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National Park Service  
Cultural Landscapes Inventory  
2002



Fort Laramie NHS Landscape  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

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## Inventory Unit Summary & Site Plan

### Inventory Summary

#### The Cultural Landscapes Inventory Overview:

##### CLI General Information:

##### Purpose and Goals of the CLI

The Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI), a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the national park system, is one of the most ambitious initiatives of the National Park Service (NPS) Park Cultural Landscapes Program. The CLI is an evaluated inventory of all landscapes having historical significance that are listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources through a public planning process and in which the NPS has or plans to acquire any legal interest. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, condition, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, as well as other valuable information useful to park management. Cultural landscapes become approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into a national database. In addition, for landscapes that are not currently listed on the National Register and/or do not have adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register.

The CLI, like the List of Classified Structures, assists the NPS in its efforts to fulfill the identification and management requirements associated with Section 110(a) of the National Historic Preservation Act, National Park Service Management Policies (2006), and Director's Order #28: Cultural Resource Management. Since launching the CLI nationwide, the NPS, in response to the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), is required to report information that respond to NPS strategic plan accomplishments. Two GPRA goals are associated with the CLI: bringing certified cultural landscapes into good condition (Goal 1a7) and increasing the number of CLI records that have complete, accurate, and reliable information (Goal 1b2B).

##### Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is gathered from existing secondary sources found in park libraries and archives and at NPS regional offices and centers, as well as through on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the site's overall significance. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features, and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's overall integrity and an assessment of the landscape's overall condition. The CLI also provides an illustrative site plan that indicates major features within the inventory unit. Unlike cultural landscape reports, the CLI does not provide management recommendations or

treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape.

### **Inventory Unit Description:**

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 quadrant 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 trade post, military post, and a Native American and emigrant encampment. 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 species, 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 below the surrounding high plains on the floodplains of the North Platte and Laramie rivers. According to the 1993 Environmental Impact Statement for the General Management Plan, "maps indicate no existing development or historic buildings are within the 100 year floodplain." 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. 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.

Cultural resources at the park, as listed in the List of Classified Structures, include 44 significant structures. Of this number 36 historic structures have been documented on the National Register Nomination. These include 16 intact historic buildings or structures, 11 standing ruins of historic structures, and 9 visible foundations of historic structures. In addition, there are a large number of archeological resources relating to the early and late military periods, the fur trade era, and historic and prehistoric Native American occupation. 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 a sense of 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 as they pass the site, constituting a modern intrusion on the historic scene.

The North Platte River separates the land adjacent to the north boundary from the park boundary. The west boundary is separated from dry pasture and irrigated cornfields by a county road. The south side

of the park is bounded by pastures and meadows. On the east side, dry pasturelands can be seen in the distance, with bluffs and the Ft. Laramie Canal helping to define the southern boundary.

Overall, the Fort Laramie cultural landscape retains historical integrity from the early and late military eras. While no physical remains of the fur trade era are exposed, the landscapes still convey a feeling and association with that period. While these in themselves are not sufficient to establish historic integrity for the fur trade era, they do offer the potential of contributing to the interpretation of this period.

Significant physical portions of the early and late military eras remain on the site. Individual components may be gone, deteriorated, or altered, but the system as a whole remains recognizable and continues to convey its significance. Those factors currently compromising the military landscape's integrity can be reversed or corrected through restoration, rehabilitation, and reconstruction treatments.

While there have been periods of dramatic change in land use at Fort Laramie NHS, some activities have remained constant. These activities include grazing, which has occurred on the site since the nineteenth century, although varying in scale and impact, low density residential use, intermittent and temporary habitation from prehistory through the military period, and permanent settlement in the homestead era. Although agricultural use began in the military period, it was greatly expanded in the homesteading era due to the introduction of more extensive irrigation systems.

Today, the low density ranch and farmhouses, barns, outbuildings, and fenced fields of the surrounding agricultural landscapes do not represent a significant visual intrusion on the historic scene, but instead, reflect the agricultural focus of the fort site after the departure of the United States military and are therefore outside the period of significance.

Landscape disturbances from agricultural use, grazing, and structural development have left few native plant communities. Two areas of relic prairie have been identified and provide insight into the character of prehistoric plant communities. The reestablished riparian edges along the Laramie River reflect a more prehistoric composition, as these areas were used in differing intensities by various groups during the site's history. Ranches and farms dot the landscape within the vicinity of the fort, but wide expanses of land have been left open and undeveloped providing undiminished views from the site to the plains landscape beyond.

Part of Fort Laramie's historic significance lies in its juxtaposition with trails and roads that played important roles in western transportation through the end of the nineteenth century. These routes include: the Trapper's Trail from Taos to forts William and John; the Oregon, California, Mormon, Cherokee, and Pony Express trails; the Central Overland Stage Route; the Bozeman Trail; the Cheyenne Deadwood Stage Road; and the Fort Laramie Fort Pierre Road.

Some of the early patterns of circulation established at Fort Laramie are in use today. The main route of the Oregon Trail is reflected in County Road 15, which runs north about 1 1/2 miles east of the fort. This road crosses the Laramie River at or near the site of the first emigrant wagon bridge, built by two

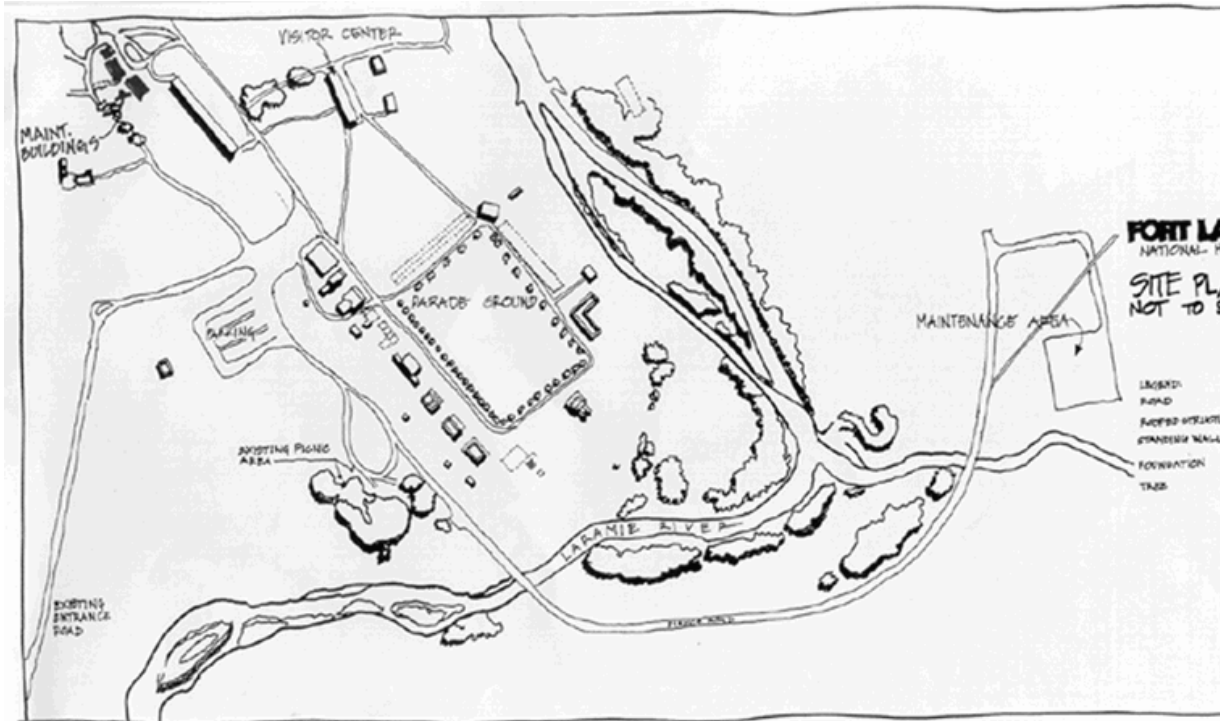
## Fort Laramie NHS Landscape

### Fort Laramie National Historic Site

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traders in 1851. The bridge was washed out and rebuilt in 1853 and remained in use until circa 1868. The route of County Road 160, officially named Grayrocks 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.

### Site Plan



*Fort Laramie Site Plan. Source: NPS.*

### Property Level and CLI Numbers

<b>Inventory Unit Name:</b>	Fort Laramie NHS Landscape
<b>Property Level:</b>	Landscape
<b>CLI Identification Number:</b>	890191
<b>Parent Landscape:</b>	890191

### Park Information

<b>Park Name and Alpha Code:</b>	Fort Laramie National Historic Site -FOLA
<b>Park Organization Code:</b>	1420
<b>Park Administrative Unit:</b>	Fort Laramie National Historic Site

### CLI Hierarchy Description

Fort Laramie National Historic Site was not divided into subunits, and for the purposes of the CLI, the park has been approached as one cohesive landscape.

## Concurrence Status

**Inventory Status:** Complete

### Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

In 1997, the Superintendent of Fort Laramie requested assistance from the Intermountain Regional Office for the preparation of a cultural landscape inventory (CLI), cultural landscape report (CLR), and revised National Register nomination for the park unit. As a result, a CLI was completed for Fort Laramie NHS in the summer of 1999 using historic data, site visits and preliminary cultural landscape analysis that was completed by Thomas Keohan, landscape architect, Intermountain Regional Office. Field investigations were conducted in October 1997 that documented features both within the historic district as well as park-wide. Historic photographs and other primary source material were used to complete the landscape inventory.

The CLR was completed for Fort Laramie in 2006. Upon completion of the CLR, this CLI was revised to reflect the most recent findings.

### Concurrence Status:

<b>Park Superintendent Concurrence:</b>	Yes
<b>Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence:</b>	09/06/2002
<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Date of Concurrence Determination:</b>	10/02/2002

### National Register Concurrence Narrative:

The Wyoming SHPO concurred with the findings of the CLI on 10/2/2002.

### Concurrence Graphic Information:



October 2, 2002

George Helfrich, Superintendent  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site  
HC72, Box 389  
Fort Laramie, WY 822120001

RE: Request for Concurrence in a Consensus Determination of Eligibility for the Fort Laramie National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Inventory (SHPO File # 0699TPT009)

Dear Mr. Helfrich:

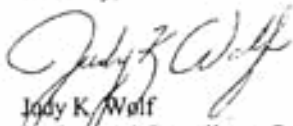
Nancy Hanks of our staff has reviewed the Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory for Fort Laramie National Historic Site. We find the documentation meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716-42) and we concur with the evaluation that the Fort's cultural landscape is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with one stipulation.

From our discussion with the report's author, we understand that the boundaries of the cultural landscape are identical to the boundaries provided in a September 1977 National Park Service map numbered 375-90,001, and that the total cultural landscape comprises 536 acres. We would like a copy of this map for our files. We also request that the boundaries be drawn on a standard USGS quad map and provided as an addendum to the Cultural Landscape Inventory. We anticipate that the delineation of the boundaries of the cultural landscape will prove useful in future compliance correspondence.

This letter should be retained in your files as evidence of our concurrence in a Consensus Determination of Eligibility for the Fort Laramie National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Inventory with the stipulation that a boundary map be included as an addendum to the report.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the eligibility of this cultural landscape. Please refer to SHPO project control number 0699TPT009 on any future correspondence dealing with this project. If you have any questions, contact Nancy Hanks at 307-777-6312.

Sincerely,



Jody K. Wolf  
Review and Compliance Program Manager

*WY SHPO concurrence on the FOLA CLI, 10/2/2002.*

Fort Laramie NHS Landscape  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

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August 30, 2002

Memorandum

To: Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site

From: Tom Kechan, Historical Landscape Architect  
Christy Fockler, Intern, Historic Preservation  
Intermountain Support Office – Denver, Colorado

Subject: Submittal of the Level II Draft Cultural Landscape Inventory for Fort Laramie

I am pleased to submit, for park review and comment, the draft Level II Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

The first three pages of the CLI (Executive Summary) provide some background information on CLI's, which may be helpful to reviewers. In order to facilitate review of the CLI's, I have included two copies of the document for you to circulate amongst park staff, and other interested parties. If comments can be compiled and sent to me by August 23, 2002, I will be able to provide the park with a completed inventory by early September. The CLI document will be public information so please let me know if it contains any culturally sensitive information that should be removed.

