

\$ PARK FEES & PERMITS

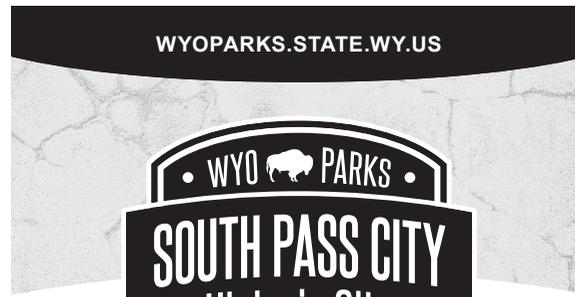
Admission Fees

\$3.00 for Wyoming residents 18 and over
\$5.00 for non-residents 18 and over
FREE for under 18

✓ PARK RULES

- Site grounds open year round, weather permitting. Exhibit buildings & visitor center open May 16 - September 30, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Park dumpsters are for park use only. Litter must be disposed of in provided containers.
- Keep motorized vehicles on designated roads and trails. A valid driver's license is required.
- All pets must be kept on a leash at all times.
- Firearms and fireworks are not allowed.
- Obey posted signs, traffic barriers and speed limits.
- Digging or leveling of ground is prohibited.
- No glass containers

For a complete listing of park rules, visit park headquarters.



South Pass City is one of the most authentic and complete historic sites in the country. Today you can see the 30 historic log, frame and stone buildings that remain on 39 acres of land.



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



👁 THINGS TO DO AND SEE

South Pass City has a variety of activities for visitors throughout the summer. When the presence of volunteer staff permits, not only can you walk through 17 restored and exhibited original structures, but you can enjoy an ice cold sarsaparilla and a game of billiards on a restored 1860s period table. Each day, one can shop in the historic Smith-Sherlock General Store or pan for gold in the clear waters of Willow Creek. In the Interpretive Center, you can also learn about other gold producing methods that have been used around South Pass City throughout its history.

South Pass City is home to a three-mile Volksmarch Trail where you can enjoy viewing some of the area's wide array of wildlife. mule deer, antelope, moose and beaver are just a few of the animals that can be seen. For birders, many species call this area home at different times of the year, including mountain blue birds, finches, hawks and eagles. Anglers will enjoy blue ribbon fishing for brook, rainbow, brown and cutthroat trout in many of the area's streams and lakes.

📍 LOCATION

One of the country's most complete historic sites, with 30 buildings remaining from the 1860s, South Pass City is located on Hwy. 28, 37 miles southwest of Lander.

🌟 SPECIAL EVENTS

GOLD RUSH DAYS: This event celebrates the life and heritage of the Sweetwater Mining District by presenting many of the activities historic to the area. South Pass City's Goldbricks take on area teams in a vintage baseball tournament, which features turn of the century period equipment, uniforms and rules. Hand drillers pit muscle and steel against solid granite as they recall a time before the advent of pneumatic drills. Witness in amazement as brawny men try to out-drill one another on a two-ton block of granite, in both single and double jacking events.

🕒 HISTORY

South Pass City began with a boom in 1867 with the discovery of gold on the southeastern end of the rugged Wind River Mountains. By 1868, it boasted over 250 buildings. South Pass City hummed with excitement as numerous saloons, stamp mills, hotels, and businesses took advantage of the gold driven economy. Over 1,000 people called South Pass City home during this raucous time. South Pass City was the first of three towns established due to the discovery of gold in what became the Sweetwater Mining District. In addition to Atlantic City and Hamilton City (now called Miner's Delight), Fort Stambaugh was erected to protect the miners in their search for gold from hostile Indians.

1. Visitor Parking

2. Restrooms for Historic Site day-use visitors

3. Visitor Center/ Dance Hall – This 1890 log structure has functioned as a theater, community center, and Sunday school during its lifetime. The building was donated to the people of Wyoming by Marie (McOmie) Sherlock-McManus and serves as an information area for visitors and exhibit space where displays change regularly. Entrance fees are collected here.

