Refer to Figure 55 for identification of contributing and non-contributing plant material.
- 2- Preserve the rural landscape of adjoining properties (see Overall Plan on following page).
- 3- Restore one of the several locations of a vegetable garden, identified during the period of significance.
- 4- Research historic fencing of Officer Quarters rear yards.
- 5- Maintain existing ditch lines.
- 6- Preserve the spatial organization of the parade ground.
- 7- Relocate parking area to a less visual location, as well as re-evaluate actual size needed. Study alternative sites and consider overflow parking alternatives.
- 8- Remove visitor center from existing building and restore exterior to a period consistent with the interpretive plan.
- 9- Relocate existing maintenance are and associated parking to less prominent location.
- 10- Research the service road behind Sutler's Store.
- 11- Consolidate pedestrian walks when Visitor Center is relocated.
- 12- Determine new picnic area, if removed from present location.
- 13- Explore other fence replacement designs.
- 14- Add a low barrier fence along the lower edge of the slope leading to the Officer Quarters.

DATE	SUB SHEET NO.	TITLE OF SHEET	DRAWING NO.
SCALE		TREATMENT PLAN REHABILITATION	
PKG. NO.			SHEET
			OF

Figure 65.

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APPENDIX A: SITE PLANS

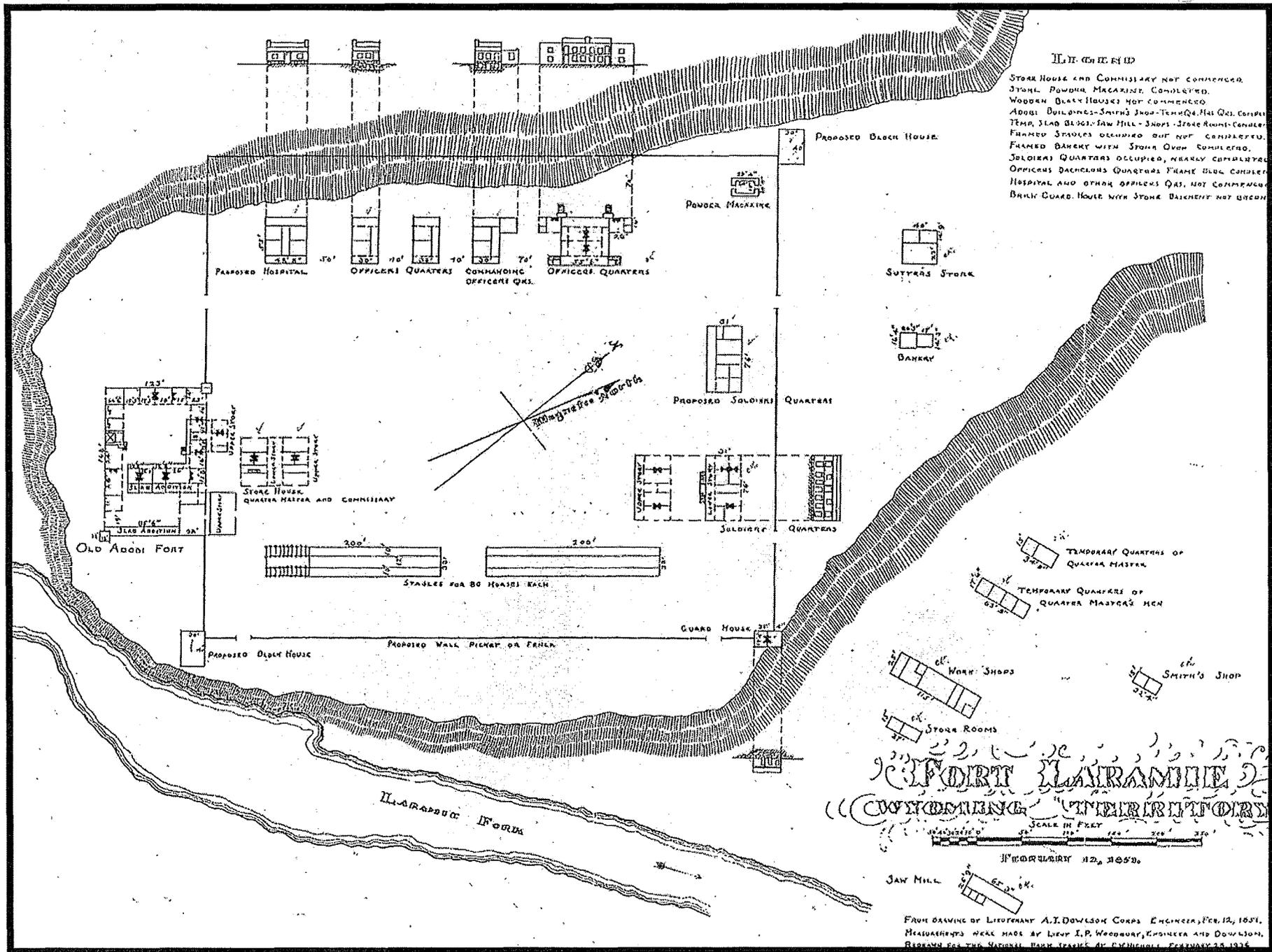
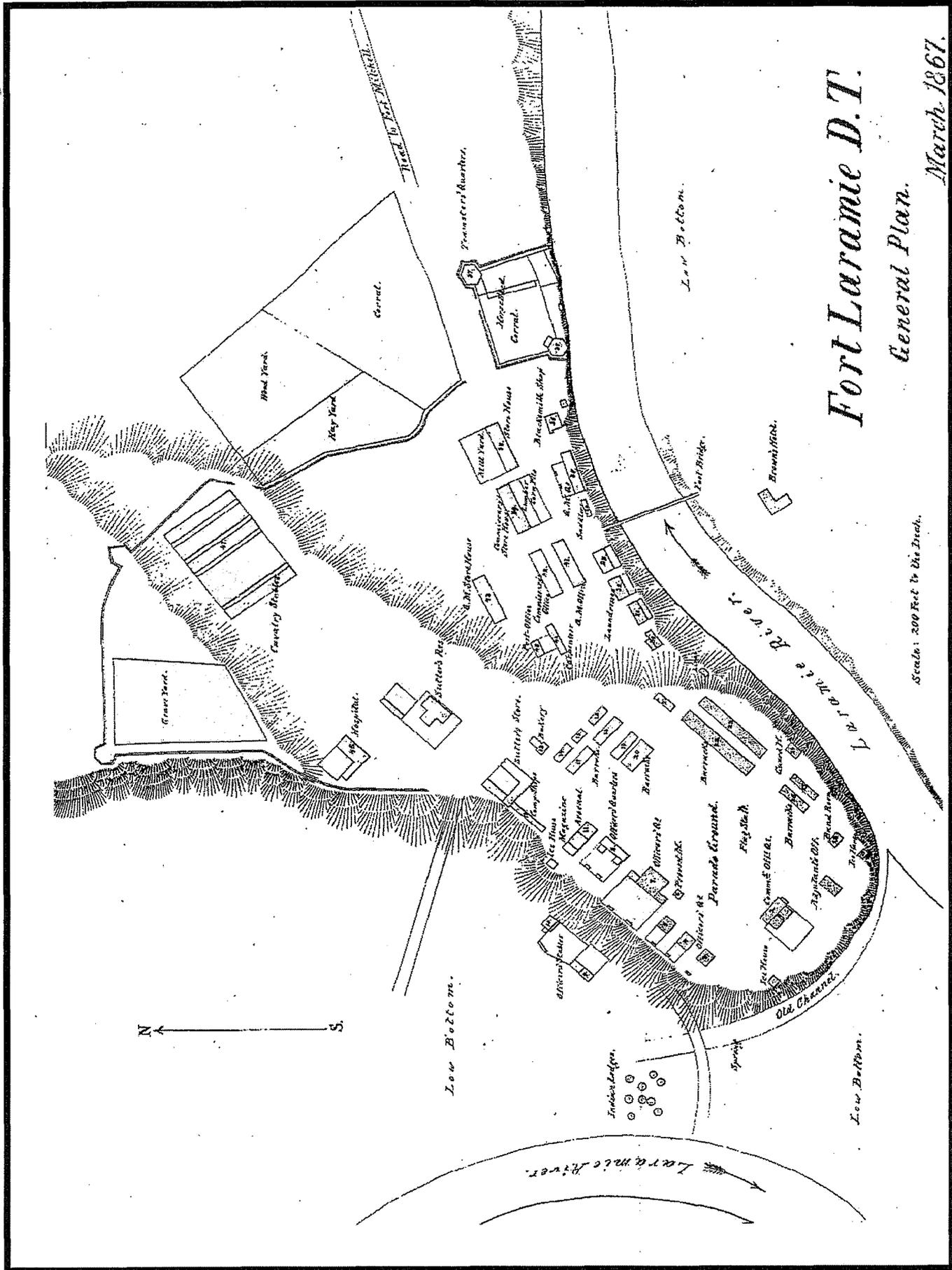


