Wyoming Territorial Prison
State Historic Site

Master Plan

Adopted 2011
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Master Plan

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1.1 Acknowledgements

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ALBANY COUNTY

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1.2 Preface

The Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources, Division of Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails [SPHST] initiated the master planning process by working with site staff, community leaders, and interested public citizens to create a steering committee. The mission of the steering committee was to provide guidance and a report of recommendations to SPHST for the development of a master plan to address restoration, development, maintenance, management, programming, interpretation, promotion, partnerships and, public enjoyment at the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site [Historic Site].

This Master Plan is a culmination of the steering committee recommendations, Historic Site staff discussions, meetings with interested public citizens, and review of previous Historic Site planning and historical documents. Based on these interactions, the Master Plan will be an overview of what the greater community and SPHST would like to see in the future for the Historic Site.

It is important to note the need for a master plan came about due to the desire for a document to address four issues at the Historic Site. This Master Plan has been created in part to assist in providing some of the answers to the following issues:

- A major road realignment has the potential to impact the Historic Site, which has since been resolved.
- The City of Laramie was proposing to install a storm-water structure and designate 19 acres of the Historic Site as flood plain. This has since taken place on the Historic Site.
- Increasing interest in development including roads, trails, and commercial use of lands surrounding the Historic Site.
- Addressing the issue on the future use of the Horse Barn Theater.
- Pursuant to W.S. 36-8-1001(d), SPHST is required to develop a master plan for the Historic Site.

The Master Plan will serve as a ground for decision-making and growth of the Historic Site. This Master Plan is a living text and shall be modified to account for the growth of the Historic Site and shifting visitor needs over time. The Master Plan will progress with these changes and help direct future decisions for the Historic Site.

Master Plan Chapters:

Chapter I: Introduction
Chapter I provides a synopsis of the Historic Site and provides a glimpse of what is captured in the document. This Chapter also includes the main vision and goals for the Historic Site.

Chapter II: About the Historic Site
Chapter II describes the main parameters of the Historic Site. This includes Historic Site History, Land and Historic Site Management, Physical Settings, Facilities, Infrastructure and Visitor Demographics.

Chapter III: Historic Site Resources
Chapter III provides an overview of the resources in the area that can be utilized by the Historic Site. This chapter also reviews visitor interaction with the facility and area events that will promote the Historic Site.

Chapter IV: Issues and Recommendations
Chapter IV reviews the suggestions provided to SPHST through various means of public comment. Primary concerns have been defined as preservation, management, development, visitor use, and partnerships.
Chapter V: Implementation
Chapter V offers the foundation for implementing many of the recommendations for the Historic Site. A schedule and means of funding these proposals are also included in this Chapter.

Chapter VI: References
Chapter VI provides resources for the information that was gathered during the compilation and creation of the Master Plan.

1.3 Executive Summary
The Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site Master Plan (Master Plan) is intended to update previous management and planning documents for the Historic Site. This Master Plan has been developed under the direction of the Planning and Grants Team of SPHST and adheres to SPHST planning processes and goals.

The Master Plan will serve as a road map for the Historic Site’s growth strategies, objectives, goals, as well as relationships with visitors and the community. This plan largely focuses on updating features of the Historic Site, while keeping comprehensive and intact records of the history and stories at the Historic Site.

The Master Plan is a result of many months of work through discussions, recommendations, and meetings with the Historic Site steering committee, public meetings, visitor use surveys, the Historic Site staff, and review of the previous planning documents.

Recommendations for this plan include restoration, preservation, and reconstruction of the Historic Site. Focal points are; promoting and creating partnerships for the Historic Site, providing better tourist experiences, managing and funding of the Historic Site, and offering further interpretation and visitor opportunities.

The Historic Site is primarily visited by out of state visitors. The Master Plan acknowledges what visitors are looking for, such as, engaging interpretive areas, restoring historic buildings and developing more interactive opportunities for guests. Along with this, there will be a focus on historical aspects, archaeology and the surrounding ecology of the Historic Site.