As you know, the CLI Condition Assessment relates to park GPRA goal 1a7. The CLI process uses the same condition criteria as the Resource Management Plan guide – i.e. good, fair, and poor. While a condition assessment has been suggested in this CLI, we are interested in your assessment of the condition of this landscape, based on the criteria, and we can discuss changes to the initial assessment as needed. I am attaching a copy of the CLI Guidebook Condition Assessment section, for your references.

In order to complete the Level II CLI, your written concurrence is needed for the following categories:


1. Completion Status (See Part 1, page 4)
2. Condition Assessment (See Part 4, page 5 and 6)
3. Management Category (See Part 4, page 5)
4. Eligibility of CLI boundary area for National Register (district category)
5. Recommended Stabilization Measures (concurrence is regarding the general direction of stabilization measures only, not exact scope and location of the projects) (See Part 4, page 8 - 11)

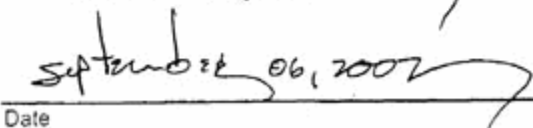
*Superintendent concurrence on the FOLA CLI, pg. 1, 9/6/2002.*

Please let me know if you have any questions about these categories or would like to discuss the initial assessments / conclusions we have made. You can provide concurrence to these categories via e-mail or by signing this letter below and returning it to our office, however you prefer. After the CLI has been revised per park comment, we will submit the document to the Wyoming SHPO, or if you prefer, we can assist you in forwarding it to the State Historic Preservation Office. We need a Consensus Determination in order for the SHPO to complete the CLI process.

I would like to express appreciation for the park's assistance with this CLI project. I look forward to receiving your comments.

Enclosures (2) and Attachment (1)

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
George Helfrich, Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Superintendent concurrence on the FOLA CLI, pg. 2, 9/6/2002.*

**Revisions Impacting Change in Concurrence:**

**Revision Date:** 02/16/2005

**Revision Narrative:**

Minor amendments to the CLI.

**Revision Date:** 06/06/2012

**Revision Narrative:**

Edited text to correct typos, clarified image sources, and uploaded CLR to Landscape Documents section, June 2012.

## Geographic Information & Location Map

**Inventory Unit Boundary Description:**

In 1938, Fort Laramie was established as a national monument. At that time it included 214.14 acres. In 1960, the fort became a national historic site and was expanded to 536 acres. In 1978, it was expanded again, this time to its present size of 832.82 acres. The CLI boundary is the same as the 1978 NHS boundary.

The CLI boundary is depicted on a map entitled "Boundary. Map, Fort Laramie National Historic Site", numbered 375-90,001 and dated September 1977 available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

The Fort Laramie boundary, revised in 1960 includes 536 acres is as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of the section line common to sections, 8 and 9, township 26 north, range 61 west, sixth principal meridian, with the northerly right-of-way line of the Fort Laramie Canal; thence southwesterly along said right-of-way line to the intersection of said line with the center of Deer Creek; thence northerly along the center of Deer Creek to the intersection of said center with the north line of the southeast quarter, section 29; thence westerly along said line to a point 1,100 feet east of the southwest corner of the northeast quarter, section 29; thence due north 1,120 feet to the point on intersection with the north line of the southwest quarter northeast quarter, section 29; thence westerly along said north line to a point at the intersection of said line with the easterly right-of-way line of the county road; thence northerly and easterly along said right-of-way line to a point 955 feet east of the section line common to sections 20 and 21; thence due south to the point of intersection with the section line common to sections 21 and 28; thence easterly along said section line to a point 2,090 feet east of the section corner common to sections 20, 21, 28, and 29; thence due south to the point of intersection with the northerly bank of the Laramie River; thence easterly along said northerly bank to a point 150 feet west of the westerly right-of-way line of the county road in section 27; thence northerly on a line paralleling at 150 feet said right-of-way line of county road to a point 600 feet north of section line common to sections 22 and 7 thence northwesterly in a straight line to a point on the southerly right-of-way of the State highway relocation a distance of 150 feet west of the section line common to sections 21 and 22; thence northeasterly along said right-of-way line to the point of intersection with the lot line common to lots 1 and 2; thence southerly along said lot line to a point at the intersection of said line as projected with the westerly or right bank of the North Platte River; thence southerly along said bank to its confluence with the northerly or left bank of the Laramie River in section 7 thence westerly along said bank of the Laramie River to the westernmost intersection of said bank with the north line of the south half of section 27; thence westerly along said line and the north line of the south half of section 28 to the point of intersection with the northerly right-of-way line of the Fort Laramie Canal; thence westerly along said right-of-way line to the point of beginning.

**State and County:**

**State:** WY

**County:** Goshen County

**Size (Acres):** 832.45

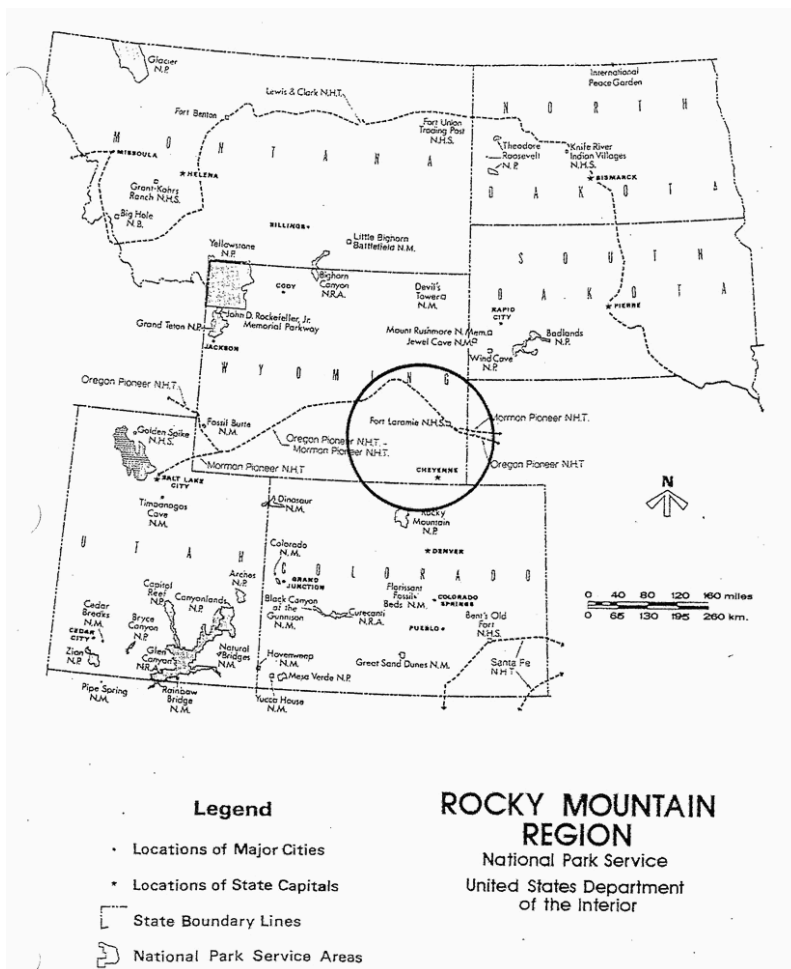
**Boundary UTMS:**

<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	13
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,200
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,673,100
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	13
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	538,700
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,673,200
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	13
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	537,800
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,671,800
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000
<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	13
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	536,400
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,671,600
<b>Source:</b>	USGS Map 1:24,000

<b>Type of Point:</b>	Point
<b>Datum:</b>	NAD 83
<b>UTM Zone:</b>	13
<b>UTM Easting:</b>	535,900
<b>UTM Northing:</b>	4,672,200

Fort Laramie NHS Landscape  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

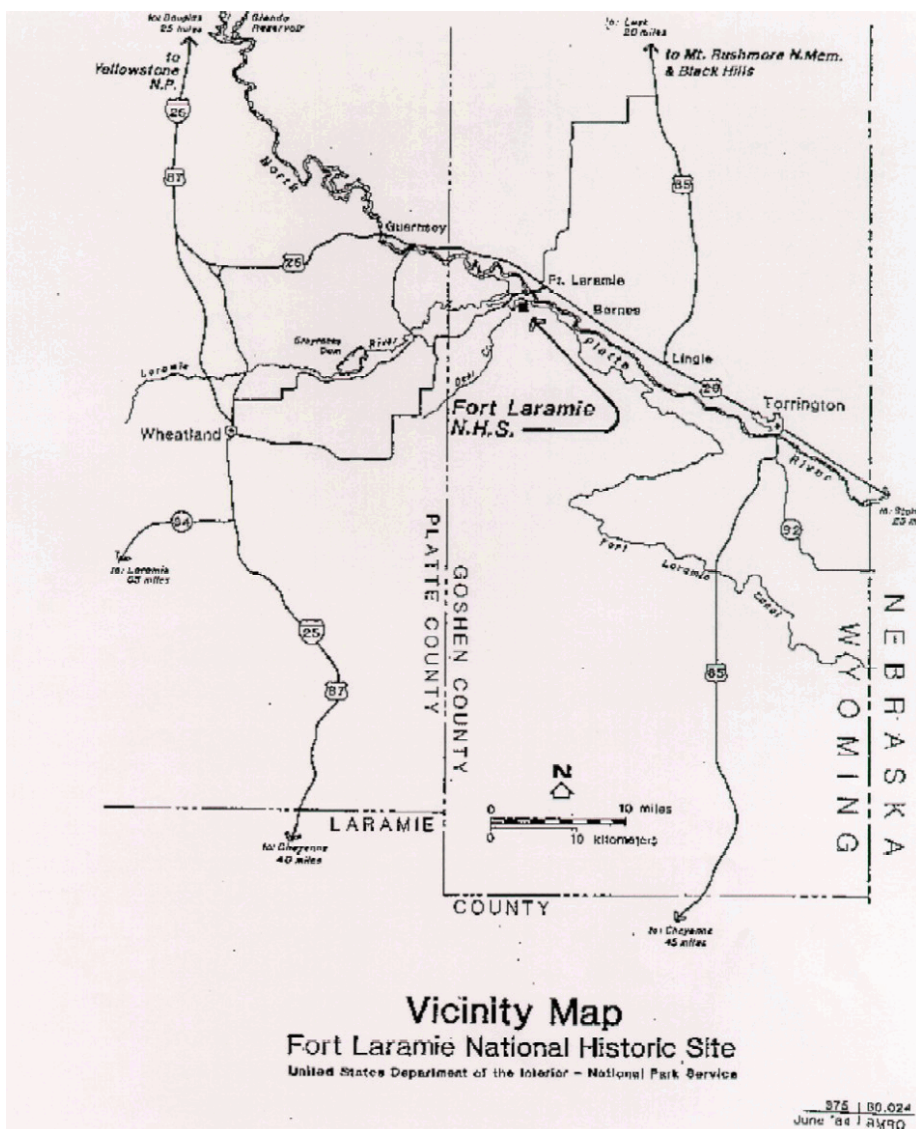
Location Map:



*Rocky Mountain Region Map showing location of Fort Laramie in southeast Wyoming. Source: NPS.*

Fort Laramie NHS Landscape  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

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*Fort Laramie National Historic Site Vicinity Map. Source: NPS.*



**Regional Context:**

**Type of Context:** Cultural

**Description:**

Between 1834, when it was founded by fur traders as Fort William, and its abandonment by the U.S. Army in 1890, the sequential posts on the site of Fort Laramie embraced the entire spectrum of westward expansion. The heyday of the mountain men, the long period of the overland migrations, major treaty councils with indigenous tribes and the conflicts that followed until the Indians were driven upon reservations, and the arrival in the region of cattlemen and homesteaders, all played a part in its history.

Archeological investigations have found prehistoric and protohistoric native American features and artifacts as well as historical features, foundations, and deposits from the fur trade, military, and the farming and ranching activities. At present there are no in-depth ethnographic studies available or planned for Fort Laramie or its environs.

