



Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

“On the Road to Preservation”

Winter 2007
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2006 Year in Review

Sara Needles, State Historic Preservation Officer

Many successes occurred in 2006 for Wyoming preservation and I feel I would be remiss if we did not take the opportunity to highlight them. As many of you may recall, our office was challenged with re-organization over the past few years. In 2006, we met the challenge head-on and in so doing, landed soundly on our feet. The SHPO staff worked diligently at building our services, such as the National Register, Tax Incentives, and Certified Local Government programs. We initiated our new and very popular Centennial Farm and Ranch Program to recognize families for their contributions to Wyoming for 100 years or more. We also navigated through another demanding year of Section 106 consultation work, due to the ever increasing and on-going energy development in the State.

The cultural records office continued to improve access to our large database of cultural information and worked through an astounding amount of data entry. The Archaeology office continued with survey projects and provided many Wyoming citizens with the opportunity to volunteer in archaeological research. Many of the SHPO staff worked to provide the public with information regarding preservation in Wyoming via public talks and workshops.

In 2006, the Governor appointed “Steering Committee on the Development of Historic Contexts” completed a detailed plan recommending seven priority contexts. When complete, the contexts will be

an invaluable resource for State and Federal agencies in creating sound management decisions regarding our prehistoric and historic resources. The context plan also calls for the development of context publications for the general public. Our office houses over 30 years of information on Wyoming prehistory and history that has never been synthesized in documents. I cannot stress how important the context documents will be in providing sound management of Wyoming’s cultural resources.

As successful as 2006 was, the year 2007 holds the promise of bringing even more success. As we work on our State Plan, the SHPO staff is committed to visiting many communities around the State to better understand their preservation needs. We will hold workshops

throughout the state in 2007 on a variety of topics including: how to complete a National Register Nomination, earning tax incentives on preservation projects, applying for SHPO grants through the Certified Local Government program, and private landowner rights. SHPO staff, in cooperation with our Federal partners, will host the first ever site stewardship training effort this summer. The training will include utilizing volunteers throughout the state to provide information and stewardship to many of our threatened sites.

I want to thank you all for your support throughout the year and look forward to working with you in 2007 and beyond.



The Earl Christensen family, award recipients of the Centennial Farm & Ranch program. Their ranch is located near Clareton, WY.

Photo by Richard Collier.

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Preservation Tax Incentives for Historic Buildings

Kristi Hamilton, Preservation Tax Incentives Program Coordinator, SHPO

Over the course of the past year, the Federal Tax Incentives for Historic Buildings program has gone through a number of positive changes. Under new leadership, the program was reorganized at the state level, and the process of turning a misunderstood and underutilized asset into a successful tool for preservation began. The more visible changes include the posting of program information on the SHPO website, the production of information packets for potential projects, and a knowledgeable staff member available for site visits and to answer any questions related to the program. In addition, there is constant communication with the National Park Service in order for the Wyoming SHPO to remain up-to-date on current tax incentive-related issues. It is our hope that the number of projects will continue to increase as more and more successful rehabilitations are completed.

One of the more comprehensive projects in 2006 was the rehabilitation of the Commercial Building and the First National Bank Block, adjoining buildings occupied by Wyoming Home in the Downtown Cheyenne Historic District. The First National Bank Block was badly damaged by a fire in a neighboring building, consequently there were additional concerns regarding the approach to and treatment of what little remained of its historic fabric. The project has neared completion, and the rehabilitation of the buildings will greatly benefit the downtown and city of Cheyenne.

Twenty-Seven Families Recognized Through New Centennial Farm & Ranch Program

Nancy Weidel, Architectural Historian, SHPO

SHPO initiated a new Centennial Farm and Ranch Program in 2006. The program honors those families who have owned, and continue to operate, the same ranch for at least 100 years. Twenty-seven applicants qualified for the award this year and were honored at the Wyoming State Fair where Senator Craig Thomas and Governor Dave Freudenthal presented plaques to them at a well-attended ceremony. Each family will also receive a 2x3 foot metal sign featuring a windmill, which is the Centennial Ranch logo.



