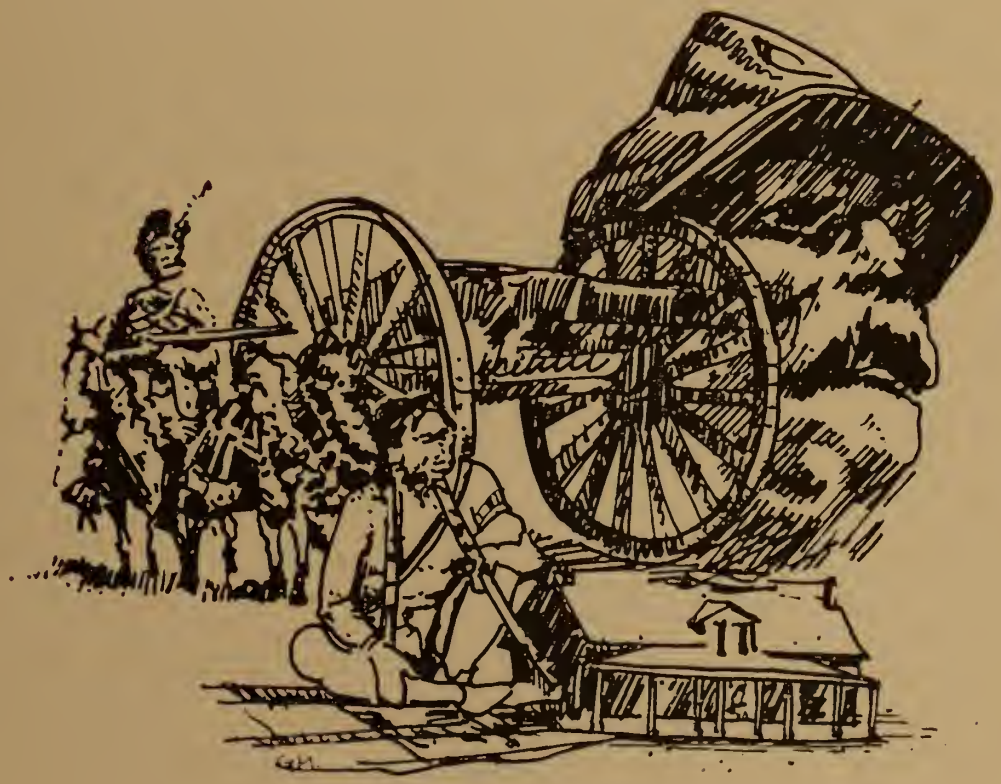
Statement for Management

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

United States Department of the Interior - National Park Service



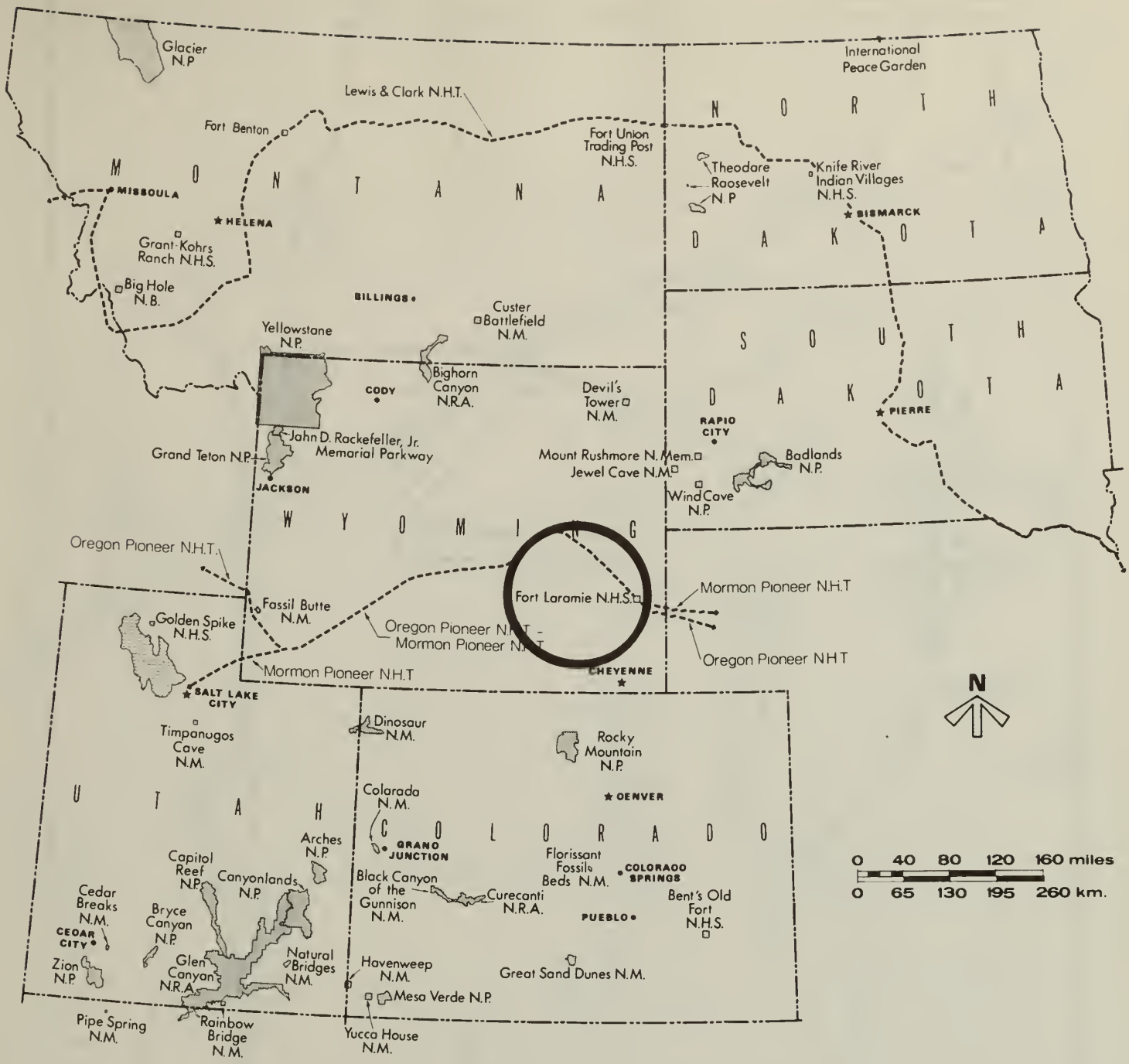
March 1987

Definition

The statement for management (SFM) provides an up-to-date inventory of the park's condition and an analysis of its problems. It does not involve any prescriptive decisions on future management and use of the park, but it provides a format for evaluating conditions and identifying major issues and information voids.