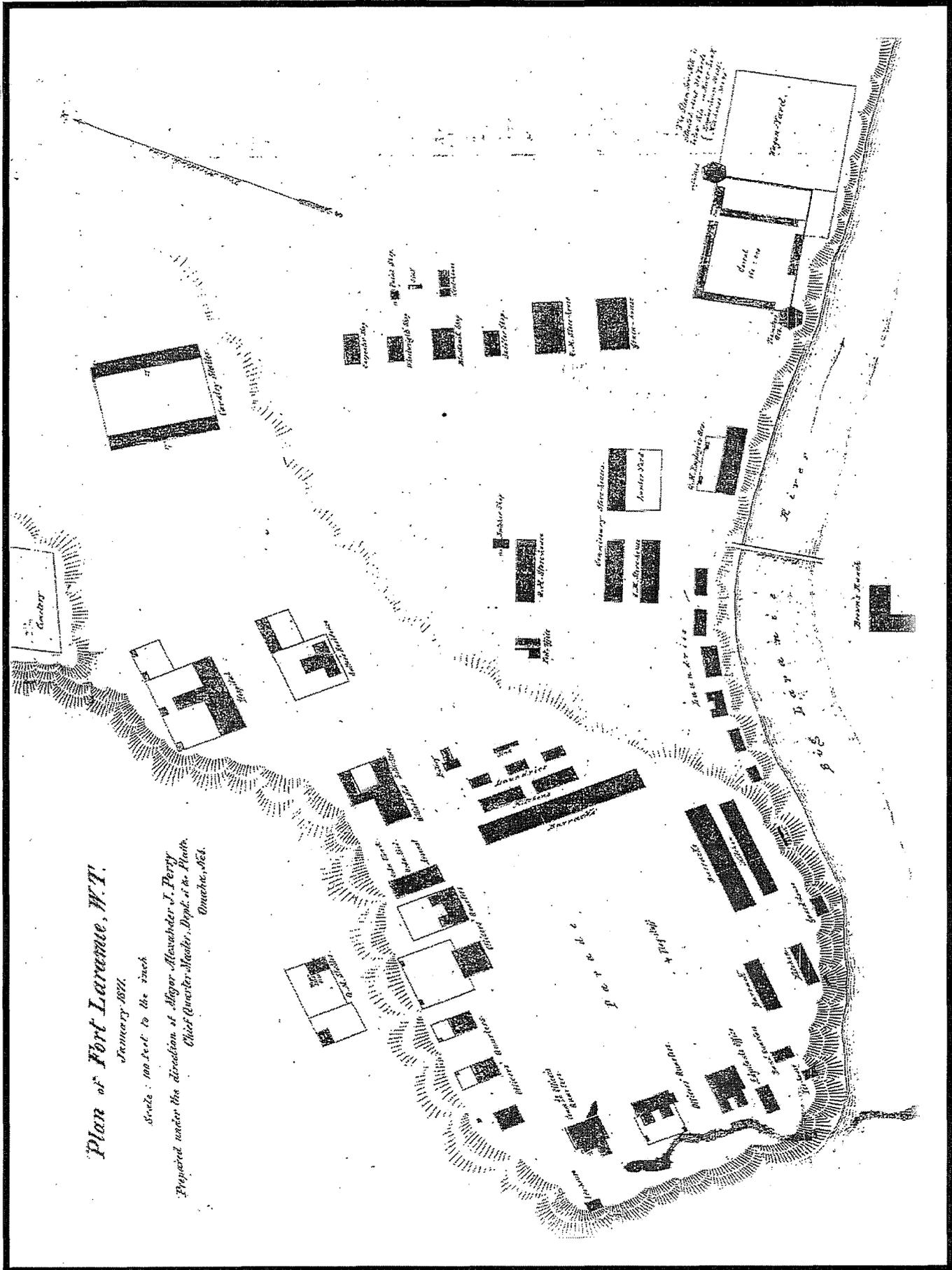
Figure A2.



Fort Laramie D.T.
General Plan.
March 1867.

Scale: 200 Feet to the Inch.

Figure A3.



