

1339

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name Haddenham Cabin

other names/site number N/A

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number N/A not for publication N/A  
city or town Kemmerer vicinity x  
state Wyoming code WY county Lincoln code 023  
zip code 83101

=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide x locally. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] November 13, 2003  
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ✓ meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (     See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 10/16/03  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

*Edson H Beall* 12/28/03

*[Signature]*  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing. N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Vacant/Not in use Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
7. Description  
=====

Architectural Classification

Other: A-frame cabin

Materials

foundation 3"x 6" wood tie beams on dirt  
roof 2"x 4" wood studs  
walls Exterior: 1/2"x 8 and 1/2" x 12'  
vertical wood siding.  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheet.

=====  
8. Statement of Significance  
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance	<u>Science</u>
Period of Significance	<u>ca. 1918-1950</u>
Significant Dates	<u>ca. 1918</u>
Significant Person	<u>N/A</u>
Cultural Affiliation	<u>N/A</u>
Architect/Builder	<u>David C. Haddenham</u>

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Angling for Fish Preserved for Forty Million Years." The Riverton Ranger. September 2, 1969. Interview with Robert H. Haddenham of Lander, Wyoming by Marcia Fagnant. March 8, 1989. Hayden, F. V. Preliminary Report of the United States Geological Survey of Wyoming, and Portions of Contiguous Territories. Government Printing Office, 1871. Linville, Marcia D. Fossil, Wyoming: A Trip through Time and Memories. Jensen, Utah: Dinosaur Nature Association, 1988. National Park Service. Archeological Survey of the Haddenham Cabin Site (48LN2346). Lincoln Nebraska: Midwest Archeological Center, 1991. Powell, Imogene. "'The Compleat Angler' Fishes for Fossils." The National Geographic Magazine LXVI (August, 1934): 251-258.

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

- Primary Location of Additional Data
\_\_\_ State Historic Preservation Office
\_\_\_ Other State agency
x Federal agency
\_\_\_ Local government
\_\_\_ University
\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: NPS, Intermountain Region, Denver

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

Table with 6 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing, Zone, Easting, Northing. Row 1: 1, 12, 522330, 4630740, 3, [blank]. Row 2: 2, [blank], [blank], [blank], 4, [blank].

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses a less than one acre area where the Haddenham Cabin is located. This area corresponds with the UTM reference point noted above.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes only the historic cabin.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Christine E. Maylath, Benjamin Brower
organization National Park Service, Intermountain Region, Denver
date 02/23/95; revised/updated by Kathy McKoy, 5/10/00
street & number 12795 W. Alameda Parkway telephone (303) 969-2887
city or town Denver state CO zip code 80225

HADDENHAM CABIN

LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:  
Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**SEE CONTINUATION PAGES AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

name Fossil Butte National Monument  
 street & number P.O. Box 592 telephone (307) 877-4455  
 city or town Kemmerer state WY zip code 83101

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   7   Page   1  

Haddenham Cabin  
Lincoln County, Wyoming

---

**NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION**

Summary

The Haddenham Cabin is located in the southeast portion of Fossil Butte National Monument, 10 miles west of Kemmerer, Wyoming. It is located on the Quarry Trail, which is a 2.5-mile loop leading to the south face of Fossil Butte. The cabin is situated approximately 2000 feet east of the abandoned fossil quarry. It is a crude A-frame built of wood tie beams, wood studs, and vertical wood siding. It is vernacular in architectural style and is constructed of local materials. The cabin, constructed ca. 1918, is in poor condition: the wood is deteriorated and holes exist in some sections. However, the Haddenham Cabin has never been modified and thus retains integrity; it conveys a strong sense of time and place associated with the historic era.

Setting

The Haddenham Cabin is situated on the uppermost of a series of slump benches immediately below a talus slope on the south face of Fossil Butte from which fossil specimens were quarried in the historic era. The elevation is approximately 7,110 feet AMSL. It is reached by climbing a 2.5-mile loop dirt Quarry Trail and is located approximately 1.25 miles along the trail. There is an altitude gain of about 600 vertical feet from the base of the trail to the cabin. The setting is semi-arid landscape of flat-topped buttes and ridges dominated by sagebrush, Indian rice grass, June grass, wild rye, rabbit brush, snowbush, and greasewood. The visual setting has changed little from the historic era.