Recommended by: Gary K. Howe — February 19, 1987
Superintendent, Fort Laramie National Historic Site — Date

Approved by: Lorraine Mentzmyer — 3-5-87
Regional Director Rocky Mountain Region — Date



Legend

- • Locations of Major Cities
- ★ Locations of State Capitals
- State Boundary Lines
- National Park Service Areas
- ----- National Park Service Historical Trails

ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

National Park Service

United States Department of the Interior

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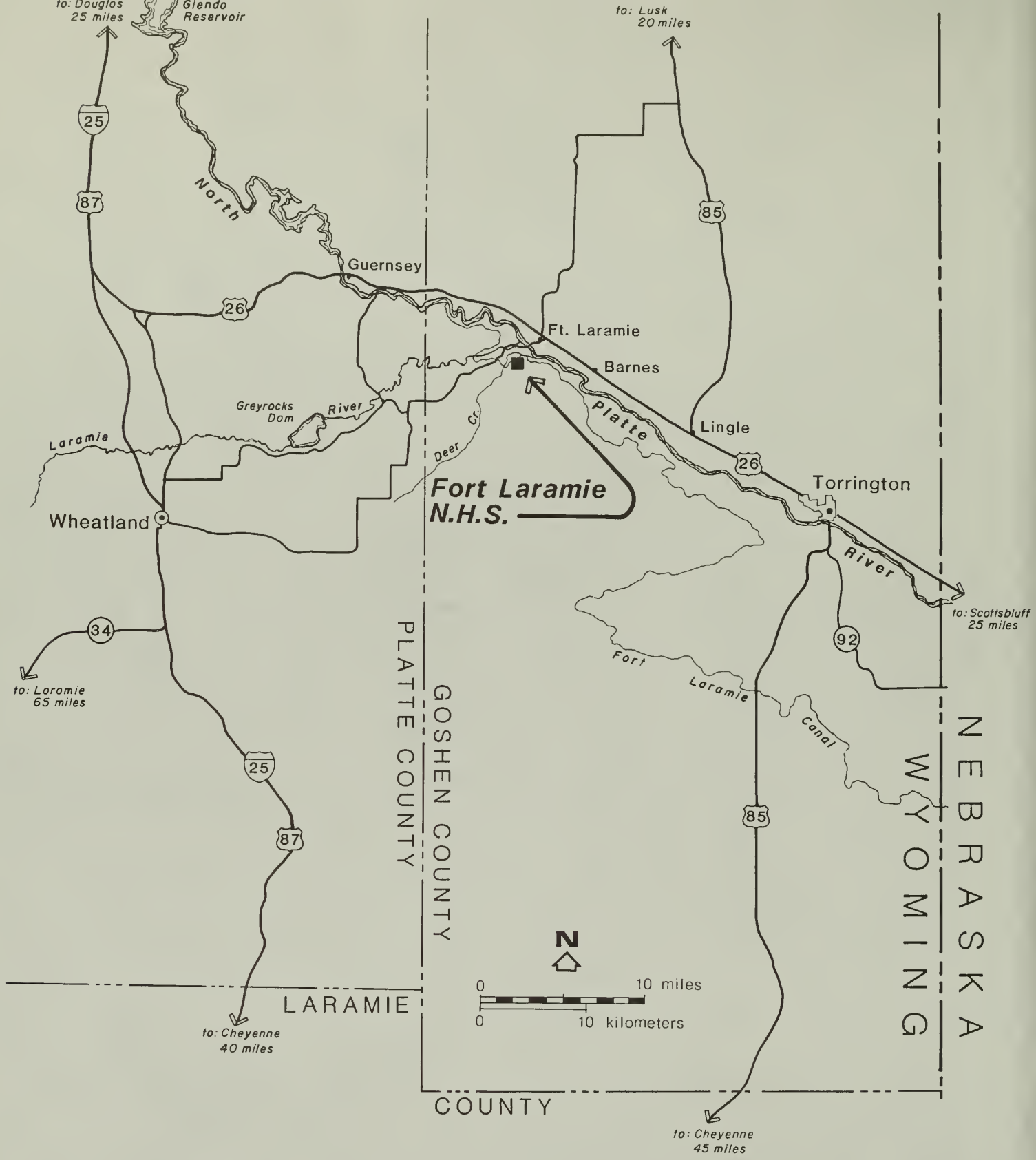

Vicinity Map

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service

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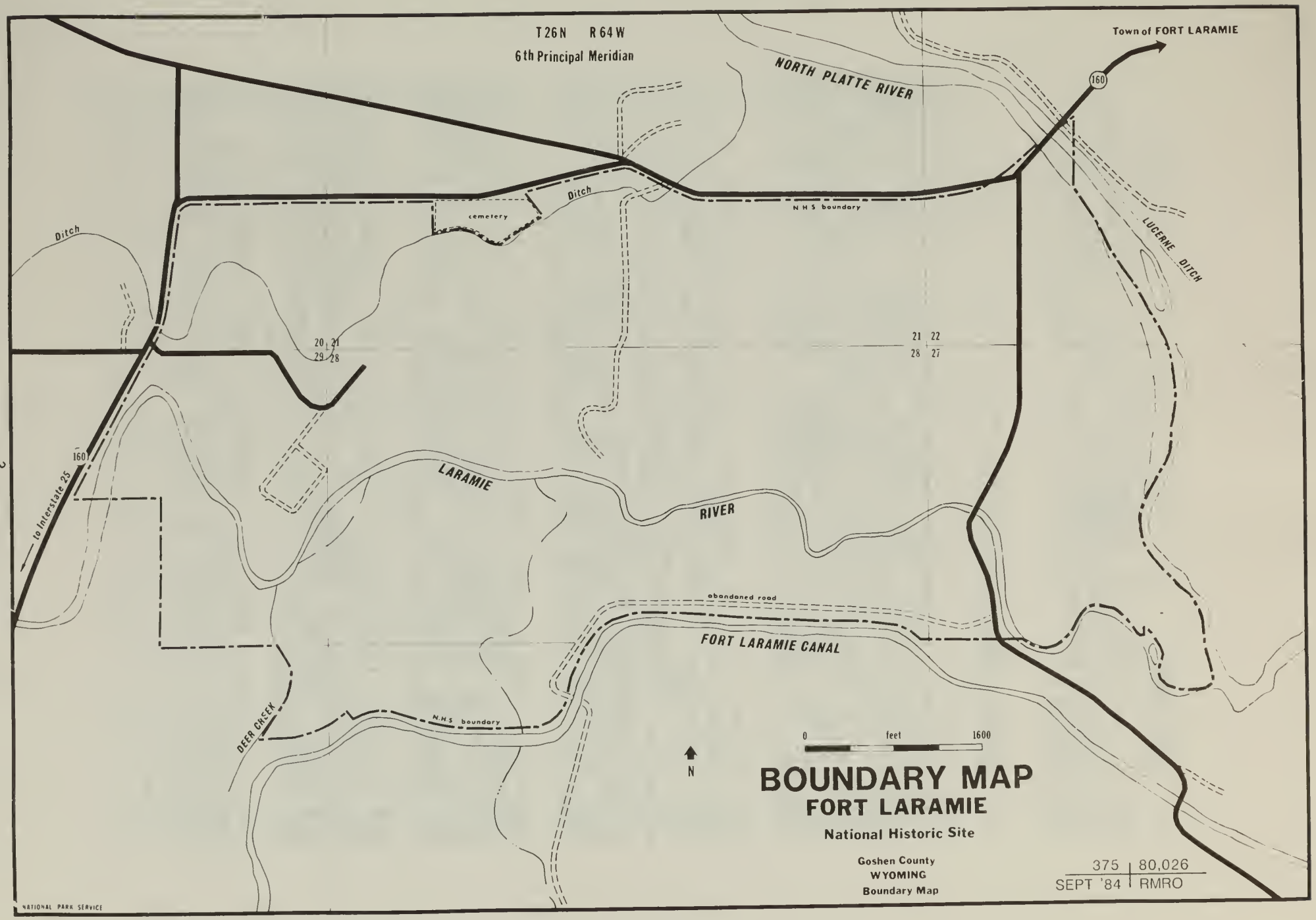
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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