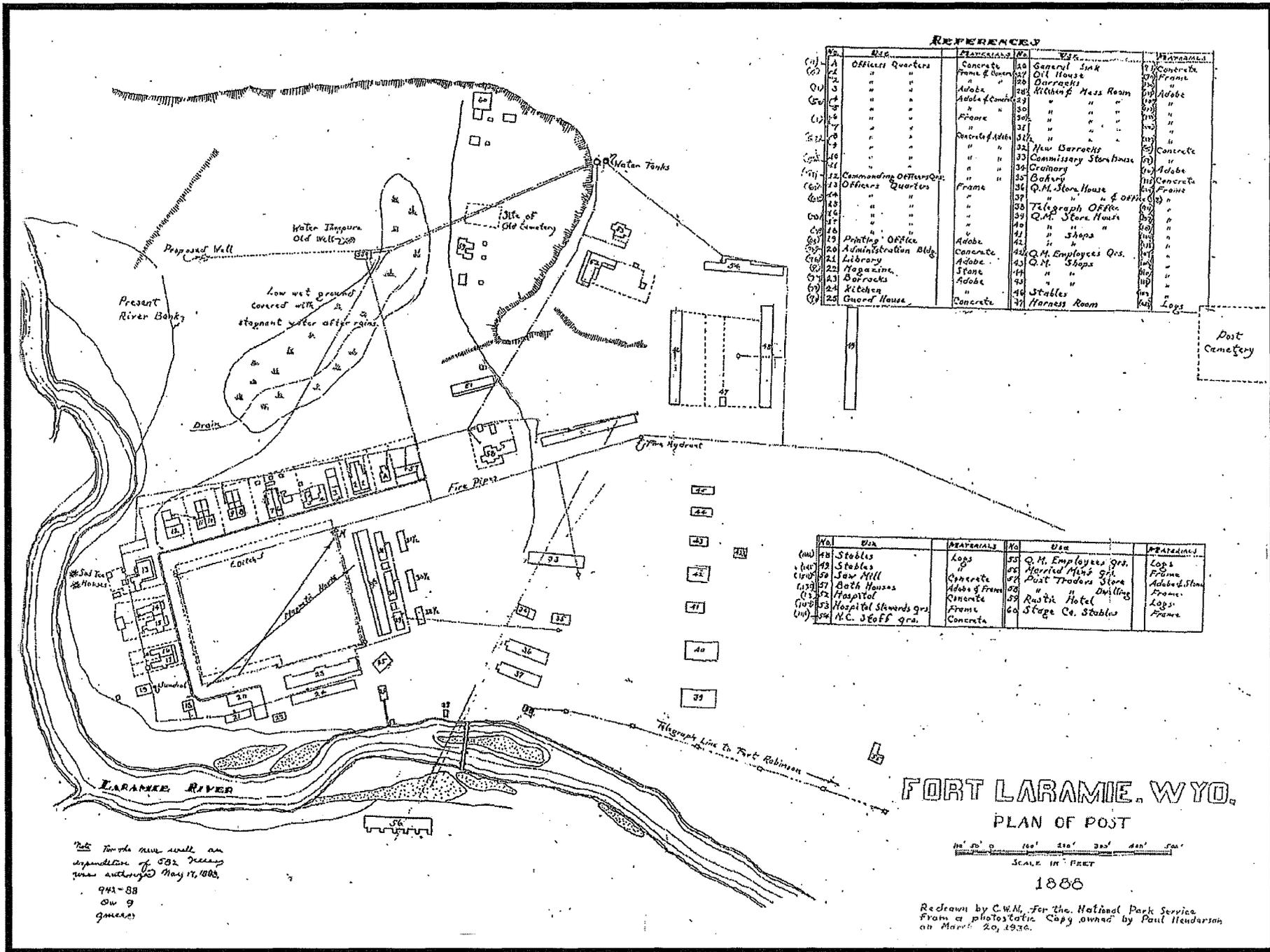
Plan of Fort Laramie, W.T.

January 1874.

Scale: 100 feet to the inch.

*Prepared under the direction of Major Alexander J. Perry
Chief Quarter-Master, Dept. of the Platte,
Omaha, Neb.*

Figure A4.



Note: Tanks now well an expansion of 582 feet was authorized May 11, 1888.
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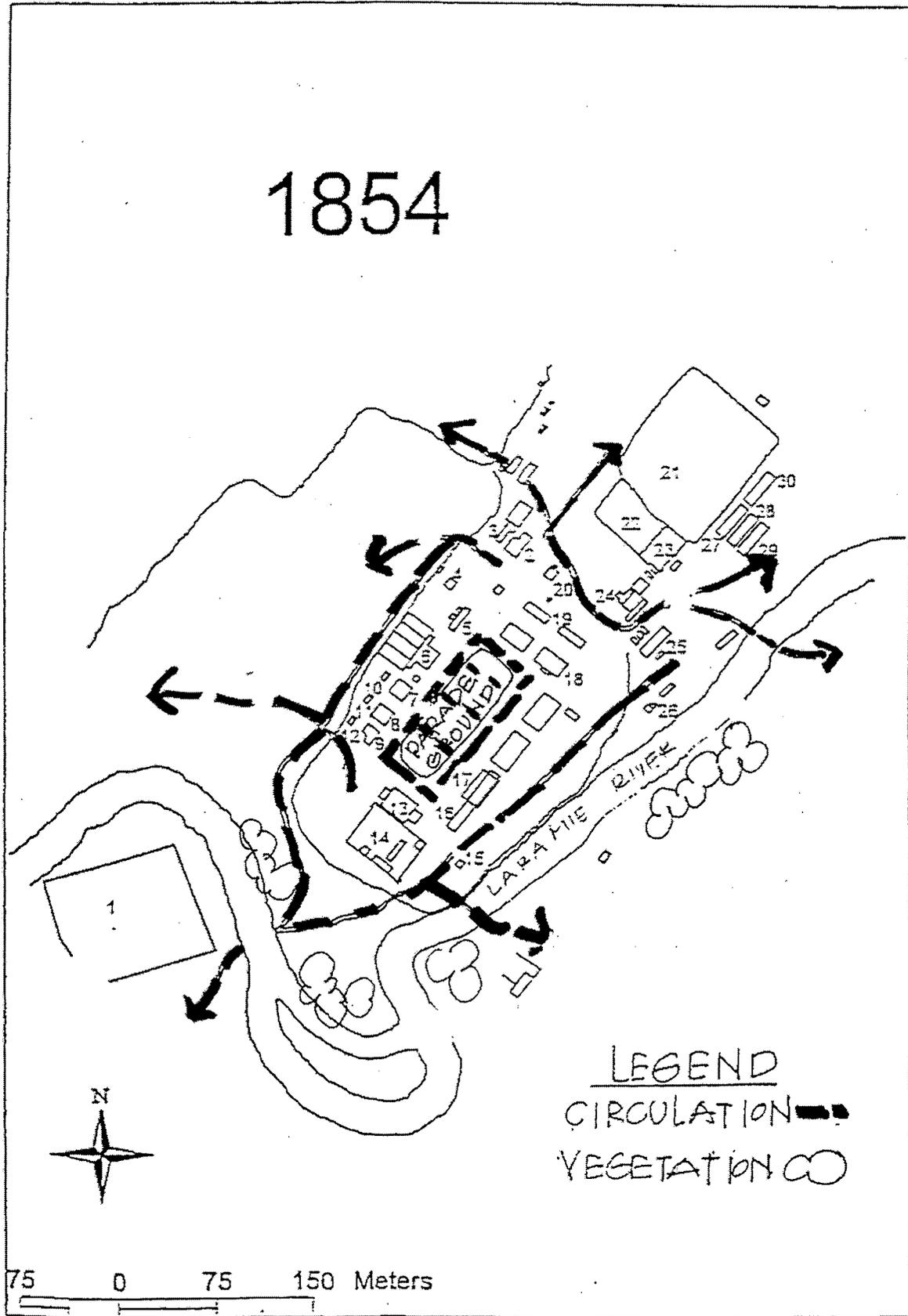
FORT LARAMIE, WYO.
PLAN OF POST
 1888

