



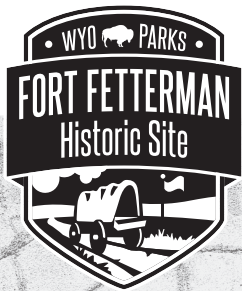
\$ FEES & PERMITS

Admission Fees

- \$3.00 for Wyoming residents 18 and over
- \$5.00 for individuals with bus tour groups
- \$5.00 for non-residents 18 and over
- FREE for under 18

✓ RULES

- Camping available by calling 307-358-9288.
- Do not remove artifacts or natural resources.
- Firearms and fireworks are prohibited.
- Pets are allowed on a leash.
- Digging is prohibited.
- Use of metal detectors is not allowed.
- Please don't pick plants/flowers.
- Please use available trash receptacles.
- State parks regulations are available from site staff.



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Fort Fetterman State Historic Site is preserved as a reminder of that colorful era known as the “winning of the west.”



Fort Fetterman State Historic Site is administered by the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails; Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources.



Q FORT FETTERMAN TODAY

Fort Fetterman is open to the public during the summer. A restored officers' quarters and an ordnance warehouse have interpretive exhibits and artifacts of the fort's history, Fetterman City and its Indian predecessors.

You are encouraged to walk the grounds where interpretive signs describe the fort's buildings and activities.



On July 31, 1867, Fort Fetterman was named for Captain William J. Fetterman who was killed in a fight with Indians near Fort Phil Kearny on December 21, 1866. Courtesy Wyoming State Archives.

📍 HOURS & LOCATION

Open daily from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Visitor Center & Ordnance Bldg. open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Grounds open from sunrise to sunset. *CLOSED winter months - call (307) 358-9288 for information.*

Fort Fetterman, located approximately seven miles northwest of Douglas, is situated on a plateau above the valleys of LaPrele Creek and the North Platte River.

From I-25, take exit 140 and travel 7 miles on Hwy. 93.

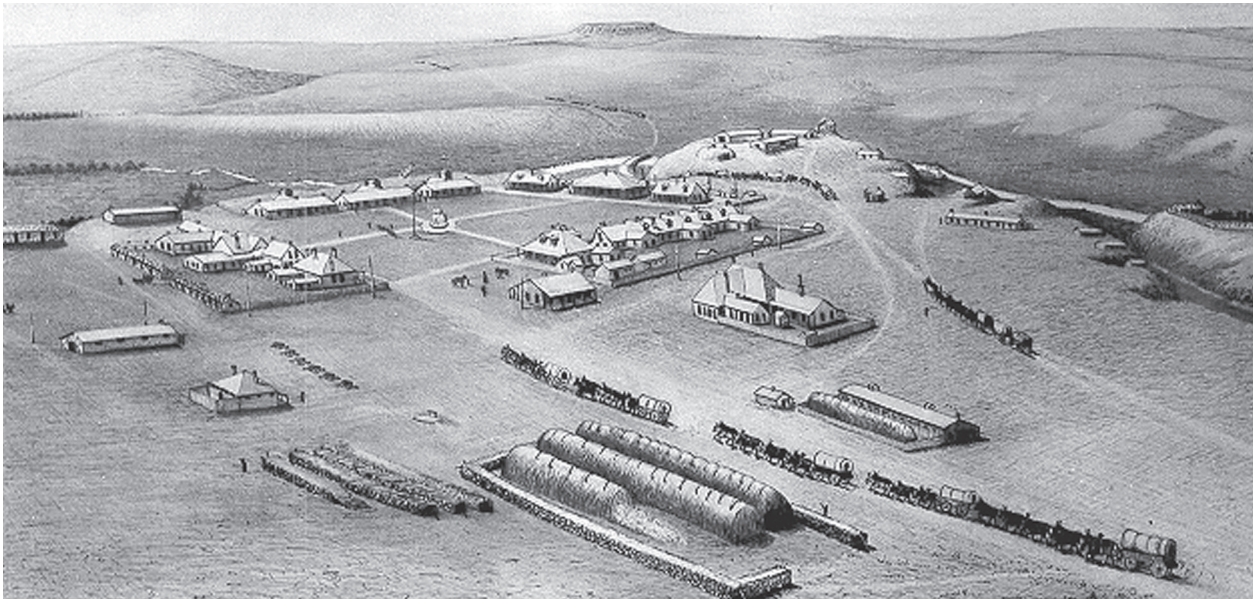
🌟 SPECIAL EVENTS

WANTED

Those interested in preserving & enhancing Fort Fetterman State Historic Site.

The Converse County Historical Society is a nonprofit group dedicated to the protection, preservation and interpretation of historic sites along the Bozeman and California-Oregon and Mormon Trails.

Their projects include Fetterman Days and site interpretation. They welcome new members and donations. Get involved! Become a member! Write: Converse County Historical Society, 752 Highway 93, Douglas, WY 82633.



Fort Fetterman from the southwest, ca 1880. Courtesy Wyoming State Archives.

HISTORY

In the Beginning

The fort was established as a military post on July 19, 1867 because of conditions that existed on the Northern Plains at the close of the Civil War. On July 31, 1867, the post was named Fort Fetterman in honor of Captain William J. Fetterman, who was killed in a fight with Indians near Fort Phil Kearny, December 21, 1866.

Major William McEntire Dye was assigned to build the post. In a letter to the Adjutant General, Major Dye described the post and surrounding country as “... situated on a plateau ... above the valley of the Platte, being neither so low as to be seriously affected by the rains or snow; nor so high and unprotected as to suffer from the winter winds.”

Life at the Fort

Unfortunately, Major Dye’s optimistic view of the site did not hold true for winter months.



Drawing of a winter scene at Fort Fetterman from Harper's Weekly. Courtesy Wyoming State Archives.

In November of 1867, Brigadier General H.W. Wessells became commanding officer at the fort. According to his report to the Department of the Platte, “...officers and men were found under canvas exposed on a bleak plain to violent and almost constant gales and very uncomfortable...”

The garrison managed to get through the first winter, and the fort continued to grow and develop. By 1870, it was well established and destined to play a conspicuous part in the Indian wars for the next

few years. Jim Bridger, Wild Bill Hickock, Calamity Jane and “Buffalo Bill” Cody were among the colorful personalities of the time whose activities and travels took them to Fort Fetterman.

In accordance with the Treaty of 1868, Forts Reno, Phil Kearny and C. F. Smith, (along the Bozeman Trail) were abandoned. Fort Fetterman alone remained on the fringe of the disputed area. As an outpost of civilization on the Western frontier, the fort represented protection and was a haven to travelers.

Desertions were common, and the post frequently lacked adequate supplies and equipment.

During the mid-1870s, Fort Fetterman reached its pinnacle of importance. It was the base for three

of General George Crook’s Powder River Expeditions and Colonel Ronald Mackenzie’s campaign against Dull Knife and the Cheyenne Indians.

After the Fort

When the military abandoned the fort in 1882, activity in the area did not immediately cease. The town of Fetterman took root, and it soon grew into a notoriously rowdy frontier town. The boom was short-lived, however, and in 1886, the town of Douglas was founded a short distance to the southeast with the coming of the railroad. The old fort, in a state of decay, lost out as a town and declined rapidly. Most of the buildings were sold, dismantled or moved to other locations.