I. LOCATION

Fort Laramie National Historic Site is on the Laramie River near the confluence with the North Platte River in southeastern Wyoming, Goshen County, Congressional District designation AL.

II. PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Laramie is a nationally significant site containing 832.45 acres, possessing exceptional value and quality in illustrating and interpreting numerous events that significantly contributed to the settlement of the American West. It is importantly associated with the lives of persons who were nationally significant in the history of the United States. It possesses integrity--a composite quality of original workmanship, original location, and elements of feeling and association.

Fort Laramie was an important military reservation in the West during the latter half of the 19th century. It was a fur trading post from 1834 to 1849 and a military post from 1849 to 1890. It was important in the covered wagon migrations to Utah, Oregon, and California with over 350,000 pioneer emigrants passing through. It played a key role in a series of Indian campaigns, in many other pioneer events, and in the signing of two important Indian Peace Treaties--the Treaty of 1851 and the Treaty of 1868.

Historic trails and routes that passed through Fort Laramie--in addition to the Oregon and California Trails--were the Mormon Trail, Bozeman Trail, Pony Express Route, transcontinental telegraph route, and the Deadwood and Cheyenne Stage Route. Remnants and reminders of these trails and routes exist today at the fort.

The National Park Service theme that Fort Laramie National Historic Site represents is that of westward expansion (1763-1898) with a subtheme of military-Indian conflicts. The major facet of these themes is the geographical area of the northern plains.

Fort Laramie National Monument was established by Presidential Proclamation (No. 2292) on July 16, 1938 (53 Stat. 2461). Purposes stated in this initial legislation included:

"Whereas,...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..."

A later Act of Congress (74 Stat. 83), Public Law 86-444, April 29, 1960, revised the boundaries and changed the name to Fort Laramie National Historic Site. A recent Act of Congress (92 Stat. 3477), P.L. 95-625, November 10, 1978, was an amendment to the aforementioned Act of Congress dated April 29, 1960. This November 10, 1978, Act revised the boundary of the National Historic Site. (Copies of each act are in the Appendix.)

III. INFLUENCES: INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

A. LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

The three acts that established and enlarged Fort Laramie National Historic Site all address preservation and interpretation of the historic resources and set out broad requirements for management of the area.

Fort Laramie is a historical area operated under the Management Policies of the National Park Service. Section 106 Compliance of the Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (amended in 1981) requires that any action that has an effect on a National Register property must be presented to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation before proceeding with the action. The Advisory Council has interpreted this to mean any effect--good or bad. An exception was made for the day-to-day maintenance of the historic buildings through a blanket approval that was authorized by the Advisory Council in March of 1980. The 106 procedure includes early consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Development decisions and actions must also be in accordance with the provisions and intent of the Antiquities Act of 1906; the National Park Service Organic Act of 1916; the Historic Sites Act of 1935; the National Environmental Policy Act of 1968; and Executive Order of 11593, dated May 13, 1971.

County Road (CR) 95 passes through the historic site. CR33 has been abandoned by the county and now belongs to the National Park Service. Portions of the existing alignment will be used as the entrance road when the new headquarters complex is constructed. It has long been planned to eventually use portions of both roads as entrances into the site. CR95 will remain as a county road and its use and maintenance must be in accord with county regulations and standards. Maintenance of the section of CR95 passing through the park will be performed by the county and the National Park Service under a written agreement. The National Park Service and the Goshen County Commissioners entered into an agreement in 1974 for the construction of a new automobile bridge across the Laramie River on CR95. The bridge was constructed by the State and will be maintained by Goshen County under a cooperative maintenance agreement with the National Park Service.

Some private lands acquired when the historic site was enlarged were subject to existing rights-of-way for pipelines, county roads, and a long-defunct railroad proposal. These were cited as being administratively acceptable at the time of purchase and show no signs of becoming problems.

The rights-of-way and special use permits must be considered and respected in any proposed development or action. They do not create any foreseeable management problems, except that vehicular access to pipeline above-ground controls leaves scars across an open field for a distance of about 100 feet. The pipeline accesses are sometimes used by others to get to the North Platte River, a use which is not authorized but hard to control. There are above-ground pipeline markers and valves that intrude visually; there is no chance of changing this in the foreseeable future.

The Wyrulec Company (REA) has a special use permit for a powerline which serves the Government facilities. The Belle Fourche Pipeline Company has a special use permit for a crude-oil pipeline which crosses National Park Service land on the northeast corner of the historic site.

In 1977, a special use permit was issued to the United Telephone Company of the West for the purpose of burying the telephone line paralleling CR95 from its intersection with SR160 near the Iron Bridge to where CR95 leaves the historic site at its southeast boundary.

A second special use permit was issued to the United Telephone Company of the West for burying a telephone line from its main trunk near the Laramie River Bridge to the Geological Survey gaging station on the Laramie River, 800 feet above the bridge.

Under a Memorandum of Agreement, the Geological Survey reinstalled its gaging station on the Laramie River. This station had been washed out by the 1973 flood.

The Fort Laramie Ditch Company irrigation ditch passes through Fort Laramie ground, and the fort is a company member. The fort has water rights covering 302 acres in the company. The company was established in 1891, and the system was placed in operation by 1894. The irrigation water is carried through the fort in a 30-inch diameter underground pipe. There are some open ditch laterals off this 30-inch pipe, and they are used each summer by the fort for grounds irrigation. An additional water right acquired with purchase of inholdings is under the Goshen Irrigation District covering 25.5 acres; this water is delivered through an underground pipe. It is desirable to retain these rights for ground irrigation purposes. It saves energy and assures a supply of water in future years should the underground table be lowered due to increased demands. The open ditches are historic (over 50 years old) but were not present during the army period. Furthermore, in the 1850's the Army brought in Mexican laborers to raise gardens. Irrigation in Wyoming was first done by the Mexicans in this vicinity. Additional research is needed to determine if irrigated farming took place on the military reservation.