**Type of Context:** Physiographic

**Description:**

Fort Laramie is located near the western edge of the Great Plains, within sight of the first ramparts of the Rocky Mountains. The fort is below the surrounding high plains on the floodplains of the North Platte and Laramie rivers. The bluffs, approximately ½-mile to the north and south of the post from the rim of the river valley, provide a clear horizon for much of the view from the post grounds. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate the scenery. Approximately 40 miles to the west lies the Laramie Range dominated by Laramie Peak, which rises to an elevation of 10,274 feet. The peak and range are visible from the post.

**Type of Context:** Political

**Description:**

Fort Laramie National Historic Site, in Goshen County, Wyoming, consists of 832.85 acres. It was designated as Fort Laramie National Monument in 1938 and included as a site in the national park system. On April 29, 1960, an act of Congress revised the boundaries and changed the name to Fort Laramie National Historic Site. A more recent act of Congress amended the 1960 act and revised the boundaries of the National Historic Site on November 10, 1978.

**Management Unit:** Fort Laramie National Historic Site

**Management Information**

### **General Management Information**

**Management Category:** Must be Preserved and Maintained

**Management Category Date:** 07/16/1938

**Management Category Explanatory Narrative:**

Established by Presidential Proclamation No. 2292 on July 16, 1938, Fort Laramie National Monument was created for the purpose of improving and preserving lands and structures that were of great historic interest. This goal was reaffirmed in 1960 when the monument became a national historic site and in 1960 and 1978 when the boundaries of Fort Laramie National Historic Site were revised.

## Agreements, Legal Interest, and Access

### Management Agreement:

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement  
**Other Agreement:** Programmatic Agreement  
**Expiration Date:** 4/15/2005

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Agreement between FOLA, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and Wyoming SHPO regarding routine maintenance and park operations.

**Type of Agreement:** Interagency Agreement  
**Expiration Date:** 9/30/2006

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Agreement between NPS, BLM and Wyoming State Office for the Oregon/Mormon Pioneer Trails Management.

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum Of Agreement  
**Expiration Date:** 11/9/2004

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Agreement between NPS and Fort Laramie Historical Association to provide interpretive and educational services to the visiting public.

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum of Understanding  
**Expiration Date:** NOT APPLICABLE

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Agreement between FOLA and Rocky Mountain National Park for winter pasture of ROMO stock at FOLA.

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum Of Agreement  
**Expiration Date:** 11/10/2008

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Deputization agreement between the NPS and the Town of Fort Laramie, WY.

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum Of Agreement  
**Expiration Date:** 4/17/2007

#### Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Deputization agreement between the NPS and the Goshen County Sheriff's Department, WY.

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Other Agreement:** Local operational agreement

**Expiration Date:** 3/1/2006

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Agreement between NPS, BLM, and Wyoming State Office for cross designations of law enforcement powers.

**Type of Agreement:** Interagency Agreement

**Expiration Date:** 2/13/2007

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Cooperative fire management agreement between NPS, BLM, BIA, USF&W, and the State of Wyoming.

**Type of Agreement:** Cooperative Agreement

**Expiration Date:** NOT APPLICABLE

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Agreement between FOLA and the National Weather Service for the care and protection of the meteorological instruments furnished by the NWS.

**Type of Agreement:** Memorandum of Understanding

**Expiration Date:** 10/9/2007

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Agreement between DOI-NPS and the US Army University of Wyoming ROTC Department.

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Other Agreement:** Authorized Provider Agreement

**Expiration Date:** NOT APPLICABLE

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Agreement between the American Red Cross and the FOLA/Western History Center (renews annually.)

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Other Agreement:** Standard Operating Procedure

**Expiration Date:** NOT APPLICABLE

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

SOP for swing and night guards call into the City of Torrington Police dispatch.

**Type of Agreement:** Other Agreement

**Other Agreement:** Interpark Agreement

**Expiration Date:** 11/24/2009

**Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:**

Agreement to define mutual responsibilities between Grand Teton NP Fire Management Office and FOLA staff in terms of wildland fire and aviation management services.

**NPS Legal Interest:**

**Type of Interest:** Fee Simple

**Public Access:**

**Type of Access:** Unrestricted

**Explanatory Narrative:**

Fort Laramie is a National Historic Site with unrestricted access to the public.

**Adjacent Lands Information**

**Do Adjacent Lands Contribute?** Yes

**Adjacent Lands Description:**

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located below the surrounding high plains on the floodplains of the North Platte and Laramie rivers. Bluffs to the north and south create a rim around the fort site that provides a low relatively undeveloped horizon for much of the view from the Fort grounds. Grasslands surround the entire park and dominate the immediate scenery. The western horizon is dominated by the Laramie Mountain Range and in particular, Laramie Peak. There has been little change since last century. The lands adjacent to the park enhance the isolated outpost feeling that is reminiscent of Fort Laramie's historical period.

## National Register Information

### Existing National Register Status

#### National Register Landscape Documentation:

Entered Inadequately Documented

#### National Register Explanatory Narrative:

Fort Laramie NHS was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places on 10/15/1966 with additional documentation completed on 7/19/1986. The 1986 NR documentation does not include contributing landscape features. In addition, the district is listed at 536 acres, which reflects the acreage of Fort Laramie NHS in 1960. In 1978, the NHS was expanded to include 832.45 acres. The CLI recommends including landscape features and a boundary increase to the NR nomination.

#### Existing NRIS Information:

<b>Name in National Register:</b>	Fort Laramie National Historic Site
<b>NRIS Number:</b>	66000755
<b>Other Names:</b>	None
<b>Primary Certification:</b>	Listed In The National Register
<b>Primary Certification Date:</b>	10/15/1966
<b>Other Certifications and Date:</b>	Additional Documentation - 7/19/1986

### National Register Eligibility

<b>National Register Concurrence:</b>	Eligible -- SHPO Consensus Determination
<b>Contributing/Individual:</b>	Contributing
<b>National Register Classification:</b>	District
<b>Significance Level:</b>	National
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history
<b>Significance Criteria:</b>	D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

**Period of Significance:**

<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1834 - 1849
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Peopling Places
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898
<b>Facet:</b>	The Fur Trade
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1834 - 1849
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Peopling Places
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898
<b>Facet:</b>	Western Trails And Travelers
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1849 - 1890
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Changing Role of the U.S. in the World
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Expansionism and Imperialism
<b>Facet:</b>	Expansionism And Imperialism
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1849 - 1890
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Peopling Places
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898
<b>Facet:</b>	Military-Indigenous Peoples Contact
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None
<b>Time Period:</b>	AD 1849 - 1890
<b>Historic Context Theme:</b>	Peopling Places
<b>Subtheme:</b>	Westward Expansion of the Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898
<b>Facet:</b>	Western Trails And Travelers
<b>Other Facet:</b>	None

**Area of Significance:**

**Area of Significance Category:** Exploration - Settlement

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Military

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Commerce

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Area of Significance Category:** Agriculture

**Area of Significance Subcategory:** None

**Statement of Significance:**

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is nationally significant under Criterion A, due to the role it played in the development of the western United States. It played an essential role in the history of the 19th Century American West and is a tangible reminder of that history. Fort Laramie is significant for the role it played in the Northern Rockies' fur trade. It was an oasis for westward-bound emigrants--the largest outpost of civilization in the 800-mile span between Fort Kearney, Nebraska, and Fort Bridger, Wyoming. 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.

Fort Laramie is also nationally significant under Criterion D, due to the historic archeological remains of the fur trade era. Very few trade era remains have been recovered, and therefore the site is overwhelmingly of the military period.

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.

The fort witnessed the development of the open range cattle industry, the coming of homesteaders, and the settlement of the plains that marked the closing of the frontier.

Today its physical remains and its history enable visitors to understand that short, swift-moving era in



which the frontier of the United States swept to the Pacific Coast and then washed back to absorb the high plains and mountains of the interior West and forged a nation across the continent.

Fort Laramie's period of significance is 1834-1890.

## Chronology & Physical History

### Cultural Landscape Type and Use

**Cultural Landscape Type:** Historic Site  
Vernacular

**Current and Historic Use/Function:**

**Primary Historic Function:** Military Facility (Post)

**Primary Current Use:** Government-Other

**Current and Historic Names:**

Name	Type of Name
Fort William - 1834-1840	Historic
Fort John - 1841-1849	Historic
Fort Laramie - 1849-1890	Historic
Fort Laramie National Monument - 1938-1960	Historic
Fort Laramie National Historic Site - 1690-present	Current

**Ethnographic Study Conducted:** No Survey Conducted

**Ethnographic Significance Description:**

Over the centuries the landscape at the confluence of the North Platte and Laramie rivers evolved from a pre-historic seasonal encampment, to a fur trading post, and then to a highly developed military post. Between 1834 and 1849, two forts at the site, Fort William and Fort John, played important roles in the last stages of the Rocky Mountain fur trade. From 1849 to 1890, Fort Laramie served as the base of operations for major military campaigns on the northern Plains and significant councils with many of the major mountain and plains tribes. The fort also provided a welcome stopover for travelers on the California, Oregon and Mormon trails. After 1890, when the military abandoned the site, the fort grounds took on the appearance of a rural village in which agriculture and ranching were the major activities.

Between 1834, when it was founded by fur traders as Fort William, and its abandonment by the U.S. Army in 1890, the sequential posts on the site of Fort Laramie embraced the entire spectrum of

westward expansion. The heyday of the mountain men, the long period of the overland migrations, major treaty councils with indigenous tribes and the conflicts that followed until the Indians were driven upon reservations, and the arrival in the region of cattlemen and homesteaders, all played a part in its history.

Archeological investigations have found prehistoric and protohistoric native American features and artifacts as well as historical features, foundations, and deposits from the fur trade, military, and the farming and ranching activities. At present there are no in-depth ethnographic studies available for Fort Laramie or its environs. However, there is an ethnographic overview and assessment in the current five-year plan.

The site's changing land-use patterns, the extant historical buildings and landscape features, and archeological resources record the human manipulation of this confluence landscape.

**Chronology:**

Year	Event	Annotation
AD 1834 - 1849	Settled	Fur Trade Period
AD 1849 - 1879	Built	Early Army Period
		U.S. Army
AD 1880 - 1890	Maintained	Late Army Period
		U.S. Army
AD 1890 - 1938	Homesteaded	Homestead Era
AD 1938 - 1998	Preserved	National Park Service Era

### Physical History:

#### 1834 - 1849 Fur Trade Period

The site had many natural advantages. Also, it was roughly equidistant from the Missouri River steamboat landing 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, which was built in 1841. The wooden stockade Sublette and Campbell constructed followed the typical pattern of trading posts of the time. Although officially known as Fort William, both it and its successor, Fort John, were commonly referred to as Fort Laramie. Fort William was built of cottonwood logs hewn square with adzes and then set upright, side by side, in a trench about 3 feet deep. The artist Alfred Jacob Miller's rendering of the landscape at Fort William depicts 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. Tipis are scattered around the fort between the fort structure and the river. Miller also noted that the fort was a rectangle of about 80 feet by 100 feet with an interior courtyard of 150 feet square. In 1836 the fort came under the control of the American Fur Company. 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 American Fur Company built a whitewashed adobe fort in the style of Fort Platte building. In an 1842 report, the explorer John C. Fremont described Fort John in his journal as "A large post, having more of 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 lofty walls, whitewashed and picketed, with the large bastions at the angles, gave it quite and 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." In 1847, Brigham Young and several of his followers passed through the fort and made a set of measured drawing of both Fort John and Fort Platte.

