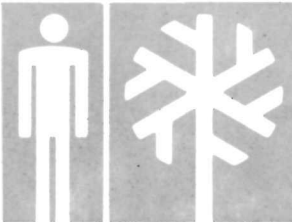


historic resources management plan
and
historical studies management plan

FORT LARAMIE



NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE • WYOMING

FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

**HISTORIC RESOURCES
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

and

**HISTORICAL STUDIES
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**DENVER SERVICE CENTER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION TEAM
MAY 1973**

**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

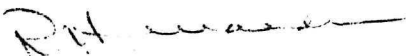
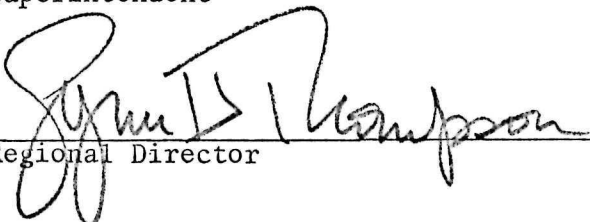

HISTORIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT PLAN

AND

HISTORICAL STUDIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

MAY 1973

SIGNATURE SHEET

	<u>2/25/74</u>
Superintendent	Date
	<u>3/15/74</u>
Regional Director	Date
	<u>3/26/74</u>
Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation	Date



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H22-PD

MAR 27 1974

Memorandum

To: Manager, Denver Service Center
Attention: Manager, Historic Preservation Team

From: Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation

Subject: Historic Resources Management Plan, Fort Laramie

Enclosed please find the signature sheet, which we have signed, for the subject document. Our concurrence in the HRMP is on the understanding that its final form adheres to the comments in our memorandum of October 26, 1973, and conditioned upon the understanding in that memorandum that additional content is needed for the HRMP, but may be provided later.

Please note in the attached memorandum from the Regional Director that his approval of the HRMP is also conditional. Accordingly, we suggest that his memorandum, the two to which he refers, ours of October 26, and this memorandum be incorporated into the HRMP behind the signature sheet, unless the comments in all memoranda have since been answered by means of revision and expansion of the HRMP.


Robert M. Utley

Enclosure

cc:
Regional Director, RMRO (2), w/c incoming



Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE

655 Parfet

Lakewood, Colorado 80215

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H22 CD THP

RMRO AB

MAR 15 1974

Memorandum

To: Associate Director, Professional Services, WASO

From: Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region

Subject: Historic Resources Management Plan, Package No. 142,
Fort Laramie

We are herewith transmitting a signed signature sheet for the subject document which the Superintendent received directly from the Denver Service Center. I have approved the revised plan subject to comments contained in the Midwest Region's and Superintendent Maeder's memorandums dated October 12 and September 26, 1973, respectively.

To keep us apprised of status on this plan, when you return the signed signature sheet to the Denver Service Center, please also forward a copy of the signature sheet to this office and Fort Laramie.

Enclosures (2)

cc:

Superintendent, FOLA



Let's Clean Up America For Our 200th Birthday



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MIDWEST REGION

1709 JACKSON STREET

OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 MWR (APC)

Your reference:
H2215-CD-TIP

OCT 12 1973

Memorandum

To: Manager, Denver Service Center
From: ~~Acting~~ Regional Director, Midwest Region

Subject: Historic Resources Management Plan, Fort Laramie

We have reviewed the revised subject report received by copy of your September 21 memorandum to the Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, WASO; and, I am approving it today subject to the following comments.

1. Comments in Superintendent Macdon's September 26 memorandum (copy enclosed) should be incorporated into the plan.
2. The paragraph on aboriginal inhabitants and evolvement of the plains cultures, on page 7, should be expanded on, as suggested on page 2 of our August 8 memorandum.

Robert L. Giles
~~Acting~~ Regional Director

Enclosure

cc:
Superintendent, Fort Laramie
Mr. Mattes, DSC w/cc enc.
Dir., OAMP, WASO w/cc enc.





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Laramie, Wyoming 82212

IN REPLY REFER TO:

~~212~~ H30

September 26, 1973

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Fort Laramie

Subject: Historic Resources Management Plan, Fort Laramie

We have completed our review of the revised report and comment as below. We are including a few comments that we missed during the original review, I'm sorry to say.

Page iv. Correct Administrative Officer's name to Lois Woodard.

Page 2. The Corn Creek project does not call for a pumping plant at the mouth of the Laramie River. Remove the sentence.

Page 19. The discussion of map dates and Indian camps and emigrant campgrounds in the second paragraph is not responsive to the Regional Director's earlier comments. Showing Indian camps at various places around the fort, and emigrant campgrounds on the south side of the river is appropriate. The base map will be used in developing interpretive programs, exhibits, signs, etc. It will be helpful in having these general, wide-spread sites shown on the map.

Page 22. The last sentence of first paragraph, beginning, "In view of . . ." is a repetition of final sentence in the preceeding paragraph.

Page 23. In second paragraph, the "Emergency Action Plan" is in existence, not preparation.

Page 28. Second sentence of final paragraph is misleading. Should state simply that, "The park's water supply is chlorinated."

Page 41. Paragraph 3, first sentence, should be changed to read, "the hay produced on the tract of land immediately east of the visitor center is cut and removed each year by purchase order contract with local residents who remove the hay as required in the contract. Removing the hay reduces fire hazard in the area."



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

Page 44. We don't know quite what is meant by Scope of Collections report. The Scope of Collections is stated in the Master Plan and the Interpretive Prospectus. If by "report" it means a list of furnishings and other items that are on hand but do not fit in the Scope of Collections, then it is correct. One of our goals this year is to determine exactly what items we have that do not fit into our Scope of Collections.

Page 48. The Fort Platte marker on the highway leading into the fort is not owned by the National Park Service. It is owned by the state. We cannot replace it. However, we can make suggestions to the State Historic Landmarks Commission.

Page 57-58. The report says that, "All maintenance programs should be under the direction of trained professional preservation personnel." Our historic building maintenance program is an on-going continuous program under the direction of the Maintenance Foreman, who is not a trained professional preservation person, but who has had sufficient experience during his years here to perform or direct most of the maintenance of historic structures. We believe the report statement should be qualified in some way, since it is not realistic for us to consider a full time trained professional preservation employee to direct our day-to-day on-going maintenance program. We agree that more training would be desirable.

Page 60. The pumphouse may have to remain. As noted in the report, its removal will require an entire new water system for the park. Developing a new water system may not be simply a matter of obtaining adequate funds. Three test wells were dug on the south side of the river a few years ago and no adequate source of water was found.

Page 63. The Fort Laramie Historical Association is the fort's cooperating association.

Page 65. Under Furnishings Studies should be added. *1866 Guard House.

There are numerous typing and spelling errors throughout the report, which undoubtedly will be corrected during final preparation.

Richard H. Maeder
Superintendent



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Laramie National Historic Site
Fort Laramie, Wyoming 82212

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30

July 10, 1973

Memorandum

To: Director, Midwest Region

From: Superintendent, Fort Laramie

Subject: Historic Structures Report, Fort Laramie

We have reviewed the Historic Structures Report, Fort Laramie, prepared by Historian Richard Sellars of the Denver Service Center.

The Title of the report should be changed to Historic Resources Management Plan.

On page 36, the report refers to severe flooding in 1971 and 1972. The year 1973 should be added. The May, 1973 flow of the Laramie River was the highest since 1915 when record keeping began.

On page 39 is a reference to timber reserves by the 1870's. Sawmill sites were established around Laramie Peak in the 1850's.

In respect to the recommendations in Section III Historic Resource Management at Fort Laramie, we appreciate and agree with most of the recommendations. We realize, of course, that we cannot readily implement many of them because of funding and manpower restraints. There are five recommendations which we question:

Page 63 recommends replacing the lightning rods with 19th century rods. Some research will be necessary before doing this, since some 19th century rods were fairly elaborate and would be much more intrusive than the simple rods now used. Moreover, the present rods were carefully and especially designed by NPS designers to be inconspicuous and unobtrusive.

Page 64 recommends replacing modern red fire extinguishers with historic styles of fire extinguishers. We certainly would not want to install the old pump water type of fire extinguishers; and have no idea where we could find a modern, dry chemical extinguisher housed in an historic style extinguisher. Nor do we believe the extinguishers should be con-



National Parks Centennial 1872-1972

cealed. In the interest of protection, the extinguishers should be effective and handy. We must be willing to accept some modern intrusions (e.g. the plexiglas doors and fire extinguishers) to protect the priceless buildings and furnishings.

Pages 65 and 66 refer to the modern structures in the maintenance area and plans to remove them when new facilities are built across the river. One of the modern buildings houses our water well and irrigation well heads and pumps. It is not planned to remove this building, since to do so would require an entire new water system for the fort. We believe, too, that the heated garage be retained for storage of one fire truck, so that it would be accessible and handy to the historic buildings. The buildings can be screened from view.

Page 71 recommends Congressional authorization to acquire the Hog Ranch three miles west of Fort Laramie. The Master Plan for Fort Laramie does not contemplate this action. A recommendation for such should properly be in the Fort's Master Plan, not resource management plan. The suggestion requires additional study and thought before we can agree to it.

Page 75 under four Furnishings studies, lists three needed studies. We recommend a fourth: 1866 Guardhouse (H.B.8)

We are sincerely appreciative of the time and thought that Mr. Sellars has applied to this report. We have already and will continue to benefit from his work.



Richard H. Maeder
Superintendent

OCT 24 1973

Memorandum

To: Manager, Denver Service Center
Attention: Manager, Historic Preservation Team

From: Assistant Director, Park Historic Preservation

Subject: Historic Resources Management Plan, Fort Laramie National
Historic Site

We are returning the copy of the subject document sent to us for review. We have entered numerous notes on the copy, most of them editorial, but some of them substantive remarks that should be used in final typing.

We believe that this revised draft largely reflects the comments we made on the rough draft. However, we believe that there are still certain problems with it. Most important is the continuing emphasis on a sort of inspection report, with relatively little information provided on the daily practices of resource management and maintenance. Because of pragmatic considerations, it may not be possible to completely fill this gap. However, we would hope that largely through the initiative of the park, individual subsections could be revised after the HRMP is distributed, to fill in the missing data.

There is still some evident confusion between the main body of the text and the proper content of the appendix. Recommendations that should be reflected in the appendix are in subsections III-A. We do note that most such transfers have been made since the first draft, however. Conversely, some material in the appendix is not project oriented, but should rather be included in the main body of the text. Appendix 1 is such a case and should be reflected in subsections II-C and III-F-4. Appendix 4 is acceptable, but perhaps it should be transferred to the Historical Studies Plan. Most of the items in appendix 6 relate to the management of the historic scene and should be moved to that section. Those that are of a project nature should also remain in the appendix, but identified as projects related to the historic scene.

To ensure the convenient revision of the HRMP, each alphabetized subsection should start on a new page, as in the Fort Davis HRMP, and all pages should be dated. A revision note sheet should also be included at the beginning of the document. In our memorandum of July 20, 1973, we reiterated the format and distribution of the HRMP upon completion.

While we do not yet believe the HRMP to be complete, we nonetheless recognize that in view of pragmatic factors further revision to any great extent may not now be possible. However, we do believe that the HRMP is acceptable and that the revision needed is largely the addition of material. Accordingly, we will follow the wishes of the superintendent and regional director. If they believe that the HRMP is presently acceptable as a handbook of maintenance and management at the park, they will sign the signature sheet and forward it to this office so that it may be copied along with the record copies of the HRMP. The revisions we propose here and any advanced by the superintendent and regional director should be incorporated into the final version. We trust that a more readable legislative context subsection will be included in the final.

Finally, we have retained the bibliography of the Historical Studies Plan in the copy we reviewed, so that the Division of History bibliographer may cross-check it with her records.

Robert M. Utley

Robert M. Utley

Enclosure
Management Plan

PPH:DA Clary:ts 10/19/73
bcc: M
PPH-Mr. Clary (2)
MDE

Ft. Laramie NHS
BASIC FILE RETAINED IN PPH

Preface

The staff at Fort Laramie National Historic Site was very helpful during the preparation of this report. Mr. Charles C. Sharp, former Superintendent at Fort Laramie, gave much assistance, especially with his comments and suggestions on the preparation of all of the report's managerial aspects. Superintendent Richard H. Maeder, Supervisory Historian B. William Henry, Jr., Park Technician Lewis Eaton, Museum Curator W. J. Petty all helped greatly, particularly with the gathering of historical information and management data. Administrative Officer Lois Woodard and Mrs. Beth Eaton assisted in several ways, including the preparation of excellent meals for visiting historians. Maintenance Foreman Chester Hood and Maintencemanceman Charles Potter helped greatly with their comments on maintenance problems at Fort Laramie.