In 1980, Section 106 Clearance was received to fill in approximately 50 yards of the ditch lateral which bisects the parade ground. At the same time, the park received permission to fill in three nonhistoric fish ponds located adjacent to the proposed new entrance road.

B. RESOURCES

Fort Laramie National Historic Site itself comprises 832.45 acres. The fort is below the surrounding high plains on the flood plains of the North Platte and Laramie Rivers. The bluffs, approximately 1/2-mile to the north and south of the post from the rim of the river valley, provide a low, clean horizon for much of the view from the post grounds. Grasslands surround the entire area and dominate the scenery. Approximately 40 miles to the west 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.

There are 36 significant physical remains at Fort Laramie that provide the context for understanding the people and events associated with the park. Action affecting these resources must be compatible with the park's cultural resource management plan and the various compliance procedures.

Fort Laramie National Historic Site has several visible foundations, including the Footbridge (HS-35), the Outbuildings (HS-33 and 34) located behind the 1858 Officer's House (HS-30), the Icehouse (HS-32), the Married Enlisted Men's Quarters (HS-29), the Sutler's Residence (HS-28), the Three Company Barracks (HS-24), and the Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks (HS-25).

Eleven standing ruins remain at Fort Laramie: the Officer's Quarters Ruins (HS-11); the Hospital (HS-13); the Administration Building (HS-17); the Officer's Quarters D, C, and B (HS-18, 19, and 20); the Married Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters (HS-21); Powerhouse/Sawmill (HS-22); the New Bakery (HS-23); the General Sink (HS-26); and the 1850 Guardhouse (HS-27).

There are 13 historic buildings standing at Fort Laramie: Old Bedlam (HS-1); Sutler's Store (HS-2); Historic Privy (HS-3); Officers' Quarters F, E, and A (HS-4, 6, and 7); Cavalry Barracks (HS-5); Old Guardhouse (HS-8); Commissary Storehouse (HS-9); Old 1876 Bakery (HS-10); the Chicken House (HS-12); the Magazine (HS-14); and the new Guardhouse (HS-15).

Three historic structures have been identified: the Army Iron Bridge (HS-16), the Bird Bath (HS-31), and Earthworks Trench (HS-37) located behind the hospital ruins.

Present visual intrusions are few, when viewed from the grounds. This creates the element of historic association that the visitor feels while at Fort Laramie. Many visitors remark that the setting of Fort Laramie gives them a feeling the soldiers and emigrants might have felt in those times long past. Therefore, it should be remembered that the historic scene is an important historical component at Fort Laramie and should be preserved to enhance the historical fabric of the fort.

Routine management of the historic scene should be directed toward maintaining the present situation wherein there are no, or very few, nonhistoric 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. Placing these facilities on the south bank of the Laramie River was

a carefully planned decision that evolved from the development concept plan planning process in 1982. Other alternatives were discussed and considered, and public input was solicited and received. The buildings are to be screened with vegetation and earth berms and, in fact, the Visitor Center complex will be built into the hillside. Further consideration will have to be given to the high water table in this area. The selected site is the most advantageous to the existing vegetation. It is an area that the building can be "sunk into," and its proximity to the existing resources is very crucial. An important mitigating factor is that all existing modern intrusions will be removed from the area of the historic resources: cars, parking lots, maintenance buildings, administrative activities, and so forth. Any artifacts that are found during this project will be evaluated and catalogued.

The wildlife that take refuge at the fort should be considered a valuable resource--deer, beaver, rabbits, and other species of animals. They are a part of the historic scene.

The museum collection of some 16,500 items including antique furnishings, museum exhibit items, and the study collections, are other significant resources.

The Laramie River is the source of a flood problem, which must be considered in design criteria for roads and bridges. The highest flood on record occurred in the spring of 1973; second highest occurred in 1971. The flood limits must be influential in deciding the footbridge location and the headquarters site, should they ever be moved to the south side of the river. The Grayrocks Reservoir, though not a flood control reservoir, will serve to provide some control of the riverflow and water levels. A 100-year flood plain was estimated at elevation 4,240± in the park development concept plan, 1962. The catastrophic flood level was estimated at elevation 4,248±. The 500-year flood plain still needs to be determined.

Most of the historic structures and ruins are on the first stream terrace, from 10 to 16 feet above the former flood plain of the Laramie River. The Hospital (HS-13), the Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters ruins (HS-21), 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 old flood plain.

The Commissary Storehouse (HS-9), the Old 1876 Bakery (HS-10), and the New Bakery ruins (HS-23) are on the upper margin of the old flood plain and have not been affected by floods. A large number of historic structure sites also

lie on the old flood plain downstream from the Commissary Storehouse and Old Bakery.

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

In accordance with E.O. 11988 and E.O. 11990 which established controls for planning and development within flood plains, a survey should be conducted to establish the 100-year flood plain.

It should be noted that in the 1983 and 1984 summer seasons, artifacts were being uncovered by erosion along the banks of the river caused by receding flood waters. This is the first time in 10 years that this has happened.

The archeological resources at Fort Laramie, (architectural remains), are on the List of Classified Structures. There are 19 structures listed with some form of above-ground architectural remnants. The Icehouse and the Earthworks Trench, both listed in the List of Classified Structures, are indentations and swells in the ground, not architectural remains. Hundreds of historic-structure subsurface remains exist on or around Fort Laramie National Historic Site--corrals, stables, kitchens and mess rooms, quartermaster's shops, laundries, laundresses' quarters, outbuildings, and other types of subterranean remains. The historical base map shows where these structures are positioned according to evidence obtained from historic maps and early drawings of the fort. A comprehensive archeological study is needed to determine more precisely the location and the importance of the subterranean remains for a possible expanded interpretive story of Fort Laramie.

Both the North Platte and Laramie Rivers provide visitors and local residents with fisheries resources. Public access across fort grounds to these waters is permitted. Such fishing is regulated in accordance with the laws and regulations of the State.

C. LAND USES AND TRENDS

Fort Laramie is in southeast Wyoming 23 miles west of Torrington, Wyoming, the seat of Goshen County. Agriculture, including dryland and irrigated farming and cattle ranching, is the largest industry in the county. The population density in the county is about 4.5 persons per square mile. The farms and ranches are large, more often measured in sections than in acres. As a result, the land surrounding Fort Laramie retains much the same appearance as was witnessed by the early emigrants passing through and the personnel stationed there.

At an elevation of 4,240 feet, the fort is in the northern plains climatic region, where annual temperatures can range from winter lows of -20 degrees and summer highs of 90 degrees or higher. Although design criteria need to include these extremes, the average winter seldom has long periods of extreme cold because of the warming effects of chinook winds and predominately clear days. Summers are short, with nighttime temperature ranges of 30 to 50 degrees. The wind seems to blow constantly from November to April, and often during the summer months as well. Extremes in temperature are hard on the museum collections displayed in the furnished structures; this variation contributes to deterioration of certain properties.