Redrawn by C.W.M. for the National Park Service from a photostatic copy owned by Paul Henderson on March 20, 1936.

Figure A6.

**APPENDIX B: SPATIAL-HISTORIC
STRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT, 1851-1995**

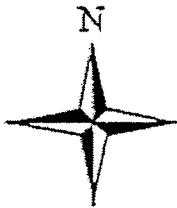
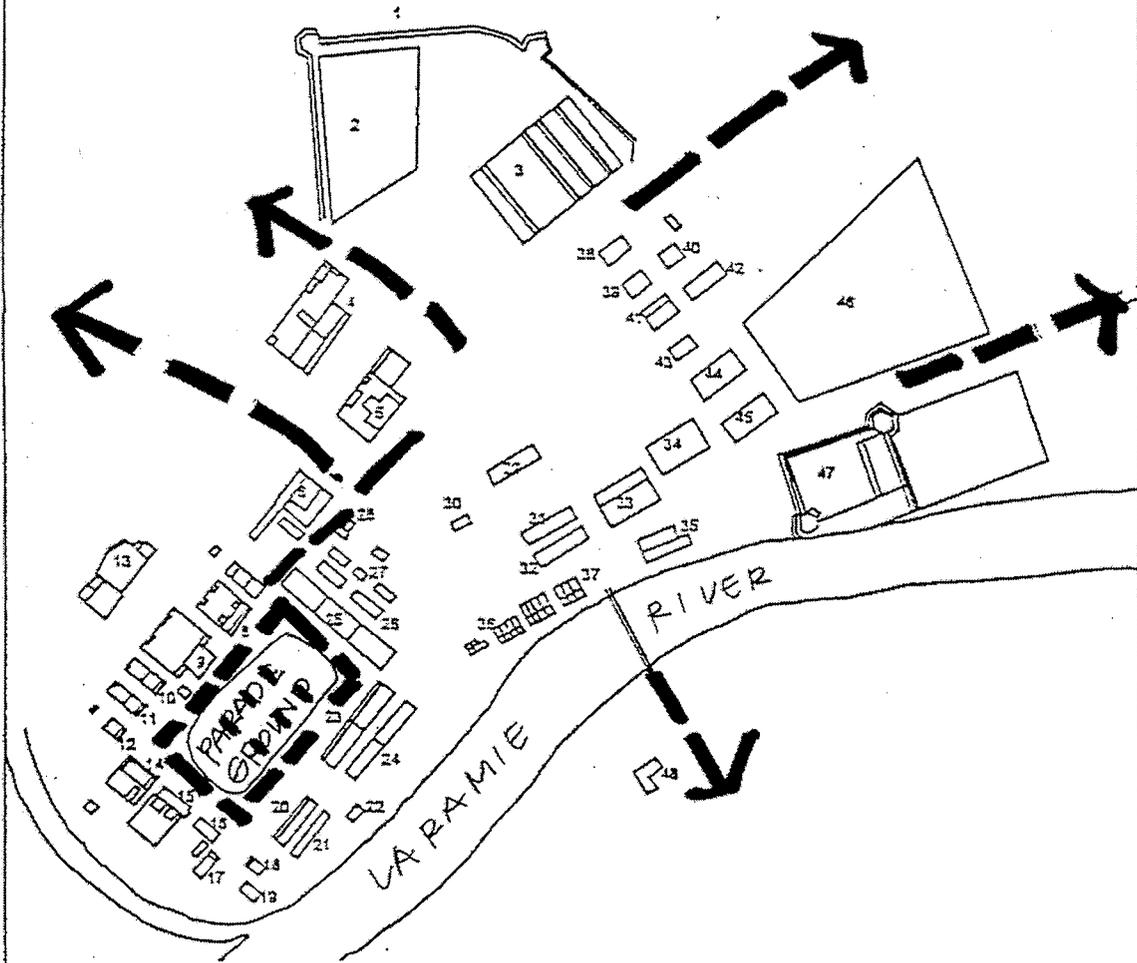
1854