#### 1849 - 1879 Early Army Period

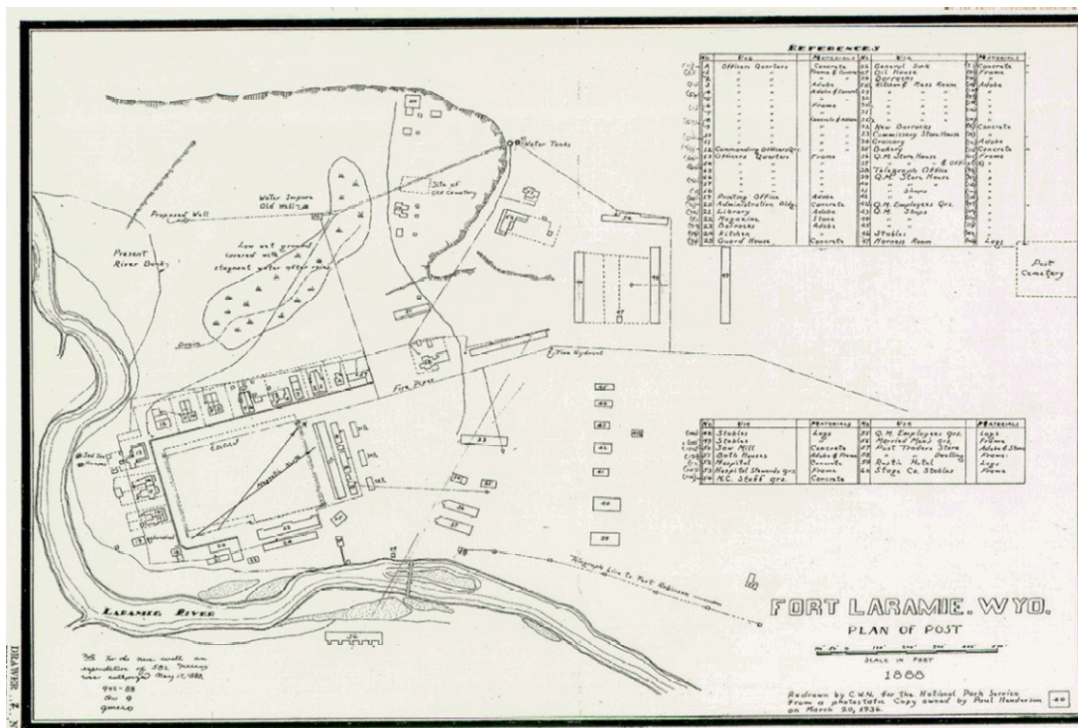
During the period of highest emigrant traffic, 1849-1850, no bridge existed across the Laramie and North Platte rivers in the vicinity of the fort. To reach Fort Laramie, emigrants ferried across the North Platte at a point northeast of the fort, where the iron army bridge now stands, or forded the river near the confluence. At present, the reduced volume of the river, a result of irrigation channeling, is in dramatic contrast to its nineteenth century character. In 1851, two traders erected a toll bridge east of the post near the confluence with the North Platte. In 1849, and 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 United States Army purchased Fort John from the American Fur Company. The original military reservation consisted of 34,000 acres surrounding the confluence. Daniel P. Woodbury of the Army Corps of Engineers was the architect of the proposed fort. He designed a formally structured parade ground surrounded by buildings. The adobe structure of Fort John acted as the southwest terminus of the parade ground axis. By winter 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. Just outside

the parade ground and approximately equidistant from both Old Bedlam and the soldiers' barracks was the Sutler's store. During the 1850s, the post flag was attached to Fort John, which remained part of the military post for more than ten years. Fort John was abandoned in 1860 and the structure was razed in 1862. The military attempted to raise crops on 30 acres along Deer Creek. However, agriculture at this scale was not successful, perhaps due to the harsh climatic conditions in the region, characterized by high winds and occasional hail storms. Later attempts were confined to small acreage.

The post cemetery was originally located on a plateau north of the parade ground; after 1867, 1/2-mile northeast. In 1865, a large semicircular trench connecting redoubt was dug along the plateau of the cemetery and down to the first stream terrace northeast and east of the parade ground. Archeologists have uncovered iron pipe in the trench, which indicates that water was piped from water tanks on the plateau directly to the stables. A defensive structure was constructed in 1866--a roughly quadrangular adobe enclosure 8 feet high and 3 feet thick with two flanking hexagonal blockhouses. The 1865 trench was extended to surround this enclosure. Several icehouses were constructed along the banks of the Laramie River southwest of the parade ground. During the period 1879-1888, a ditch system was developed to provide water directly to the post. From about 1868 to 1890 four successive bridges were located in line with the commissary building east of the parade ground. 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. In 1860, the short-lived Overland Pony Express was established along the Oregon Trail. West of Fort Laramie, at Sand Point, was a relay station along the route. In 1861 it was replaced by the first transcontinental line of the telegraph and overland stage. 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.

#### 1880 - 1890 Late Army Period

During the 1880s, as the military activity of the fort waned, emphasis shifted to construction and site improvements. Contemporary photographs reveal a well-maintained landscape. Trees circled the parade ground with birdbaths at three corners. Tree and shrub planting, 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, Hospital steward T.V. Brown fenced off and fertilized a plot of ground behind the hospital, installed an irrigation system, and planted trees and flowers. 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. The post plan of 1888 records 65 buildings, 38 percent 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 1867, the bridges spanning the Laramie River, and the structures on the first stream terrace across the river from the fort. Between 1849 and 1885, the army constructed at least 180 buildings on fort grounds. On March 2, 1890 the last garrison marched away. A month later, on April 9, 1890, the military salvaged moveable property and auctioned buildings and fixtures to the public.



Plan of Fort Laramie, circa 1888. Source: CLR, page 99.

#### 1890 - 1938 Homestead Era

The land in the vicinity of the parade ground was split into three homesteads belonging to the Sandercock, Wilde, and Hunton 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. In 1894, Congress donated the iron army bridge and two wooden bridges across the Laramie River to Laramie County. John Hunton, a homesteader and the last post trader bought twelve buildings including Old Bedlam, the commissary, the magazine, and two officers' quarters. The Wilde family converted the cavalry barracks into a combination hotel, store, dance hall, and saloon. The Sandercock homestead included the old guardhouse, the captain's quarters, as well as land across the Laramie River and south portion of the parade ground near the mouth of Deer Creek. In the 1920s, a homesteader graded a circular path for an auto racetrack north of the 1873 hospital, below County Road 160 (Greyrocks Road). The site was the location of local rodeos and other gatherings. In 1890, John Hunton purchased the hospital, along with seven other buildings for \$400.00. In the 1890s, the Fort Laramie Ditch Company constructed a ditch across the northern edge of the site. In 1900, the Fort Laramie Canal was built to the south of the fort below the Laramie River. The site was intensively ranched and farmed during this era. 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 1937, the state of Wyoming purchased 214 acres of the original fort grounds from private owners, and in turn presented it to the United States to establish a national monument at the site. In 1938, Fort Laramie was declared a national monument by President

Franklin Roosevelt.

#### 1938 - Present National Park Era

The original purchase of 214 acres was increased to 536 acres in 1960, when Fort Laramie was designated a national historic site. Today, the historic site consists of 832.45 acres. Additional parcels are being considered for acquisition. After the 1938 acquisition, the National Park Service took emergency stabilization measures. The National Park Service removed old fences and erected new boundary fences. The 1939-1941 stabilization efforts included reshingling, constructing new footings and foundations, substituting material, and straightening and plumbing walls. Today there are eleven 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 iron bridge continued to be used 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. The National Park Service planted ash and cottonwood trees around the parade ground, and installed an irrigation system. A new entrance provided access to the site from the north via County Road 160, an approach historically linked with the late military period. The park offices and library are in the cavalry barracks, and the visitor center, museum and administrative offices are in the old commissary storehouse. The Sandercock residence across the Laramie River from the fort grounds was dismantled, and a park storage area is located there. A grass-reseeding program was initiated in the late 1930s. Non-native species were introduced that spread rapidly to control weeds. The National Park Service obliterated the Fort Laramie Ditch Company's open irrigation ditch south of the hospital and restored the original contours. Recreational and educational uses have replaced residential and agricultural uses during the National park Service era.



*Historic view of Old Bedlam."Source: NPS.*

#### Historic Context

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located in Goshen County, near the high plains community of Torrington in southeastern Wyoming. Between 1834, when it was founded by fur traders as Fort William, and its abandonment by the United States Army in 1890, the sequential posts on the site embraced the entire spectrum of westward expansion. The heyday of the mountain men, the long period of land migrations, major treaty councils with indigenous tribes and the conflicts that followed until the Indians were driven upon reservations, and the arrival in the region of cattlemen and homesteaders, all played a part in its history. For fifty-six years, the posts on the Laramie River witnessed and contributed significantly to the cavalcade of American history beyond any station in the history of the American West.

## Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

### Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

Over the centuries the landscape at the confluence of the South Platte and Laramie rivers has evolved from a prehistoric seasonal encampment, to a fur trading post, to a highly developed military post. After the departure of the military, fort grounds took on the appearance of a rural village in which agriculture and ranching were the major themes. Today, the park visitor experiences this complex history through interpretive signs placed on known sites and ruins, as well as through the restored structures of the military period. The site's changing land-use patterns, the extant historic buildings and landscape features, and archeological resources record the human manipulation of this confluence landscape. While there have been periods of dramatic change in land uses at Fort Laramie NHS, some land-use activities have remained constant. These include grazing activity, which has occurred on the site since the nineteenth century, although varying in scale and impact; and low-density residential use, from intermittent and temporary habitation from prehistory through the military period to permanent settlement in the homestead era. Although agricultural use began in the military period, it was greatly expanded in the homesteading era due to the introduction of more extensive irrigation system. Today, the low-density ranch and farmhouses, barns, outbuildings, and fenced fields of the surrounding agricultural landscape do not represent a significant visual intrusion on the historic scene, but instead, reflect the agricultural focus on the fort site after the departure of the United States military. Landscape disturbances from agricultural use, grazing, and structural development have left few native plant communities. Two areas of relict prairie have been identified and provide insight into the character of prehistoric plant communities. The reestablished riparian edges along the Laramie River reflect more a prehistoric composition, as these areas were used at differing intensities by various groups during the site's history. Due to a lack of development pressure on the area, the historic open character of the landscape remains. Ranches and farms dot the landscape within the vicinity from the site to the plains landscape beyond. Some of the early patterns of circulation established at Fort Laramie are in use today. The main route of the Oregon Trail is reflected in a road east of the fort grounds that runs north-south. This route of County Road 160 (Grayrocks 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 as ruts found on the site.

### INTEGRITY EVALUATION

Integrity is the ability of a property (this can be a structure, site or landscape) to convey its significance. Historic properties either retain integrity or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, National Register criteria recognizes seven aspects or qualities (below) that, in various combinations, define integrity. To retain historic integrity, a property always possesses several, and usually most, of the aspects.

OVERALL INTEGRITY: Fort Laramie NHS retains integrity.

LOCATION: The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic



event occurred.

Historical narratives, supported by archeological investigations, confirm that the cultural landscape is the location of Fort Laramie and was the site for the military activities and treaty discussions occurring at the fort. 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 general satisfaction of all specialists. The location of Fort John is known, but has not been precisely mapped. Archeological testing to date has been inconclusive with regards to the general area in which the Fort William site might be found within the park boundary. Fort Laramie has integrity of location.

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

There is no obvious physical evidence of the fur trade era, and no design integrity from this era - including spatial organization, circulation, or cluster arrangement - remains. However, the adobe construction of the Sutler's Store reflects an architectural linkage between the late fur trade era and the early military period. The military activities at Fort Laramie occurred over numerous decades. The designs of specific structures as well as the overall site design are clearly evident and retain integrity.

**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, early and late military period, homestead era) 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 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 minimal 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. Some of these changes have compromised the landscape's integrity of setting, but overall the site retains integrity of setting.

**MATERIALS:** Materials are 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 a percentage of 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 linkage between this era and the military era. Modern additions such as the bat houses, maintenance buildings, and the metal interpretive wayside panels lower the overall integrity of materials for the landscape. The site retains integrity of materials.

**WORKMANSHIP:** Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or historic period.

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. Though compromised by deterioration and abandonment, the remaining structures and features give Fort Laramie integrity of workmanship.

**FEELING:** Feeling refers to a landscape's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. Feeling results from the on-site presence of physical features, and from continuing values and meanings of the place alive in contemporary communities; these taken together convey the landscape's historic character.

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 19th 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. Fort Laramie retains integrity of feeling.

**ASSOCIATION:** The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic landscape.

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 the early and late military era. 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. Fort Laramie retains integrity of association.

### **Landscape Characteristic:**

#### **Archeological Sites**

Not used.