As the Wyoming Territorial Prison approaches its 140th Anniversary, SPHST will use this Master Plan to protect and interpret the Historic Site’s rich history, while updating features that improve the visitor experience. With the support of the surrounding community and interested citizens, the Master Plan shall be a useful tool in the continued success of the Historic Site.
1.4  Mission and Vision Statements

1.4.1 Mission Statement

To preserve the cultural and natural environment of the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site while providing a safe, enjoyable, and informative visitor experience.

1.4.2 Vision Statement

To become a national destination, a premier regional historic site, and an integral part of the community.

1.5  Purpose and Process

1.5.1 Master Plan Purpose

The purpose of the Master Plan is to look at the existing elements of the Historic Site along with the goals and visions foreseen by SPHST, the community, and partnering friends group(s). With these basic structures in place, the Master Plan serves as a management tool to protect and utilize the Historic Site’s developed and undeveloped resources.

1.5.2 The Planning Process

SPHST initiated the master planning process by working with Historic Site staff, community leaders, and interested public citizens to create a steering committee. The mission of the steering committee was to provide guidance and a report of recommendations to SPHST for the development of a master plan to address restoration, development, maintenance, management, programming, interpretation, promotion, partnerships and, public experiences at the Historic Site.

Following completion of the steering committee report, a Draft Master Plan was prepared and released for internal review within SPHST. Based on comments by SPHST staff the master plan was modified and released for a 30 day public review. SPHST then held a public meeting to discuss the Draft Master Plan and the Historic Site. Using information gathered from the public meeting and public comments provided on the master plan, the document was modified. The document then was released for final public review and finalized.

The Master Plan will provide background information, recommendations, and Historic Site analysis and ought to work as a reference to guide development and preservation taking place at the Historic Site. Existing facilities are identified with defining information, including use and the specific facility’s connection to improvements at the Historic Site.

This plan will:

- Identify community and visitor needs.
- Offer background information, in detail, on the Historic Site.
- Provide a clear image of the goals and proposed use for the Historic Site.

1.5.3 Planning Context

The Historic Site is located in the southeast corner of Wyoming, within Albany County, and on the western side of the City of Laramie. Laramie is surrounded by the Snowy Range and parts of the Medicine Bow – Routt National Forest, providing great scenic views from the Historic Site. The
Historic Site sits on over 190 acres of land that is closely bordered by the Laramie River, Interstate Route I-80, and the Union Pacific Railroad. In close proximity to the Historic Site are the University Veterinary Sciences Department; the Wyoming State Veterinary Laboratory and the City of Laramie’s Greenbelt. The Historic Site also lies upon the main route of travel to and from the Snowy Range scenic byway.

National, State, Regional, and Local Plans Referenced

- National Register Documentation

Planning/Development Projects and Proposals

- Extended Interpretation for University of Wyoming Stock Experimental Station
- Extending and updating the collections
- Ongoing restoration and historical interpretation of Historic Site
- Removal of some structures
- Updating Sheep Judging Pavilion and further interpretation of farming equipment
2.1 Historic Site Management & History

Wyoming Territorial Prison, University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station, Wyoming Territorial Prison Corporation/Foundation and Wyoming State Parks, Historic Sites, & Trails

Dedicated to “evil doers of all classes and kinds” the Wyoming Territorial Prison is significant in territorial history as one of only three federally constructed territorial penitentiaries still existing in the western United States and the only one in which most of the original structure is preserved. Its establishment and operation, both as a Federal and State correctional institution, had a vital impact on the social development of Wyoming during its early growth.

Wyoming’s first Territorial Governor, John A. Campbell, in his first message to the Legislature, pointed out the necessity of providing a penal institution to care for the lawbreakers of the new Territory. The Legislature responded to his plea, passing an act in December 1869, to locate the facility in Laramie City and to have construction begin soon after the necessary federal appropriation. The prison would be managed by a U.S. Marshal and a Warden. Housing for the Warden was to be provided.

The Wyoming Territory received $40,000 in appropriated funds from the U.S. Congress in 1870 for the Prison. The Territorial Legislature called for the appointment of a committee to select the Historic Site, and G. W. Chapman, Edward Ivinson, and Melville C. Brown accompanied Governor Campbell in scouting the potential locations around Laramie. Big Laramie River, since it had the available stone. The land lay within Reservation, but the military Site, clearing the way for transferred from the War Interior in August, 1871.