1854 Structures

1. Potato Field
2. Sutler's Store, HB 2
3. Sutler's Storehouse, HB 53
4. Magazine, HB 11
5. Officer Quarters, HB 50
6. Old Bedlam, HB 1
7. Excavation
8. Excavation
9. Excavation
10. Officer Quarters, HB 15
11. Officer Quarters, HB 16
12. Officer Quarters, HB 17
13. Proposed Officers' Quarters
14. American Fur Company Post (Old Adobe Fort), HB 18-21
15. Band Room
16. Barracks, HB 47
17. Commissary Storehouse, HB 40
18. Barracks, HB 45
19. Kitchens, HB 46
20. Bakery, HB 49
21. Post Garden
22. Hay Yard
23. Cord Yard
24. Commissary Quarters
25. Quartermaster Office
26. Laundress Quarters, HB 35
27. Commissary Storehouse
28. Corn House, HB 41
29. Corn House, HB 42
30. Stable, HB 43

1870



50 0 50 100 150 Meters

LEGEND
CIRCULATION

THE SITE HAS
VIRTUALLY NO
VEGETATION.

1870 Structures

1. Trenchworks
2. Graveyard
3. Stables, HB 140
4. Hospital, HB 139
5. Sutler's House, HB 135
6. Sutler's Store, HB 2
7. Arsenal, HB 11
8. Officer Quarters, HB 57
9. Old Bedlam, HB 1
10. Officer Quarters, HB 57
11. Officer Quarters, HB 58
12. Officer Quarters, HB 59
13. Stables, HB 141
14. Officer Quarters, HB 65
15. Officer Quarters, HB 60
16. Officer Quarters, HB 7
17. Adjutant Office, HB 70
18. Band Quarters, HB 72
19. Icehouse
20. Barracks, HB 77
21. Kitchens, HB 76
22. Guardhouse, HB 8
23. Barracks, HB 77
24. Kitchens, HB 78
25. Barracks, HB 130
26. Kitchens, HB 127-128
27. Laundress Quarters
28. Bakery, HB 49
29. Barracks
30. Post Office, HB 114
31. A.C.S. Storehouse
32. A.Q.M. Storehouse
33. A.C.S. Storehouse
34. Corn mill
35. Officer Quarters, HB 95
36. Laundress Quarters, HB 82
37. Telegraph Office
38. Carpenter, HB 110
39. Wheelwright, HB 109
40. Paint shop, HB 108
41. Blacksmith, HB 105
42. Coal House, HB 106
43. Saddler, HB 104
44. Quartermaster Storehouse, HB 113
45. Grainhouse, HB 102
46. Hay yard
47. Corral, Stable, HB 98
48. Brown's Hotel, HB 92