Within a 150-mile radius of Fort Laramie, there are approximately 135,000 people. This includes Wyoming's two largest cities--Casper and Cheyenne, both about 45,000--and numerous small towns and villages. It also includes Scottsbluff and Gering, Nebraska, with a twin-city population of about 20,000, and numerous small towns and villages in the Nebraska panhandle. Twenty percent of the fort's visitation originates in these centers. Special activities, events, and displays are attractive to residents in this area and serve to bring them to the fort again and again.

Within a 150-mile radius are a number of historical and recreational parks and sites:

Scotts Bluff National Monument, Nebraska
Agate Fossil Beds National Monument, Nebraska
Chimney Rock National Historic Site, Nebraska
Fort Robinson State Park, Nebraska
Oregon Trail Ruts Historic Site, Wyoming
Register Cliff State Historic Site, Wyoming
Guernsey Reservoir State Park, Wyoming
Glendo Lake Reservoir State Park, Wyoming
Fort Fetterman State Park, Wyoming
Old Fort Caspar, Wyoming
Medicine Bow National Forest, Wyoming

Public transportation is virtually nonexistent. Scottsbluff, Nebraska (55 miles away), is served by Commuter Air companies. The Burlington Northern and Union Pacific Railroads serve the region but without passenger service; there are no known plans to restore passenger service on either line. Therefore, there are no demands or linkage to public transportation depots or centers.

The North Platte and Laramie Rivers are sources for irrigation water. The large Fort Laramie Canal which carries water from the North Platte to Nebraska parallels about 2-1/2 miles of the historic site's south boundary. Seepage from this canal during the irrigation period often results in small areas of standing water on lower park lands. These wet conditions cause some unnatural pockets of vegetation and create adverse construction conditions that will have to be acknowledged prior to any nearby development.

The National Park Service has completed studies of the Oregon Pioneer Trail and Mormon Pioneer Trail for purposes of the National Historic and Scenic Trail System Act. Segments of both trails in the Fort Laramie vicinity have been proposed as having high potential for interpretation and development. As the plans are implemented, visitation will increase and greater involvement will be required in coordinated planning and interpretation of the Oregon Pioneer Trail and the Mormon Pioneer Trail sites.

Within the 832.45 acres of the park there are three private inholdings:

1. G. W. Holtzclaw of Prescott, Arizona, owns 59 acres. About 55 acres of this land are used to raise corn or beans, and the remaining 4 acres contain a house and several outbuildings. The land and buildings are rented to third parties. This acreage is in a major viewing area of the park and should be purchased and converted to a natural scene.

2. Walter G. Missel of Casper, Wyoming, owns 4.4 acres. This land has not been used except for sand and gravel extraction. The land has some development potential that, if realized, would be adverse to the experience of the fort visitor, and as a result, this land should also be purchased and restored.

3. Jack Gregg of Fort Laramie, Wyoming, owns 1.33 acres. This narrow strip of land is county road right-of-way that has little or no development potential. It should be acquired to clear up potential legal problems.

Preexisting rights-of-way and mineral rights pose some potential for adverse parkland use. This is not deemed a serious threat but will be monitored in the future.

Similarly, lands adjacent to the park and within the major viewing area are used primarily for grazing and as a result maintain an historic appearance. If changes are proposed, some action may be necessary to forestall or mitigate adverse developments.

D. VISITOR USE ANALYSIS

Annual visitation for the 11-year period of 1973 to 1983 ranged from a high of 121,577 in 1981 to a low of 90,227 the preceding year. The average yearly visitation over that decade was 107,058. The three-year period of 1984, 1985 and 1986 averaged 86,161 with 1985 having the lowest visitor count. The increase in 1986 was attributed, in part, to lower fuel prices and the fear of overseas travel.

The months of June, July and August account for the fort's highest visitation, with 68% of the visitors arriving during those three months. The fort's lowest visitor counts for the last three years occurred in January of each year. During the three summer months, the average daily count was 1,945 visitors.

Daily/Weekly Use Patterns

Visitor use patterns at the fort reflect 32 percent nuclear families, 13 percent extended family groups, 11 percent peer groups, 14 percent organized tours, and 5 percent people traveling alone. The peer groups and organized tours are more evident at the fort in the spring and fall.

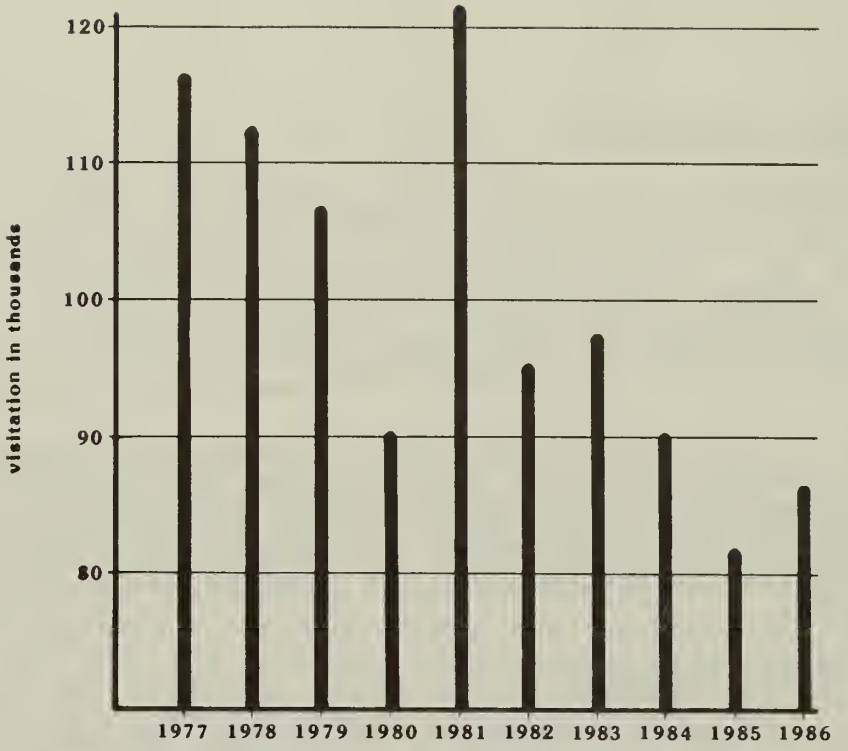
Origin of Visitors and Length of Stay

60 percent of the park visitors are United States citizens coming from outside the regional area of Fort Laramie. The highest number, 10 percent, was from California; 19 percent were "local," living in the immediate area; 20 percent were regional residents, people living within a 2-3 hour drive; and 8 percent were from countries other than the United States. The average length of stay at Fort Laramie in 1983 was 1 hour and 50 minutes. Park visitation in 1985 totaled 81,896 and in 1986, 86,475, and basically followed the trends outlined in the 1983 study.