4. Administration Bldg. – This multi-purpose modern facility shelters artifacts under controlled conditions, houses research materials, and provides office space for employees. Authorized access only.

5. Tibbals Cabin - Barney Tibbals, Carissa Mine manager, lived in this cabin in the 1890s and, later, rented it to his employees. The front room dates to the 1880s, while the rear dug-out dates from the early gold rush of the late 1860s. The front room and dug-outs were later connected by the kitchen.

6. Carr Butcher Shop - During the early 1900s, William Carr operated a butcher shop here. Animals were killed and quartered in Slaughterhouse Gulch, about two miles south of town.

7. Carissa Saloon - Dating to around 1890, the Carissa takes its name from the area's richest mine on the hill above town. It enjoyed a sporadic existence as a saloon until quite recently. Saloons like the Carissa served many purposes in frontier towns. Next door are the remains of an even earlier establishment, the White Swan. It served as both a brothel and saloon.

8. Smith-Sherlock Co. Store - Built in 1896 of logs salvaged

from the 1870 Episcopal Church, this building succeeded the earlier Smith Store standing to the east. The Sherlock Family operated the business until 1948. Three generations served the town as entrepreneurs, postmasters/mistresses, and telephone operators. Today, the Friends of South Pass, a non-profit organization, operate the general store.

9. Gold Mining Interpretive Center - Records from the 1860s gold rush show that the first buildings on this lot were the New Orleans Saloon and the Elephant Store. About 1874, town constable Jim Smith, built this structure. It housed his mercantile business for 2 decades. Today, the structure exhibits the processes of gold mining in the Sweetwater Mines.

10. The Cave/ Fort Bourbon - The massive interior stone wall was built in 1868 to protect perishable food and liquor. Archaeologists found secretly buried gold inside a cast-iron pot. Folklore says that, when townspeople feared Indian attacks, women and children were locked inside while men went out to fight.

11. The John & Lida Sherlock House - This house was built in the late 1890s by the newlyweds and was later expanded by a series of additions and remodels. Interior exhibits include pieces donated by the Sherlock Family descendants, including a working woodstove in the kitchen. During the 2002 restoration, archaeologists uncovered evidence of previous gold rush-era buildings that had burned in the 1870s.

12. Uni-sex restroom

13. Stamp Mill - This huge machine crushed gold-bearing ore fed under the 1/2 ton stamps from chutes at the rear. A continuous flow of water help to keep down dust, as well as push

the finely crushed sands, and gold, out from under the stamps and onto mercury-coated copper tables below the machine. This particular mill was likely last operated in the 1930s on Palmetto Gulch east of South Pass City.

14. Wolverine Mine Adit - This short tunnel, or adit, was driven in search of paying ore. Known as the Wolverine Mine, it never produced a paying quantity of gold and was soon abandoned, giving its name to the claim upon which the town below sits. This exhibit allows visitors to safely enter a mine tunnel and experience the dark, enclosed atmosphere of a mine. No other mine in the area should be considered safe to enter.

15. School - Citizens originally built this school near the present parking lot around 1911, but wet ground and flooding forced its relocation soon after to this location. Classes were held in the log building until 1946.

16. Cody Cabin - This small structure was built in the late 1890s. Archaeological work conducted during restoration indicates that a married couple lived in the building for a brief time. The building was owned by a "Mr. Cody" of nearby Boulder, WY until the 1970s. The interior is not yet exhibited.

17. Reniker Cabin - William Reniker, a Civil War veteran, lived in this cabin when not prospecting in the area. Not much is known of Reniker, but he was likely similar to many of the other single, male miners taking part in the rush of 1868. The cabin was donated to the people of Wyoming by Mrs. J.B. (Zoe) Lee of Rock Springs in the late 1970s.