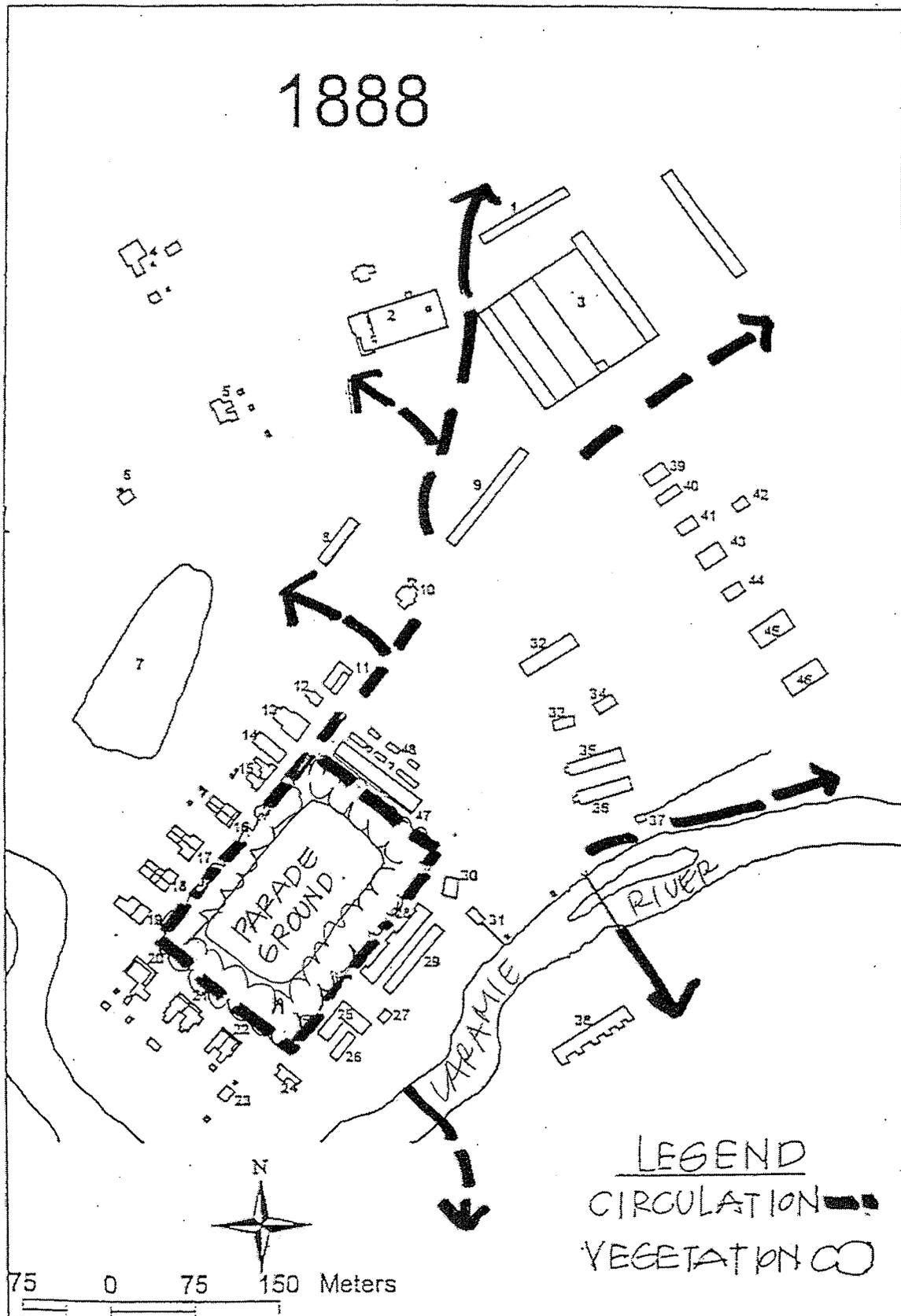


Figure B3.

1888 Structures

1. N.C. Staff, HB 146
2. Hospital, HB 13
3. Stables, HB 140
4. Stage Company Stables, HB 150
5. Rustic Hotel, HB 152
6. Sawmill, HB 153
7. Low Wet Ground
8. Officer Quarters
9. Barracks, HB 5
10. Sutler's House, HB 135
11. Sutler's Store, HB 2
12. Officer Quarters
13. Officer Quarters
14. Officer Quarters, HB 11
15. Officer Quarters, HB 57
16. Old Bedlam, HB 1
17. Officer Quarters, HB 57
18. Officer Quarters, HB 58
19. Officer Quarters, HB 59
20. Officer Quarters, HB 65
21. Officer Quarters, HB 60
22. Officer Quarters, HB 73
23. Printing Office, HB 69
24. Officer Quarters
25. Administration Building, HB 75
26. Library, HB 76
27. Magazine, HB 8
28. Barracks, HB 77
29. Kitchen, HB 78
30. New Guardhouse, HB 81
31. Sink, HB 82
32. Storehouse, HB 9
33. Granary, HB 10
34. Bakery, HB 15
35. Q.M. Storehouse, HB 102
36. Q.M. Storehouse, HB 103
37. Telegraph Office, HB 94
38. Married Mens' Quarters, HB 91
39. Q.M. Shops, HB 106
40. Q.M. Shops, HB 110
41. Q.M. Shops, HB 109
42. Q.M. Shops
43. Q.M. Shops, HB 105
44. Q.M. Shops, HB 104
45. Q.M. Storehouse, HB 118
46. Q.M. Storehouse, HB 113
47. Barracks, HB 130
48. Kitchens, HB 127-128