Principal Activities

Fort Laramie is a day-use area open 7 a.m. to dusk during June, July, and August and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. the remainder of the year. The park visitor center is open year-round with the exception of Christmas, Thanksgiving, and New Year's Day. An information desk, a cooperating association sales outlet, and the park museum, which houses a variety of exhibits relating to the frontier military and more specifically, Fort Laramie are also open year-round.

In 1987 a fee program was instituted requiring a $1 per person charge. Collection is on the honor system 9/15 -



Annual Visitation

Monthly Visitation 1985/1986

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

5/15 and from an entrance station 5/15 - 9/15.

In addition to the museum there are 9 restored and refurnished historic structures with a total of 41 refurnished rooms containing over 6,000 artifacts. A self-guiding tour takes visitors through these structures and provides interpretive material regarding the buildings and their uses.

Fort Laramie has a total of 25 wayside exhibits, and these panels are located throughout the high-use areas.

A 20-minute audiovisual orientation program is available throughout the year and can be seen in the Visitor Center. This program provides a basic history of the fort and should be viewed when the visitor first arrives.

Throughout the summer and on weekends in the fall, the park's "living history" program is operated. It includes a variety of interpreters in historical clothing depicting aspects of civilian and military life at the fort in the mid-19th century. The content includes information related to historic resource preservation as well as the history of Fort Laramie and the American frontier. The most popular of these activities is the Cavalry program; consequently, it is in continuous operation throughout the summer.

Frequently in spring and summer, the park conducts special programs in addition to regularly listed interpretive programs. The most notable of these are the Moonlight Tours, given once in May and again in August, a 19th century melodrama presented on Sunday afternoons mid-June through mid-August, and the annual Fourth of July Celebration. These programs are especially popular with area residents.

In late spring and early fall special tours are offered for area school groups. Schools are mailed information on the programs, reservations are made, and previsit materials are sent. This is a popular program and, due to staffing considerations, tours cannot be given to all making requests.

E. FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT ANALYSIS

1. Nonhistoric roads, trails, and bridges

Route No. 1: Entrance road - 0.4 mile; 21 foot surface; 5 feet wide turf shoulders; asphalt.

Route No. 2: Service road - parking lot to proposed development area 1.3 miles; asphalt tack coat and chips.

Route No. 3: Fire lane - parking lot to maintenance 0.3 mile; chip.

Route No. 4: Visitor trail and fire lane parking lot/store to parking lot/barracks 0.5 mile chip.

There is only one 1/4-mile long gravel surfaced trail.

In addition to the above roads, the fort has approximately 5 miles of primitive roads that are used only for security and maintenance purposes.

The main parking lot is partially paved and has a capacity of 85 cars.

2. Bridges

1420-001S Laramie River service road (on National Park Service land) 100 feet long; 25 feet wide; concrete material; 1969 construction.

1420-003P Laramie River Bridge on county road; 195 feet long; 32 feet 8 inches wide; concrete material; 1976 construction.

3. Nonhistoric buildings and facilities

Building	Size	Material
Storage - oil and paint	10 x 30	Stone
Garage - tack room	30 x 80	Wood
Pumphouse	16 x 20	Cinder block
Shop	24 x 30	Metal
Warehouse	20 x 24	Metal
Vault toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Vault toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Horse barn	14 x 14	Wood
Security building	6 x 8	Wood
Powder magazine	4 x 4	Cinder block
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass
Portable toilet	4 x 4	Fiberglass

4. Picnic Area

1 acre; 22 tables; 1 water hydrant; parking for 50 cars.

5. Fences

2-strand barbed wire - 2 miles
3-strand barbed wire - .75 miles
4-strand barbed wire - 5 miles

6. Signs

Entrance - 2 main
1 back road
National Park Service emblem - 2
Regulation - 45
Information - 15
Protection - 145
Interpretive - 23 metal-photo waysides
1 diorama
3 fiberglass waysides
1 wooden sign
3 metal plaques

7. Utility Systems

Water system - 60-foot well, 750-gallon tank: domestic use; 1,900-foot cast-iron pipe (6-inch): new system; 4,000-foot cast-iron pipe; old system.

Water system - 60-foot well, 500-gallons per minute: fire and irrigation use; 8 fire hydrants.

Sewer system - 2,000-gallon septic tank; 165-foot sewerline; 10,000-gallon septic tank; 2,000-foot sewerline.

Solid waste system - compactor; 10 barrels, 55-gallon size; 5 cans, 30-gallon size; 20 kegs, 5-gallon size.

Radio system - 14 park radios; 12 chargers; 1 tricounty radio; 1 TIS transmitter.

Irrigation system - well, hydrant, and 960-foot sprinkler pipe; flood - GID canal; flood - Old Fort ditch system.

8. Historic Structures

1420-002T - Fort Laramie Army Bridge: 1,432.5 feet long; 12 feet wide; timber and iron; 1875 construction.

Flagpole - replica pole made of native wood; 60 feet tall.

The following is the fort's List of Classified Structures (LCS), with LCS numbers:

001 - Old Bedlam
002 - Sutler's Store
003 - Historic Privy
004 - Officer's Quarters F
005 - Cavalry Barracks
006 - Officer's Quarters E
007 - Officer's Quarters A
008 - Old Guardhouse
009 - Commissary Storehouse
010 - Old 1876 Bakery
011 - Officer's Quarters Ruin
012 - Chicken House
013 - Hospital
014 - Magazine
015 - New Guardhouse
016 - Iron Bridge
017 - Administration Building
018 - Officer's Quarters D
019 - Officer's Quarters C
020 - Officer's Quarters B
021 - Married Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters
022 - Powerhouse/Sawmill
023 - New Bakery

024 - Three Company Barracks
025 - Two Company Enlisted Men's Barracks
026 - General Sink
027 - 1850 Guardhouse
028 - Sutler's Residence
029 - Married Enlisted Men's Quarters
030 - 1858 Officer's Quarters
031 - Birdbath
032 - Icehouse
033 - Outbuilding
034 - Outbuilding
035 - Footbridge
036 - Chicken Shed
037 - Earthworks Trench

9. Major Equipment

1959 1½-ton Ford flat bed with Pacific Marine 40-gallon-per-minute (gpm) slip-on unit, with 450-gallon water capacity.

1984 484 International tractor, 42 horsepower, 4 cylinder diesel with power take-off.

1986 Ford Chassis, F800, 760-gpm, 500-gallon tank, Waterous pump, 4 x 4.

F. STATUS OF PLANNING

Name of Plan/Study	Preparer	Date Approved	Comment on Adequacy	Repository
Master Plan	DSC	8/30/66	Contents updated by 1982 DCP	DSC
Development Concept Plan	RMRO	3/82	Adequate and up-to-date	RMRO
Resources Management Plan	FOLA	9/84	Adequate	FOLA
Interpretive Prospectus	RMRO	1986	Up-to-date	RMRO
Land Protection Plan	FOLA	2/1/85	Up-to-date and adequate	FOLA
Scope of Collections Statement	FOLA	1984	Up-to-date and adequate	FOLA
Statement for Interpretation	FOLA	1986	Current and revised in 1986	FOLA
Dam Safety Plan	FOLA	1986	Adequate	FOLA
Safety/Emergency Plans	FOLA	1986	Adequate	FOLA
Range Land Study	U. of Northern Colorado	1986	Adequate	FOLA

Plans and studies that have recently been identified as needed are as follows:

1. Study to determine the effects of temperature and humidity on buildings and artifacts.
2. Study of feasibility of fire and protection systems for historic buildings.
3. Comprehensive archeological study of fort area.
4. Completion of necessary furnishing plans for historic buildings.
5. Ground and surface water investigation.
6. Historical/archeological research to locate site of Fort William.

