

WYOMING

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM



**ARTS. PARKS.
HISTORY.**

Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office



2009

**State Historic Preservation Office
Monuments and Markers Program
2301 Central Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82001
307-777-7697
Program Coordinator 307-777-6179**

Cover Photos: Sacagawea Monument, Lincoln Highway Marker, Fort Laramie Monument



WYOMING MONUMENTS AND MARKERS STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program

INTRODUCTION

The Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program is comprised of concerned people committed to protecting and preserving Wyoming's rich cultural heritage through the monitoring of interpretive signage and monuments. Professional heritage/cultural resource specialists and trained volunteers work together to monitor the state's monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits. They add to the existing documentary record, add a regular presence that deters looting and vandalism, and update files that aid in furthering the interpretation of Wyoming's history.



Figure 1 Lander Trail Monument

The primary purposes of the Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program are:

1. To protect and monitor existing monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits.
2. To locate existing monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits.
3. To report on the condition of existing monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits.
4. To assist with permanent management of monitored sites.
5. To assist with determining future interpretive needs in the area.
6. To increase public awareness of local historic sites, events, and people commemorated through the Monuments and Markers Program.

These will be accomplished through:

Training from and meeting with the State Historic Preservation Office
Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator.

Regularly scheduled on-site inspection:

- provides SHPO, SPCR, and WYDOT with current information on the condition of monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits;
- establishes the basis for prioritizing regular replacement of existing monuments, etc.;
- and serves as a means of collecting data to update the monuments and markers database.

Annual photo documentation:

- enables the state to develop a historical record of monuments, etc.;
- creates a visual record of damaged monuments, etc.;
- and provides the basis for a website and public information brochure for the program.



Figure 2 Fetterman Battle Monument

SPONSORS

The Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) sponsors the Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program (WMMSP). This agency exercises oversight of the program. Other agencies, organizations, and individuals are invited to become official supporters of the program. To learn more about becoming a sponsor or supporter contact the State Historic Preservation Office at 307-777-7697.



Figure 3 Fort Bridger Monument

BRIEF HISTORY OF WYOMING

PREHISTORIC PERIOD OVERVIEW

Human populations have lived in the area now known as Wyoming for more than 12,000 years. They persisted with surprisingly few technological changes from the end of the last glaciation, when now extinct megafauna roamed the region, until they sustained regular contact with Euroamericans in the early 19th century. During this time span, they left behind traces of their existence including stone tools, fire hearths, and the byproducts of plants and animals they had used. In some cases, archaeologists have even found remnants of their homes. This physical evidence represents only brief glimpses into Wyoming's cultural history, but we have learned these people survived for millennia as generalized hunters and food gatherers.

Wyoming straddles the backbone of North America, taking in portions of the majestic Rocky Mountains, vast intermountain basins, and the western reaches of rich grasslands on the High Plains. Each diverse environmental zone was important to prehistoric settlement and subsistence, and humans exploited every available niche. Even today's wilderness areas retain evidence of ancient occupation, and some landscapes throughout the state were more densely populated thousands of years ago than they are today.

Wyoming geography encompasses one of the principal land routes that may have been used by the first immigrants peopling the New World as they moved south along the Rocky Mountain cordillera from the Bering Land Bridge. These new residents were highly skilled, mobile foragers and collectors aware of the seasonal variability in resource abundance and capable of organizing multiple family groups through cooperative labor to more efficiently exploit nature's bounty. Living in small family bands for the most part, they often gathered together for communal activities like a major bison hunt. Prehistoric agriculture had never been a reliable pursuit for them due to the short growing season, insufficient rainfall, and the dense root mat typical of high-plains grasslands. Instead, they developed a keen sense of the opportunities and limitations afforded by their natural environment. Without such intimate knowledge, they might not have survived as well as they did.