#### **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 the 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, Calvary Barracks, Officer's Quarters E, Officer's 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 Ft. 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, mentioned that there is a good chance of unveiling features from the American Fur Company Trading Post behind the Officer's Quarters A.

The item numbers on the table following Map 1 refer to the Structures and Buildings Legend on Map 5.

Refer to the Historical Base Map, 1841-1890, for additional building references.

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 located near the historic iron bridge are also non-contributing features. The chicken coop is gone. A concrete obelisk monument was

erected in 1913 by a citizens group to commemorate the Oregon Trail and the importance of Fort Laramie in westward migration. The obelisk was nominated to the National Register as an object, and determined to be of local significance. It is non-contributing but compatible with the Fort Laramie historic landscape.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: (1) Old Bedlam (roofed structure)

Feature Identification Number: 101008

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000323

LCS Structure Name: Old Bedlam

LCS Structure Number: HS-01

Feature: (2) Sutler's Store (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101591

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000322

LCS Structure Name: Sutler's Store

LCS Structure Number: HS-02

Feature: (3) Historic Privy (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 006504

LCS Structure Name: Historic Privy

LCS Structure Number: HS-03

Feature: (4) Officer's Quarters (roofed), with well and pump at rear

Feature Identification Number: 101611

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 050889

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters F

LCS Structure Number: HS-04

Feature: (5) Calvary Barracks (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101612

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000335

LCS Structure Name: Cavalry Barracks

LCS Structure Number: HS-05

Feature: (6) Officer's Quarters E (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at rear of building

Feature Identification Number: 101613

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000330

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters E

LCS Structure Number: HS-06

Feature: (7) Officer's Quarters A (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at side of building and stone circular ruin at rear, possibly well

Feature Identification Number: 101614

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000326

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters A

LCS Structure Number: HS-07

Feature: (8) Old Guardhouse (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101615

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000339

LCS Structure Name: Old Guardhouse

LCS Structure Number: HS-08

Feature: (9) Commissary storehouse (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101616

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000336

LCS Structure Name: Commissary Storehouse

LCS Structure Number: HS-09

Feature: (10) Old Bakery (roofed), with non-historic bat structure on side of building

Feature Identification Number: 101009

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000332

LCS Structure Name: Old 1876 Bakery

LCS Structure Number: HS-10

Feature: (11) Officer's Quarters Ruins

Feature Identification Number: 101011

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 006505

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters Ruins

LCS Structure Number: HS-11

Feature: (12) Chicken house (roofed)

Feature Identification Number: 101012

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 006506

LCS Structure Name: Chicken House

LCS Structure Number: HS-12

Feature: (13) Hospital (partial roof)

Feature Identification Number: 101013

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000334

LCS Structure Name: Fort Hospital

LCS Structure Number: HS-13

Feature: (14) Magazine

Feature Identification Number: 101014

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000342

LCS Structure Name: Magazine

LCS Structure Number: HS-14

Feature: (15) New Guardhouse (roofed), with non-historic bat structure at rear of building

Feature Identification Number: 101015

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000324

LCS Structure Name: New Guardhouse

LCS Structure Number: HS-15

Feature: (16) Iron Army Bridge

Feature Identification Number: 101016

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000340

LCS Structure Name: Old Iron Bridge

LCS Structure Number: HS-16

Feature: (17) Administration Building

Feature Identification Number: 101411

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000325

LCS Structure Name: Administration Building

LCS Structure Number: HS-17

Feature: (18) Officer's Quarters D

Feature Identification Number: 101589

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000329

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters D

LCS Structure Number: HS-18

Feature: (19) Officer's Quarters C, with stone, circular ruin at rear, possibly well

Feature Identification Number: 101590

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000328

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters C

LCS Structure Number: HS-19

Feature: (20) Officer's Quarters B, with stone, circular ruin at rear, possibly well

Feature Identification Number: 101592

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000327

LCS Structure Name: Officer's Quarters B

LCS Structure Number: HS-20

Feature: (21) Married NCO Quarters

Feature Identification Number: 101594

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000341

LCS Structure Name: Married NCO Quarters

LCS Structure Number: HS-21

Feature: (22) Powerhouse / Sawmill

Feature Identification Number: 101595

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000337

LCS Structure Name: Powerhouse

LCS Structure Number: HS-22

Feature: (23) New Bakery

Feature Identification Number: 101596

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 000338

LCS Structure Name: New Bakery

LCS Structure Number: HS-23

Feature: (24) Three Company Barracks

Feature Identification Number: 101597



Fort Laramie NHS Landscape  
Fort Laramie National Historic Site

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Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	051074
LCS Structure Name:	Three Company Barracks Foundation
LCS Structure Number:	HS-24
Feature: (25) Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks	
Feature Identification Number:	101598
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	051075
LCS Structure Name:	Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks
LCS Structure Number:	HS-25
Feature: (26) General Sink	
Feature Identification Number:	101599
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	006509
LCS Structure Name:	General Sink
LCS Structure Number:	HS-26
Feature: (27) 1850 Guardhouse	
Feature Identification Number:	101600
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	051104
LCS Structure Name:	1850 Guardhouse
LCS Structure Number:	HS-27
Feature: (28) Sutler's Residence	
Feature Identification Number:	101601
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	051081
LCS Structure Name:	Sutler's Residence
LCS Structure Number:	HS-28
Feature: (29) Married Enlisted Men's Quarters	

Feature Identification Number: 101602  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 051082  
LCS Structure Name: Married Enlisted Men's Quarters  
LCS Structure Number: HS-29

Feature: (30) 1850 Officer's House

Feature Identification Number: 101604  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 051083  
LCS Structure Name: 1850 Officer's Quarters  
LCS Structure Number: HS-30

Feature: (32) Icehouse

Feature Identification Number: 101605  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 006513  
LCS Structure Name: Icehouse  
LCS Structure Number: HS-32

Feature: (33) Outbuilding (North)

Feature Identification Number: 101606  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 006508  
LCS Structure Name: Outbuilding (North)  
LCS Structure Number: HS-33

Feature: (34) Outbuilding

Feature Identification Number: 101607  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 006507  
LCS Structure Name: Outbuilding  
LCS Structure Number: HS-34

Feature: (35) Footbridge  
Feature Identification Number: 101608  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 051084  
LCS Structure Name: Foorbridge Abutments  
LCS Structure Number: HS-35

Feature: (38) Officer's Quarters  
Feature Identification Number: 101609  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (39) Flagpole  
Feature Identification Number: 101610  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 051105  
LCS Structure Name: Flagpole  
LCS Structure Number: HS-39

Feature: (A) Ferry Abutment  
Feature Identification Number: 101618  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (B36) Chicken Coop  
Feature Identification Number: 94566  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (1003) Pit Toilet (roofed)  
Feature Identification Number: 101010  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing  
IDLCS Number: 051143  
LCS Structure Name: Interpretive Outhouse  
LCS Structure Number: HS-1003

Feature: (2003) Pit Toilet (roofed)  
Feature Identification Number: 101593

Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
IDLCS Number:	051142
LCS Structure Name:	Interpretive Outhouse
LCS Structure Number:	HS-2003
Feature: (B216) Equipment Shed (roofed)	
Feature Identification Number:	100499
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
Feature: (B221) Pump Shed (roofed)	
Feature Identification Number:	100500
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature: (B222) Shop Building (roofed)	
Feature Identification Number:	91857
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
Feature: (B223) Carpenter Shop (roofed)	
Feature Identification Number:	94565
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
Feature: (a) Fee Station	
Feature Identification Number:	101617
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
Feature: (b) Concrete Obelisk	
Feature Identification Number:	101619
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing
IDLCS Number:	050759
LCS Structure Name:	Concrete Obelisk
LCS Structure Number:	HS-42
Feature: (c) Toilets (2)	
Feature Identification Number:	94567
Type of Feature Contribution:	Non-Contributing

Feature: (d) Interpretive Area with wood platforms (2)

Feature Identification Number: 94568

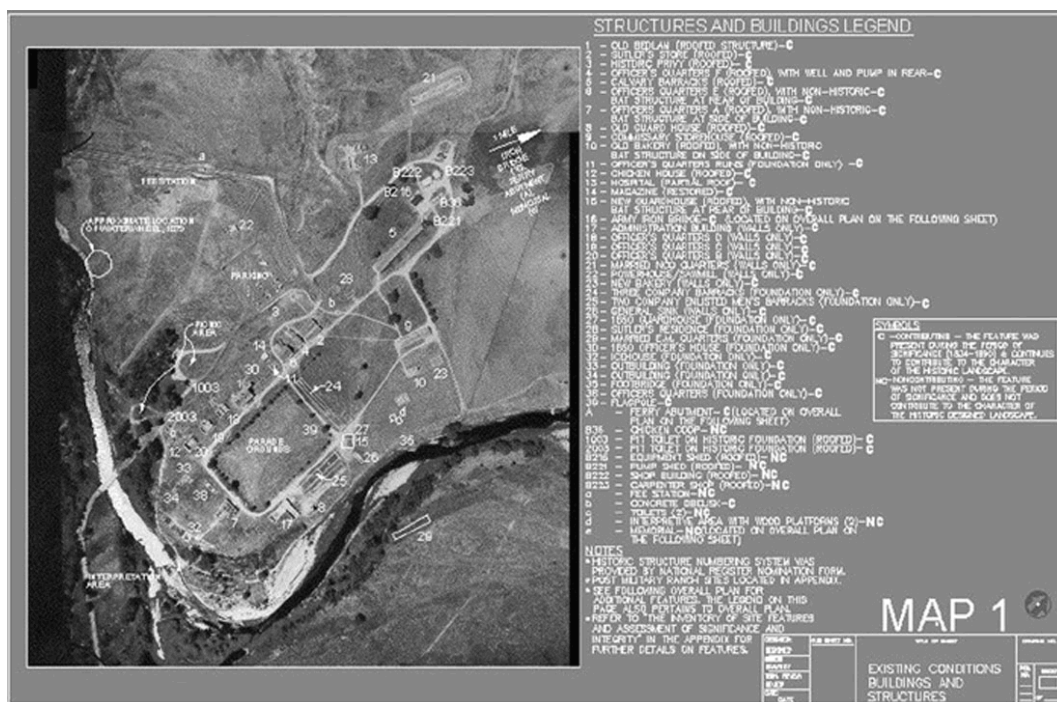
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (e) Memorial

Feature Identification Number: 94569

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Map 1 - Buildings and Structures. Source: CLR, page 58.

### Circulation

Some of the early patterns of circulation established during the period of significance are extant and contribute to the historic landscape. The main route of the Oregon Trail is reflected in a road east of the fort grounds that runs north south. This paved road crosses the Laramie at or near the site of the first emigrant wagon bridge (1851). The route of County Road 160 (Grayrocks 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 the Historical Base map 1841-1890 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.

The item numbers on the table following Map 3 refer to the Circulation Systems Legend on Map 3.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: (A) paved parking (visitors)  
Feature Identification Number: 94570  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (B) Paved entrance road  
Feature Identification Number: 94571  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (C) Gravel walk around parade grounds  
Feature Identification Number: 94572  
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (D) Concrete walk  
Feature Identification Number: 94573  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (E) Unpaved, no gravel walk  
Feature Identification Number: 94574  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (F) Gravel parking (maintenance)  
Feature Identification Number: 94575  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (G) Unpaved, no gravel road  
Feature Identification Number: 94576  
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (H) Gravel road & parking (picnic area)

Feature Identification Number: 94577

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (I) Paved road

Feature Identification Number: 94578

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (J) Gravel walk

Feature Identification Number: 94579

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (K) Gravel road

Feature Identification Number: 94580

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (L) Gravel walk with wooden handrails

Feature Identification Number: 94581

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (M) Gravel road

Feature Identification Number: 94582

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (N) Paved County Road 95

Feature Identification Number: 94583

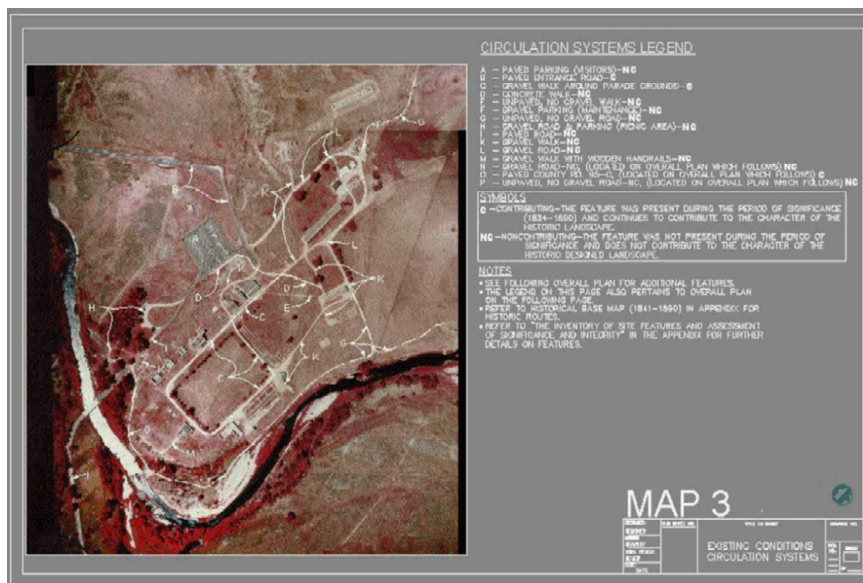
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (O) Unpaved, no gravel road

Feature Identification Number: 94584

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Map 3 - Circulation Systems. Source: CLR, page 60.