SHPO plans to produce an annual yearbook featuring the Centennial families. The SHPO will be sending out a questionnaire to each family, inquiring about the history of their family and ranch. This information will be included in the yearbook. Every five years we will publish a compilation yearbook and each Centennial family will receive a yearbook. Copies will also be available for purchase.

SHPO's partners in the project include the Wyoming Stock Growers, the Wyoming Wool Growers, BP energy, the Wyoming Department of Agriculture, the Wyoming Rural Electric Association, and the Agribusiness Division of the Wyoming Business Council.

Moving Forward with Monuments and Markers

Matthew Bennett, Monuments & Markers Program Coordinator, SHPO

In 2006, the Wyoming SHPO worked closely with the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming State Parks, and the Department of Wyoming Travel and Tourism to revamp its Monuments and Markers program across the state. The SHPO, working in conjunction with these other state agencies, has begun to digitally catalogue, review, and install new monuments, markers, and signs across the state. The SHPO has three priorities regarding Wyoming's Monuments and Markers Program: 1) review several of the older signs across the state to determine if they need replacement or repair; 2) revise the review and authorization process for signs and



Split Rock marker, near Jeffrey City.
Photo by Richard Collier.

monuments to better serve local communities and constituencies who have interest in replacing or erecting new markers, and; 3) strengthen and create new relationships with WYDOT and Wyoming Travel and Tourism to create effective and accurate monuments, signs, and markers with information that best illuminates Wyoming's history, culture, and natural wonders. Currently, SHPO, with the help of the Wyoming State Parks has updated information on all of its existing signs and put them into a digital database. SHPO will soon make this database available to cooperating state agencies and the public.

New Boulder Ridge Research

Dan Eakin, Project Leader, OWSA

A second season of investigating Native American bighorn sheep traps was completed with assistance from State Parks and Cultural Resources, the Shoshone National Forest, and the National Park Service. Field activities in 2006 included collaboration with faculty and students from Indiana University. High-resolution mapping of two sites on Boulder Ridge within the Washakie Wilderness, GPS mapping and photographing six sheep traps that had been recorded prior to GPS technology, and GPS mapping and recording of two previously unknown sheep traps, one in the Washakie Range and

another in Sunlight Basin was completed. Additional work scheduled on the upper Greybull River was postponed due to the Little Venus fire. In October, Eakin and Richard Adams (OWSA) had the opportunity to assist Rosemary Sucec, Yellowstone National Park Cultural Anthropologist, in her efforts to locate pole lodges in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Several lodges within the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone, Greybull, and Wind River drainages were visited. Work planned for 2007 includes placement of permanent datum markers at known sheep traps and the location and documentation of unrecorded traps based on informant interviews and predictive modeling.

Paleoindian Site Stewardship

John Laughlin, Archaeologist, SHPO

During the summer of 2006, John Laughlin volunteered on two University of Wyoming projects: Barger Gulch and North Fork Cave. Barger Gulch, located outside of Kremmling, Colorado, is a Folsom-aged site under the direction of Dr. Nicole Waguespack and Dr. Todd Surovell. Work at Barger Gulch has recovered great numbers of chipped stone debitage, Folsom points, tools, and bone. North Fork Cave is located west of Cody in Shoshone Canyon. Looting by unknown individuals led to an Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) investigation by Bureau of Reclamation archaeologists. Further work at the cave was turned over to Dr. Robert L. Kelly of the University of Wyoming. Dr. Kelly, along with Dr. Lawrence C. Todd (Colorado State University), first worked in North Fork Cave in the early 1980's under the direction of Dr. George C. Frison. Work during the summer of 2006 resulted in the identification of two discrete natural burn events that previously had been thought to represent cultural manifestations.

Laughlin also had the opportunity to assist Colorado State University graduate student Naomi Ollie with her Master's thesis data gathering project in the Absaroka Mountains west of Meeteetsee.



Laughlin also had the opportunity to volunteer with Casper College's Tate Museum excavation of a mammoth north of Glenrock. Photo by Mary Prasciunas

Ollie's thesis is an investigation of the landscape evolution of an archaeological site in the Southern Absaroka Range of northwestern Wyoming. Her thesis incorporates soil science, geomorphology, and archaeology to construct a history of landscape and environmental change before, during, and after times of human occupation from the Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric.