Restoration Architect Russell Jones, my colleague on the Historic Preservation Team, provided important professional advice in the preparation of this report. His comments and suggestions formed the basic substantive material for the guidelines to maintenance of the historic structures.

Using his thorough and long-established knowledge of Fort Laramie, Merrill J. Mattes, Manager, Historic Preservation Team, has made numerous comments and suggestions leading to the improvement of this report. Supervisory Historian F. Ross Holland, Jr., has patiently directed this study, my first project with the Park Service, from its inception. To these individuals I express my thanks. I am especially grateful to Research Historian Erwin N. Thompson who contributed more than materially to the final draft of this plan.

Richard W. Sellars
Historic Preservation Team
Denver Service Center
June 1973

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 - 4. Interpretation of historical themes.
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APPENDIX: Program of Special Resource Management Projects.

1. Trenches and Ditches. (See subsection III-A).
2. Manuscript collections. (See subsection III-D).
3. Fort William interpretive marker. (See subsection III-E-1).
4. Historic Structure Preservation Guides. (Reference subsections II-F-2, 3, and 4).
5. Restored structures of the army post. (See subsection III-F-4).
6. The Hog Ranch. (See subsection III-G).

Revisions, additions, deletions

Date	Subsection	Comments

I-A
Surroundings

I. The Setting.

A. Surroundings.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is located on the Laramie River near its confluence with the North Platte River in southeastern Wyoming. The surrounding countryside consists of high barren plains, typical of the region, broken occasionally by streams flowing generally eastward from the Rocky Mountains. Buffalo grass, blue gramma, and western wheat grass provide the dominant cover for the area. Timber is, of course, scarce, except for that found along the rivers and on the mountain slopes to the west. In the lower elevations near the fort, scrub pines, ponderosas, and junipers are scattered along the bluffs, while cottonwood, ash, and willow grow along the water courses.

Approximately forty miles to the west of the fort lies the Laramie Range, dominated by Laramie Peak which rises to an elevation of 10,274 feet and is prominently visible from the post. The Laramie River, with origins in Colorado, flows through these mountains, and as a mature, swift-flowing stream it empties into the North Platte about a mile and a half below the post.

The local economy, as far as the environs of Fort Laramie is concerned, is based on ranching and farming. These undertakings, by themselves, offer no intrusions on the historic vistas. Recently, public meetings have been held to discuss a proposed "Corn Creek and Laramie Irrigation Project." Park personnel have attended and will continue to attend such public meetings, keeping the Service informed of any potential intrusions on the historic scene.

Western Horizons Limited has established a KOA campground of 200 spaces adjacent to (north of) the park. At present, this activity does not offer any intrusions on the historic vistas.

I-B
Topography

B. Topography of the park.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site comprises 563 acres. Located on the flood plain of the eastward-trending Laramie River, the fort itself sits below the level of the surrounding high plains. Bluffs approximately a half mile to the north and south of the post from the rim of the river valley and provide a low, clean horizon for much of the view from the grounds of the post. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate the scenery.

Most of the historic structures and ruins are situated on the first stream terrace, from 10 to 16 feet above the present flood plain of the Laramie River. The hospital (HS 13), the noncommissioned officers' quarters ruins (HS 146), and the pre-1867 cemetery are on the second stream terrace, which rises sharply from the first terrace to a height of 20 to 25 feet above the flood plain.

The Commissary (HS 9), the Old Bakery (HS 10), and the New Bakery ruins (HS 115) are on the upper margin of the flood plain; but upstream river control has largely eliminated flood danger. A large number of historic structure sites lie on the flood plain downstream from the Commissary and Old Bakery.

On the south side of Laramie River, the sites of several army buildings, two trading posts, etc., are on the first stream terrace, about 10 feet above the flood plain.

I-C
Historical Context

C. The historical context.

1. Survey of the history of the fort.

Activities of historical significance took place in the vicinity of Fort Laramie National Historic Site from the height of the fur trading era until the closing of the frontier. In 1834 William Sublette and Robert Campbell, traders operating out of St. Louis, built Fort William, the first structure to be located near the junction of the Laramie and North Platte rivers. This post quickly became important as a base of operations for traders and trappers, and later as a stopping place for the increasing number of travelers along the trails to Oregon and California.

The American Fur Company soon acquired Fort William and, in 1841, replaced the old log stockade with a new adobe structure, Fort John, which gradually came to be known as Fort Laramie. In late 1840, or possibly in 1841, rival traders established Fort Platte nearby on the banks of the North Platte River. This rival post operated until 1845 when it was abandoned.

Responding to the increasing overland travel to the Far West, Congress, in 1846, authorized the establishment of military posts along the Oregon Trail. By this authority the United States purchased Fort Laramie in 1849. As a focal point for military operations in the northern plains and mountains, Fort Laramie hosted two major treaty councils, in 1851 and 1866-68. Campaigns against the Indians of the northern plains during the last half of the nineteenth century testified to the ultimate failure of the treaties to maintain peace. Operating from Fort Laramie and neighboring posts, the Army eventually subdued the Sioux, Cheyenne, and other tribes.

Fort Laramie became less important as the Indian wars subsided and as railroads bypassed the area. The army abandoned the fort in 1890 and auctioned the buildings and some of the land to local citizens.

2. Main historical themes.

Primary interpretive efforts are directed toward Fort Laramie as a focal point of American governmental, military, and economic activities on the Northern Plains, including the following themes:

- a. The fur trade; Fort Laramie as a center of the fur trade.
 - b. The Oregon and California trails.
 - c. Military protection of the emigrants.
 - d. The Treaty of 1851.
 - e. The Grattan Massacre, 1854.
 - f. The Mormons and the Utah War.
 - g. The Civil War Years, 1861-1865.
 - h. The Powder River Expedition, 1865.
 - i. The peace treaties of 1866-1868.
 - j. Trouble in the Black Hills, 1874-1876.
 - k. The Sioux War of 1876-1877.
 - l. The last years of army occupation, 1878-1890.
3. Subsidiary and related historical themes.
 - a. Indian life and culture on the Northern Plains, prehistory and history.
 - b. Exploration.
 - c. Military life at a frontier fort.
 - d. Supply, ordnance, logistics, equipment, uniforms, etc.
 - e. Communications--Pony Express and telegraph.
 - f. Gold rushes in California, Colorado, Montana, and the Black Hills.
 - g. Civilian personalities associated with Fort Laramie.
 - h. Cattle drives through the Northern Plains.
 - i. Homesteading and ranching.
 - j. Civilian use of the fort, 1890-1938.
 - k. Park administrative history.
 4. Interpretation of historical themes.

Although three fur-trading posts were built in the vicinity of Fort Laramie, little physical evidence of them remains today, while numerous foundations, ruins, and restored structures survive from the military era. The military structures dominate the scene, and thus the military post and army operations take precedence over other events in the interpretation of the historic site. However, the significance of the fur trade of the Northern Rockies and of Fort Laramie's relation to the trade demand that that story be interpreted also.

5. Relation of historical themes to natural history, anthropological, or other themes.

The junction of the North Platte and the Laramie has been a natural attraction for man for hundreds of years and thus became the setting for a variety of historical events.

The Laramie River constitutes the largest and most important tributary of the upper North Platte River. The confluence forms a broad, fertile area of fine grazing lands and bottomland timber; and, as part of the "banana belt" of Wyoming, which receives occasional warm chinook winds, this area also enjoys relatively mild winters.

In times of earliest habitation, Pleistocene hunters pursued the great beasts that existed then. Although climatic changes gave rise to the plains village cultures to the east, pedestrian game hunters continued to occupy the northwestern high plains. Once the horse was introduced, a more intensely nomadic way of life, characterized by the horse-bison culture, became possible.

The region's natural advantages along with its established use by Indians made the river confluence an important point of contact as white traders became active in the high plains. The location was a natural choice for the establishment of a fur trading post.

Fort Laramie also lay along the major northern migration route through the Rocky Mountains to the West Coast. As traffic along the North Platte increased, the fort became important as a place to rest and to resupply wagon trains. In 1849 the choice of Fort Laramie as a military post seemed a logical one for the Army due to its obvious natural advantages which had already attracted both Indians and whites.

6. Statement of Historical Significance.

Fort Laramie, strategically located near the confluence of the North Platte and the Larmie Rivers, was a principal gateway to the Far West. Serving as a fur-trading post, 1834-1849, then as a military post, 1849-1890, it figured most prominently in the westward march of the Americans. Traders, trappers, and Indians met here. Covered-wagon emigrants by the thousands passed here for refreshment and protection. It served as headquarters for military campaigns on the northern plains. Great Indian councils that attempted to bring peace to the land occurred here. It 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 swept to the Pacific Ocean, turned back to include the high plains and the mountain ranges, and forged

a nation across the continent. This site focuses in one small spot the triumph and the tragedy, the virtues and the violence, and the dream and the reality of Manifest Destiny.

7. Intangible historical resources.

- a. The fur trade in the Rocky Mountains: mountain men, American Fur Company and its competitors, contemporary posts (especially Fort Union Trading Post NHS and Bent's Old Fort NHS).
- b. The trails: Oregon, California, and Mormon; the California and the Colorado gold rushes; Pony Express.
- c. Plains Indians: the tribes, their geographical distribution, war and peace, treaties and councils.
- d. Nineteenth century military history: campaigns, exploration, military life, organization, equipment, personalities, contributions to the frontier.
- e. Art and Fort Laramie: noted artists and early photographers of the West who depicted Fort Laramie and its environs.

8. Conflict of themes.

Military post versus fur-trading post. Because of the physical predominance of the military post over the fur-trading post(s) and its possibly greater historical significance, the military post dominates interpretation of the national historic site. Should these two histories come in conflict, the proper management of the military post's historic resources should take precedence over management of those of the fur-trading post's, but always with a view to preservation of both. At the same time, the interpretation of the fur trade history of this site should be increased.

I-D
May 1973

D. The legislative context.

I-D
May 1973

217413

DEED OF TRUST

THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK
COMMISSION OF WYOMING

THE STATE OF WYOMING,)
) SS.
COUNTY OF GOSHEN.)

This instrument was filed
for record on the 2 day of May
A. D. 1938 at 4:20 o'clock P. M.
and is duly recorded in Book 127
on page 511.

FRANK HAINES, County Clerk and
Ex-Officio Register of Deeds.

THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION OF WYOMING, a corporation, grantor,
for and in consideration of the acceptance by grantee of the within trust,
conveys and warrants to THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, grantee, the follow-
ing described real estate, situated in the County of Goshen, State of
Wyoming, to-wit:

Commencing at the corner common to Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29
in Township 26 North, Range 64 West of the Sixth Principal
Meridian, Wyoming, thence due West 1320 feet, the POINT OF
BEGINNING: thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due
East 1725 feet to a point; thence due South parallel to sec-
tion lines between Sections 20 and 21 and Sections 29 and 28,
3960 feet to a point; thence due West 3045 feet to a point;
thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due East 355 feet
to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of the county
road; thence North 26 degrees 39 minutes east 685.4 feet to a
point on the said easterly right-of-way line of the county road;
thence North 28 degrees 55' East 808.1 feet to a point on the
said easterly right-of-way line and the section line common to
Sections 20 and 29; thence due east 266.9 feet along said sec-
tion line between Sections 20 and 29 to the point of beginning
excepting, however, the land occupied by the county road which
traverses the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the
northeast quarter of said Section 29, containing in all 214.41
acres, more or less.

IN TRUST, HOWEVER, that the United States of America, by its con-
stituted agency, shall care for and preserve the said premises as a public
historical site and to that end will so improve, manage and conduct the
same that the historical significance of the property will be maintained
and perpetuated.

And the said The Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming hereby covenants with the said The United States of America that it is lawfully seized of said premises; that they are free from encumbrances, and it warrants the title thereto against the lawful claims of all persons whomsoever.

DATED this 30th day of March, A. D. 1938.