### Cluster Arrangement

Not used; See Spatial Organization.

### Constructed Water Features

Not used.

### Cultural Traditions

Not used.

### Land Use

Not used.

### Natural Systems and Features

Not used.

### Small Scale Features

The only contributing feature is a birdbath at the southwest corner of the parade ground, constructed during the late military period.

The item numbers on the following list refer to the legend on the Small Scale site plan below.

### Character-defining Features:

Feature: (1) Trash Receptacle



Feature Identification Number: 94586

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (2) National Park Service informational signs

Feature Identification Number: 94592

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (3) Interpretive Signage

Feature Identification Number: 94593

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (4) Boundary Fencing

Feature Identification Number: 94595

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (5) Drinking Fountains

Feature Identification Number: 94596

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (6) Benches

Feature Identification Number: 94597

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (7) Propane Tank

Feature Identification Number: 94598

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (8) Picnic Tables

Feature Identification Number: 94599

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (9) Fence

Feature Identification Number: 94600

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (11) Trash Receptacles

Feature Identification Number: 94587

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (12) Crossing

Feature Identification Number: 94588

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (13) Dumpster

Feature Identification Number: 94589

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (15) Wood Structures

Feature Identification Number: 94590

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (16) Entry Sign

Feature Identification Number: 94591

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (31) Birdbath

Feature Identification Number: 94594

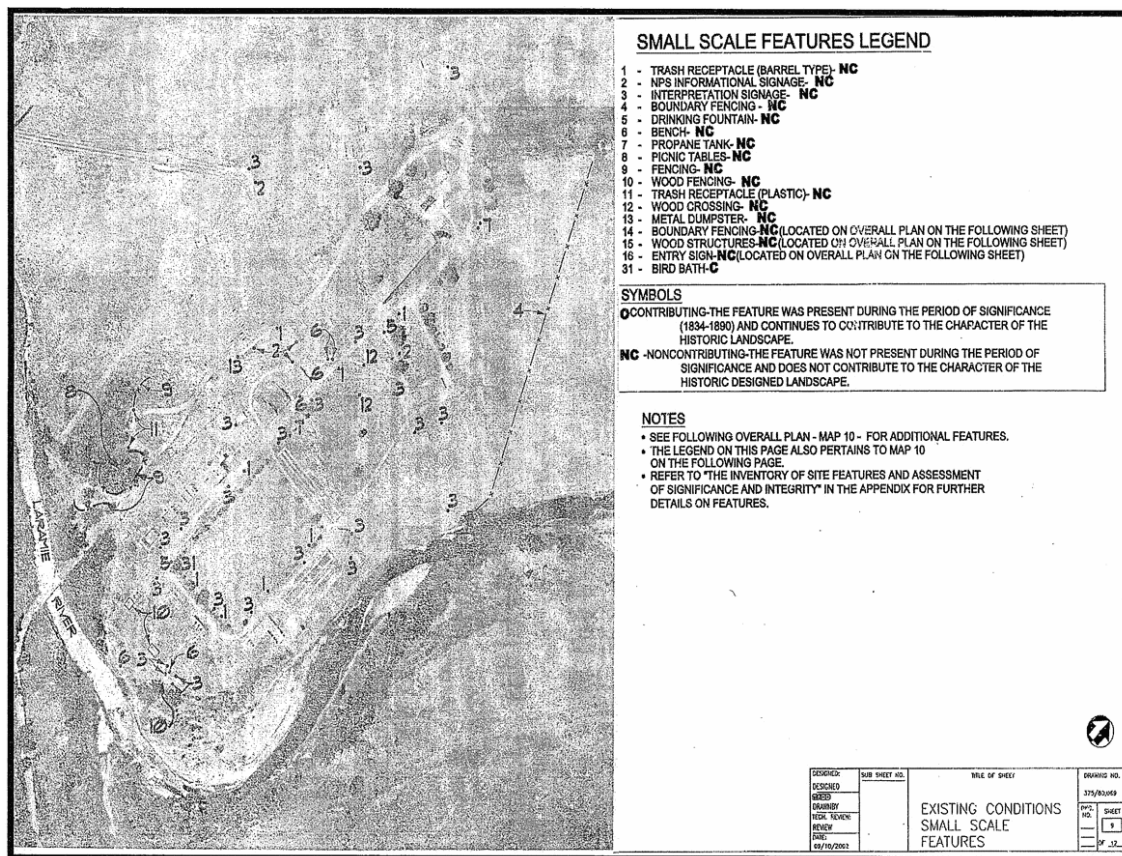
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 006514

LCS Structure Name: Birdbath

LCS Structure Number: HS-31

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Small-scale features plan. Source: CLR, page 64.

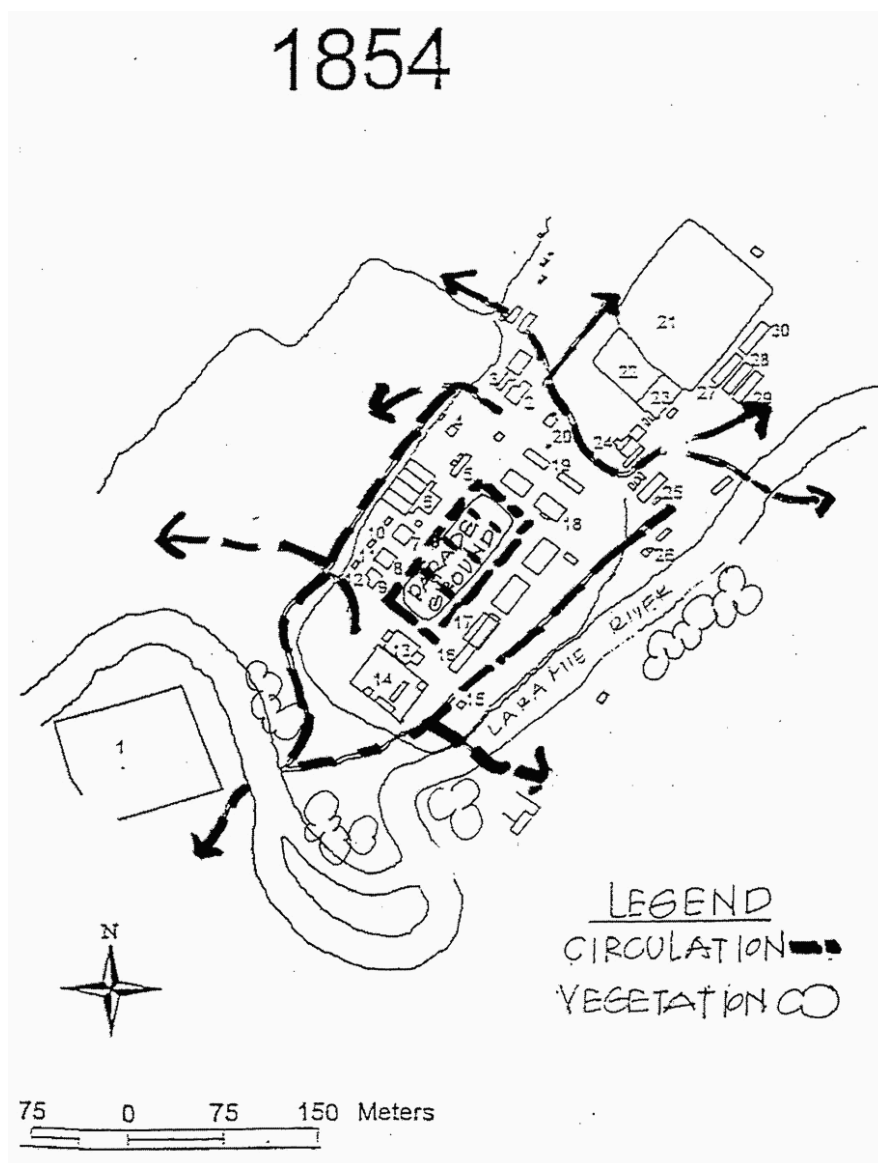
## Spatial Organization

The installation of the military post altered the spatial organization of the landscape significantly. Unlike the era of the fur trader, the military post became a settled community, which practiced agriculture. Army offices 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 quarters.

This spatial organization of the military era is extant, and although some of the integrity has been compromised due to the total loss of some structures, overall, the patterns spatial relationships of the landscape still exist in the historic core. Contributing features, such as the parade ground, structures and foundations, mounds and depressions, ditch lines, the tree grouping around the parade ground and portions of the existing circulation define the original military geometric patterns. This pattern mimics the same geometric northeast-southwest grid that was also used for the layout of the American Fur Company Trading Post.

The spatial organization of the remaining park property has been compromised, somewhat, primarily due to the land use practices of the homestead era. This is not irreversible, though.

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



*Diagram showing spatial organization, 1854. Source: CLR, page 102.*

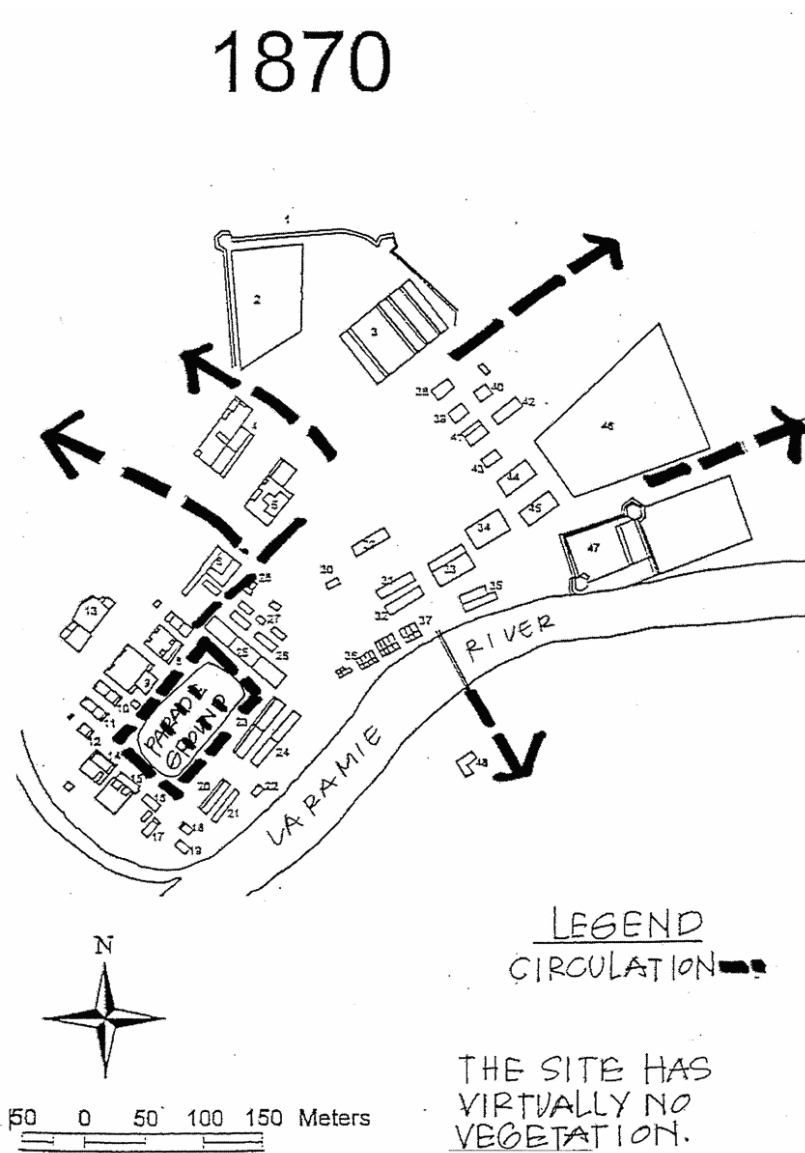


Diagram showing spatial organization, 1870. Source: CLR, page 104.