Wyoming's Newest Listed Archaeological Site: Trappers Point

Dr. Mark E. Miller, State Archaeologist, OWSA

Dr. Mark E. Miller, Wyoming State Archaeologist, prepared a National Register nomination for the Trappers Point site (48SU1006) near Pinedale, Wyoming. Staff from the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist excavated a portion of the locality in 1992. The site is an Early Archaic pronghorn butchering area located in a geographic bottleneck along the modern pronghorn migration route between winter



Trappers Point, near Pinedale.
Photo by Richard Collier.

and summer ranges in the Green River Basin region. The State's National Register Review Board has read the nomination and endorsed the plan to proceed with the listing. In addition to this work, the State Archaeologist taught a class on Public Archaeology last spring in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming. Miller teaches this class every three semesters, and the next offering will be in the Fall of 2007. At that time Public Archaeology will no longer be a seminar, but course number ANTH 4190/5190 listed officially on the books. Finally, plans are proceeding for moving into the new Anthropology building around May 2007.

Wyoming Site Stewardship Program

Joe Daniele, Stewardship Coordinator, SHPO

The Wyoming Site Stewardship Program was recently established to help protect the state's most vulnerable cultural resources. Cosponsored by the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the program will effectively train potential stewards and place them at geographically isolated sites with the goal to deter looting and vandalism of sensitive archaeological areas. It is a sad reality, but Wyoming has experienced



Legend Rock Site,
near Thermopolis.
Photo by Richard Collier.

its fair share of looting over the years. The growing commercial demand for archaeological resources on the Internet has intensified an active antiquities trade that distributes artifacts illegally throughout the world. The stewardship program will monitor select sites to curb new vandalism and looting. Site stewards will report their findings to professional archaeologists and be involved with site investigation and its subsequent preservation.

Site stewards will be assigned to monitor one or more sites and will be trained to do the following: 1) to preserve prehistoric and

historic cultural resources for the purposes of conservation, scientific study, and interpretation; 2) to increase public awareness of the significance and value of cultural resources; 3) to discourage and deter site vandalism and looting; and 4) to promote understanding and cooperation among the professional community and the public.

This summer the stewardship program will be conducting a two-day training seminar in Pinedale, Wyoming, for prospective stewards. Please contact Joe Daniele at jdanie@state.wy.us or 307-777-8793 or the BLM if you are interested in attending. Your participation is of vital importance in saving these important places.

High Altitude Archaeology

Richard Adams, Project Director, OWSA

OWSA project director Richard Adams continues to research prehistoric high altitude archaeological sites in the Wind River and Absaroka Mountains. These projects are supported by a challenge-cost share with the Shoshone National Forest. This past summer he and his long-time collaborators Tory and Meredith Taylor, assisted by a volunteer crew, discovered and recorded the remains of more than twenty lodges on a mountain side at an altitude of 10,700 feet. The "High Rise Village" site contained Late Prehistoric Shoshone projectile points, worked soapstone artifacts, a quartz crystal, and dozens of grinding implements.

Adams presented two papers at the 64th Plains Anthropological Conference in Topeka. One paper explored the possibility that Late Prehistoric Shoshones at the "High Rise Village" site were harvesting and processing whitebark pine nuts for a winter food supply. The second paper is based on Adam's article on "The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, Soapstone Bowls, and the Mountain Shoshone" that was published in a special edition of *World Archaeology* dedicated to high altitude archaeology. Contact him at radams@state.wy.us for a copy of the article.



Prehistoric/protohistoric hunting blind at the timberline in
the South Absaroka Range.
Photo by Julie Eakin.

BLM/SHPO Protocol Agreement

Sara Needles, State Historic Preservation Officer

The SHPO, Bureau of Land Management, and Governor Freudenthal signed a Protocol agreement on May 8, 2006. It establishes a much more streamlined process for SHPO's review and comment on BLM projects under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, without compromising cultural resources. The protocol has enabled SHPO to focus efforts on projects having adverse effects to cultural resources and allows staff to spend more time working with the BLM in developing planning documents.