Witness to signature
of B. B. Brooks
G. M. Rafferty

THE HISTORICAL LANDMARK COMMISSION OF WYOMING

By Bryant B. Brooks, Chairman

Witness to signature
of Joseph S. Weppner
Molly Zupano

By Joseph S. Weppner, Secretary

The Historical Landmark
Commission of Wyoming
Seal - Chartered May
3, 1927

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 2292) of July 16, 1938

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

[No. 2292--July 16, 1938--53 Stat. 2461]

WHEREAS The Historical Landmark Commission of Wyoming has donated to the United States in trust certain lands with the structures thereon comprising the abandoned Fort Laramie, for the purpose of improving, preserving, and conducting such lands and structures as a public historical site; and

WHEREAS the lands and structures are of great historic interest and constitute a historic landmark; and

WHEREAS it appears that it would be in the public interest to reserve such lands and structures as a national monument, to be known as the Fort Laramie National Monument:

NOW THEREFORE, I, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, under and by virtue of the authority vested in me by section 2 of the act of June 8, 1906, ch. 3060, 34 Stat. 225 (U. S. C., title 16, sec. 431), do proclaim that the following-described lands in Wyoming are hereby reserved and set apart as the Fort Laramie National Monument:

Commencing at the corner common to Sections 20, 21, 28 and 29 in Township 26 North, Range 64 West of the Sixth Principal Meridian, Wyoming, thence due West 1320 feet, the point of beginning; thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due east 1725 feet to a point; thence due South parallel to section lines between Sections 20 and 21 and to a point; thence due North 1320 feet to a point; thence due East 355 feet to a point on the easterly right-of-way line of the county road; thence North 26 degrees 39 minutes east 685.4 feet to a point on the said easterly right-of-way line of the county road; thence North 28 degrees 55' East 808.1 feet to a point on the said easterly right-of-way line and on the section line common to Sections 20 and 29; thence due east 266.9 feet along said section line between sections 20 and 29 to the point of beginning excepting, however, the land occupied by the county road which traverses the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of the northeast quarter of said Section 29, containing in all 214.41 acres, more or less.

Warning is hereby expressly given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy, or remove any feature of this monument, and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

The Director of the National Park Service, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, shall have the supervision, management, and control of this monument as provided in the act of Congress entitled "An act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes," approved August 25, 1916, 39 Stat. 535 (U. S. C., title 16, secs. 1 and 2), and acts supplementary thereto or amendatory thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the United States to be affixed.

DONE at the City of Washington this 16th day of July in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and thirty-eight, and of the
[SEAL] Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-third.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

By the President:

CORDELL HULL,

Secretary of State.

86th Congress)
2d Session) HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

(Report
(No. 1432

REVISING THE BOUNDARIES AND CHANGING THE NAME OF THE FORT LARAMIE
NATIONAL MONUMENT, WYO.

March 29, 1960--Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. Pfost, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

(To accompany H. R. 8567)

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 8567) to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE

H. R. 8567 revises the boundaries of the Fort Laramie National Monument in Wyoming to include a net addition of approximately 350 acres of land and redesignates the monument as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Of the new lands to be included, 11 acres are already in Federal ownership. The remainder are privately owned.

NEED

Fort Laramie is located just south of the Platte River along which ran the Mormon Trail on the north side and the Oregon-California Trail and the pony express route on the south. Intersecting these trails near Fort Laramie was the Cheyenne-Deadwood stage road. Fort Laramie's active period covered the years 1834-90.

The committee has examined a detailed map of the lands now in the monument and of those that are proposed to be added to and excluded from it. It concurs in the view of the Interior Department that the enlargement of the monument and revision of its boundaries will assist in protecting this historic scene and the old buildings that remain there and in helping Americans to appreciate this part of their history.

It notes that, over the last few years, the number of visitors to the present site has steadily increased--from 30,000 to 32,000 in 1957, to 36,000 in 1958, to 41,000 in 1959--and anticipates, particularly if the site is enlarged and improved, a continuation of this trend.

Included in section 2 of H. R. 8567 is a provision permitting the Secretary of the Interior, with the consent of the landowner involved, to acquire lands outside the revised boundaries of the monument, if this is necessary to avoid undesirable severance of properties which lie both inside and outside the boundaries, and to exchange the outside lands so acquired for private inholdings within the boundaries. It is believed that this provision will be of assistance both to landowners and to the Government and that it will, in at least some cases, avoid payment of possibly high severance damages.

COST

The Department of the Interior estimates that land acquisition costs under the measure will be \$75,000. The National Park Service states that the allocation of funds for operating the Fort Laramie National Monument in fiscal year 1960 is approximately \$37,500. Funds allocated to the monument in the current fiscal year would be reallocated to the Fort Laramie National Historic Site, without (the committee has been advised) any necessity for a reappropriation or an increase.

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION

The Department of the Interior has recommended that the legislation be enacted. The Department's report follows:

Department of the Interior,
Office of the Secretary,
Washington, D. C., January 4, 1959.

Hon. Wayne N. Aspinall,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
House of Representatives, Washington, D. C.

DEAR MR. ASPINALL: Your committee has requested our report on H. R. 8567, a bill to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo., and for other purposes.

We recommend that this legislation be enacted.

H. R. 8567 would revise the boundaries of the present monument so that it would include an additional 372 acres. It would further redesignate the Fort Laramie National Monument as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

We feel that the enactment of this bill would enable this Department to better present the story of the major role played by Fort Laramie in the West, and would greatly facilitate the management of the area.

Fort Laramie's history as an active establishment influencing the exploration and settlement of the West extended unbroken over the period from 1834 to 1890. It was first a private post which engaged in fur trading in the Rocky Mountain area; then a post of the American Fur Co.; then an Army post that figures prominently in the westward migrations in Oregon, Utah, and California; and finally was one of the key military posts involved in the numerous Army campaigns that resulted in pacification of the Northern Plains Indians. In this last role, it served as the center for negotiations with these Indians. Here, also, pony express riders, missionaries, overland stages, gold rush travelers, wagon trains, trappers and many other individuals and groups found protection and supplies. This old fort, as one of the most important and best preserved of historic sites which influenced westward expansion in this country, is a significant link with our past.

The present monument comprises about 214 acres. H. R. 8567 would revise its boundaries so as to include an additional 372 acres of land now under private ownership and 11 acres of public domain administered by the Bureau of Land Management. About 33 acres of monument land are proposed for deletion, thus resulting in a net increase in the area of approximately 350 acres. Legislation is necessary to accomplish this enlargement since the act of September 14, 1950 (64 Stat. 849), prohibits the further extension or establishment of national parks or monuments in Wyoming except by express authorization of Congress. Moreover, much of the land is not owned or controlled by the United States.

Additional lands are needed at Fort Laramie to make possible better protection and interpretation of the historic buildings and portions of structures that still exist, to facilitate further archeological and historical research on lands adjacent to the monument, and to provide space for an improved entrance road and headquarters development. The new boundary described in H. R. 8567 encompasses sufficient land to protect the historic scene of Fort Laramie. It includes lands on which important historical structures were located and the general route of the old fort approaches and river crossings. Other lands south and southeast of the present monument are needed to accommodate the headquarters development and visitor center for the area, which otherwise would have to remain or be placed in the old fort area. A portion of these needed lands (11 acres) is already administered by the Secretary as unappropriated public land.

Included in the proposed eastward and northward extension of the monument along the North Platte River are lands desirable for protective purposes and a small triangular tract lying north and west of the North Platte River. On this tract is an historic iron bridge across the North Platte River which is the first such bridge to be constructed west of the Missouri River. It should be protected in Federal ownership for its historic values.

The addition of a small tract near the northwest corner of the existing monument would extend the boundary to the county road in this section.

This bill carries a provision that would authorize the Secretary to make purchases of lands for the monument from private owners without severing ownerships if they consent to such purchases. This would reduce severance costs to the United States and would also cause less hardship for the owners. Lands acquired in this manner outside the proposed new boundaries could be used beneficially to acquire other lands within the proposed boundary, through equal value exchanges. The lands which are proposed for exclusion from the southwest portion of the existing monument contain no known historic features. Also, they are adequately screened by bottom land timber from the monument. The land so excluded would have value to adjacent landowners for grazing and would be available for exchange in acquiring additional lands for the monument.

CALENDAR NO. 1269

86th Congress)
2d Session)

SENATE

(Report
(No. 1232FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL MONUMENT, WYO., REVISION
OF BOUNDARIES AND CHANGE OF NAME

April 4, 1960--Ordered to be printed

Mr. O'Mahoney, from the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2434]

The Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2434) to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo., and for other purposes, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

HISTORY OF FORT LARAMIE

Fort Laramie, originally constructed around 1834 and used as a fur trading post in the Rocky Mountain area, served successively as an American Fur Co. post, an important Army post during westward migrations, and as one of the key military posts involved in the Army campaigns against the Northern Plains Indians.

This most important old fort is very well preserved. The monument itself comprises some 214 acres.

PURPOSE OF S. 2434

Additional lands are needed at Fort Laramie to make possible better protection and interpretation of the historic buildings and portions of structures that still exist, to facilitate further archeological and historical research on lands adjacent to the monument, and to provide space for an improved entrance road and headquarters development. These objectives can be accomplished by enactment of S. 2434.

Under the reported legislation, the boundaries of the monument would be revised to include an additional 372 acres of land now under private ownership and 11 acres of public domain administered by the

* * * * *

for deletion, thus resulting in a net increase of approximately 350 acres.

S. 2434 provides for the redesignation of Fort Laramie National Monument as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Such a redesignation of the area is more descriptive and correctly classifies the area in line with the historic values preserved and interpreted at Fort Laramie.

ESTIMATED COST

It is estimated that the cost of acquiring the privately owned lands within the revised boundaries described in S. 2434 would be \$75,000.

The committee would call special attention to the fact that Mrs. Virginia W. Hill of Denver, Colo. has contributed \$25,000 to the refurnishing of "Old Bedham" the bachelor officers' quarters at Fort Laramie, famous in the lore of the West. Mrs. Hill, part of whose childhood was spent on the post, has agreed to donate \$75,000 to provide other of the main buildings with the authentic furnishings of the time. The committee considers this a most generous contribution.

AGENCY REPORTS

The reports of the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of the Budget recommending the enactment of this legislation are set forth below.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D. C., January 4, 1959

HON. JAMES E. MURRAY
*Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C.*

DEAR SENATOR MURRAY: Your committee has requested our report on S. 2434, a bill to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo., and for other purposes.

We recommend that this legislation be enacted.

S. 2434 would revise the boundaries of the present monument so that it would include an additional 372 acres. It would further redesignate the Fort Laramie National Monument as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site.

We feel that the enactment of this bill would enable this Department to better present the story of the major role played by Fort Laramie in the West, and would greatly facilitate the management of the area.

Fort Laramie's history as an active establishment influencing the exploration and settlement of the West extended unbroken over the period from 1834 to 1890. It was first a private post which engaged in fur trading in the Rocky Mountain area; then a post of the American Fur Co.; then an Army post that figures prominently in the westward migrations in Oregon, Utah, and California; and finally was one of the key military posts involved in the numerous Army campaigns that resulted in pacification of the Northern Plains Indians. In this last role it served as the center for negotiations with these Indians. Here also, pony express riders, missionaries, overland stages, gold rush travelers, wagon trains, trappers, and many other individuals and groups found protection and supplies. This old fort, as one of the most important and best preserved of historic sites which influenced westward expansion in this country, is a significant link with our past.

The present monument comprises about 214 acres. S. 2434 would revise its boundaries so as to include an additional 372 acres of land now under private ownership and 11 acres of public domain administered by the Bureau of Land Management. About 33 acres of monument land are proposed for deletion, thus resulting in a net increase in the area of approximately 350 acres. Legislation is necessary to accomplish this enlargement since the act of September 14, 1950 (64 Stat. 849), prohibits the further extension or establishment of national parks or monuments in Wyoming except by express authorization of Congress. Moreover, much of the land is not owned or controlled by the United States.

Additional lands are needed at Fort Laramie to make possible better protection and interpretation of the historic buildings and portions of structures that still exist, to facilitate further archeological and historical research on lands adjacent to the monument, and to provide space for an improved entrance road and headquarters development. The new boundary described in S. 2434 encompasses sufficient land to protect the historic scene of Fort Laramie. It includes lands on which important historical structures were located and the general route of southeast of the present monument are needed to accommodate the headquarters development and visitor center for the area. A portion of these needed lands (11 acres) is already administered by the Secretary as unappropriated public land.