G. EXISTING MANAGEMENT ZONING

All lands within the boundary of Fort Laramie National Historic Site are classified Historic Zone, with three basic subzones: (1) Development subzone, 100 acres; (2) Natural Environment subzone, 40 acres; and (3) Special Use subzone, 63 acres. The percentage of parkland involved in each subzone is: 12 percent in the Development subzone, 3 percent in the Natural Environment subzone, and 7.6 percent in the Special Use subzone.

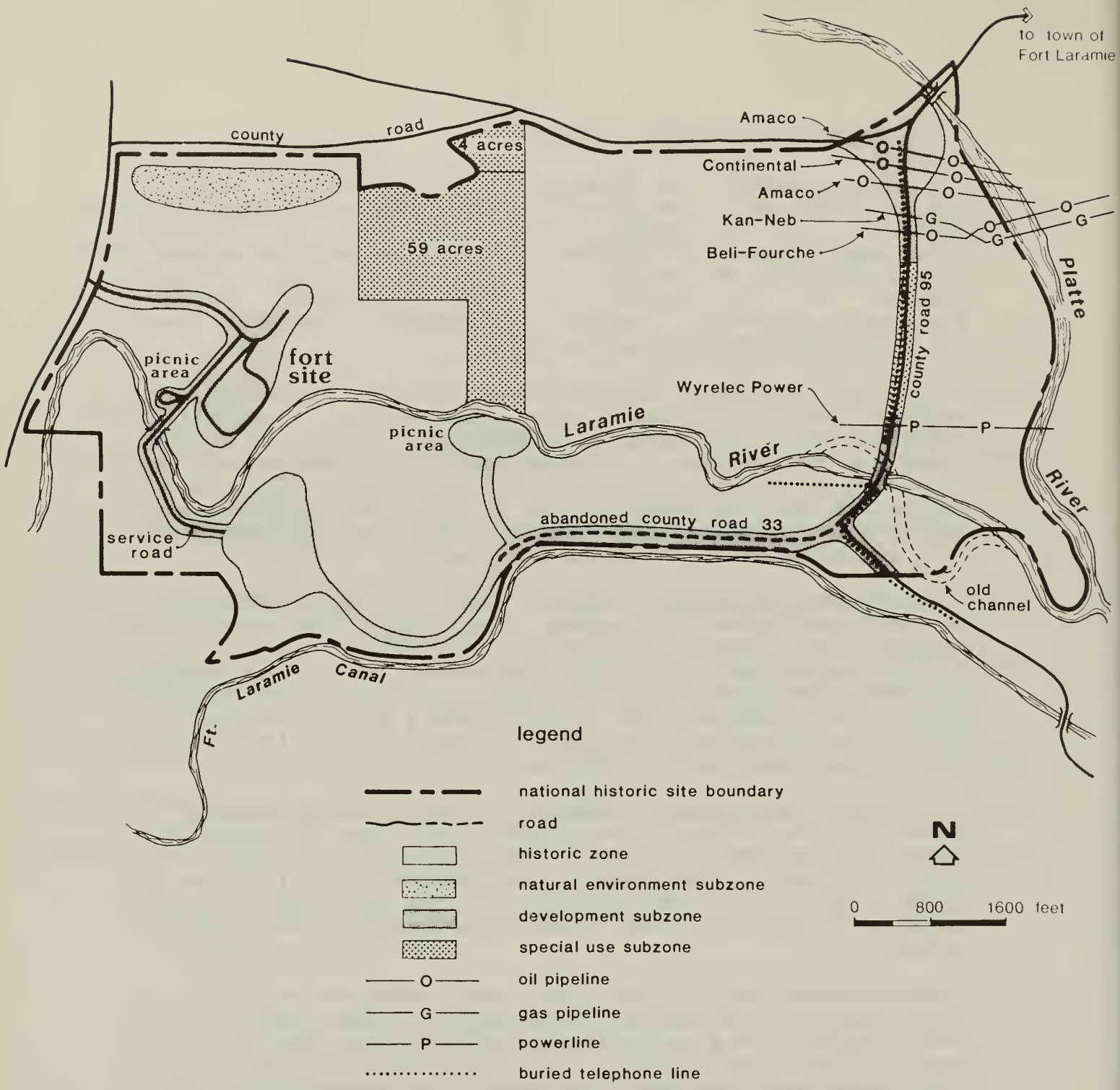
In the existing Development subzone are the entrance road, parking area, luncheon area, maintenance facilities, administrative headquarters, County Road 95, and the museum. These facilities and the management practices associated with them are intrusions on the historic scene. The visitor experience and the adaptive use of the historic Commissary building as a museum and headquarters are not consistent with preservation of the building itself.

The proposed Development subzone south of the Laramie River as delineated on the master plan, has been partially prepared for future development with utility lines and a leveled area for building. There are two other small, proposed developed areas indicated on the map: a picnic area is on the south side of the Laramie River, between the proposed headquarters site and the North Platte River, and a picnic area near the Iron Bridge.

The Natural Environment subzone contains approximately 40 acres. It is claimed (unverified) that these 40 acres have never been tilled. It has not been mowed nor grazed for at least 40 years. Management practice on this land is to leave it as it is. The integrity of the vegetation in this parcel is a focus for interpretation of the historic resource.

The remaining land within the park boundary consists of former agricultural property and natural areas. The 59-acre inholding is zoned as a special use subzone and is still used to grow corn or beans. It is the only part of the park being used this way with its associated modern buildings. Adjacent to this parcel, there is a 4-acre inholding which is now idle. Basically, all of this land (except the inholdings) is in the process of being returned to the historic/natural scene of vast prairie grassland with the Platte and Laramie Rivers as a contrast with green wooded riverbanks.

Vegetation along the river paths and in the nonhistoric areas of the park will be allowed to run their natural courses. No attempt will be made to manipulate these



Existing Management Zoning Map

Fort Laramie National Historic Site

United States Department of the Interior – National Park Service

375 | 80,025
June '84 | RMRO

environments, except that exotic and/or noxious vegetation may be controlled or eradicated to comply with State laws or to stop their spread to adjacent agricultural lands. Placement of deadwood in these areas may be considered to maintain a more historic appearance and eliminate excessive growth of nongrass species. Trees planted around the parade ground in the 1970's will be maintained. These shall be replaced as necessary and kept trimmed to an historically acceptable height. No other planting of vegetation will occur, and natural/wild growth in and around the parade ground and historic buildings will be controlled and/or eradicated. Existing trees in the vicinity of the Cavalry Barracks-Commissary will be allowed to run their natural courses, with those that die being removed due to the high hazard they pose. Necessary trimming and hazardous limb removal will be done as necessary. No new planting will be undertaken and wild/natural growth will be controlled and/or eradicated. This same policy will be followed for any inholdings acquired in the future.