Other important aspects of the Protocol are BLM and SHPO agreeing to cooperate as preservation partners in establishing

proactive public outreach programs, working toward developing Historic Context documents, providing training to cultural resource professionals, and establishing a joint stewardship program. An Internet based tracking program became part of the agreement and will aid in speeding the review process for cultural resource contractors, BLM, and SHPO. The protocol agreement will be used as an example for developing similar agreements with Federal agencies in the future. Governor Freudenthal stated, "This protocol constitutes a major milestone in cooperation between the state and the BLM in properly implementing the permitting and protection process."

Sand Draw Dump – Trash to Treasure

Dr. Danny Walker, Assistant State Archaeologist,
OWSA

OWSA, in partnership with the University of Wyoming Department of Anthropology, Fremont County (Wyoming) Solid Waste Disposal District, and the Wyoming Archaeological Society (WAS) completed excavations at the Sand Draw Dump site (48FR3123) slated to be destroyed by landfill expansion. Members of WAS played a vital role in the excavations conducted at the site over the 1997, 2000, and 2006 seasons. WAS members spent several thousand hours of volunteer time on the project.

Over 1900 square meters were either hand excavated or mechanically scraped resulting in the identification and recording of fifteen semi-subterranean occupation/living structures, twelve of which occur in a 20 by 35 meter area in a formal spatial arrangement. The arrangement of these structures is highly suggestive of a planned formal "village" site with a single group occupying it and not a haphazard placement of the structures from a series of unrelated or repeated occupations. The site has been radiocarbon dated between 1000 and 1200 years B.P.

The presence of prehistoric living or other occupation structures in the region along the Beaver Creek floodplain suggests the prehistoric occupation in the region was not transitory, but part of a region wide occupation throughout the Wyoming Basin, centered on a broad spectrum of hunting and gathering orientation. Locally, within the central part of the Wind River Basin, it appears an intensive human occupation occurred around A.D. 1000. These sites range from the central basin, to the foothills, and into the Wind River Mountains, adding further documentation on the seasonal activities of these prehistoric peoples. We are just beginning to learn the basics of how they were subsisting and interacting culturally.

Historic Context Plan

Judy Wolf, Chief of Planning and Historic Context
Development Program, SHPO

Historic contexts are a valuable planning tool to make well educated decisions on the preservation of important cultural resources. Context studies examine a specific historic theme by synthesizing existing data and analyzing what we already know, what is likely to be found, and what is worthy of preservation. In September 2006, the SHPO released a Historic Context Development Plan. This plan was created in consultation with the Governor-appointed Historic Context Development Steering Committee. In the plan, seven contexts are identified as the highest priorities for Wyoming. These contexts were selected based on perceived risk to those cultural resources due to development, demolition, or other land uses. The contexts will be developed as funding becomes available.

The seven priority contexts are:

1. Southern Wyoming Transportation Corridor
 - Overland Trail
 - Cherokee Trail
 - Freight/Stage Roads
 - o Territorial
 - o Expansion
 - o Industrial
 - Union Pacific Railroad
 - Lincoln Highway
2. Hunter-Gatherer Archaeological Sites in Wyoming
3. Hardrock and Softrock Mining in Wyoming
4. Wyoming Historic Schools
5. Wyoming Irrigation and Water Systems
6. Homesteading, Ranching, and Stock Grazing in Southwest Wyoming
7. "New Deal" Resources in Wyoming

Because federal and private funding is unlikely to be sufficient, the Steering Committee has recommended the State of Wyoming fund this effort to accomplish the goals of resource protection and economic development.