A contract was awarded for $31,450 Schram, two Denver-based signed on April 13, 1872 and the 15, 1872. A single stone structure masonry cellblock. Stone for the location and bricks were made by a Frank Walcott accepted the keys to Boswell prepared for prisoners.

From the beginning, the Territorial Prison was beset with problems. Approximately seven months after the first prisoners were admitted, a fire broke out in the roof structure near one of the massive chimneys. Prisoners who were on their way to the brickyard a half mile away were called back to fight the fire. Prisoner escapes were a major concern for prison officials in Laramie and Washington, D.C. Inadequate facilities and administrative mismanagement contributed to the Prison’s reputation as something less than a maximum security institution. During the first two years of operation, in which 44 convicts were received, one-fourth of the prisoners escaped at various times. The first major prison-break occurred in 1874. Two prisoners overpowered the guard and locked him in a cell. They then freed six other prisoners and all escaped on stolen horses – none were recaptured. Typically, the prisoners escaped in ones or twos from work detail.

There were two main prison systems in the United States during the Territorial Prison era. The Auburn and Pennsylvania Systems were both developed during the 1820s. The Auburn System was widely adopted throughout prison systems in the U.S., including at the Wyoming Territorial Prison. The Auburn System required complete silence at all times of its convicts, even while they worked together. The second major...
element of the Auburn System was work. Other noteworthy traditions begun with the Auburn System include: black and white striped uniforms, the replacement of names with numbers, and the "lockstep" method with one hand on the guy in front of you, synchronize steps, in line of transporting multiple convicts between cell, work, food, etc. In accordance with the Auburn System, the Wyoming Territorial prisoners were put to work on various jobs. This included growing potatoes and vegetables, taking care of livestock, cutting ice blocks for the Prison and the Union Pacific Railroad, quarrying stone, manufacturing bricks and brooms, and other Prison industries such as making furniture, cigars, and candles.

The Prison building was enlarged in 1889, utilizing stone for a center administrative area and an additional south cellblock. The enlarged prison building was now over 18,000 square feet. In 1891 it became the state penitentiary and was utilized for this purpose until June 4, 1903. The Territorial Legislature of 1888 decided Laramie could not have both the prison and the University of Wyoming [University]. The locals chose to retain the latter and it was resolved to move the state penitentiary location to Rawlins. A new penitentiary was completed in 1901 and the following year many of the prisoners were removed from Laramie to the new facility. However, by 1902, the new penitentiary was overcrowded and some convicts were returned to Laramie until their release in 1903. From 1872 to 1903 the Prison held 1,063 convicts, of which 12 were women.

The primary structures remaining from the Territorial Prison era are the Prison Building, Prison Industries Building, and Warden’s Quarters.

In 1902, the State Board of Charities and Reform leased the old penitentiary to the University as an agricultural experiment station stock farm. After attempts at legislation in 1903 and 1905, the state legislature finally transferred the Territorial Prison to the University trustees in 1907.

The Wyoming Legislature passed House Bill No. 30, which “transferred and donated perpetually” the prison buildings and all grounds connected with them to the University for the use of the Agricultural College. The property was named “The University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station” more commonly called the “Stock Farm” (and will be referenced as such throughout the Plan) and was placed under the control of the trustees of the University. In addition, the Legislature made an appropriation of $5,000 for the purpose of repairing and modifying the buildings for Stock Farm work. The University already had a 40-acre Agricultural Farm west of Laramie on Highway 230 for crop research. That farm was later called the “Agronomy Farm.”

The University was interested in a wide array of projects including cattle breeding, horse breeding, sheep breeding, swine breeding, poultry, dairy, and stock feeding. Initial improvements consisted of converting the existing buildings to stables, feed rooms, dairy rooms, and the building of fences. The Stock Farm consisted of 320 acres, some of which needed to be drained because of alkali soils. A high water table and alkaline soil conditions created problems and opportunities for crop production research at the Stock Farm. The Stock Farm was an important area for beef, sheep, sheep shearing, and wool short courses for students and livestock producers from Wyoming and adjacent states. Research at the Stock Farm focused on the development of
quality breeding animals and raising of crops that survived in harsh growing conditions. Further research was
done for meat animals that would efficiently turn food into weight gain, and crops that could economically
grow their animals for market.