Included in the proposed eastward and northward extension of the monument along the North Platte River are lands desirable for protective purposes and a small triangular tract lying north and west of the North Platte River. On this tract is an historic iron bridge

across the North Platte River which is the first such bridge to be constructed west of the Missouri River. It should be protected in Federal ownership for its historic values.

The addition of a small tract near the northwest corner of the existing monument would extend the boundary to the county road in this section.

This bill carries a provision that would authorize the Secretary to make purchases of lands for the monument from private owners without severing ownerships if they consent to such purchases. This would reduce severance costs to the United States and would also cause less hardship for the owners. Lands acquired in this manner outside the proposed new boundaries could be used beneficially to acquire other lands within the proposed boundary, through equal value exchanges. The lands which are proposed for exclusion from the southwest portion of the existing monument contain no known historic features. Also, they are adequately screened by bottom land timber from the monument. The land so excluded would have value to adjacent landowners for grazing and would be available for exchange in acquiring additional lands for the monument.

S. 2434 provides that the Fort Laramie National Monument be redesignated as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site. We favor such redesignation of this area as it is more descriptive and correctly classifies the area in line with the historic values preserved and interpreted at Fort Laramie.

It is estimated that the cost of acquiring the privately owned lands within the revised boundaries described in S. 2434 would be \$75,000.

The Wyoming State Historical Society strongly favors a revision of the boundaries at Fort Laramie, as proposed by this measure.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that there is no objection to the submission of this report to your committee.

Sincerely yours,

Roger Ernst,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESENT,
BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,
Washington, D. C. December 2, 1959

Hon. James E. Murray,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U. S. Senate,
New Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This is in response to your request for the views of the Bureau of the Budget on S. 2434, a bill to revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo., and for other purposes.

I-D
May 1973

S. 2434 would revise the boundaries of the present monument so that it would include an additional 372 acres. It would further redesignate the Fort Laramie National Monument as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site. The report of the Secretary of the Interior on this bill sets forth the reasons for the proposed revisions and recommends approval of S. 2434.

This Bureau concurs and, accordingly, would not object to the enactment of S. 2434.

Sincerely yours.

Phillip S. Hughes,
Assistant Director for Legislative REference.

FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Revision of boundaries; monument redesignated as "Fort Laramie National Historic Site".....Act of April 29, 1960

An Act To revise the boundaries and change the name of the Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyoming, and for other purposes, approved April 29, 1960 (74 Stat. 83)

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve the sites of historic buildings and roads associated with Fort Laramie, the boundaries of the Fort Laramie National Monument are hereby revised to include the following area:

Beginning at the intersection of the section line common to sections 28 and 29, township 26 north, range 64 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, 1,320 feet to the point of 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 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 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 660 feet north of section line common to sections 22 and 27;

Thence northwesterly in a straight line to a point on the southerly right-of-way line of the State highway relocation a distance of 150 feet east 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, section 22;

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 27;

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.

SEC. 2. In furtherance of the purposes of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to procure, in such manner and subject to such terms and conditions as he may deem to be in the public interest, lands and interests in lands within the revised boundary described in section 1 hereof. To avoid the undesirable severance of parcels in private ownership which extend beyond the aforesaid revised boundaries, the Secretary may, in his discretion, and with the consent of the owners, acquire lands or interests in lands that are in such ownership but which lie outside the revised boundary. Property so acquired outside such revised boundary and federally owned lands excluded from the monument pursuant to section 1 hereof may be exchanged by the Secretary of the Interior for any land of approximately equal value within the monument boundaries.

SEC. 3. The Fort Laramie National Monument is hereby redesignated as the Fort Laramie National Historic Site and any remaining balance of funds appropriated for the monument shall be available for the purposes of the national historic site.

SEC. 4. The administration, protection, and development of the Fort Laramie National Historic Site shall be exercised by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service and for other purposes," as amended. (See 16 U. S. C. & 461 note [Supp. II].)

II-A
Historical Base Map

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

A. Historical Base Map.

The most recent historical base map of Fort Laramie, dated 1965, reflects extensive research over many years and needs only minor revisions. It supersedes two earlier, less complete ones, and identifies the sites of all known structures associated with the military post--nearly two hundred in number--as well as the sites of the three early fur trading posts. The map is based upon a series of original military maps drawn during the period 1849-1888, which reveal the location of buildings no longer existing as well as of those surviving. However, further archeological work should be done to confirm the exact location of the subsurface remains of extinct historic structures.

Several changes would improve the map. The restored structures, standing ruins, and exposed foundations should be shown in various types of cross hatching. Since a map insert includes Fort William, the dates of the map should read 1834-1890, rather than 1841-1890. The Building Reference chart attached to the map should be revised to provide the reader with a clearer idea of the dates of the various buildings. Also the designation "HB" (historic building) should be changed to the more encompassing "HS" (historic structure).

II-B

vandalism

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

B. Vandalism.

The historic resources at Fort Laramie are rare national treasures deserving very close protection. Fort Laramie experiences occasional minor vandalism, especially during the spring and fall when visitation increases yet is sparse enough that vandals may act unobserved. During the height of the summer season the large number of visitors in any building apparently reduces the opportunity for vandalism.

Recently the threat of vandalism by disruptive groups, especially militant Indians, has increase. A perception of Fort Laramie as a symbol of the subjugation of the Indians during the nineteenth century seems to have emerged strongly in the last few years. Fort Laramie is extremely vulnerable to any deliberate acts of violence due to its remoteness, the small number of trained guards, and flamability of its many old structures. As the present personnel have had no previous experience in handling violence-prone groups, an acute need exists for law enforcement training. Seeking to prevent vandalism and severe destruction, the park has initiated a number of protective measures.

Formerly, historic structures were locked except when visited in the company of a ranger or guide. The small number of restored structures and the smaller number of visitors during the early years of the historic site's development meant that the buildings could be individually manned during periods of visitation and locked at other times. The restoration of more historic structures and the increase in visitation necessitated newer, more efficient devices as manpower was not great enough to meet the needs of protection. Consequently, doors to refurbished rooms were blocked with small wooden gates to keep visitors from entering; this proved unsatisfactory as the gates allowed determined vandals or thieves easy access. The park next installed one-half inch plexiglass half-doors fitted on metal hinges above the wooden gates, but found this an insufficient combination. Today the park uses full-length plexiglass doors. These provide the two essential element--protection and an unobstructed view of the refurbished rooms. However, for improved protection of the furnishings the spaces between the plexiglass and the door frames should be filled in. In some instances this work has already been done.

Guards at Fort Laramie National Historic Site are primarily responsible for the protection of lives; secondly, they are concerned with the protection of the irreplaceable structures and their contents. Ordinarily a single guard is on duty at night. Present financial considerations prevent needed additions of either a permanent double guard at night or qualified seasonal relief guards. In view of the threat of violence to park resources the park should bolster the guard force as soon as possible.

To enable the guards to do their job, and to protect them and the property, it is absolutely necessary to keep them informed of any person or persons who are approved to be in the park after closing time. Also, guards should be advised if any furnishings, equipment, exhibits, vehicles, or anything of value are to be removed from their usual place.

There are a number of reasons for individuals to be in the park until dark--to work or study in the library, to photograph, or to escort relatives or special guests whose time is limited and who should not be shoved out the gate at normal closing time. The guards should be advised of any after-hours visitation.

The full-time day patrol operates year around. Other park personnel aid in guarding the historic resources while performing their regular duties, and seasonal rangers aid during the summer. Early or late seasonals could be of great help during the spring and fall months--the periods of greatest vandalism. Two relief guards should be employed as needed throughout the year.

An intrusion alarm system should be provided as soon as funds permit. The park has submitted a Development/Study Package Proposal No. 132 for an electronic system for both fire and intrusion.

For protection against group vandalism, there is in existence an "Emergency Action Plan"--a program for handling emergency situations. This plan is reviewed annually and updated when necessary. The plan calls for the involvement in prevention and protection activities by the Midwestern Regional Office, the Wyoming Highway Patrol, the Goshen County Sheriff's Office, and the Torrington Police Department. A number of the Torrington Police Department personnel are deputized by the county sheriff. The Fort Laramie Guards are also deputized.

Several more walkie-talkie radios are needed, and radios should be provided to communicate with state and county law-enforcement officials on their wave lengths. Thw Wyoming State Highway Patrol and the State Highway Department have agreed to let the park use their law-enforcement frequency. The park is presently seeking a base station and a vehicle mobile unit on law-enforcement frequency, and hopes to secure a leasing arrangement under which the State Highway Department would provide radio maintenance.

II-C
Fire Protection

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

C. Fire Protection.

The historical value of the buildings and their vulnerability to fire make maintenance of modern fire-fighting equipment, continued training of personnel, and constant surveillance absolutely necessary. The wooden construction of the buildings, the variety of people who visit the park, the small number of park personnel on duty, and the difficulty of training personnel, especially seasonals, combine to create fire-safety problems.

The park owns and maintains weekly two fire trucks:

- a. A 400 gallon tanker with pumps and red-line hose. This truck is valuable for grass-fire protection and supplemental for building, or structural, fires.
- b. A class "A" pumper (a four-wheel drive International), with a 200 gallon tank, a red-line hose, and reel. This truck is primarily useful for structural fires and can boost pressure from the water main or pump from the Laramie River.

These two fire trucks are conveniently housed in two garages (one heated and one unheated) located north of the Cavalry Barracks (HS 5). While the present master plan calls for the removal of the entire maintenance system to another area, the removal of the class "A" pumper and its housing would seem to make the pumper less convenient in fighting structural fires. (This truck is presently housed in a non-historic structure, an intrusion on the historic scene.) Before the actual removal of this garage is undertaken a careful study of convenience, efficiency, and possible alternatives should be undertaken.

The park also owns a portable trailer with an expandable foam generator that operates according to the volume and pressure of water and has its own engine and fan. This machine blows up to 5000 cubic feet of detergent, fire-smothering foam per minute into buildings, with a minimum of water damage. Fire hydrants and hoses, conveniently located, are placed at intervals near historic buildings. Hoses and their fire boxes are inspected periodically.

Because there is no gravity water supply, all fire fighting equipment is based on machine operation, and is in good

working order. The area has no water reservoir capacity, but does have a special fire and irrigation well, located under the pump house near the northeast end of the Cavalry Barracks, which is capable of supplying in excess of 500 gallons per minute indefinitely.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has a written cooperative agreement with the neighboring town of Fort Laramie for mutual fire protection (A44 and Y14, Park Central Files). The park also has verbal agreements of assistance with the communities of Lingle (13 miles) and Torrington (23 miles). If feasible, these verbal agreements should be formalized in writing. All of these agreements are reviewed periodically and updated if necessary.

Smoking is not permitted in the historic buildings, yet general surveillance is necessary because of forgetful smokers or deliberate violators. The park has placed no-smoking signs near all historic buildings, and has provided receptacles in the office and museum building where smoking is permitted. Switches to turn on the fire sirens are located near the library door in the office building and in back of Old Bedlam.

The shingles on historic buildings are historic replicas made of wood and treated with a preservative. Except for the new (1973) shingles on the Cavalry Barracks (HS 5) the shingles have not been fireproofed. Future replica shingles acquired for the historic structures should be given a fire retardant treatment (Kopper's) by the manufacturer and should bear a Class C Underwriters' label.

Fire hydrants and hoses are placed at intervals near historic buildings. In addition, the park uses a weed-control chemical around outside walls to prevent grass from growing near historic structures. This is applied about once every three years except when unusually heavy precipitation necessitates more frequent applications.

Also, all historic buildings have freon gas heat-detection devices for alarm purposes. These are, and should continue to be inspected regularly. The park should acquire more modern devices as soon as possible.

There is no electric wiring inside any of the historic structures, with the exception of the office and museum building. Outside wiring on the restored structures allows connections for custodial operations.

Grounded lightning rods have been placed on all historic structures. A periodic check of ground wires is necessitated by the fact that visitors, most often children, occasionally tear loose the wires.

With the exception of the office and museum building (HS 9), no historic buildings are presently heated or air conditioned. While heating devices increase the chance of fire, the lack of temperature and humidity controls adversely affects the furnishings and artifacts within the historic structures. Despite the present directives on the consumption of energy on federally-owned land, the Director of the Midwest Region has instructed the superintendents of that region to maintain temperatures in furnished structures at 65°F, plus or minus 5 degrees (Director, Midwest Region, August 15, 1973, D6215 MWR (01), Park Central Files).

The park has submitted Development/Study Package Proposal No. 135 for climate and humidity control in the historic structures. These systems, when installed, should be hidden from the visitor's view.