Description

The Haddenham Cabin is a crude A-frame. The dimensions are 12' x 8' x 7'. The foundation consists of 3" x 6" wood tie beams on dirt. The exterior walls are 1/2" x 8-1/2" x 12 vertical wood siding. The framing consists of 2" x 4" and 2" x 6" wood studs. The roof of the cabin is butt-lapped 1/2" x 6" vertical wood boards. Located on the top half of the roof on the west elevation is a hatch constructed of 1/2" x 12" horizontal wood. Attached are two metal strap hinges. This hatch could be opened to provide ventilation within the cabin. A tin chimney protrudes from the south roof. The interior is constructed of 1/2" x 8" and 1/2" x 12" vertical wood siding. The interior also includes corrugated cardboard insulation.

Integrity

The remote location and isolated setting of the Haddenham Cabin has remained unchanged since its construction. The cabin has never been modified and thus it retains integrity of original design, workmanship, and building materials. The cabin is in poor condition: the wood is deteriorated and holes exist in some sections. It still evokes a strong feeling and association with its original function as a shelter for those quarrying fossils at Fossil Butte in the early twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   2  

Haddenham Cabin  
Lincoln County, Wyoming

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Summary

The Haddenham Cabin has local significance under National Register Criteria A for its association with the quarrying of fossils in the Green River Formation. The cabin was built by David C. Haddenham ca. 1918 to serve as on-site shelter for himself and his family during their seasonal quarrying work. David C. Haddenham actively quarried in the area of the present monument from the late nineteenth century to his death in 1968. From this work he provided universities, museums, and private collectors with specimens of rare fossils dating back 40 million years. The period of significance dates from ca. 1918, date of the cabin's construction, to 1950, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin was used after the historic era into the 1960s.

David C. Haddenham and Fossil Quarrying at Fossil Butte

The Green River Formation, from which Haddenham quarried, contains a rich variety of fossil specimens of the life forms that inhabited the area some 50 million years ago. At this time three large freshwater lakes covered what is now western Wyoming and northeastern Utah. Geographic changes have long since altered the ecology of the area, but a record of the amazing variety of life forms which existed at the time has been preserved in the fossil specimens of the Green River Formation. Fossil Butte was located at the center of Fossil Lake, the deepest of the three prehistoric lakes. Unlike the silts and clays of the other two lakes, the excellent preservation of the fossils at Fossil Butte is due to the fact that when fish and other species died they were buried by blankets of a fine sediments of calcium carbonate which preserved intact skeletons, delicate fin and tail rays, and scales, all of which eventually turned to fossils. It was these unusually well-preserved fossils that brought Haddenham and others to Fossil Butte.

The growth of fossil quarrying, an important form of local commerce for over 100 years, began in the late nineteenth century. The 1856 excursion of Dr. John Evans provides the first report of fossil collection from the Green River Formation. The construction of the Transcontinental Railway in the late 1860s served to further focus attention on the richness of the area's fossil deposits. In 1868 workers for the Union Pacific Railroad discovered large amounts of fossil specimens while laying track near Green River Wyoming. They dubbed this area "Petrified Fish Cut." At this time, a scientific study of the geology and fossil deposits near the railroad was undertaken by Ferdinand Hayden (1871), later director of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. The reports of Hayden and word of the Petrified Fish Cut attracted the attention of paleontologists and amateur fossil hounds alike. In the years that followed, Fossil Butte emerged as the center of fossil quarrying activity as it had the richest and best preserved specimens. The completion of the Oregon Short Line adjacent to Fossil Butte in 1881 simplified transportation to the remote area and further contributed to the rise of fossil quarrying at Fossil Butte.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   3  

Haddenham Cabin  
Lincoln County, Wyoming

---

According to his own testimony, David C. Haddenham (1881-1968) began quarrying fossils at Fossil Butte in the 1890s and his fossil career continued until his death. He was among the best known early fossil quarryers at Fossil Butte. Along with Robert Lee Craig and Samuel Small, Haddenham pioneered the removal of museum quality specimens from the local stone. Work generally occurred at the quarry site during the summer months and the winter was spent preparing the rough-cut specimens for sale. Haddenham was variously assisted in his labor-intensive activities by his sons, grandsons, and his brother, George.

The early fossil hunters attempted to make a living selling the fossils to museums, private collectors, and the occasional tourist. Although fossil collecting never provided great riches, Haddenham did make an occasional large find which fetched a sizeable price from museums. In the 1930s, as the Great Depression wreaked economic havoc on the region, Haddenham reportedly sold a gar fish fossil to a Paris museum for \$500. Haddenham's fossil specimens were also sold to museums in Germany, Japan, as well as the United States. Haddenham supplemented his sales to museums with smaller specimens that Haddenham sold to tourists during the 1930s when he operated a "museum."