To date, only about six percent of the state has been systematically surveyed, and yet more than 92,000 prehistoric and historic period sites have been recorded. The earliest, unequivocal evidence for human occupation is the Clovis culture, best known in Wyoming from the Colby site near Worland where large spear points were found in direct association with the bones of several woolly mammoths. Many Paleoindian sites exist in Wyoming. Six significant Paleoindian bison kills spanning this time range are found within the borders of the state including Agate Basin, Carter-Kerr McGee, Casper, Finley, Horner, and spanning the entire period after Clovis (11,000 – 7,500 years ago). A drier climate followed the last ice age, and ensuing archaic cultural groups altered their adaptations accordingly. We see an increase in cave and rock-shelter habitations in the mountains/foothills, and housepit sites in open intermountain basins. Food storage is evident, as is a broad spectrum subsistence economy focusing on diverse species of terrestrial game, aquatic resources, and edible plants. Sites like Mummy Cave and Medicine Lodge Creek are examples of long-term occupations that began during

Paleoindian times and persisted through the Archaic. The Medicine House site near Hanna, the Split Rock Ranch site near Jeffrey City, and the Shoreline site near Seminole Reservoir are among some of the better known housepit localities.

Bison kills are common throughout the Archaic, including Hawken in the Black Hills, Scoggin in the Hanna Basin, and several Yonkee sites in the Powder River country. Some kill sites, like Scoggin and the later Ruby site in the southeastern Powder River Basin, show clear evidence for the use of corral structures during bison procurement.

Bow and arrow technology was introduced into that region about 1,500 years ago, replacing the atlatl and ushering in the Late Prehistoric Period. This change in weaponry had a profound effect on prehistoric human populations in Wyoming. Radiocarbon evidence indicates there are many more dated sites for this episode than any previous period. Settlement mobility may have increased because of territorial conflicts, or more people may have moved in, or Late Prehistoric fire pits simply may be more visible to archaeologists than older ones and therefore more likely candidates for radiocarbon sampling. All of these factors may have played a role in this observed increase in site density, but a final explanation awaits further scientific research.

Intermittent contact with European and Euroamerican traders characterizes the Protohistoric Period. Introduction of the horse, firearms, and various decorative ornaments of European manufacture are hallmarks of this period, and evidence for some of them is seen in assemblages at the River Bend site on the North Platte River in central Wyoming, the Boulder Ridge site in Northwestern Wyoming, and the Edness Kimball Wilkins site near Casper. The Historic Period is recognized once permanent, sustained contact between Native Americans and Euroamericans was established in the region. Many aspects of native cultural patterns changed forever.

There is much we do not know about past human occupation. However, major research efforts in recent years have focused on data gaps so our knowledge is beginning to expand. For instance, some investigators are looking into whether or not cave sites contain Paleoindian occupations that may date to Folsom times or earlier. In addition, the high number of sites during the Late Prehistoric Period stands in stark contrast to most other periods. Researchers have pondered whether this high site density may be a product of greater archaeological visibility for more recent sites, or a shift in settlement patterns and demographics resulting from territorial conflicts aggravated by the new bow and arrow weapon technology. We simply do not know the answers at this point.

Wyoming has enjoyed a long period of cooperation with landowners and avocational archaeologists who often report discoveries; academic institutions have spent considerable time documenting prehistoric and historic sites; and cultural resource management projects have done much to identify sites across the temporal spectrum. In particular, we owe a debt of gratitude to CRM for the discovery and documentation of numerous Early Archaic housepit sites, which have prompted new inferences regarding seasonality, settlement duration, and human mobility. Finally, the little known Protohistoric Period is beginning to yield more information with the recent discoveries of campsites associated with long-known mountain sheep trapping complexes. It is an exciting time for Wyoming archaeology as we study a long record that is testament to the

success of ancient human lifeways. These fragile, nonrenewable resources deserve to be preserved and better understood.

HISTORIC PERIOD OVERVIEW

The first Euroamericans to pass through what is now Wyoming were explorers and fur trappers. After he left the Lewis and Clark Expedition, John Colter is reputed to have discovered the areas today called Colter's Hell and Yellowstone National Park. Trappers known as the Astorians crisscrossed Wyoming in 1811-12, passing through such areas as the Bighorn Mountains and Basin, the Wind River Range, the Green River, and Jackson Hole. The Astorians are known as the first white men to travel along much of the future Oregon Trail and are credited with discovering the fabled South Pass. The fur trade era ended around 1840 when the last rendezvous occurred in Wyoming. At its peak, an estimated 500 men trapped in Wyoming. This period is represented by such National Register listings as the Upper Green River Rendezvous site near Daniel and Fort Bonneville in Sublette County.