The maintenance personnel at the park receive structural fire training on a continuing basis, both on and off the park. Some maintenance men are also members of the volunteer fire service in the town of Fort Laramie.

II-D
Pollution

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

D. Pollution.

At times in the nineteenth century the army dangerously polluted the Laramie River. Extensive use of the river by cattle and horses, the placement of latrines on the river bank, and the disposal of garbage in the water frequently caused severe contamination and threatened the resident population with dysentery and typhoid. The surgeon's reports often complained of the danger of river pollution, and the army dug wells in part to avoid using the river water they had polluted.

The Laramie River was probably more polluted in the nineteenth century than today. Certainly there is less garbage dumped in the river than in army days, but chemicals from farming and weed and pest control pollute the water, and cattle and sheep continue to use the river directly across from and above the historic site.

Today the park obtains water from two wells located under the pump house. The park effectively treats water contamination by chlorination. In the past, one infrequently recurring problem has temporarily polluted the aquifer: members of the Fort Laramie Ditch Company have at times used the chemical Xylene to kill mosses in the irrigation ditch. By improved cooperation with other members of the Fort Laramie Ditch Company the park could avoid this problem. If notification were given prior to the application of Xylene, the park could close the irrigation outlets until the Xylene is washed out of the irrigation pipes. The park should make continued efforts to seek cooperation in preventing this pollution problem.

Septic tanks and leach fields take care of the sewage disposal. Periodic checks of the river water have so far indicated that no pollution results when leach fields are used. These checks should be continued.

About once a year the park pays a small fee to the town of Fort Laramie to pump out the septic tank and process sewage from the park in the town lagoon.

By an informal agreement with the town of Fort Laramie the park has been disposing of garbage and trash in the Fort Laramie town sanitary landfill. This agreement also involves the payment of a small fee. Garbage disposal will require continuing

attention and the willingness to make changes in methods. To prevent air pollution, the town has been advised to stop open burning at the dump. The park will sooner or later be unable to use its incinerator to dispose of office papers and paper towels and other disposition will have to be found. It will probably be necessary to install electric hand dryers in the rest rooms.

II-E
Roads, Trails and Signs

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

E. Roads, trails and signs.

The gravel used around buildings for walkways needs to be supplemented only occasionally--about twice the past ten years. This material is native crushed rock and can be obtained locally. The park should not acquire the glaring white gravel used in the recent past, but should continue with the presently used dull, dun-colored gravel which does not intrude into the historical scene. There has been no build-up of gravel as yet and its use presents no undue problems. Studies should be made to determine the historic surfacing--if any--of the pathways.

West of the parking lot is an overflow parking area which has no asphalt surface and where the parking is not regulated except for being confined to the general area. This is a grassy area and, while it may occasionally become muddy during rainstorms, it is ordinarily part of the historic scene. The park does not plan to blacktop this area nor to put gravel on it. Either treatment would be an intrusion on the historic scene. The present master plan calls for the removal of all parking facilities to the south side of the Laramie River.

The development and increased use of self-guiding tour books and the continued use of the self-guiding text in the free minifolder have allowed the park to reduce the number of information signs for historic buildings and sites. Plans call for this reduction to continue.

II-F
Animals

II. Special considerations of historic resource management at Fort Laramie.

F. Animals.

Swallows which swarm into Fort Laramie each spring are a perpetual nuisance. Although they are an attraction for visitors, they litter the porches and their nests could damage the lime grout. Consequently, the park has a policy of preventing the birds from nesting on historic structures, with the exception of the New Guardhouse and the backside of the Old Guardhouse--areas where there is masonry work which is not adversely affected by the mud nests. Maintenance personnel periodically knock the nests down--always at times when visitors are not present. This practice should continue.

III-A
Terrain

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

A. Terrain.

With some minor exceptions, the terrain remains similar to that which existed in the nineteenth century. While the fort site was in private hands from 1890 to 1938, the land was ranched and farmed extensively. For farming purposes, about four to five feet of soil was removed from the area around the privately-owned site of Fort William and several small irrigation canals were dug across the northern portions of this site.

The Fort Laramie Ditch Company is a private concern of which Fort Laramie National Historic Site is a member. The company operates an irrigation ditch extending from the Laramie River at a point just west of the fort. By Wyoming law, in order to maintain its membership in the company and its rights to Laramie River water, the park must draw water from the ditch at least once every three years. The ditch, which dates from the 1890's, is a non-historic intrusion into the park. Where it crosses park territory the trench has recently been replaced by subsurface pipe. Some portions of the old trench have been covered by dirt and graded to the approximate original contours. Other portions remain visible and are due to be covered and recontoured as funds permit.

Several smaller irrigation trenches which connect to the Fort Laramie Ditch also constitute non-historic intrusions. While these trenches are not altogether necessary to park needs, the park nevertheless uses them as means of maintaining its membership in the Fort Laramie Ditch Company through the stipulated periodic water use.

One of these trenches connects with the Fort Laramie Ditch several yards behind the 1874 Cavalry Barracks and then runs under the parking lot and across the fort grounds toward the new guard house, where it serves to irrigate trees before draining the excess water back to the Laramie River. A spur connects to this trench at the parking lot and runs behind Old Bedlam, where it once was used to irrigate hay meadows. Now mostly filled, the spur is still visible in places behind the Sutler's Store and Old Bedlam. A second spur trench connects at the parking lot and runs northeastward mostly underground and then southeastward above ground where it waters a row of newly planted ash and cottonwood trees near the museum and office building.

Behind the 1874 Cavalry Barracks a trench connects with the Fort Laramie Ditch and runs generally north and then east to the property of G. W. Holtzclaw which adjoins the park east of the headquarters area. The small irrigation ditches which convey water from the underground pipeline to the G. W. Holtzclaw property adjoining the fort on the east and northeast are there because of a provision in the deed from Mrs. Sophia Foote conveying the land to the United States. These ditches represent a right of way to carry water, not a water right.

The Goshen County Irrigation District has a small ditch across the north end of Fort Laramie National Historic Site which also constitutes a non-historic intrusion.

A small mound behind Old Bedlam needs archeological exploration to determine if it is historic or non-historic. To remove standing water from around the mound a small non-historic drainage ditch has been dug leading northwest to nearby low, flat areas.

The only serious erosional problems which exist on park property are areas of noticeable bank cutting along the Laramie River. This bank cutting occurs west of the parade ground and also upriver from the historic Laramie River bridge; in neither case is it near nor does it threaten historic buildings. By means of rocks and cottonwood logs, the park has revetted both of these erosional areas.

Because of upstream control and irrigation devices, both the Laramie and North Platte rivers carry smaller volumes of water today than they did in the nineteenth century. By natural force the Laramie River has shifted southward, away from the fort area, at the point where the river makes its sharpest bend south of the parade ground. The Laramie also has a supplementary highwater channel downriver from the sharp bend. Neither the supplemental channel nor the shifting channel present problems in preservation of historic resources.

The trench constructed by the army in the mid-1860's for fortification purposes, which ran north from near the hospital and the corral, is mostly obliterated, although portions are still visible north of the hospital and the non-commissioned officers' quarters.

About two to three feet of windblown topsoil has been deposited along the fence line between Park property and the property of Western Horizons to the east.

For detailed studies involving the water, soils, and geology of the Fort Laramie region, the following works might be consulted:

Geology and Ground-Water Resources of Goshen County, Wyoming.

J. R. Rapp, F. N. Fisher, R. T. Littleton, W. H. Durum. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 1377, United States Government Printing Office, 1957. (Fort Laramie Library 557.87 R3).

Reconnaissance of the Geology and Ground-Water Hydrology of the Laramie Basin, Wyoming, With Special Reference to the Laramie and Little Laramie River Valleys.

Robert T. Littleton
Geological Survey Circular 80, November, 1950.
(Fort Laramie Library, 557.87 L5).

Soil Survey, Goshen County, Wyoming, Southern Part.

United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with Wyoming Agriculture Experiment Station, November, 1971.
(A copy should be deposited in the Fort Laramie Library)

III-B
Vegetation

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie,

B. Vegetation.

Cottonwood, ash, willow, and box elder are the most abundant trees in the immediate vicinity of Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Before white men came into the valley these trees probably did not exist in the area in great numbers because of beaver activity, the trampling of buffaloes, occasional prairie fires, and periodic flooding and uprooting by the uncontrolled Laramie River. Apparently, however, there was sufficient cottonwood nearby for the construction of Fort William in 1834. The 1837 painting of Fort William by Alfred Jacob Miller shows no trees, only a flat barren area around the fort. It is probable that Miller would have given some indication of trees had they been there in significant numbers. By 1837, of course, the area had been under heavy use for three years, and the stands of timber had probably become even more sparse following the intrusion by white men.

The military established sawmill sites around Laramie Peak in the 1850's. By the 1870's, army officials at Fort Laramie felt it necessary to establish a timber reserve in the Laramie Mountains in order to secure enough timber for increasing use at the fort. Historic photographs show the area around the fort to be almost treeless during the height of the army occupation from the 1850's through the 1870's. With the building of fences in the area, and the decreasing army activity, timber growth near the fort appears to have increased through the 1880's, as shown in historic photographs. Beginning in the 1880's, especially after more army wives had moved to the fort, ash shade trees were planted on the grounds--the largest group being planted in rows along the perimeter of the parade ground. The army also planted considerable numbers of trees and shrubs around the officers' living quarters.

After the army abandoned the fort in 1890, the groves of timber around the fort continued to thicken. Today, moderate stands of cottonwood, ash, and willow grow on the river banks alongside such plants as wild grape, wild clematis, and buck brush. These should not be disturbed as it does not seem wise or practical to alter the present growth of timber to suit a particular period. The present growth along the river is sufficiently authentic, especially for the last decade of army use.

The large cottonwood trees around the 1874 cavalry barracks and the museum and office building date from the 1890's and early 1900's and thus are non-historic intrusions. Immediately in front (north) of the office and museum building and along

one of the spur irrigation trenches grows a newly planted row of cottonwood and ash trees. Another row of young cottonwood and ash trees grows along the small trench leading from the parking lot to the new guard house. These groves of trees also constitute non-historic intrusions **into** the park.

Although non-historic, these trees, especially the cottonwood, have always been familiar sights along western watercourses. They provide needed shade in the summer, are esthetically pleasing, and are native to the area. They should be maintained without allowing a thick growth of timber to develop.

The young cottonwood and ash trees are watered regularly, about every ten days in the summer, but not at all in the winter. After the initial years of growth the trees should receive no water except that which they get via grass sprinkling. This would enable the trees to become established and then to develop strong and deep root systems after surface watering has been discontinued.

A regular program of inspection and occasional trimming of dying limbs is maintained for the health of the larger trees and for the protection of visitors.

Principal native grasses of the area around Fort Laramie include blue gramma, wheat grass, buffalo grass, and sand dropseed. After the arrival of white men, good grazing lands around the fort became scarce. The army often had to escort herds of horses away from the fort to find sufficient grazing. Negotiations for the Treaty of 1851 were moved 30 miles south-east to the mouth of Horse Creek because of the overgrazed conditions around Fort Laramie. The parade ground came under intensive use during the army period. Parades, drills, and cavalry activities kept the parade ground generally barren and dusty. During the period from 1890 to 1938, the lands in and around the fort were grazed and/or farmed intensively.

After acquiring the historic site in 1938, the Park Service initiated a grass reseeding program using mainly rice grass and brome--introduced species which develop rapidly and help prevent weed intrusion. Natural processes have worked toward the gradual elimination of these introduced species and the encroachment of the native grasses. Today the parade ground sod has reached a relatively stable condition and consists almost entirely of native grasses. Due to close maintenance and less abuse since the departure of the army, the turf is no doubt thicker today than during the decades of heaviest army use.

The grass around the buildings and on the parade ground is watered from June through September, or into October if a dry fall occurs. This improves esthetics and lowers fire hazard near the building. No field irrigation is undertaken.

Heavily used areas and roadsides are regularly mowed to maintain a neat appearance and to reduce fire hazard. Among other areas, this includes the parade ground and, where practicable, the interiors of ruins. The interiors of all ruins and foundations should be kept neat, whether by mowing, by hand work, or by soil sterilization.