Cultural Records Office Reaches Milestone

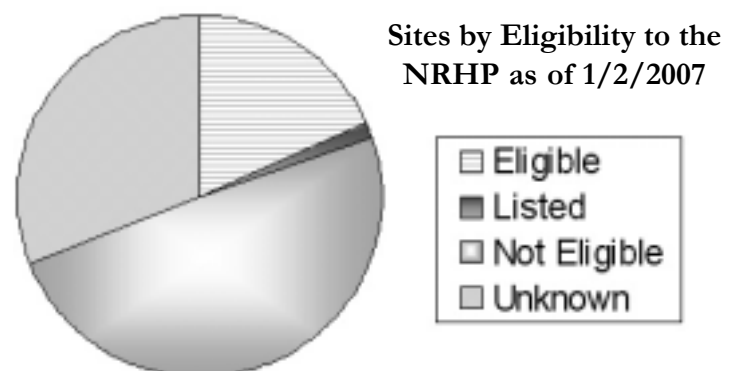
Mary Hopkins, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Have you ever wondered what happens to all those site forms and inventory reports at the SHPO office? The Wyoming Cultural Records Office of the SHPO (WYCRO) maintains the comprehensive inventory of cultural resources and inventories statewide. During 2006, WYCRO handled over 2,600 requests for file searches, added 5,802 new sites to the inventory, and processed 8,731 site updates on the system. A major milestone was reached this past year when we entered over 50% of all recorded sites and over 60% of all inventories into the Geographic Information System (GIS).

Almost 87,000 historic and prehistoric resources in Wyoming have been recorded. Sites are categorized by time period, with 25% in the Historic (1842-1950's), 70% in the Prehistoric (11,000+ years ago to c.1841), 2% with components from both time periods, and 3% as unknown. Approximately 6.4% of the state has been systematically inventoried for cultural resources. During the inventory process, sites are evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): 19% of all recorded resources are eligible, 31% are

unevaluated, 49% are not eligible, and about 1% are listed in the NRHP.

One problem we face is that approximately 40,000 sites and 18,000 inventories still need to be entered into the GIS. The SHPO will continue to search for funding sources for this effort.



Continued Research at Fort Laramie

Dr. Danny Walker, Assistant State Archaeologist, OWSA

OWSA, in partnership with Fort Laramie National Historic Site, the University of Wyoming, and the National Park Service Midwest Archaeological Center concluded the fourth field season of a three year project in 2005 at Fort Laramie designed to conduct a comprehensive geophysical archaeological survey of the fort grounds. Members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society played a vital role in the amount of investigations throughout the life of the project.

The geophysical and archeological investigations undertaken as part of this project were designed to correct a major deficiency in the cultural resource data base for Fort Laramie. A traditional surface survey was felt to be non-effective for inventory and evaluation of such buried resources. At Fort Laramie, features not visible on the surface are known to exist, but modern landscaping and activities have hidden them. The goal of the first year (2002) was to begin obtaining remote sensing data to produce geophysical maps of the

subsurface. Anomalies on these maps identified buried historic resources related to the activities at Fort Laramie throughout the Military, Homestead, and Park Service Eras. In years two (2003), three (2004), and four (2005), remote sensing continued, but limited archeological testing also evaluated the significance of selected anomalies for their contributory nature to the National Register status of the fort. This testing evaluated unrecorded resources and collected data to permit a refined interpretation of the remote sensing maps. The survey and testing also identified remains of resources suggested to be present by historic records and photographs, and evaluated those features relative to the remote sensing data.

Depending upon the technology being used, remote sensing (resistance meter, conductance and magnetometer) scans reached between 0.5 and 1.0 m below the surface. The database should now include all known historic archaeology and much of the prehistoric archeology.



Old Bedlam, Fort Laramie.
Photo by Richard Collier.

Cheyenne's South Side is Wyoming's Newest Historic District

Jeff Pappas, National Register Coordinator, SHPO

Two thousand six was a good year for Wyoming and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Several important sites were nominated, including the F.S. King Brothers Ranch in Albany County, the Jenny Lake CCC Camp in Grand Teton National Park, and the Sunrise Mine in Goshen County. With some luck, 2007 will be even better. Of course, any site listed to the NRHP is special to the state of Wyoming whether it is a ranch, an archaeological site, a building, or an object. Yet this past year something very unique happened in Cheyenne that deserves additional praise. For the first time in Wyoming history a working-class residential district was nominated to the NRHP. The Cheyenne South Side Historic District, a neighborhood stretching seven city blocks from

roughly the Union Pacific Depot to I-80, contains almost 400 structures, most of which were built between 1910 and 1940. The District was, and still is, heavily influenced by the presence of the Union Pacific Railroad. Workers from all over the United States and several foreign

countries converged on Cheyenne during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, creating a diverse ethnic community, which has essentially stayed the same since the end of World War II. Architecturally distinct homes line the streets surrounded by schools and churches. The District nomination is a true success story for two reasons. First, the community was firmly behind the nomination, and second, the neighborhood itself is a vintage example of working-class life in Wyoming.