Although thousands traveled through what is now Wyoming in the 1840s and 1850s along the Oregon, California, and Mormon trails, few people settled here. Known as the Great American Desert on maps, Wyoming appeared to be an inhospitable, barren wasteland. As many as 450,000 emigrants followed the Platte and Sweetwater Rivers through Wyoming during the period 1841-1868. Prominent landmarks along the Wyoming portion of the trail include Devil's Gate, Split Rock, Independence Rock, Oregon Buttes, and South Pass. National Register sites include the Oregon Trail Ruts and Register Cliff in Platte County, Independence Rock in Natrona County, and Names Hill in Lincoln County.

The Union Pacific Railroad became a powerful force for permanent settlement and political organization in Wyoming during the late 1860s. Cheyenne, Laramie, Rawlins, Rock Springs, Green River, and Evanston were all established because of the railroad's route through southern Wyoming. As construction of the railroad moved westward in 1868, Wyoming Territory split off from the large Dakota Territory, of which it had been a part since 1864. Stock-raising increased during the 1870s once ranchers had the ability to ship livestock to eastern markets after the railroad came through. Important sites associated with the Union Pacific Railroad are the Cheyenne Depot and the Evanston Roundhouse.

Settlement of northern Wyoming did not occur until later in the 19th century. Northeastern Wyoming remained virtually off limits to Euroamericans due to the presence of such Native American tribes as the Crow, Cheyenne, Sioux, and Arapaho. The Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851 allocated virtually all of northeast Wyoming as Sioux Territory, but that area became a battleground during the 10-year period from the 1866 Fetterman fight to the battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876, and white settlement and use of the land began in earnest at that time. By 1890, the Native American tribes were forced onto reservations, most of them outside Wyoming's borders, which freed up land for white settlement. The Fort Bridger treaty of 1868 granted the Eastern Shoshone (also known at that time as the Washakie Band) a reservation called the Shoshone Reservation, although this itself was a huge reduction of a broader domain promised earlier. In the spring of 1878, Arapahos from the Dakota Territory were placed on the Shoshones'

reservation without formal permission from the Shoshones. As traditional enemies, neither tribe was happy with this arrangement, but the federal government assured both tribes this situation was temporary. The “temporary” arrangement became permanent but was not formalized until 1937. Today, the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho share the land and govern the Wind River Reservation jointly. Fort Fetterman near Douglas and Fort Washakie and the Shoshone Episcopal Mission on the Wind River Reservation are representative sites from this era.

The Bighorn Basin was one of the last areas of Wyoming to be settled, and it depended upon irrigation to sustain an economy and population. The Carey Act of 1894, a law that supplied federal and state aid to irrigation projects, helped facilitate a number of reclamation projects including those in Germania (renamed Emblem), Cody, and along the Shoshone and Bighorn Rivers. A Mormon contingent from Utah and Idaho, known as the Big Horn Colonization Company, migrated to the Bighorn Basin in 1900 and with assistance from the Carey Act settled the new towns of Byron, Cowley, and Lovell. The Buffalo Bill Dam, located just west of Cody, is listed on the National Register and was built under the Carey Act.

Wyoming is known for ranching, and the first large cattle herds in the state were trailed from Texas in the late 1860s. Until the mid-1880s, most ranchers used the open range and let their cattle roam free during the winter months. The tough winter of 1886-87 was a disaster for stock growers as thousands of cattle died in blizzard conditions on the overgrazed range. Ranching practices changed after that to include feeding and watering during the winter months. Wyoming was, and still is, one of the top sheep-producing states in the West. Thousands were trailed to Wyoming in the 1870s. Cattle and sheep both depended on public lands for grazing, and this became the cause of a long-simmering dispute between the cattle and sheep men in the first two decades of the 20th century. The most famous feud was the Ten Sleep Raid that took place in 1909. The Swan Land and Cattle Company near Chugwater and the Tom Sun Ranch in Natrona County are two of Wyoming’s earliest ranches.

Earlier conflicts about public land and cattle rustling involved the powerful Wyoming Stock Growers and led to the infamous Johnson County War of 1892 that pitted the large cattle interests against the homesteaders of Johnson County. Although the Stock Growers killed two men, no one was ever convicted and the Johnson County War remains an infamous chapter in Wyoming history. The TA Ranch near Buffalo is associated with the Johnson County War.