The hay produced on the tract of land immediately east of the visitor center is cut and removed each year by purchase order contract with local residents who remove the hay as required in the contract. Removing the hay reduces fire hazard in the area.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site experiences no brush control problems. Some smaller plants do cause trouble in the area of chief historical interest and are continually fought. Cactus control presents a problem in frequented areas as small children especially tend to get hurt. The park combats cactus growth by hoeing and by dragging with railroad iron which, although it does not kill the root system, it does destroy the plant's current growth.

Other plants, such as Canadian thistle, bindweed, and spurge, are a continual nuisance. Fort Laramie National Historic Site is in a county-wide weed and pest control district under the control of the State of Wyoming. Weed control problems are especially difficult along river drainages. The federal government allows herbicides to be used on government property under strictly controlled procedures and conditions, and the State of Wyoming insists that these noxious plants be fought in the most effective way (Y22, Park General Files, newsletter, Agricultural Extension Service, University of Wyoming, based on "Weed and Pest Act," 42nd Legislature of Wyoming.). Faced with a lack of sufficient manpower to combat the weeds by manual labor, the National Park Service, by authority of the Department of the Interior and the Federal Working Group on Pest Management (Y22, Park General Files), uses herbicides at Fort Laramie. The exact type to be used varies according to specifications.

The park also sterilizes the ground around buildings for a distance of 8 to 16 inches, and sterilizes the soil within numerous foundations and ruins, and under the parking lot barriers. This

serves several purposes. It provides protection for historic buildings against grass fire, and it results in less hand work and man-hours in keeping grass and weeds down in the rough areas close to buildings and within foundations and ruins that cannot be mowed. The results are not intrusive and the process should be continued as a precaution against fire. Strictly regulated, this practice does not seem to offer any environmental hazard.

Some rooting is necessary around the fire hydrants at the parking lot as the use of chemicals or salt is not effective here. The fire hydrant near the barracks and parking lot has had one root problem in the past, and should be checked periodically for any recurrence. The roots of the ash trees around the parade ground are located near water lines and could cause future problems with the water supply.

As a part of the living history program, the park plans to develop a small garden near the bakery. The army attempted gardening in the 1850's, successfully growing such products as vegetables and grain. To supply the fort with food, the government eventually established a farm about 15 miles northeast of the post. The park will attempt to raise vegetables, using historical, non-hybridized seed types.

III-C
Historic Objects

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

C. Historic objects.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has an unusually large collection of historic artifacts, including guns, bottles, uniforms, furniture, and other frontier paraphernalia. These artifacts are found in the museum, on display in the restored historic buildings, and the specimen study collection at park headquarters. Most of the items indigenous to Fort Laramie were obtained through archeological projects, or by employees or friends of the area. Other items had no direct historical association with Fort Laramie, but it was determined through furnishing studies that they were the type of items actually used at the fort. The park acquired most of the furnishings through a furnishings project of several years duration made possible by funds donated by the late Mrs. Virginia Hill of Denver. All correspondence and records of accession are catalogued. Accessioning activities are continuing and have been substantial.

The specimen study collection on file in the park headquarters is also catalogued and is available for display, reference, or study. The cataloguing is adequate, and is handled according to Park Service standards. It includes subject and number cross-reference and filing in triplicate.

The historic artifacts collection receives sufficient continual maintenance and care. An annual report and inventory is made of all accountable property--items which are valued at \$50 or more. As time permits, usually about three to four times a year, the area's museum curator makes a careful observation and inspection of all items in the historic buildings. Mostly during the spring, summer, and fall, weekly cleaning affords additional opportunities to observe and check historical artifacts.

The extremes of temperature and humidity cause damage to fabrics in the historic buildings and frequently cause rusting of metallic objects. With the use of a hygro-thermograph the museum curator makes a daily check of the humidity and temperature in the 1874 Cavalry Barracks, and a weekly check of the Sutler's Store and Old Bedlam. Metallic items are treated for rust as needed. Firearms are checked and cleaned, if needed, about once every six months. The curator also periodically checks items such as pelts, buffalo robes, and leather goods and makes additional checks for insect and rodent damage. For care and maintenance the curator is generally guided by the

Park Service's Museum Records Handbook. The park has submitted Development/Study Package Proposal No. 135 for climate and humidity control in the historic structures.

For tinplating and silverplating services, the curator sends the items involved to Denver, the nearest metropolitan area, instead of Harpers Ferry. The clockwork done at Garing Jewelers in Torrington has been very satisfactory.

III-D
Books and Documentary
Resources

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

D. Books and documentary resources.

The library at Fort Laramie National Historic Site has an impressive collection of monographs and scholarly journals, totaling approximately 2,200 volumes, augmented by a small microfilm collection and several manuscript collections. The monographs deal with virtually every phase of the frontier the West, including many volumes which, in varying degrees, involve the history of Fort Laramie. The microfilm collection comes mostly from the National Archives and includes materials pertaining to military affairs at Fort Laramie. The principal manuscript collections are letters and papers of General Henry Clay Merriam, post commander at Fort Laramie during the late 1880's, and letters and papers of Oliver N. Unthank, a telegrapher at Fort Laramie from 1869 to 1874. These library materials are available to interested scholars, under prescribed library use guidelines, whether or not the scholars are employees of the National Park Service.

These books and documents must be given the best of care in order to protect them from misuse and from adverse effects of temperature and humidity. The monographs are well-catalogued under the Dewey Decimal System. Presently the library has sufficient but rather limited space. The Master Plan for Fort Laramie National Historic Site provides for library and archival facilities to be connected with the new visitor center.

III-E
The Fur-trade Posts

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

E. The fur-trade posts.

Considering that the fur trade dominated the first fifteen years of historical activity at Fort Laramie, interpretation of the early fur-trade era has received little attention. Since all the extant buildings date from the military period, interpretation has tended to focus on the activities of the army. In the summer of 1972, the living history program began some recognition of the importation of the fur trade with the hiring of a fully equipped "trapper." The park should continue this or similar programs interpreting the fur trade to give the visitor a greater awareness of time and the variety of history at Fort Laramie.

1. Fort William (1834-1841).

The site of Fort William has never been exactly determined. No known visible evidence survives. Authorities hold conflicting theories about the fort's exact location; however, the most generally accepted site is about a half mile northwest of the river confluence. This area has been subject to heavy soil removal by man and to periodic river flooding, as well as possible stream encroachment. Furthermore, this site is not on government property, and its purchase would entail considerable expense. However, when feasible, archaeological surveys should be conducted at this site to determine if any further exploration is desirable.

A second possible site of Fort William is at the site of Fort John; however, this possibility is less widely accepted. Archeological work, recommended below for Fort John, should also seek to determine if two forts have existed on this site.

2. Fort Platte (1840-1845).

The exact site of Fort Platte is known. It is on private land on the bank of the North Platte about 150 yards upstream from the modern highway bridge. Surface remains are difficult to find because of repeated cultivation. Fort Platte is interpreted by a state-owned marker along the road leading to park headquarters. This marker could be improved by giving a clearer and more extensive interpretation. The Wyoming State Historic Landmarks Commission would be the agent of such change. The park interprets Fort Platte in the museum and through talks. If the private owner is willing

to cooperate, professionally directed archeological work should be undertaken at the Fort Platte site for improved interpretation of local fur-trading activities.

3. Fort John (1841-1849).

Adobe-walled Fort John is of primary interest because this was the actual Fort Laramie of 1849 which the army bought from the American Fur Company when the California Gold Rush began. The exact location is known because it is clearly depicted on official military ground plans, in fact, the fort was used by the army for a few years while new buildings were under construction. It adjoined the present parade ground along its southeast side.

The old fort was leveled by 1860 and army structures superimposed on the site. Today there exists no visible evidence of Fort John; the traces of foundations in the area are from later military buildings. Reconnaissance exploration by Archeologist Paul L. Beaubien in 1950 is described in his "Preliminary Report of the Archeological Investigations at Fort Laramie National Monument," on file in the offices of the historic site (Park Library). Further exploration should be done since increased information on and further interpretation of Fort John could significantly increase visitor interest. Also, the interpretive marker for Fort John should be expanded to develop the fort's story more thoroughly.

III-F
The Army Post

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

F. The army post: Fort Laramie (1849-1890).

1. Interpreted sites and subsurface remains.

Subsurface remains of many historic structures exist on or around Fort Laramie National Historic Site. These include corrals, stables, kitchens and mess rooms, quartermaster's shops, laundries, laundress' quarters, outbuildings, and other types of historic structures. The historical base map show these structures in their positions according to evidence obtained from historic maps and early drawings of the fort. Further archeological work would determine more precisely the location of these structures.

The sites of remains which have any visible surface evidence or which receive special interpretation should be kept clear of weeds and brush. This would include the Sutler's Residence (HS 135), the Officers' Quarters (HS 65 and 131), the Commanding Officer's Quarters (HS 60), the Barracks and Kitchen (HS 77 and 78), the Saddle Shop (HS 104), the Married Men's Quarters (HS 91), and the Rustic Hotel (HS 152). These sites should be mowed wherever practical; otherwise they should be cleared by hand, or sterilized.

2. Foundations.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has several visible historic foundations, including the 1850 Guardhouse (HS 157), the Footbridge (HS 90), the General Sink (HS 81), the 1850 Barracks (HS 130), and the Outbuildings (HS 62 and 64) located behind the Commanding Officer's Quarters (HS 60). Some stabilization work has been done on the foundations and recorded in project completion reports (Park Library). Stabilization work--involving cementing for strength with due regard for historic appearance--should be completed on all foundations, and periodic maintenance should be carried out as necessary, both under professional guidance.

The park should compile individual building folders for each foundation which include or refer to the records obtained from previous project completion reports and which include photos. All future stabilization or other maintenance should be recorded also.

These sites should be mowed if possible; otherwise they also could be cleared by hand or sterilized.

The park is presently preparing the documents needed to enter these foundation ruins on the List of Classified Structures.

Historic Structure Preservation Guides have not been prepared for them.

3. Ruins.

Nine standing ruins remain at Fort Laramie. These include the Non-commissioned Officers' Quarters (HS 146), the Hospital (HS 13), the Steam Plant (HS 154), the Officers' Quarters (HS 50, 57, 58, and 59), the Administration Building (HS 75), the New Bakery (HS 115), and the Birdbath at the west corner of the parade ground (no HS designation given).

Most of the important buildings at Fort Laramie were constructed of lime grout, a crude forerunner of Portland cement used extensively during frontier days and at Fort Laramie by the early 1870's. Army builders broke and ground the native limestone before firing it in primitive kilns under extreme heat until it became a dry powder. This rather weakly bonded type of cement was then mixed with gravel and sand aggregate to form lime grout, an inexpensive material suitable for frontier building needs. The quality varied according to the contractor, but lime grout generally has good compression strength, and it will endure well if protected from the weather. When roofs and plaster are removed from lime grout buildings, deterioration develops at a steady pace. By the 1880's, the arrival of railroads near Fort Laramie and the discovery of the Portland cement process resulted in the use of cement, often mixed with lime grout.

With the exception of the Officers' Quarters (HS 50, in front of the Magazine) and the Non-commissioned Officer's Quarters (HS 146), all of the standing ruins at Fort Laramie have been stabilized. The two unstabilized buildings should be stabilized as soon as possible. Such work is recorded in project completion reports. A complete set of building reports, some of which have already been begun, should be prepared for the standing ruins. Any future stabilization projects will require professional help and advice from the Service Center as have former projects.

The park is presently preparing the documents needed to enter these ruins on the List of Classified Structures.

Historic Structure Preservation Guide have not been prepared for them.

4. Restored structures.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has experienced three phases of building restoration. For the first few years after the government acquired the site in 1938, park personnel largely concerned themselves with clean-up and emergency repair.

In the 1940's and '50's additional maintenance money and manpower enabled the park to do stabilization and restoration work directed by the superintendent and advised by professionals from the regional office. The concept of restoration operative in this period sought to use the very same materials and, as far as possible, the same methods as in historical times.

Restoration since 1960 recognizes that army designs were not intended for the volume and type of use and impact that occur under modern-day Park Service visitation. To accommodate heavy traffic and greater, more concentrated use, methods and materials are sought that will be stronger and more durable and yet maintain authentic appearance. Strong, modern, concealed reinforcements are used as designed by architects, and great care is taken to use authentic materials where they are visible.