18. Esther Morris Museum - Esther Morris was the first woman in the nation to hold political office. She served successfully as a justice of the peace in South Pass City in 1870, trying about two dozen cases. This building is a 1976 reconstruction intended to honor her contribution to equal suffrage in Wyoming and the nation. The original structure on this lot was her son, Edwin Archibald Slack's, newspaper shop. Slack published the South Pass News until the shop burned in 1871. Slack's original Gordon Hand Press survived the fire and is displayed in the newspaper exhibit in the rear of the building.

19. Blacksmith Shop - This 1915 structure historically contained a coal-fired forge, anvil, and tools to make repairs on wagons and horse-drawn equipment. When automobiles became common, the smith acquired new skills and equipment to make repairs on cars passing on this, the main road between the Lander Valley and the Union Pacific Railroad to the south. The shop is built of logs salvaged from the 1868 Ticknor Store, formerly situated next to the Miners Exchange Saloon (#27).

20. Variety Theater - Constructed on the former location of an early store, this 1970s building hosts visitors on special occasions only, particularly Gold Rush Days; usually in mid-July.

21. Sherlock Garage - The Sherlock Family constructed this building in the 1920s to house one of their automobiles. It was constructed of logs salvaged from butcher, William Carr's, abandoned home, as well as Jim Smith's 1868 cabin, formerly located where the Administration Bldg. (#4) stands today.

22. Ice House - This small frame structure was likely constructed in the 1930s by the Sherlock Family for use as storage.

23. South Pass Hotel - Opened in 1868 as the Idaho House; this was the finest of several hotels in the camp. It was acquired in 1873 by Janet Sherlock, the widowed mother of five. Operating a hotel was considered a respectable business for a proper woman of the time. The stage coach stop was at the front door; the post office was located here for a time. The Sherlock Family quarters are on the first floor.

24. Restaurant - As new ownership prepared the Carissa Mine for re-opening, Janet Sherlock Smith built the restaurant as an addition to her South Pass Hotel in 1899. The front room became the hotel's new lobby. The restaurant's dining room and kitchen occupied the rear of the building.

25. Exchange Saloon & Card Room - Erected in the boom of 1868, the structure initially served as a bank. Beginning in 1873, the building functioned as a saloon, continuing as such for many years. At first, the card room was a separate operation, but the rooms were connected by a passageway around 1890 so patrons could pursue the diverse pastimes here.

26. Livery Stable - This barn was built in the 1890s of logs salvaged from earlier structures. This part of town was the location of several stables which catered to miners, investors, and locals who wanted to rent or buy horses, wagons, or board their own animals.

27. Miners Exchange Saloon - John Swingle, a county commissioner, building contractor, saloon and stable owner, and undertaker, erected this log structure in 1869. Like the many others in town, this was a popular meeting place where gold could be exchanged for drinks. Later, the building was used as residence. A millenary operated by two "tough" women at one time may have disguised a bordello inside.

28. Sweetwater County Jail - In answer to the needs of the raucous boom town, the county built this jail in 1870. Folklore says that one man who could not bear incarceration in his tiny, frigid, dark cell committed suicide; others attempted escape but failed. Although the county offices were removed to Green River in 1873, the jail continued to see sporadic use. The 1880s saw the remodeling of the front room into a school room. The pink paint remains on the walls; the alphabet is still above the door.

29. Harry Libby House - Turmoil at the Carissa Mine resulted in Libby's loss of employee housing and the construction of this log home in 1899. After less than a year of residence, Libby moved his family from South Pass City. The building traded hands several times through the years and was once said to have housed an "isolation hospital" during a disease outbreak. The Friends of South Pass purchased the building and helped to restore its condition. Exhibits are planned for the future.

30. Rock House - The back room of this cabin was built around 1867 and, like many of its contemporaries, made extensive use of native stone rather than scarce timber. The family who lived here simply threw their trash out the front door. When a front room was later added, the dump became their floor. Later still, the windowless back room was said to have served as the mining town's first jail.