When Wyoming achieved statehood in 1890 with a population of 62,555, it became famous as the only state that allowed women to vote; hence its nickname “The Equality State.” Wyoming had a number of firsts concerning women. Esther Hobart Morris became the first woman justice of the peace in the country. The first women jurors served in Laramie. In 1924, Wyoming had the first woman governor, Nellie Tayloe Ross, the Nellie Tayloe Ross House in Cheyenne is listed in the National Register.

By the early 1900s, rail lines connected many of Wyoming’s towns and cities, with the Burlington Northern in the north and east and the Union Pacific running east to west across southern Wyoming. The railroad traffic not only facilitated commerce but also

brought more people to the state. The population grew from 62,555 in 1890 to 92,537 by 1900. By 1910, the population had increased to 145,965. The Sheridan Railroad Historic District is located near the former Burlington Northern depot and is representative of this time period.

Homesteading brought many people to Wyoming. It flourished during the second decade of the 20th century due in part to passage of the 320-acre Homestead Act in 1909, promotion of dry-farming experiments, and favorable moisture conditions for a number of years. Recruitment activities took place, and some optimists predicted that farming would be “the backbone” of Wyoming’s prosperity. Numerous homesteaders left the state once conditions turned dry and the economy plunged during the 1920s. Many of Wyoming’s historic ranches began as 160-acre homesteads.

Wyoming lays claim to the first national park, Yellowstone (1872); the first national forest, Shoshone (1891); and the first national monument, Devils Tower (1906); all of which became early tourist destinations. Following World War II, tourism became a major industry in the state. Such assets as the transcontinental Lincoln Highway that crossed Wyoming, along with Yellowstone and Grand Teton national parks, ensured a brisk summer tourist trade. A variety of recreational opportunities also brought an increasing number of visitors to the state. Although the state’s tourism division spends millions in advertising every year, very little has been spent to actively promote heritage tourism. The age-old complaint that people bypass most of the state in order to get to the Tetons or Yellowstone is as true today as it was in the 1960s.

Wyoming’s economy has depended on the minerals industry since territorial times. Coal was king for many years due in large part to the presence of the Union Pacific Railroad, who owned many of the mines. Big oil discoveries and subsequent development at the Salt Creek field near Casper occurred in the 1910s and brought prosperity and growth to Wyoming’s second largest city, Casper. By the 1950s, the minerals industry was the number one business in the state. A tax on mineral production had been proposed for years and finally resulted in a mineral severance tax that passed the Wyoming legislature in 1969. Mining in the 1970s produced one new town, Wright. Trona mines have helped support the economy of Sweetwater County. Coal bed methane natural gas is the latest resource to be tapped. The Ohio Oil Company building in Casper is directly related to that city’s oil boom during the 1950s.

But economic dependence on natural resources extraction goes hand in hand with the boom-and-bust cycles that have plagued Wyoming for decades. The state faced major busts in the 1930s and the early 1980s with the decline in oil prices that slowed down production.

In 2007, Wyoming continued to hold the record for the least populated state with approximately 515,000 residents. Large-scale development of natural gas and oil resources as well as wind energy development threatens historic properties such as the Oregon, Mormon Pioneer, California, and Pony Express National Historic Trails and their associated cutoffs and numerous archaeological sites. Our landscape is changing at a rapid pace. Planning for our future must include planning for preservation and protection of our heritage.

While sites representing all time periods have been recorded in Wyoming, information is lacking in the pre-territorial, territorial, and the World War II and postwar periods. Although we may never discover a significant number of pre-territorial sites, there are certainly many post-WWII sites to be inventoried. In fact, it is the post-WWII and modern sites that in some ways are at most risk, as people do not view them as historic. Education will be necessary if we hope to preserve our immediate past.



Figure 4 The Parco Inn and sign in Sinclair.

For more reading in Wyoming's past, please consult the following:
Frison, George C. *Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains*. Second edition. Academic Press, Inc.: San Diego. 1991.
Larson, T.A. *Wyoming: A History*. W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1984.

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS PROGRAM HISTORY

Wyoming boasts the oldest monuments and markers program in the nation. At a time when few thought to mark history, interested and concerned residents of Wyoming realized the need to commemorate the past. These people placed monuments and markers that served to preserve a piece of the state's heritage.