Although not a trained paleontologist, David C. Haddenham is locally known for perfecting a technique for removing fossils and preparing them for display. According to the testimony of his grandson, Robert Haddenham, this method entailed a multi-step process. First a quarry site bounded by settling cracks that divided the entire face was selected. Overburden was then removed by blasting and by hand, thus exposing the "fish" layer. Haddenham was able to remove the stone between the cracks in blocks that were easy to handle. He would lay the slabs on a sawhorse, drive thin chisels in the end of the slab to split it in half exposing fish fossils covered by a thin film of matrix. Then Haddenham would begin the laborious task of cleaning the fish. He created his own trademark whereby he "squared" around the fish creating a natural frame and retaining the color of the fish. He used his own specially made tools for the cleaning process. These included a solid brass powder monkey's tool and crimping pliers.

David C. Haddenham gained some local notoriety for his alleged - but never proven - role in the poisoning death of his sister-in-law, Anna Ritchey, or "Queen Anne" as she was locally known. In November 1919 Anna Ritchey was found guilty of cattle rustling, the only woman in Wyoming ever convicted of this crime. An ensuing legal battle ensued which went as far as the Wyoming Supreme Court. It often focused on the gender of the accused, during which time Anna Ritchey was free on bail. In May 1922 as the legal battle dragged on, Ritchey and her ranch foreman, Otto Palesenberger, were poisoned and Ritchey died. David C. Haddenham who was known to have vehemently disliked Ritchey and was also known to be well versed in the method of poisoning predators. He immediately emerged as a suspect, with some speculating he'd been hired to do the job by Ritchey's rival ranchers. No murder charges were ever filed against Haddenham, however, and no other suspects were ever charged with Ritchey's murder. The case remained in the local popular memory as an unsolved mystery of sorts with various murder theories being speculated upon. In a 1989 interview Robert H. Haddenham, grandson of David C., stated that his grandfather had poisoned and



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section   8   Page   4  

Haddenham Cabin  
Lincoln County, Wyoming

---

killed Mrs. Ritchey. According to Robert Haddenham, his grandfather mixed up the poison in a bathtub at the site of the Haddenham Cabin at Fossil Butte. The bathtub is no longer at the cabin site, and it is unlikely that more substantial evidence will emerge to corroborate Robert Haddenham's testimony.

An archeological survey of the cabin site was conducted by Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) on April 12, 1991, to determine if it was eligible for National Register listing as an archeological site under Criteria C. MWAC evaluated the cabin site as ineligible for listing. This survey, however, did find evidence that determined that the cabin had been actively used from the 1920s continuously through the end of the historic era in 1945 and beyond into the post-war period. The MWAC survey also found evidence of fossil quarrying activity such as blasting powder cans and remains of hand tools.

The quarrying of fossils at Fossil Butte represents an important period of scientific discovery. The efforts of the Haddenhams provided paleontologists with an important record of life forms that inhabited the planet millions of years ago. In addition, such activities provided a meager yet important livelihood for the so-called "fossil miners." While not as important in dollar value as the agricultural, transportation, mining, and oil enterprises, the history of fossil quarrying provides a broader and more nuanced view of the often varied economic activities undertaken by early Euro-Americans in the American West in their efforts to make a living. The Haddenham Cabin is a rustic reminder of that colorful past.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section photographs Page 5

Haddenham Cabin  
Lincoln County, Wyoming

---

**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information is the same for all of the photographs listed below:

Name of Property: Haddenham Cabin  
Location: Fossil Butte National Monument, 10 miles west of  
Kemmerer, Wyoming  
Name of Photographer: Steve Turner  
Date of Photographs: April 13, 1993  
Location of Negatives: National Park Service, Division of Cultural Resources  
Management, Intermountain Region

<u>Photograph No.</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Direction of View</u>
1	Historic Quarry Trail	to E
2	Historic Quarry Trail	to NW
3	Haddenham Cabin	to W
4	Haddenham Cabin	to S
5	Haddenham Cabin	to E
6	Haddenham Cabin	to N
7	Haddenham Cabin	to NW corner













**A Fossil Hunter's Home**

For over 100 years, the site of the fossil hunter's home has been a place of interest to many people. The site is located in the heart of the desert, where the fossil hunter lived and worked. The site is a reminder of the hard work and dedication of the fossil hunter.



The site is a reminder of the hard work and dedication of the fossil hunter. The site is a reminder of the hard work and dedication of the fossil hunter.