Presently, the restored historic structures at Fort Laramie include the Sutler's Store complex (HS 2), the Lt. Colonel's House (HS 4), the Post Surgeon's Quarters (HS 6), the Magazine (HS 11A), Old Bedlam Officers' Quarters (HS 1), the Outhouse (HS 3), the Chicken House (HS 12), the Captain's Quarters (HS 7), the Old Guardhouse (HS 8), the New Guardhouse (HS 80), and the Old Bakery (HS 10). The Commissary Store House (HS 9) has been restored and converted into the museum and office building, and the 1874 Cavalry Barracks (HS 5), a standing building, is in the preliminary restoration stage. The Iron Bridge does not have an assigned historic structure number.

The maintenance of historic structures at Fort Laramie has been generally very good. The problems that do exist are mostly of a minor nature, and their correction presents no unusual difficulties.

Door and window casings and frames need periodic recaulking, which is generally done just before painting. Painting of the trim on grout buildings should be carried out as often as needed even if required yearly. Caulking should be made to appear unobtrusive and compatible with the historical integrity of the buildings. Whenever and wherever possible, the park should replace the caulking with masonry. This work should be undertaken by trained workmen.

Modern plaster repairs to the walls of historic buildings need to be studied carefully with the objective of converting them to a historically accurate appearance. Prominent examples of patchwork plaster repair appear on the walls of the Surgeon's Quarters (HS 6) and the Lt. Colonel's House (HS 4). Those fully restored and furnished structures that had paint on their exterior walls in the historic period should be maintained in a similar manner today.

The flag staff presently in use is not historic. Plans are already underway for the flag staff to be replaced by a historically accurate one.

The park uses replicas of historic shingles to cover roofs of historic buildings. They are treated with a preservative (pentachlorophenol) which is applied every five years unless the shingles were treated prior to being put on the roof, in which at least once every seven years is sufficient. Future replica shingles should be given a fire retardant treatment (Kopper's) and should bear a Class C Underwriters' label. The shingles on the New Guard House (HS 80), the Captain's Quarters (HS 7), and Old Bedlam (HS 1), were treated prior to being put on the roof. (Grade A Red Cedar shingles do not require preservatives).

The corrugated iron roof over the club rooms in the Sutler's Store complex (HS 2) has caused continual problems as it expands and contracts with changes in the weather. This results in damaging leakage. No satisfactory caulking material has been found. The damage continues each year, and man-hours are consumed in maintenance efforts. This situation should receive attention by trained, professional advisors.

A number of preparations have been tried on the lime grout ruins and restored structures at Fort Laramie in an effort to preserve the structures and their historical appearance. Most of them proved unsatisfactory.

The park attempted the use of water-based silicones sprayed onto the surface of the buildings. This attained only shallow penetration, caused spalling, and resulted in accelerated weathering; thus it was discontinued.

Pencapsula, a sealer and hardener manufactured by the Texas Refinery Corporation, did not work well with lime grout when attempted in a limited number of experiments.

Polystyrene has been tried but proven unsuccessful as it discolored and flaked off.

A product known as Weldcrete has been tried for about ten years and is still in use. When placed on window and door sills Weldcrete bonds and does not flake off. If a clear mixture is applied it does not discolor the surface. Weldcrete has proven moderately satisfactory for patching, but it has not been used over the entire surface of full walls. Time will determine how long this preparation will work when applied to lime grout.

For minor repairs such as small holes, a mortar mixture is applied over a wire mesh nailed into grout that has been coated with Weldcrete. To avoid a startling contrast with the original walls, coffee grounds have been successfully used to stain repaired surfaces. Burnt umber powder was tried for this purpose but proved unsatisfactory.

During the summer season, full-time employees are needed to carry out the annual, continuous maintenance program. All maintenance programs should be under the direction of trained personnel. Training in the preservation and maintenance of historic structures and their contents should be accomplished on a continuous basis as is made available by or through the National Park Service.

The park is presently preparing the documents needed to enter these restored structures on the List of Classified Structures.

Historic Structure Preservation Guides have not been prepared for them.

A guide to maintenance of a furnished structure has been prepared for only Old Bedlam (HS 1): Nan V. Carson, "Guide to Interpretive Maintenance, Old Bedlam, Collin's Quarters," May 1963. Similar guides should be prepared for all such structures and periodically reviewed and brought up to date.

III-G
The Hog Ranch

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

G. The Hog Ranch.

The Hog Ranch, located about 3 miles west of Fort Laramie, has a history closely related to the military post's. Today, it is in private ownership. The Master Plan for the park does not call for the acquisition of this property.

The Hog Ranch is deteriorating rapidly, but sufficient detail of the main building still exists that would allow for reasonably accurate reconstruction should such ever become desirable. The barn associated with the Hog Ranch is practically a total loss and hardly enough remains to obtain accurate measurements to determine what was there.

III-H
Historic Scene

III. Management of historic resources at Fort Laramie.

H. Historic scene.

The historic scene at Fort Laramie generally remains much as it appeared during the historic period. From horizon to horizon, the historic structures, the grass lands, the river, the trees, and the bluffs appear much as they did in military days. While the number of structures is greatly reduced from the army period the mood of the military post may easily be recaptured today. More difficult to capture is the time of the fur traders and the dramatic westward movement of the emigrant trains. The predominance of the military post has already been noted. It is that historic scene that should be most considered in managing the whole area.

1. Vegetation.

The management of vegetation is discussed in subsection III B above. In summary, the management objective should be to maintain the same general appearance as existed during the army period. The one exception is the increased, but natural, tree growth along the river course. This should be allowed to take its natural course, but with management carrying out any necessary vista clearing once the proposed visitor center is in operation.

2. Physical intrusions--the park.

Routine management of the historic scene should be directed toward maintaining the present situation wherein there are no, or few, non-historic intrusions. An obvious exception will be the administrative facilities planned for the south side of the Laramie River, to include maintenance facilities, a visitor center, and a parking area. These should be planned and managed to minimize their impact on the general historic scene.

3. Physical intrusions--the fort area.

Management of the historic scene consists of eliminating non-historic intrusions, of preventing such intrusions in the future, and continuing maintenance of the fort grounds and the historic structures toward their designated period.

The present maintenance area and the parking lot constitute the most obvious intrusions in the historic setting. Their removal, as indicated above, will largely eliminate the intrusion. However, one of the modern buildings in the

present maintenance area houses the water well and the irrigation well head and pumps. Its removal will require a new water system for the park. Such a removal cannot be undertaken until adequate funds for a complete new water system are available and until another adequate source of water is found. Three test wells dug on the south side of the river failed to find an adequate water source. Another structure houses the fire truck needed for structural fire protection. If fire and safety specialists should determine that the fire truck should remain in this area in order to protect the historic structures, it would be necessary to suffer this non-historic intrusion. The intrusion could be minimized by screening or by the reconstruction of a historic structure on its original site in this general area to house the truck.

IV-A
Status of Resource Studies

IV. Historical Studies Plan.

A. Status of Resource Studies.

1. Studies accomplished.

Since Fort Laramie was located near major fur-trade areas, near the centers of conflict with Indians of the Northern Plains, and on the Oregon Trail, historians have done a large amount of research dealing with the fort's history. This has resulted in two monographs as well as many articles concerning Fort Laramie. Park Service historians have written numerous reports and articles in addition to those completed by non-Service historians. Archeologists and historical architects have increased the volume of knowledge about Fort Laramie with the completion of numerous reports. The many studies involving Fort Laramie include broad, thematic inquiries, as well as sharply focused works, such as furnishing reports, the history of individual structures, or accounts of archeological excavations. A detailed bibliography of works involving the history of Fort Laramie, is attached to this report. For the major themes and subthemes, reference is made to Section I-C of the accompanying Historic Resources Management Plan.

2. Studies in progress.

The architectural section of the Historic Structure Report of the 1874 Cavalry Barracks will be underway by the summer of 1973. A reference file including the names of all enlisted men who served at Fort Laramie is currently being compiled by Service personnel at the Park.

3. Cooperation with non-Service persons or institutions.

The Park has made its large collection of research materials available to persons interested in research. No formal ties exist with other schools or institutions for research purposes, and none seems necessary.

The Fort Laramie Historical Association is a cooperating association which, primarily through book sales, provides the funds necessary for the purchase and care of library materials.

IV-B
Resource Study Needs

IV. Historical Studies Plan.

B. Resource study needs. (An asterisk indicates the individual project has an approved D. S. P. P.)

1. Site identification needs.

The historical base map includes the sites of all of Fort Laramie's historic buildings. These sites were determined through the use of historic maps and drawings, which give the approximate position of extinct structures, and through archeological studies. A thorough archeological survey under the guidance of professionals is needed to find the precise location of the subsurface remains of all historic buildings.

2. Historic resource studies.

Most of the necessary research projects relating to Fort Laramie have been completed. However, the following research projects should be undertaken:

Historic Resource Study, Fort Laramie and the Fur Trade, 1834-1849, to include Fort William, Fort Platte, and Fort John.

Historic Resource Study, Fort Laramie, the Military Post, 1849-1890.

A study of social aspects at Fort Laramie, including education, family life, and the experiences and reactions of women and children.

* A study of Fort Laramie from 1890 to 1938; and an administrative history of Fort Laramie, 1938 to the present. These studies should include an oral history project to record more completely the memories and impressions of local individuals or others who in some ways have had contact with the fort.

* A study of the historical physical environment of the Parade Ground and Fort Grounds.

* A revision of Historical Handbook text.

3. Historic structure reports.

The following report is needed:

* A Historic Structures Preservation Guide is needed for each structure in the entire fort. As stated in the Activity Standards, the preservation guides are to be geared for individual structures. Consequently, the park should use this approach in preparing preservation guides for individual structures and not for the fort as a whole.

Prior to its being refurnished, the Magazine (HS 11A) should be the recipient of a historic structure report so that its interior may be accurately restored.

4. Furnishing studies.

Furnishing studies should be prepared for the following:

- * Old Bakery (HS 10)
- * Post Trader's Store (HS 2)--revised study
- * Magazine (HS 11A)
- * 1866 Guard House (HS 8)

5. There is a need to establish a permanent system of cataloging research items, other than library books, according to approved professional cataloging systems. The following items need to be cataloged or at Fort Laramie:

Historic photo file
Contemporary photo file
35 mm. slides
Transparencies
Microfilm
Tape recordings
Manuscript materials
Maps and charts
In-service historical, architectural, and archeological reports

IV-C
Resource Studies Completed

IV. Historical Studies Plan.

C. Resource Studies Completed.

The completed resource studies are included in the third section of the accompanying bibliography, titled "Unpublished sources dealing directly with the park and its story." These completed studies have been crosschecked with Gary Christopher and Dorothy Junkin, compilers, Preliminary Bibliographical Inventory of Park Historical and Architectural Studies, 1971.

IV-D
Bibliography

IV. Historical Studies Plan.

D. Bibliography:

The following bibliography consists of a large number of published and unpublished materials, most of which have as a central theme the history of Fort Laramie. All of the listed works concern the history of the fort to some significant degree. Some of the entries are duplicated in manuscript form and published form. Virtually all of these works are in the library and files of the park library.

Books dealing with the general period of history:

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Coutant, C. G., History of Wyoming and The Far West, 2 volumes, New York, Argonaut Press, 1966. First published in 1899, this work devotes a chapter to the history of Fort Laramie.

Hafen, LeRoy and Ghent, W. J., Broken Hand: The Life Story of Thomas Fitzpatrick, Chief of the Mountain Men, Denver. The Old West Publishing Company, 1931. Deals with Fitzpatrick's career in the West as a trapper, guide, and Indian agent. Frequently at Fort Laramie, Fitzpatrick played a major role in the Treaty of 1851.

Henry, B. William, Jr., "Selected Bibliography of Periodical Literature in the Fort Laramie National Historic Site," prepared April 1970. On file in the museum and office building.

Mattes, Merrill J., "Fort Laramie Bibliography," 177 pp. typescript, 1950. Special report on file in offices of Fort Laramie National Historic Site. An extensive bibliography including manuscript, archival, and published material concerning Fort Laramie and related subjects, especially Scotts Bluff National Monument and the Oregon and California Trails. This bibliography would be very valuable to persons researching these subjects.

Mattes, Merrill J., The Great Platte River Road, Nebraska State Historical Society, Publications, Nov. 25, 1969. Along with many other references to Fort Laramie, this book includes two chapters dealing specifically with the history of the fort and its role in the westward migration. An extensive and valuable bibliography is also included.

Mattes, Merrill J., Indians, Infants and Infantry: Andrew and Elizabeth Burt on the Frontier, Denver, The Old West Publishing Company, 1960. The edited and annotated journal of Elizabeth Burt, wife of Andrew Burt who was stationed at Fort Laramie during the mid-1870's and late 1880's. The journal deals with the Burt's many experiences throughout the upper Great Plains during and after the Indian wars.