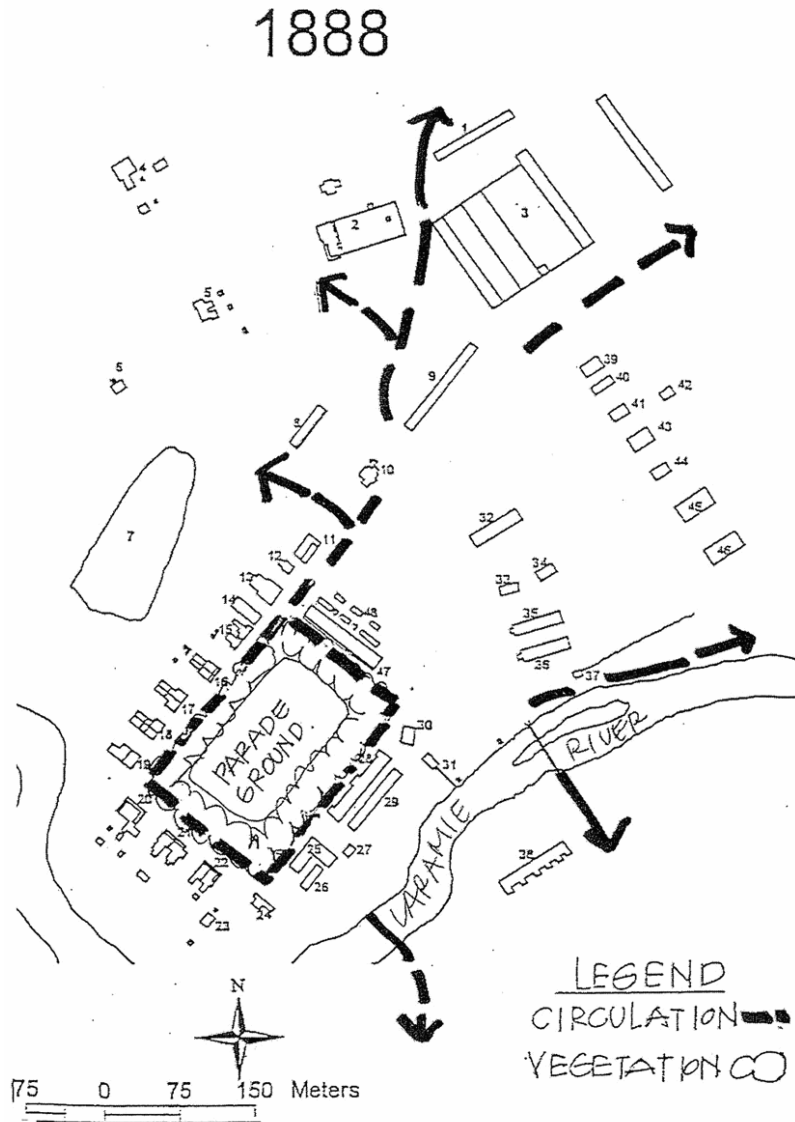


Diagram showing spatial organization, 1888. Source: CLR, page 106.

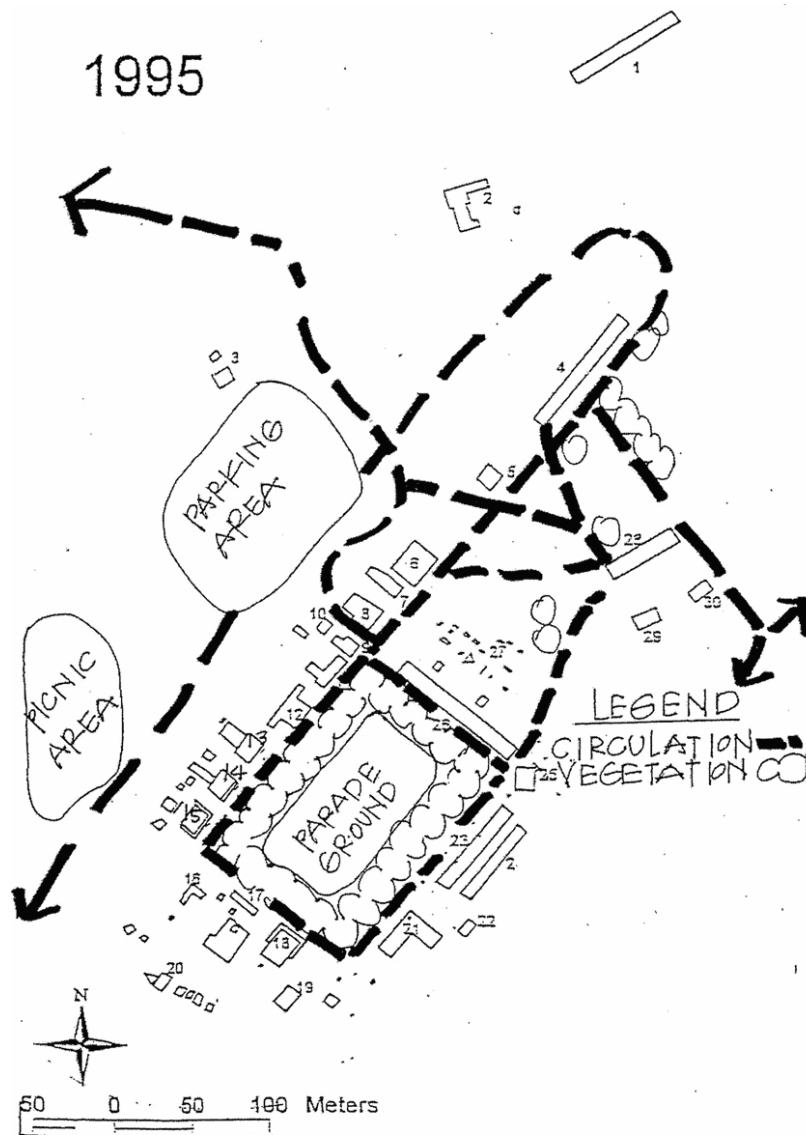


Diagram showing spatial organization, 1995. Source: CLR, page 108.

### Topography

As discussed earlier, natural landforms and waterways greatly influenced settlement, land use, and historic development at Fort Laramie. The land surrounding the confluence, where the Laramie River flows into the North Platte was an important gathering place beginning in the early nineteenth century. Both the Laramie and North Platte rivers were sources of food and fuel, and seasonal encampments were located 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 further west. Yet, at flood stage the Laramie and North Platte rivers were threatening boundary elements controlling the pace of emigrant travel through the area.

Although the Laramie River has re-channeled itself in several areas, as depicted on the 1888 base map and vegetation has reclaimed the river channel, the waterways continue to contribute to the historic character of the 1834-1890 period. The land above the floodplain, also continues to contribute to the period of significance. Only minor topographic changes have transpired since the period of significance. These include the manipulation of several contours for the current parking area and the erosion that has claimed a small portion of level terrain in the rear yards of the Officers Row.

There are several man-made features that contribute to the historic landscape but have low integrity. These include remnants of several ditch and water lines from the late military period, as well as numerous mounds and depressions of structure foundations from both the early and late military periods.

The item numbers on the table following Map 7 refer to the Topography and Drainage Legend on Map 7.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: (a) Open ditch with stone lining at 3 locations

Feature Identification Number: 94601

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (b) Remnants of open ditch

Feature Identification Number: 94602

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (c) Depressions

Feature Identification Number: 94603

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (d) Depression

Feature Identification Number: 94604

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (e) Numerous mounds and depressions

Feature Identification Number: 94605

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (f) Foundation depression

Feature Identification Number: 94606



Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (g) Foundation depressions

Feature Identification Number: 94607

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (h) Sloping terrain along riverbank of Laramie River

Feature Identification Number: 94608

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (i) Depression

Feature Identification Number: 94609

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (j) Sloping terrain east of picnic area and parking area (picnic area is at a lower elevation)

Feature Identification Number: 94610

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (k) Terrain of parade grounds

Feature Identification Number: 94611

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (l) Depression of Entrenchment

Feature Identification Number: 95316

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

IDLCS Number: 051603

LCS Structure Name: Earthworks

LCS Structure Number: HS-37

Feature: (m) Sloping topography to hospital site (hospital sits at highest point within park boundary)

Feature Identification Number: 95317

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (n) 1922 Racetrack

Feature Identification Number: 95318

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (o) Wagon wheel ruts from the river route of the Mormon and Oregon Trail

Feature Identification Number: 95319

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (p) Open ditch

Feature Identification Number: 95320

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

### Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Map 7 - Topography and Drainage. Source: CLR, page 56.

### 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 that have been identified.

Native vegetation impacts began with the construction of the trading post and continued into the

military era. Trees in the riparian areas were used for the construction of the fur trading post and heating fuel, which left the river banks denuded. This practice continued with the construction of Fort Laramie. 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. Landscape disturbances resulting from grazing were most likely confined to pockets of land surrounding trading posts and Indian encampments. Vegetable gardens were planted during the military era. The later military years focused on the appearance of the grounds. Documented tree plantings around the parade ground took place in 1872 and 1887. The lawn area of the parade ground was seeded with a blue grass mix. In March of 1883, a telegram from Fort Laramie to Major Taylor in Omaha, Nebraska, specified “I want six bushels of blue grass and two bushels of white clover, to sow on parade ground....” Non-native flowers, shrubs, and vines, such as the rose and hop vine, were planted in flowerbeds and gardens at living quarters and at the hospital.

The extant vegetative features which contribute to the period of significance include the ash and cottonwood tree grouping around the parade ground, with the exception of the additional trees planted in front of the Officer's Quarters E and F, the two areas of native perennial grasses and the parade ground blue-grass lawn mix. These features have not been compromised.

The extant features which do not contribute to the historic scene include the blue spruce behind the cavalry barracks, which was donated and planted in 1947 by Members of the LDS Church commemorating the centennial of the founding of the Mormon trail. Other features include the vegetation along the river, which was non-existent during the period of significance, as well as the cottonwoods and willows dispersed throughout the historic core.

The item numbers on the table following Map 5 refer to the Vegetation Legend on Map 5.