The first machine powered farm implements did not arrive at
the Stock Farm until the late 1940s. Previously Percheron
horses were the main work animals in the fields and around
the Station for hauling and for transportation. When the
horses were not working as draft animals, they were shown
nationwide as ideal examples of the Percheron breed and
were also used to collect data in feeding experiments.

The University provided some housing for its full-time
employees at the Stock Farm, including faculty from time to
time. Each species of animal had a caretaker. During 1907-
1908 repairs and modifications were done on the Warden’s
Quarters for occupation by the Animal Husbandman and the
Boxcar House became the residence of the Herdsman
[Shepherd Quarters]. In 1919 a Double House building was
constructed for housing University Agricultural Experiment
Station employees. Students were also employed part-time. There were living quarters for the students in the
Prison, Horse Barn, Sheep Barn, Poultry Barn, and the Old State Veterinary Laboratory. Later in 1949 two
Duplex buildings were brought on the Historic Site for additional housing.

Many of the early outbuildings and structures remaining from the Prison were in poor condition or unsuitable
for Stock Farm uses, so the facilities were removed and replaced by new structures.

In 1908, State Legislature approved funds for the construction of a large horse barn at the Stock Farm, the
first major addition to the facilities. Construction took place during the summer of 1910. A root cellar was
built in 1912 a short distance east of the old Prison Industries Building. Also, in 1912, the Prison was
modified for use as a model dairy cattle barn which included a milk processing plant in the south wing. The
milk was sold to the University campus dining facilities. A wool-scouring machine was also housed in the
Prison as well as sheep metabolism stalls for
digestibility studies. The Prison building
continued to function as a barn into the late 1970s
and attests to the success of the engineering and
architectural adaptation. In 1978 the sheep
nutrition study being conducted in the prison
building was relocated and the building was
condemned.

Other improvements at the Stock Farm included
installing concrete floors in the Stock Judging
Room, in the Horse Barn, and adding concrete
walls and floor in the cellar of the Warden’s
Quarters. Lawns were laid out around both the Animal Husbandman’s house and Shepherd’s Quarters and
about forty trees were planted. Fifty additional cottonwood trees were planted around the buildings in 1915.
Two new facilities were added to the Stock Farm in 1922-23. A Poultry building was constructed with
enough capacity to accommodate 600 laying hens and the Veterinary-Parasitology building which contained
work rooms, laboratories, classrooms, office, and a three-room apartment. The north end was used for an
animal hospital and experiment animal pens. In 1924-25 twin tile silos were added to the east side of the old
Prison building at a cost of $3,000. During this time there was also an emphasis placed on overall beautification of the Stock Farm; therefore, many of the old structures from the Territorial Prison era were torn down. In 1938-39 a new turkey brooder house was added and the Judging Pavilion was repaired and enlarged. In 1949 a new poultry house was constructed. It was a one-story building (80’ x 30’) with a concrete floor and two pens. Each pen held 250 birds. A calf barn was added in 1950-51 as a cold-weather and maternity barn. Other buildings and corrals for beef cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry were added from 1920 until the 1960s.

All of the buildings at the Stock Farm were built or adapted with specific livestock functions in mind. The Prison Industries Building was modified into a modern sheep barn with pens, compartments and feeding racks, and a gravel floor. High altitude poultry experiments called for the design of special insulated, yet well-lighted buildings. Thus the architecture at the Stock Farm was carefully designed and built to serve the needs of particular kinds of livestock being raised in Wyoming’s unique climate. The Stock Farm remained in operation at the Historic Site until 1989.

The primary structures remaining from the Stock Farm era are the Horse Barn, Shepherd’s Quarters [Boxcar House], 1930s Garage, Double House [Visitor Center] and Judging Pavilion. Also located on the property from the Stock Farm era is a Works Progress Administration [WPA] constructed swimming pond and the foundation from a shower house. Another feature of unknown purpose is a rubble stone foundation with concrete tank. This feature needs to be researched as to its purpose and significance.