Figure 5 Stone being quarried from a rock outcropping near the site of the Ames Monument during construction, circa 1880. *Source: Wyoming State Archives*

While the creation of the Wyoming Historical Landmarks Commission formally established a markers program in 1927, marking historic points actually began more than fifty years earlier. In 1875, the Union Pacific Railroad Company erected the Ames Monument, a 60-foot stone monument located at the original summit of the transcontinental railroad. The monument memorializes Oakes and Oliver Ames, brothers from Massachusetts, whose wealth and influence played an important role in the construction of the Union Pacific line through Wyoming.

The Union Pacific may have been the first to place a marker in Wyoming, but it was Ezra Meeker, an Oregon Trail veteran, who built support for marking important pieces of that great westward highway. Ezra Meeker was born in Huntsville, Ohio in 1830 and traveled over the Oregon Trail in 1852 with his wife. Meeker felt that the Oregon Trail was a “symbol of the heroism, the patriotism, the vision, and the sacrifices of the pioneers who had won the West for America.”¹

Twenty-two monuments and markers existed along the Trail when Meeker began a campaign to mark points in March 1906. By 1908, Meeker had succeeded in either directly or indirectly erecting 150 monuments. Inspired by Meeker's actions, the Oregon Trail Memorial Association formed. Meeker served as the Association's first president and helped to promote the Memorial Coin Bill. This bill authorized the creation and sale

¹ Mike Jording, *A Few Interested Residents*, p. 1.

of Oregon Trail Memorial Fifty-Cent Pieces. The proceeds went to funding new signs. When Meeker died in 1928, the Association carried on his passion and vision for marking sites along the Trail.

The Oregon Trail Association and the State of Wyoming made good partners. The Association worked with many state leaders such as Frank Emerson, Grace Raymond Hebard, Clarence B. Richardson, and others. This amiable relationship accomplished preservation goals for both sides.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) began marking historic places in 1908 and is responsible for many of the markers seen today. Also active within the DAR, Grace Raymond Hebard worked to mark the Oregon Trail before it vanished. In 1913, with the support of the Sons of the American Revolutions and other interested Wyoming residents, the DAR introduced a bill to the Twelfth State Legislature that passed and created the Wyoming Oregon Trail Commission. To accompany the establishment of the Commission, the Legislature also appropriated \$2500 for the purchase and installation of markers. Subsequent legislatures appropriated \$500 at each session.

Mrs. H. B. Patten, the first secretary of the Oregon Trail Commission recorded descriptions of every marker installed by both the Commission and the DAR. Her reports provide a helpful record for the state's first historical markers. In the Commission's first two years, from 1913-1914, they marked 24 sites. They dedicated another 20 to 25 markers in the next two years. World War I slowed their marking progress as they turned to the war effort and very few markers were placed. The Oregon Trail Commission dedicated their last marker in September of 1920 at the Wagon Box Fight.

The Wyoming Historical Landmark Commission grew out of the desire of many citizens to preserve the deteriorating Fort Laramie. On February 26, 1927, Governor Frank C. Emerson appointed the first members of the newly formed Wyoming Historical Landmark Commission; these were: Robert Ellison of Casper, Joseph S. Weppner of Rock Springs, Warren Richardson of Cheyenne, Mrs. Cyrus Beard of Cheyenne, and Dan Greenburg of Casper. The making of the Commission created a means for acquiring, marking, and preserving historic sites and monuments in Wyoming. The Commission was also given the power to evaluate sites, recommend them for acquisition, and appoint an advisory committee in each county. The Commission succeeded in acquiring many sites of historical importance, including Fort Bridger and Fort Reno. Generally, these privately owned sites were donated to the State of Wyoming. Eventually, the Historical Landmark Commission also aided in the purchase of Fort Laramie, which the State of Wyoming then turned over to the federal government, who made it a National Historic Site. The Wyoming Historical Landmark Commission operated until 1959, when its duties were turned over to the State Archives and Historical Department.

The State Archives and Historical Department worked closely with the State Historical Society and its local chapters. They sponsored a historical marker style and design contest, which the Campbell County Chapter won with their design featuring a 4' x 6' wooden sign with text carved into it. This design template lasts into the present.