Cheyenne South Side District, E. 8th Street.
Photo by Richard Collier.

Wyoming CLGs Receive Over \$50,000

Audrey York, Certified Local Government Program Coordinator, SHPO

Many interesting projects, funded through Certified Local Government (CLG) grants, were completed in 2006. Below is a description of each project. Total grant funding for these projects was \$54,608.

The Teton County Historic Preservation Board completed two projects. The first entailed log rehabilitation and shrub removal on the Huff Memorial Library in Jackson. Log rehabilitation included stabilization, chinking, exterior log finishing, painting, and sealing. Shrubs were removed around the perimeter of the structure. Their second project was the Jackson Hole Portraits: An Oral History Project. This produced three broadcast quality oral history video portraits of long-time valley residents. The three video portraits are part of a larger project to document the lives of ten valley elders through video portraits. The portrait series recorded the subjects' images, heritage, and oral traditions that are important elements of Jackson Hole history and are not available from other sources.

The Washakie County Historic Preservation Commission completed phase II of the Worland Centennial Project. The purpose of this was to create an interactive computer program utilizing the County Assessor files, *Worland Grit* excerpts, historical photos, new professional photos, and donated personal papers. The program will allow people to view the evolution of Worland's original buildings from their creation to their present state. Biographical excerpts—detailing Worland's citizens, significant events, and economic development—are also

included.

The Weston County Historic Preservation Board completed an intensive survey of the downtown commercial buildings of the city of Newcastle. Phase II includes writing a multiple property nomination for the National Register of Historic Places.

The Cheyenne Historic Preservation Board received three grants to send board members and one city of Cheyenne employee to training. They attended the 2006 Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Saving Places Conference in Denver, CO, and the 2006 Black Hills Archaeological & Historical Symposium in Deadwood, SD. After attending the conferences, each provided SHPO with a report detailing the information gained from attending. They then educated other board members in order to support Cheyenne preservation efforts.

The Casper Historic Preservation Commission also received a grant for training. Three members of the Casper Historic Preservation Commission participated in the 2006 Colorado Preservation Inc.'s Saving Places Conference in Denver, CO. Attendees reported to their commission, their community, and to the SHPO on what they learned.

These matching, reimbursable, competitive grants are awarded each year to CLGs that are in good standing with the National Park Service and the SHPO. Fiscal

year 2006 grant projects have recently begun and will be completed by September 2007. Grant recipients for fiscal year 2007 have just been selected and have until September 2008 to finish their projects.



Antlers Motel, Newcastle.
Photo by Robert Rosenberg.

Preserving Wyoming's Archaeological Material

Dr. Danny Walker, Assistant State Archaeologist, OWSA
Martha Rogers, Repository Curator, OWSA

The University of Wyoming Archaeological Repository (UWAR) processed several new collections from private contractors this year. Repository staff, with the help of several students, have been able to inventory all the boxes of written records received in association with artifact accessions over the years. Inventory of the collection continues as time and money permits. UWAR is negotiating with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and Wyoming Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for long term (30 year) cooperative agreements on curation of artifacts from those agencies. Drafts are out for review. UWAR has also received funding for inventory of artifacts from all Wyoming Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) properties housed within UWAR from the Great Plains Office, BOR. By federal law, agencies

are accountable for seeing that the artifacts collected from their lands are stored in a repository. The project provided funding for students to go through the entire repository, separate out all collections from BOR lands, and do an item by item inventory of those specific collections. University of Wyoming students cataloged previously uncataloged artifacts, and entered site and artifact data into the current UWAR database. They also entered additional information required by the Department of the Interior into a database created by UWAR and repackaged all collections to current federal standards. This funding helps continue UWAR's long-term effort to inventory and repackage all collections to current federal standards.

ARTS. PARKS. HISTORY.

Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources

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Bunk House, F.S. King Brothers Ranch Historic District,
Near Laramie. Photo by Richard Collier.