In 1981 a small group of local Laramie residents began discussions on the possibility of restoring the “old Prison”. In 1983 the Laramie Motel Association, searching for a way to boost the economy in the community to make up for the energy (oil & gas) bust, approached the Laramie Area Chamber of Commerce and formed a special committee to examine the Prison as a potential historic site and tourist attraction. In November of 1984, the University’s College of Agriculture held discussions with the Laramie Area Chamber of Commerce, City of Laramie, and the Wyoming Recreation Commission to investigate restoring the Territorial Prison. The concept required expertise in a variety of areas, and because of the financial limitations, it was agreed the project would have to be a joint venture between the private sector and local and state agencies.

The Committee for the Preservation of the Territorial Penitentiary, appointed by the Laramie Area Chamber of Commerce, received a $2,000 grant from the Wyoming Recreation Commission for the purpose of making a structural analysis of the Prison building. This committee would eventually become the core of a not-for-profit corporation called the Wyoming Territorial Prison Corporation [WTPC]. The WTPC was established on September 2, 1986 as a 501c (3) non-profit corporation.

An immediate need of the WTPC was access to the Prison building in order to stabilize the structure and to prevent further deterioration. The stabilization work would be under the jurisdiction of the Wyoming State
Archives, Museums, and Historical Department. As part of the process, the WTPC was successful in helping to secure funding for a new location for the University Agricultural Experiment Station in 1988, in the form of Senate File 86.

Pursuant to Senate File 86, the University Agricultural Experiment Station was “to use the lands and facilities of the Wyoming Territorial Prison until replacement facilities are constructed… the Wyoming Legislature shall appropriate necessary amounts from the general fund to the University for relocation of the University sheep, swine, animal nutrition and reproductive physiology programs, and related support facilities presently on the lands described under this act to a suitable location on other lands owned by the University”.

In 1990, a quitclaim deed for the old Stock Farm was filed from the University, in consideration of $1.00 (one dollar) paid by State of Wyoming, Recreation Commission of Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The WTPC was designated as the single management group for the Park / Historic Site. A 99 year renewable lease agreement between the WTPC and Wyoming Department of Commerce was signed on October 31, 1991. Under the terms of the lease agreement, the WTPC was solely responsible for managing and financing the development and operation of the Historic Site with oversight provided by the Department of Commerce. The WTPC also agreed not to receive any on-going funding support from the State.

In 1988, the WTPC worked with professional consultants, Woodbay Consulting Group, Ltd., to develop a master plan for the Historic Site, which outlined plans for a major western heritage theme park requiring over $50 million in capital development to fully complete.

The needs identified were to design a resource that could sustain itself economically, satisfy the public’s fascination with the old west and with legendary Laramie, provide historically accurate and quality experiences, and would further develop Wyoming’s tourist industry by developing an attraction that was to be a destination in addition to the State’s national parks.

The concept, as envisaged, included the restoration of the Wyoming Territorial Prison as well as the establishment of a major theme park based on the 1860s to 1900 time period. The theme park would contain both active and passive attractions providing historically authentic educational and recreational experiences. These theme areas were to include Law and Justice Circle Plaza, U.S. Marshals Museum, Prison, Prison Industries Building, Warden’s Quarters, Carriage House, Horse Barn Theater, outdoor amphitheater and festival field, recreated Wyoming “old west” town, Hotel/Saloon and Victorian Town Square, Opera house/theater, 1860s Railroad depot and train rides, living history sites (Plains Indian Camp, Mountain Man Trapper’s Area, Mining exhibit, Military Post, Tie Hacking exhibit, End of Tracks tent community, and Frontier Ranch) Wild West Land (area with amusement park rides and entertainment), Natural History area,
Stagecoach rides, and Dinosaur Dig activities. Live animal exhibits were to be integrated into the overall Historic Site.

To generate interest in the project and open the facility to the public, temporary structures were constructed in the Old West Town area of the proposed theme park. The Park officially opened to the public on July 1, 1991 and succeeded in attracting 40,000 visitors during that first season May – September. By 1994, when initial projections of attendance and revenues did not materialize, the WTPC made some difficult, but necessary, budgetary adjustments in an effort to strengthen their financial position.