The “Wyoming Historical sites and Markers and Museums,” brochure, featuring 208 historical markers, 115 historic sites, and 25 museums, was published in 1962. Also in that year, the State Parks Commission began working with the Archives and Historical Department. The Parks Commission installed and maintained the signs, while the Archives and Historical Department did research and drafted text. From 1959 to 1966, 56 markers were placed.

In July of 1967, the Wyoming Legislature created the Wyoming Recreation Commission. This Commission was created in response to the passing of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966, which required each state to establish a state historic preservation officer. The preservation officer operated within the Historic Section of the Recreation Commission and was responsible for the management of the monuments and markers throughout the state. The State Historic Preservation Office was transferred to the Archives and Historical Department in 1985.

Today, the Wyoming Monuments and Markers Program operates through a partnership between SPCR, WYDOT, Wyoming Travel and Tourism, local governments, and private individuals and organizations. Within the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, the Division of State Parks, Historic Sites, and Trails and the State Historic Preservation Office share responsibilities for creating and maintaining signs.

- For more information on Ezra Meeker and the marking of historic places in Wyoming, read “Story Spots” by Tom Rea in *Annals of Wyoming: The Wyoming History Journal*, Spring 2006, Vol. 78, No. 2, pg 25-36.
- For more information on the monuments and markers found throughout Wyoming, read
 - o Mike Jording’s *A Few Interested Residents: Wyoming Historical Markers and Monuments*, Skyhouse Publishers: Helena, MT, 1992.
 - o Susan Carlson’s *Wyoming Historical Markers at 55mph: A Guide to Historical Markers and Monuments on Wyoming Highways*, Beartooth Corral: Cheyenne, WY 1994.



Figure 6 Register Cliff monument

STATE STATUTE

(WYOMING § 9-2-414, § 9-2-415 AND, § 36-4-108)

9-2-414. Department of commerce; powers and duties relative to museums, historical sites and parks.

(a) The director may:

(i) Assemble and collect archaeological and ethnological collections, relics of the history of the state and material illustrative of the natural history of the state, and works of art;

(ii) Preserve, repair and display in an orderly and educational manner the materials in the possession of the department;

(iii) Store and maintain these materials in the Wyoming state museum, the Wyoming state art gallery and other facilities.

(b) The department shall:

(i) Supervise, maintain, restore, interpret and control museums or historical sites;

(ii) Prepare and arrange all items, objects, furnishings and information in the museums and historical sites;

(iii) Furnish and supervise employees in the museums and historical sites;

(iv) Approve and perform or supervise restorations, improvements, changes and alterations of museums, historic sites and parks under the control of the department;

(v) Interpret historic sites, museums and parks by arranging and preparing all items, objects, furnishings and information relating to historic sites, museums and parks;

(vi) Assume and exercise responsibilities as the state historic preservation officer (SHPO), including supervising and assisting the Wyoming consulting committee on nominations to the national register of historic places and to implement the National Historic Preservation Act of

1966 (Public Law 89-665; 80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.), as amended;

(vii) Research and prepare legends for all historic monuments and markers;

(viii) Consult with the parks and cultural resources commission on archives, museums and historical related activities.

(c) As used in this section, "museums" and "historical sites" includes Trails End, Fort Fetterman, Historic Governor's Mansion, Fort Phil Kearney (including the Wagon Box Fight Site and Fetterman Massacre Site), Wyoming State Museum and Fort Bridger.

9-2-415. Director; duties relative to promotion of history of state and region.

(a) The director shall:

(i) Collect books, maps, charts, documents, manuscripts, other papers and any obtainable documentary material illustrative of the history and development of the state and region;

(ii) Collect, compile and publish data of the events which mark the progress of Wyoming from its earliest day to the present time, through the medium of a state historical periodical, to be published as and when the board directs;

(iii) Procure facts and statements relative to the history and ethnology of the Indian tribes and other inhabitants within the state;

(iv) File and carefully preserve all the historical data collected or obtained and arrange and classify it so it is readily accessible for disseminating historical or biographical information requested by the public;

(v) Accept and receive gifts;

(vi) Promote the founding and development of a state historical society and of county historical societies; and

(vii) Create and maintain local and statewide interest in the history of the state and region.

36-4-108. Acquisition and supervision of historical parks and sites.