**Character-defining Features:**

Feature: (1) Cottonwood Species

Feature Identification Number: 95321

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (1) Cottonwood Species (interspersed cottonwoods around the parade ground)

Feature Identification Number: 95322

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (2) Green Ash Species (around parade ground)

Feature Identification Number: 95323

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (3) Spruce Species

Feature Identification Number: 95324

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (4) Willow Species

Feature Identification Number: 95325

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (5) Riparian Vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 95326

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (6) Native Perennial Grass

Feature Identification Number: 95327

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (7) Annual/Perennial Grass Mix - Disturbed Land

Feature Identification Number: 95328

Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: (8) Blue Grass (area of Parade Ground)

Feature Identification Number: 95329

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (8) Blue Grass Mix

Feature Identification Number: 95330

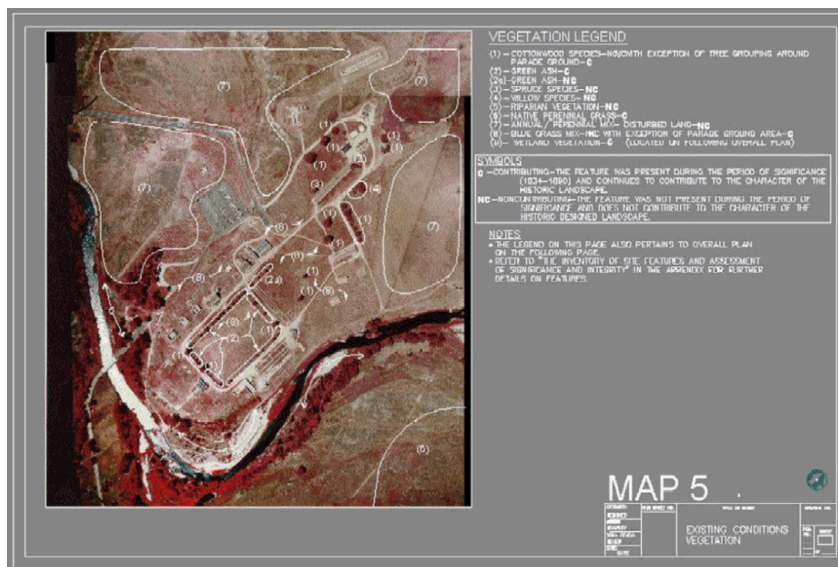
Type of Feature Contribution: Non-Contributing

Feature: Wetland Vegetation

Feature Identification Number: 95331

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Map 5 - Vegetation. Source: CLR, page 62.

### Views and Vistas

All views are 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. Looking southwest, a smoke plume from the Wheatland power plant is visible from the grounds. These expansive views, which include primarily the land and adjacent ridge lines to the north, west and south, have high integrity and are extremely important in maintaining the overall historic integrity of Fort Laramie NHS

The item numbers on the table following Map 11 refer to the Views and Vistas Legend on Map 11.

### Character-defining Features:

Feature:	(a) Views from U.S. Route 160
Feature Identification Number:	95332
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	(b) Views from within site
Feature Identification Number:	95333
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing
Feature:	(c) Views from within site
Feature Identification Number:	95334
Type of Feature Contribution:	Contributing

Feature: (d) Views from within site

Feature Identification Number: 95335

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (e) Views from within site

Feature Identification Number: 95336

Type of Feature Contribution: Undetermined

Feature: (f) Views beyond Laramie River

Feature Identification Number: 95337

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (g) Views from hospital site, beyond park boundaries

Feature Identification Number: 95338

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (h) Views from hospital site

Feature Identification Number: 95339

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (i) Views from U.S. Route 160

Feature Identification Number: 95340

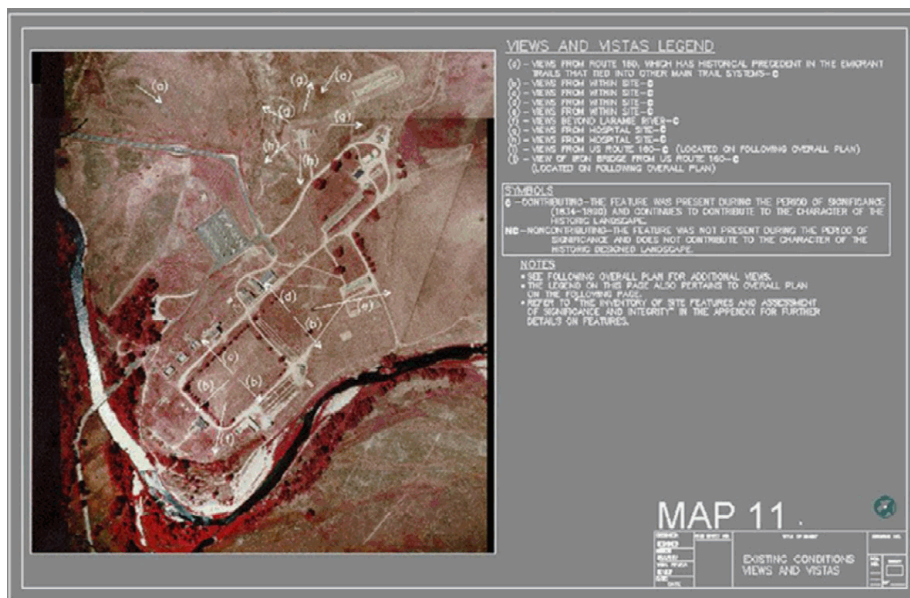
Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

Feature: (j) View of Iron Army Bridge from U.S. Route 160

Feature Identification Number: 95341

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

**Landscape Characteristic Graphics:**



Map 11 - Views and Vistas. Source: CLR, page 66.

### Other - Character of Adjoining Property

The landscapes surrounding the park boundaries are reflective of the open, expansive feeling which was present during the period of significance. Due to a lack of development the historic open character of the landscape remains. Current use of these lands has little impact on the important historical views from the fort. Ranches and farms dot the landscape within the vicinity of the fort, but wide expanses of land have been left open and undeveloped providing undiminished views from the site to the plains landscape beyond. These landscape features have a high degree of integrity.

### Character-defining Features:

Feature: Adjoining property to the east, west, north and south

Feature Identification Number: 94585

Type of Feature Contribution: Contributing

## Condition

### Condition Assessment and Impacts

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 06/25/2002

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The landscape of Fort Laramie NHS was assessed in good condition.

**Condition Assessment:** Good

**Assessment Date:** 07/17/2007

**Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:**

The Fort Laramie NHS Landscape remains in good condition.

### Impacts

**Type of Impact:** Deferred Maintenance

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Historic structures and archeological sites are in need of routine maintenance.

**Type of Impact:** Structural Deterioration

**External or Internal:** Internal

**Impact Description:** Potential loss of historic integrity through structural deterioration and deferred maintenance.

**Type of Impact:** Exposure To Elements

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** Weathering and erosion threaten historic integrity of landscape features.

**Type of Impact:** Vandalism/Theft/Arson

**External or Internal:** External

**Impact Description:** Inadequate security allows vandals to damage resources.



### **Stabilization Costs**

**Landscape Stabilization Cost:** 145,300.00

**Cost Date:** 11/01/2004

**Level of Estimate:** C - Similar Facilities

**Cost Estimator:** Regional Office

#### **Landscape Stabilization Cost Explanatory Description:**

Stabilization costs were determined by reviewing Fort Laramis PMIS project statements. Projects include protection of deteriorating archeological sites, replanting missing trees, treating diseased trees, and disturbed land mitigation. No landscape stabilization costs were identified in the Cultural Landscape Report.

### **Treatment**

## Treatment

**Approved Treatment:** Rehabilitation  
**Approved Treatment Document:** Cultural Landscape Report  
**Document Date:** 01/01/2006

### Approved Treatment Document Explanatory Narrative:

The 2006 Cultural Landscape Report outlines a series of treatments that fall within preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. See Landscape Documents section for 2006 CLR.

NOTE: The original Fort Laramie NHS CLI referenced a August 1992 Cultural Landscape Report; however, this document was not found during the 2012 CLI revisions. Below are excerpted sections from the 1992 CLR:

"Fort Laramie National Historic Site represents a landscape that has undergone significant change and evolution. This process is reflected in the many layers of features present at the site. The National Register Nomination form identifies the period of significance as 1834 - 1890. Within this period, there were several distinctly different landscapes, identified in the history section. The existing contributing features are representative of these landscapes. These features are identified in the analysis section.

This section briefly describes the strategy for long-term management of the cultural landscape based on its significance, existing conditions and use. The management philosophy for the landscape is not intended to depict a specific landscape during the period of significance, but rather approach the site as a landscape that has many faces throughout the period of 1834-1890. The contributing features of these different landscapes should be preserved.

The rehabilitation approach best meets the programmatic issues and management objectives identified in the 1993 General Management Plan. This treatment should be supplemented with preservation, restoration, as well as reconstruction, which would be used primarily on individual features, such as the vegetable garden. Many of the fort structures have been restored.

A treatment is a physical intervention carried out to achieve a historic preservation goal – it cannot be considered in a vacuum. There are many practical and philosophical variables that influence the selection of a treatment for a landscape. These include, but are not limited to, the extent of historic documentation; existing physical conditions; historical value; proposed use; long- and short-term objectives and operational requirements (e.g. accessibility, fire, security); and anticipated capital improvement, staffing, and maintenance costs. The impact of the treatment on any significant archeological and natural resources should also be considered in this decision making process.

### Preservation:

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of a 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 an 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.

The goal of the standards for preservation is 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 the 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 the 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 focuses at the site. See the Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Laramie National Historic Site (2001) for further explanation of specific preservation treatments.

#### Rehabilitation:

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 that convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.

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, that more repair and replacement will be required. The standards for rehabilitation allow 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 are necessary and desirable. The use of the site is different from the historic use; thus, there are new requirements in order to accommodate and continue the existing use. See the Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Laramie National Historic Site (2001) for further explanation of specific rehabilitation treatments.

#### Restoration:

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 means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and the reconstruction of 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.

The expressed goal of the standards for restoration is to make the landscape appear as it did at the most significant time in its history. First, those materials and features from the "restoration period" are identified, based on thorough historical research. There are substantial physical and documentary evidence supporting the provision during the early and later military eras of opportunities for the application of this treatment on limited bases. The cost of restoring and maintaining landscape features needs to be evaluated prior to applying this treatment. See the Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Laramie National Historic Site (2001) for further explanation of specific restoration treatments.

**Reconstruction:**

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.

The goal of reconstruction is like that of restoration: to make the landscape appear as it did at the most significant time in its history. The difference is that there is far less, if any, extant historic material prior to treatment. 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 used. There are limited opportunities for the application of this standard to the cultural landscape at Fort Laramie. See the draft Cultural Landscape Report for Fort Laramie National Historic Site for further explanation of specific reconstruction treatments."

**Approved Treatment Completed:** No

**Approved Treatment Costs**

**Cost Date:** 01/01/2006

**Landscape Approved Treatment Cost Explanatory Description:**

Treatment costs in the original Fort Laramie NHS CLR, were supposedly identified from the 1992 Cultural Landscape Report. Total treatment costs were \$3,864,447.80, as estimated on 6/1/1999, by the regional office.

**Bibliography and Supplemental Information**

## Bibliography

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<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Both Graphic And Narrative
<b>Citation Location:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Butler, William B.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Cultural Resource Survey of Non-Military Historic Sites at Fort Laramie National Historic Site, Goshen County, Wyoming
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1998
<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
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<b>Citation Title:</b>	Description of Post, 1870
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1870
<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Number:</b>	LAR-2140
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Graphic
<b>Citation Location:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Fort Laramie D.T. General Plan
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1867
<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Number:</b>	LAR-2114
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Graphic
<b>Citation Location:</b>	DSC/TIC

**Citation Author:** Lt. D. Woodbury  
**Citation Title:** Fort Laramie Indian Territory  
**Year of Publication:** 1851  
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**Citation Number:** LAR-2106  
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**Citation Author:** L. A. Dowlson  
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<b>Citation Title:</b>	Interpretive Prospectus for Fort Laramie
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1963
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<b>Citation Type:</b>	Both Graphic And Narrative
<b>Citation Location:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	Col. William O. Collins
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Map of Fort Laramie
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1863
<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Number:</b>	LAR-2110
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Both Graphic And Narrative
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<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Graphic
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<b>Citation Author:</b>	National Park Service
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Master Plan for Fort Laramie National Monument
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<b>Citation Number:</b>	LAR-2142
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Graphic
<b>Citation Location:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Author:</b>	J.C. Kelton
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Plot of Fort Laramie
<b>Year of Publication:</b>	1856
<b>Source Name:</b>	DSC/TIC
<b>Citation Number:</b>	LAR-2109
<b>Citation Type:</b>	Graphic
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<b>Citation Author:</b>	Mattes, Merrill J.
<b>Citation Title:</b>	Preliminary Report of the Evolution of Public Buildings, Old Fort Laramie
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### Supplemental Information

**Title:** 1. Historic Trails Map  
**Description:** Map of trails passing through Fort Laramie

**Title:** 2. Historic Approaches to Fort Laramie  
**Description:** Merrill J. Mattes and Thor Borresen, The Historic Approaches to Fort Laramie (Fort Laramie National Historic Site, 1947), p. 11B

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