The Wyoming Territorial Park Foundation (WTPF) was incorporated on September 1, 1995, as a 501c (3) non-profit corporation. Its mission was to enhance public awareness, provide support and services by soliciting, receiving, and managing private and public donations, grants and sponsorships to fund the operation, and to develop and expand the Park and its programs.

In 1996, WTPC changed the name of the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Park and Historic Site to Wyoming Territorial Prison & Old West Park [Park]. This was done in hopes of attracting new visitors to the Park and increasing revenue.

On August 5, 1996, the WTPF established the Wyoming Territorial Park Foundation Living Legacy Endowment Fund with the Wyoming Community Foundation, Inc. All individual gifts, brick sales, and event income were deposited in the Community Foundation. Approximately 50% of the donations were for undesignated use while the remainder was designated for restricted use in the Theater, Prison, Warden’s Quarters, Ranchland, and Prison Industries Building.

In order to continue operation of the Park, the WTPC appealed to the State Legislature for financial assistance. In 2001, 2002, and 2003 the Legislature appropriated funds to continue Park operations. In 2003, the Legislature informed the WTPC they would decline any further requests for funding assistance. Consequently, the WTPC and the WTPF began further discussions of how to continue operation of the Park. The financial obligations of the WTPC were assumed by the WTPF through a loan from the First National Bank in Laramie. Endowment funds were used as security. Interest from the endowment was used for repayment of the loan.

In November 2003, the WTPC Board approached representatives from the Wyoming Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources [SPCR] and began a discussion regarding a new direction for the Park. WTPC’s operation of the Park, without continued legislative appropriations, would be impossible. On December 4, 2003, the WTPC Board met with State Legislators and SPCR staff. As a result, a proposal for the State to assume management of the Historic Site was made to the Legislature in the form of Senate File No. 41 during the 2004’s legislative session. The bill passed.

On April 1, 2004, SPCR assumed operation of the Historic Site. In May 2004, the State and the WTPC signed a termination agreement concerning property rights on the Historic Site. In June 2004, the WTPC and the WTPF board members elected a transition Board from their members to create the Wyoming Territorial Park Historic Association (WTPHA). A contract between the WTPHA and the State was agreed upon for June 1, 2004 to May 31, 2009. In October 2005, officers and board members were elected for the WTPHA; this was the beginning of a new Association under its revised by-laws.

When State Parks, Historic Sites and Trails [SPHST] became responsible for management of the Historic Site, it was decided the best course of action was to operate the Historic Site as a traditional historic site and not as a western theme park. There was concern by SPHST management if it tried to manage the Historic Site as a theme park it would create confusion for visitors and might place into question other authentic historic facilities managed by SPHST within the state.
To support management of the Historic Site, a site superintendent’s house and a maintenance building were constructed in 2005. Between 2006 and 2009, SPHST restored the Prison Industries Building, Warden’s Quarters, Judging Pavilion, and Shepherd’s Quarters. Additionally, SPHST performed much needed maintenance on the Prison Building, Horse Barn, and Double House Building. Removal of the arena, blacksmith shop, fast food area, playground area and large billboards were also conducted during this time. Further, SPHST installed a sidewalk to facilitate visitor movement about the Historic Site and to allow access under the American with Disabilities Act. Due to the tremendous support by the Legislature, approximately $1.94 million has been invested in the Historic Site in construction related funds to preserve and maintain all structures and facilities.

### 2.2 Authority, Legislative, and Administrative Constraints

Starting in 2004, SPHST has been involved in Legislation surrounding the Historic Site. From that point on, there have been additional legislative measures taken to more completely define the Historic Site and its use. Below is a listing of State Statutes pertaining to the Historic Site.

#### 2.2.1 Federal/State Laws and Regulations

WY State Statute §36-8-1001 Paragraph (a) - The lands in Albany County managed by the department as of July 1, 2010 and known as the Wyoming Territorial Prison are declared to be a state historic site. The department shall by rule specify the legal description of the state historic site.

WY State Statute §36-8-1001 Paragraph (b) - The state historic site shall be known as the "Wyoming territorial prison state historic site".