(a) The department, in consultation with the commission, may receive or acquire, but not by use of the power of eminent domain, historical parks and sites within the state. Nothing in this section limits the authority of the department to receive, acquire and to maintain, but not by use of the power of eminent domain, land for other outdoor recreation areas and facilities. The department shall be subject to the provisions of W.S. 36-4-106(e) and (f) when acting pursuant to this section.

(b) The department shall:

(i) Supervise, maintain and control historic parks, including furnishing and controlling employees and equipment, possessing and controlling all items, objects and furnishings, and erecting all signs and markers;

(ii) Interpret historic parks and prepare and arrange all items, objects, furnishings and information;

(iii) Repealed by Laws 1990, ch. 44, § 3.

(iv) Administer the state trails program; and

(v) Erect, maintain and remove monuments and markers.

Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program

BECOMING A MONUMENTS AND MARKERS STEWARD

Anyone who is interested in aiding in the interpretation of the State's history for both Wyoming residents and visitors can become a Steward. Stewards will serve on a voluntary basis and will be recruited and selected without regard to race, religion, age, sex, national origin, or disability.

Site Stewards Must:

1. Have a sincere interest in maintaining the State's monuments, markers, and wayside exhibits and Wyoming's cultural resources that they represent.
2. Be at least 18 years old. Those under 18 years old may participate with a parent or guardian who is a trained steward.
3. Complete the required training before participating.
 - a. Training consists of meeting with the Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator for a discussion of responsibilities and procedures, including Database instruction.
4. Enjoy driving and hiking in both well-traveled and remote areas of the state.



Figure 7 Wagon Box Fight Monument

Responsibilities of Wyoming Monuments and Markers Stewards

The primary objective of the stewardship program is to periodically monitor monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits to maintain a record of their condition. Information collected by stewards will include evidence of new vandalism, weathering, or other condition updates. Information will include a report on the appropriateness and accuracy of texts and graphics. In addition, a current site photo is requested. Each volunteer steward has responsibility for one or more regions within a county. Each volunteer will work with the Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator to establish the monitoring needs for each piece of signage. The following responsibilities of the site steward are carried out in consultation with the program coordinator:

- Monitoring signage on a regular basis on an agreed upon schedule
- Establishing a photo monitoring system, including photo monitoring points
- Filling out monitoring forms after each visit and providing them to the program coordinator
- Reporting any changes in condition to the program coordinator; reporting as soon as possible any evidence of new vandalism or other condition concerns
- Assisting with signage record updating as needed and reporting any unrecorded signage that may be observed to the program coordinator
 - o Stewards will have access to the Monuments and Markers Database in order to update records
 - o If unrecorded signage is discovered, notify the program coordinator, who will then enter the first record into the Database
- Notifying the program coordinator if unable to perform a monitoring trip
- Sharing your itinerary with someone who can alert the authorities in the event that you don't return home as scheduled
- Making recommendations to the field coordinator for signs, fencing, landscaping, etc. that may improve management of the site.



Figure 8 State Parks crew installing a sign. *Photo by Randy Wagner.*

PROCEDURES

To become a Wyoming Monuments and Markers Steward, you must first complete the one page steward application form. Mail or e-mail your application to the Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator (contact List is in the back of this document).

You will be contacted by the Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator to discuss and clarify any issues you may have. An agreement will be signed between the Steward and a SHPO staff person. The Steward must be at least 18 years old, or have a guardian consent to the minor's involvement. The Steward must also be able to use a private vehicle to conduct the inspections. In addition, the State asks that Stewards use a private camera to photograph for the program, however, if the Steward does not possess a camera, other arrangements can be made.

As a Wyoming Monuments and Markers Steward, you will be expected to inspect signage in your region at least once a year, complete the Condition Form, and take photographs. Once you have been accepted as a Steward, you will be given a list and a map of known State of Wyoming signage in your region. This list may or may not be complete and the SHPO will rely on you to inform them of signage not on their inventory list. In addition, the SHPO would like to hear your opinion on places with excessive interpretation and places in need of interpretation. Contact the Program Coordinator with any questions.

The Wyoming Monuments and Markers program contains monuments, markers, and wayside interpretive exhibits. Definitions of each follow:

Monument – A monument is primarily artistic or commemorative in nature and is associated with a specific event or person. Monuments are generally larger and constructed of masonry materials.