IV. MAJOR ISSUES

Some of the issues that were covered in previous discussions can be enumerated as follows:

1. Two historic buildings remain to be restored and refurnished--the Cavalry Barracks (partially complete) and the Commissary Storehouse. The restoration of these last two buildings will greatly enhance the interpretive story of Fort Laramie.

2. The modern developments outlined in the development concept plan are sadly needed to better accommodate the visitor needs and resource protection. No large-scale new development has ever taken place at Fort Laramie, and the new development will solve many problems and make for better interpretation of the resources.

3. At present, there is no temperature or humidity control in any of the historic buildings, which endangers the buildings and the many artifacts in them.

4. At present, there is no fire protection system for the irreplaceable artifacts and historic structures. Internal alarm and suppression systems need to be studied and installed.

5. Fort Laramie's curatorial collection includes over 16,500 items with a value of over $5,000,000. Existing manpower is not sufficient to assure adequate protection and curatorial maintenance. New curatorial lab and storage rooms are now complete and will be operative in 1987.

6. The three inholdings within the park should be acquired to ensure the historic scene. This issue is covered in detail in the land protection plan.

7. Existing rights-of-way and mineral rights should be monitored to avoid future problems.

8. Uses of land adjacent to the park should be observed to serve as an indicator in recognizing future problems.

9. Surface and subsurface water rights need to be investigated to preclude future legal problems.

10. Over the last 2 years, high water released from the Gray Rocks Dam has caused resource deterioration. Protective measures need to be taken and monitoring continued.

11. There is a need within the park to have base line research done on the archeological and natural resources of the area, including the condition of subsurface resources.

12. There are many areas of Fort Laramie's history that need to be extensively researched. (A case in point is the currently requested study of the location and story of Fort William.)

13. Day-to-day preservation and stabilization work on the historic structures is backlogged and deterioration is occurring. Staffing and funding are needed to remedy this problem.

14. Modern office space is critically needed for the administrative staff. Current space is too small and inefficient and does not have adequate heating or cooling.

V. MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

A. MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION, AND SUPPORT

To continue and nurture the existing close, noteworthy working relationships with various Wyoming departments and commissions.

B. INTERPRETATION AND VISITOR SERVICES

1. To provide for the highest quality of professional interpretation of the fort's history and resources, using various interpretive techniques with special emphasis on living history demonstrations, based on the following

interpretive themes:

a. Fort Laramie as the base for army activities in the northern plains frontier, as agent of the U. S. Government in westward expansion, 1849-1890.

b. Fort Laramie and the fur trade, 1812-1849.

c. Westward migration, 1840-1860.

2. To develop and present special activities and events that will increase and deepen the visitor's understanding of the meaning of Fort Laramie and the life that existed at this post during the historic period.

3. To cooperate in the planning and presentation of interpretive activities and programs with the agencies that manage the numerous Oregon Pioneer Trail and Mormon Pioneer Trail sites that are found along that historic trail.

4. To actively work with school officials in promoting the use of the fort by school groups for studying western American history and environmental education.

C. NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. To reestablish vegetative resources (grasses, shrubs, other plants, excluding trees) to the condition that prevailed during the army days (1849-1890) and to manage these resources in a manner that will assure their return to that period.

2. To assist and work with county officials in preserving the historical appearance of the landscape surrounding the historic site.

D. CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. To reestablish, to the fullest extent possible, the integrity of the historic scene on the north side of the Laramie River, by removing 20th-century intrusions from the area.

2. To protect and preserve the historic integrity of the buildings, structures, and ruins within the area, while assuring their availability for the benefit and enjoyment of the general public to perpetuity.

30. Fort Laramie National Monument

Establishment: Proclamation (No. 2292) of July 16, 1938 ..... Page 184

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 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 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 Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and sixty-third.

[SEAL]

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

By the President:
CORDELL HULL,
Secretary of State.

6. Fort Laramie National Historic Site

Page

Revision of boundaries; monument redesignated as "Fort Laramie National Historic Site"----------Act of April 29, 1960 347

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:

Fort Laramie National Monument, Wyo.

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 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.

Procurement of lands.

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.

Redesignation.

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].)

16 U.S.C. 1, 2–4, 22, 461.

NAME CHANGE; CITY OF REFUGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SEC. 305. The Act of July 21, 1955 (69 Stat. 376) is hereby amended to redesignate the City of Refuge National Historical Park as the Puuhonua o Honaunau National Historical Park. 16 USC 397–397b, 397d.

BLACK HAMMOCK ISLAND

SEC. 306. The lot on Black Hammock Island, identified by warranty deed numbered 70-56.903, recorded among the land records of Duval County, Florida, on November 23, 1970, owned by the Federal Government, shall, pursuant to the Act of December 18, 1967 (81 Stat. 656; 16 U.S.C. 19g, 19h), be deeded to the National Park Foundation to be sold at fair market value. The proceeds of such sale shall be remitted to the National Park Service for land acquisition and development of the Fort Caroline National Memorial.

ALLEGHENY PORTAGE RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE AND JOHNSTOWN FLOOD NATIONAL MEMORIAL

SEC. 307. (a) The Secretary is authorized to revise the boundaries of the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site and the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in Pennsylvania to add approximately five hundred and twenty-six acres and sixty-seven acres respectively. Sections 302 and 303 of this Act shall be applicable to such boundary revision. Boundary revisions.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes there are authorized to be appropriated not more than $2,743,000 for land acquisition and $4,280,000 for development to carry out the purposes of this section. Appropriation authorization.

FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 308. (a) The first section of the Act entitled "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), is amended to read as follows: "That in order to preserve the sites of historic buildings and roads associated with Fort Laramie, the boundaries of the Fort Laramie National Historic Site shall hereafter comprise the area generally depicted on the map entitled 'Boundary Map, Fort Laramie National Historic Site', numbered 375-90.001, and dated September 1977. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior". 16 USC 426k.

(b) The first sentence of section 2 of such Act is amended by inserting between the words "boundary" and "described" the phrase "as depicted on the map.".

FORT UNION TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

SEC. 309. (a) The first section of the Act entitled "An Act to authorize establishment of the Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site, North Dakota and Montana, and for other purposes", approved June 20, 1966 (80 Stat. 211), is amended by deleting "located in Williams County, North Dakota, and such additional lands and interests in lands in Williams County, North Dakota, and Roosevelt County, Montana," and inserting in lieu thereof "located in the

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