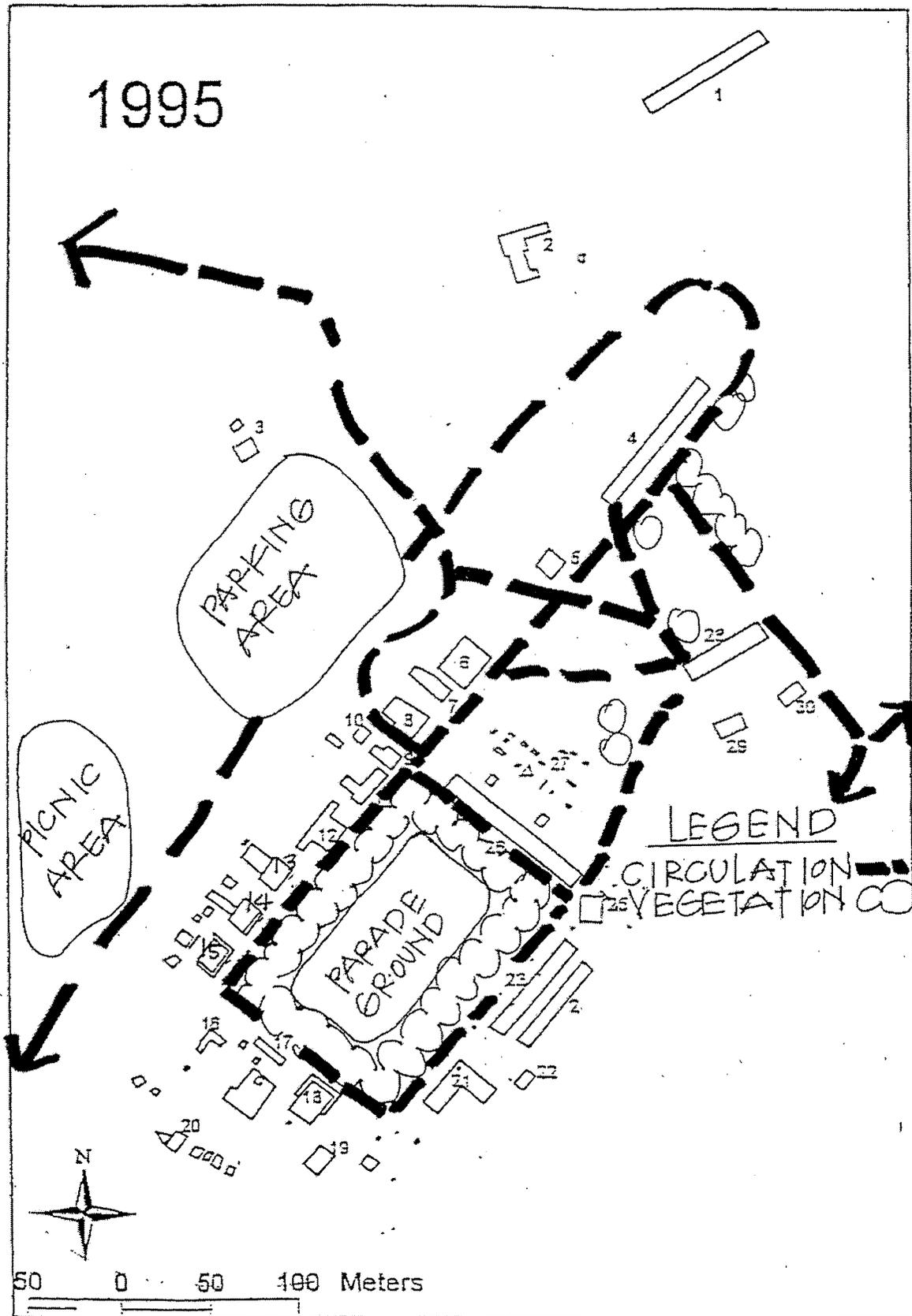


Figure B4.

1995 Structures

1. M.C Staff, standing walls, HS 146
2. Hospital, standing walls, HS 13
3. Sawmill, standing walls, HS154
4. Barracks, restored, HS 5
5. Post Trader Dwelling, depression.
6. Post Trader Store, restored, HS 2
7. Officer Quarters, restored, HS 4
8. Officer Quarters, restored, HS 6
9. Officer Quarters, foundation, HS 50
10. Magazine, restored, HS 11
11. Officer Quarters, foundation, HS 131
12. Old Bedlam, restored, HS 1
13. Officer Quarters, standing walls, HS 57
14. Officer Quarters, standing walls, HS 58
15. Officer Quarters, standing walls, HS 59
16. Officer Quarters, foundation, HS 60
17. Officer Quarters, foundation
18. Officer Quarters, restored, HS 7
19. Printing Office, depression
20. Assorted Icehouses, depressions
21. Administration Building, standing walls, HS 75
22. Guardhouse, restored, HS 8
23. Barracks, foundation, HS 77
24. Barracks Kitchen, foundation
25. New Guardhouse, restored, HS 80
26. Barracks, foundation, HS 45
27. Assorted Barracks, kitchens, mounds and depressions
28. Storehouse (current NPS administration), restored, HS 9
29. Granary (Bakery), restored, HS 10
30. Bakery, standing walls, HS 15