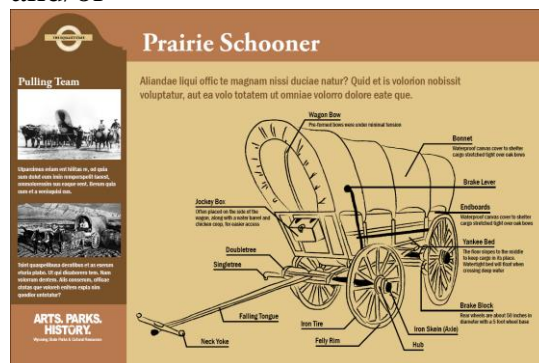
Marker – A marker is generally made of stone and simply marks the location of a significant event, place, or person. Markers contain an inscription that identifies its purpose. The Wyoming Landmarks Commission placed many markers in the 1950s – ‘60s.



Wayside Interpretive Exhibit – A wayside interpretive exhibit contains interpretive panels or kiosks with panels and is located along roads or trails. These consist of the traditional large brown interpretive sign, other interpretive signs are small, low profile, and contain graphics and text.



and/or



CHECKLIST TO BE COMPLETED WITH EACH INSPECTION

- ☐ Inspect Signage
 ___ 1 time/year ___ 2 times/year
- ☐ *Complete SHPO Monuments and Markers Condition Form*
- ☐ Photograph Signage
- ☐ *Send the Condition Form to the SHPO Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator*

And/or
- ☐ Update information in the Monuments and Markers Database

Optional checklist for other issues.

- ☐ Have you seen other signage that you believe should be in the SHPO Inventory?
 ___ Yes ___ No
 If yes, please provide photos, a location, and a description of any branding or identifying graphics or text that will help identify who placed the signage.
- ☐ Do you have suggestions for remodeling current signage?
 ___ Yes ___ No
 If yes, please explain.
- ☐ Do you have suggestions for needed signage?
 ___ Yes ___ No
 If yes, please explain.

HOW TO DETERMINE IF SIGNAGE BELONGS IN THE WYOMING MONUMENTS AND MARKERS PROGRAM:

1. The signage has a State Parks and Cultural Resources and/or State Historic Preservation Office identifier on it.
2. The sign is big and brown – either wooden or cast aluminum – and the text is historical in nature.
3. The signage is in the SHPO database.
4. The signage has the Wyoming Travel and Tourism logo. In some instances, signs funded by Wyoming Travel and Tourism have become incorporated into the Monuments and Markers Program.

CONTACTS

State Historic Preservation Office
Monuments and Markers Program
2301 Central Ave
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777 – 7697

Laura Nowlin
Monuments and Markers Program Coordinator
(307) 777 – 6179
lnowli@state.wy.us

Mary Hopkins
Interim State Historic Preservation Officer
(307) 777 – 6311
Hopkins@uwyo.edu

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS STEWARDSHIP FORM

Section 1. Steward Information

Steward Name

First Name

Last Name

Address

City _____ County _____ State & Zip _____

Are you 18 or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(if you are younger than 18, you must have a guardian sign this agreement)

Section 2

Do you have transportation?

___ Yes

___ No

How many miles are you willing to travel to do monument/marker/sign inspection?

___ 0 – 50

___ 51 – 150

___ 151 – 250

___ More than 250

Briefly tell us why you would like to be a Wyoming Monuments and Markers Steward.

Section 3: Signatures

Steward

Print Name

Signature

Date

Guardian

Print Name

Signature

Date

SHPO

Print Name

Sign Name

Date

MONUMENTS AND MARKERS STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT

Section 1. Steward Information

Steward Name

First Name

Last Name

Address

City _____ County _____ State & Zip _____

Are you 18 or older? ☐ Yes ☐ No

(if you are younger than 18, you must have a guardian sign this agreement)

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State & Zip _____

Section 2. Inspections

Inspections will take place:

in _____ portion of _____ County(ies)
use this space if further explanation is needed.

in ____ Spring ____ Summer ____ Fall ____ Winter

Please initial.

____ I am able and willing to use a private vehicle to inspect signage for the Wyoming
Monuments and Markers Stewardship Program.

____ I am able and willing to use a private camera to photograph signage.

Section 3: Signatures

Steward _____
Print Name Signature Date

Guardian _____
Print Name Signature Date

SHPO _____
Print Name

Sign Name Date