Parkman, Francis, The Oregon Trail: Sketches of Prairie and Rocky Mountain Life, Boston, Little, Brown, and Company, 1892. Parkman visited Fort Laramie and traveled in the general vicinity.

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Published materials dealing directly with the park and its story:

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Bozak, Hazel Noble, "Historic Fort Laramie, The Hub of Early Western History 1834-1849," Annals of Wyoming, 21 (July-October 1949), 170-180. Brief history of early activities at the Fort, up to beginning of army period. Very general.

Case, Ralph Hoyt, One Hundred and First Anniversary of the Treaty Fort Laramie, 1851, pamphlet. A brief account of the pageant commemorating the early treaty; and a history of the treaty council and the next four decades of intermittent Indian warfare.

Chappell, Gordon S., "The Fortifications of Old Fort Laramie," Annals of Wyoming, 34 (October 1962), 145-162. The history of defense fortifications--walls, redoubts, earthworks--at the fort. Early plans for a wall encircling the fort were abandoned.

Clough, Wilson O., "Mini-Aku, Daughter of Spotted Tail," Annals of Wyoming, 39 (October 1967), 187-216. A thorough study into the romanticized life of an Indian girl who was buried for a while at Fort Laramie.

Erwin, Marie H., editor, "Statistical Reports on the Sickness and Mortality of the Army of the United States, 1819-1860," Annals of Wyoming, 15 (October 1943), 315-375. Health problems among frontier Army personnel as found in reports made by the Surgeon General of the United States Army and found in the United States Congressional Documents. Includes sanitary reports from Fort Laramie.

Evans, W. H., "Fort Laramie," Annals of Wyoming, 9 (July 1932), 752-754. An account of Ft. Laramie written by Evans on May 12, 1866.

Fine, Harry L., "Fort Laramie and the Historic Postal Markings of the West," Montana, The Magazine of Western History, 2 (Summer 1961), 53-55.

Flannery, L. G., editor, John Hunton's Diary, 1873-1889, Lingle, Wyoming and Glendale, California, n. d. Diary of the last post trader at Fort Laramie. During the 1960's, '70's and '80's, Hunton was a clerk, rancher, and businessman before becoming post trader in 1888.

Gilbert, Hila., "'Big Bat' Pourier, Guide and Interpreter, Fort Laramie, 1870-1880," Sheridan, Wyoming, the Mills Company, 1968. Actually deals very little with Fort Laramie.

Hafen, Leroy R., and Francis Marion Young, Fort Laramie and the Pageant of the West, 1834-1890, Glendale, California, Arthur H. Clark Company, 1938. A thoroughly detailed history of Fort Laramie from 1834 to 1890.

Hieb, David L., ed., "An 1950 Gold Rush Letter from Fort Laramie by A. C. Spouder, A Thayer County Pioneer," Nebraska History, 32, (June 1951), 130-139.

Johnson, Dorothy M., "The Hanging of the Chiefs," Montana, The Magazine of Western History, 20 (July 1970), 60-69. An account of the events leading to the hanging of Indians at Fort Laramie in 1865.

King, Charles, "Laramie:" or, The Queen of Bedlam. A Story of Sioux War of 1876, Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott Company, 1890. A romantic novel written by a military officer who had served at Fort Laramie. The novel deals with life at the fort.

Lombard, Hess H., "Old Bedlam," Annals of Wyoming, 13 (April 1941), 87-91. A brief history of Old Bedlam--its construction, use, and demise prior to its acquisition by the National Park Service.

McDermott, John Dishon, "Crime and Punishment in the United States Army: A Phase of Fort Laramie History," Journal of the West, 7 (April 1968), 246-255. A good discussion of military justice at Fort Laramie.

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McDermott, John Dishon, "Fort Laramie's Silent Soldier, Leodegar Schnyder," Annals of Wyoming, 36 (April 1964), 5-18. The personal history of an enlisted man who lived continuously at Fort Laramie from 1849 to 1886.

McDermott, John Dishon and Gordon Chappell, "Military Command at Fort Laramie," Annals of Wyoming, 38 (April 1966) 5-49. A discussion of the commanding officers at Fort Laramie--82 officers during the forty-one years that the post served as an army base. A list of the officers follows the summary.

McDermott, John Dishon, "The Search for Jacques Laramee: A Study in Frustration," Annals of Wyoming, 36 (October 1964), 169-174. The author's efforts to identify and trace the origins of Jacques Laramee were only partly successful.

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Mattes, Merrill J., "Fort Laramie, Guardian of the Oregon Trail: A Commemorative Essay," Annals of Wyoming, 17 (January 1945), 3-19. An account of military operations involving Fort Laramie, followed by a description of its appearance in the mid-1940's, and the story of the Fort's decline after 1890 and subsequent efforts to preserve it. Has a bibliography at the end of the article.

Mattes, Merrill J., "The Sutler's Store at Fort Laramie," Annals of Wyoming, 38 (July, 1946), 93-133. A history of the Sutler's Store, including some aspects of economic and social history related to this important center. Also included are two letters to the author from individuals who had been associated with the Fort during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

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Spring, Agnes Wright, editor, "Old Letter Book Discloses Economic History of Fort Laramie, 1858-1871," Annals of Wyoming, 13 (October 1941), 237-330. An introduction by Spring relates the history of Fort Laramie and the experiences of William G. Bullock, an agent of Seth E. Ward, post sutler. Also included is correspondence of Bullock and Ward which primarily covers the years 1868 to 1871. The letters concern economic matters for the most part. An appendix includes the Treaty of 1868.

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Appendix

APPENDIX

Program of Special Resource Management Projects.

1. Trenches and Ditches (See subsection III-A).

All non-historic ditches and trenches of any sort in the historic area should be converted to underground pipelines, preferably with the use of perforated pipe for better distribution of water.

Whenever it is practical, the right to convey water from the present outlets on the Fort to the G. W. Holtzclaw property should be taken away either by payment to the present owners, or by other legal and mutually agreeable means.

With concurrence of the Goshen County Irrigation District, its ditch across the north end of the park should be replaced by an underground pipe and the terrain restored to approximate its original contours.

The ditch draining the mound area behind Old Bedlam should be replaced with an underground pipeline; or if the mound is found to be non-historic, it should be removed, thus eliminating the need for a ditch.

The upper end of the revetment on the bank of Laramie River west of the parade ground needs to be strengthened, and the area just above the historic Laramie River bridge should be watched closely, since severe flooding in 1971, 1972, and 1973 accelerated the bank cutting.

The historic trench constructed by the army in the mid-1860's for fortification purposes should not be disturbed, and studies should be made to determine the feasibility of its restoration.

2. Manuscript collections. (See subsection III-D)

Unless donations dictate otherwise, all manuscripts should be microfilmed and the original documents sent to a nearby State or University library or to the Library of Congress. The microfilm copies should remain in the park.

3. Fort William interpretive marker. (See subsection III-E-1)

Although the exact site of Fort William has not yet been determined and while a possible site is now in private ownership, the Service should prepare an interpretive marker for Fort William. Until further evidence to the contrary is uncovered, this sign should be placed near the more widely accepted site--either along the road near the Iron Bridge, or just to the east of the present visitor center. The sign should give a brief account of the post, as well as note the question surrounding its location.

4. Historic Structure Preservation Guides. (Reference subsections III-F-2, 3, and 4.)

Individual Historic Structure Preservation Guides should be prepared for the following foundation ruins, structural ruins, and restored structures at Fort Laramie:

Foundation ruins (Subsection III-F-2)

- 1850 Guardhouse (HS 157)
- Footbridge (HS 90)
- General Sink (HS 81)
- 1850 Barracks (HS 130)
- Outbuilding (HS 62)
- Outbuilding (HS 64)

Structural ruins (Subsection III-F-3)

- NCO Quarters (HS 146)
- Hospital (HS 13)
- Steam Plant (HS 154)
- Officers' Quarters (HS 50)
- Officers' Quarters (HS 57)
- Officers' Quarters (HS 58)
- Officers' Quarters (HS 59)
- Administration Building (HS 75)
- New Bakery (HS 115)
- Bird Bath (no HS no.)

Restored structures (subsection III-F-4)

- Sutler's Store complex (HS 2)
- Lt. Colonel's House (HS 4)
- Post Surgeon's Quarters (HS 6)
- Magazine (HS 11A)
- Old Bedlam Officers' Quarters (HS 1)
- Outhouse (HS 3)
- Chicken House (HS 12)
- Captain's Quarters (HS 7)
- Old Guardhouse (HS 8)
- New Guardhouse (HS 80)
- Old Bakery (HS 10)
- Commissary Storehouse (HS 9)
- 1874 Cavalry Barracks (HS 5)
- Flag Staff (HS 188)--when reconstructed
- Iron Bridge (no HS no.)

5. Restored structures of the army post (See subsection III-F-4)

Modern concrete foundations show under most of the restored structures. Prominent examples of this show at the New Guardhouse (HS 80) and the Sutler's Store complex (HS 2). These foundations should either be hidden with added topsoil or, if possible, coated to resemble lime grout.

The cement drainage basin on the south side of the Sutler's Store Complex (HS 2) should be replaced with a basin more compatible with the historic surroundings.

Further research should be done to determine if the Portland cement hearth in the Old Bakery (HS 10) is historically correct.

Efforts should be made to replace the door mats and, especially, the modern metal trash receptacles used outside the restored structures with ones which are in keeping with the historical setting.

Exposed modern rim locks are found in most of the restored structures. They should be either disguised or replaced with historically accurate lock styles.

The modern air vents under the porch of the New Guardhouse (HS 80) and under the Commissary Storehouse (HS 9--the office and museum building) should be either hidden or replaced by historic types.

When placed in bold view at the front of the restored structures, the no-smoking signs create a non-historical intrusion. The park should move these signs to selected places where they can still be observed but be less obtrusive when visitors view or photograph the buildings.

Similarly, some of the interpretive markers identifying or describing historic structures stand so close to the structure that they create intrusions. These signs, for instance those in front of the Old Guardhouse (HS 8) and the General Sink (HS 81) should be moved to less obtrusive places.

If feasible, the storage tanks behind the Commissary Storehouse (HS 9--office and museum building) should be buried.

All high wires in the historic area create very obvious intrusions. They should be buried.

The garish green toilet huts behind the Officers' Quarters (HS 59) should be redone in a historically compatible style, such as that of the brown outhouses standing nearby to the north.

Electrical outlets, such as the one located near the south door of the Sutler's Store complex (HS 2) constitute non-historic intrusions, and should be hidden as effectively as possible.

The metal ladder on the rear wall of the Captain's Quarters (HS 7) should be hidden or replaced by a historically accurate one.

The iron bars in the windows of the Magazine (HS 11A) were recently installed to protect the armament exhibit. These should be either removed as soon as possible or concealed in the window frame. (The present exhibits are temporary. A furnishings plan for the Magazine is scheduled for Fiscal Year 1977).

Several questions concerning historic paint colors at Fort Laramie have arisen. Historically inaccurate spray paint has been used on the Captain's Quarters (HS 7). Questions have been asked concerning the glossy enamel paint used on porch benches, such as those at the New Guardhouse (HS 80) and the Captain's Quarters (HS 7)--glossy enamels were available during the army period. Restoration specialists should review past research concerning paint colors at Fort Laramie--such as the various historic structure reports and the furnishings plans (see subsection D, unpublished sources dealing directly with the park and its story) and determine what--if any--further research is necessary on this subject.

The red fire extinguishers are modern non-historic intrusions on the restored structures, and they stand out especially when placed on the porches of white buildings, such as the Captain's Quarters (HS 7). One of the two procedures (or both) should be taken concerning these extinguishers: concealment, but without impairing their usefulness or availability in case of fire; adaption of modern extinguishers to historic styles (apparently "Babcock" extinguishers were used at Fort Laramie historically), but without impairing modern effectiveness and efficiency. This latter course would require a special study.

6. The Hog Ranch (See subsection III-G)

If the permission of the owners of the Hog Ranch can be obtained, the Park Service should photograph, measure, and make measured drawings of the main building. This work should be accomplished as soon as possible due to the rapid rate of deterioration. These records should be added to the park's files. (The master plan does not call for the inclusion of the Hog Ranch in the park and may never do so. But the records should be created regardless).