WY State Statute §36-8-1001 Paragraph (c) - The board of land commissioners shall not trade, sell or otherwise dispose of the lands described in paragraph (a) of this section without approval of the legislature.

WY State Statute §36-8-1001 Paragraph (d) - The department of state parks and cultural resources shall prepare a plan for the operation of the Wyoming territorial prison historic site and state park by the department as part of the department's comprehensive plan under W.S. 36-4-106.

WY State Statute §36-8-1001 Paragraph (f) - The department of state parks and cultural resources is authorized to enter into leasehold or concession agreements in accordance with the plan provided by subsection (d) of this section. Funds received by the department pursuant to this section shall be deposited and expended in accordance with W.S. 36-4-121(h).

#### 2.2.2 Preservation and Conservation Constraints

The Wyoming Territorial Prison is located on the “West Laramie” side of Laramie, which did not receive common standards on mandating sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and paved roads when it was annexed in 1970s. When updating the outer borders and trying to create further appeal to passersby, this could pose some issues. SPHIST adheres to the standards provided in the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for Historic Preservation.
2.2.3 Co-op Agreements, Easements, Leases, Contracts, MOUs:

- **City of Laramie**: Easement for the Greenbelt and Wetland areas.
- **University of Wyoming Lab School**: Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate archeological and science field studies at the Historic Site.
- **Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site Friends Group**: Friends Group Agreement for volunteer and fundraising services for the Historic Site.

2.2.4 Short Term and Special Use Permits:

- **Albany County Offices**: Rental of facility for meetings.
- **American Society of Mammologists, University of Wyoming**: Rental of facility for meetings.
- **Ben Kern – Wagon Train Club**: Utilization of a covered wagon for site activities and public appearances in Wyoming and surrounding states.
- **Ghost Tours – Harvest Festival Event**: Annual event featuring fall activities and ghost tours.
- **High Plains Theatre Company**: Theater productions.
- **Interpretive Writing Workshop**: Rental of facility for event.
- **Laramie Cyclocross Race Series**: Races typically take place in the autumn and winter and consists of many laps of a short (2.5–3.5 km or 1.5–2 mile) course featuring pavement, wooded trails, grass, steep hills and obstacles requiring the rider to quickly dismount, carry the bike whilst navigating the obstruction and remount.
- **The Unexpected Company Senior Community Theater**: Rental of facility for theater productions.
- **Wedding and wedding receptions**: Rental of facility for events.
- **Windy Wyoming Horse Trials**: Equestrian triathlon.
- **WYO-TECH**: Rental of facility for meetings.

2.3 Staffing

**Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site Current Staff as of 2010**

The Historic Site has four full time positions including:

- **Superintendent**: Deborah Amend
  Responsible for assuring agency/department/project goals are achieved. Provides education to the general public, cultural resource contractors, federal, state, and local government staffs and provides technical assistance on preservation and archaeological issues. Negotiates and reviews treatment plans, preservation, and protection of cultural resources. Serves as the liaison to various boards, along with regional and national organizations. Functions as the Historic Site liaison between federal, state, and local governments. Is responsible for developing and implementing policies and procedures, budgets,
planning and information processes, as well as research and development of all aspects of Historic Site projects.

- Assistant Superintendent/Maintenance Specialist: Gary Puls
  Provides maintenance of buildings, grounds, vehicles, equipment, roads, fencing, trails, and other infrastructure resources attributable to the Historic Site. Designs and constructs exhibits. Assists with the Historic Site’s budget.

- Curator: Misty Stoll
  Provides collections and Historic Site inventories, manages research library, plans, designs, and constructs exhibits, provides public programming/interpretation, maintains web-site, and manages the Historic Site’s volunteer program, and assists with historic building maintenance.

- Financial Statistical Technician: Lynette Nelson
  Provides for the management of the Historic Site fee collection program, assists with the Historic Site’s budget, manages the Visitor Center Gift Shop, provides visitor services, and office management.

The Historic Site currently receives a large amount of help from volunteers. The goal for promoting volunteering at the Historic Site is to create a careful balance of maximizing their enjoyment while at the same time maximizing their usefulness to the Historic Site. The Historic Site's relationship with volunteers is mutually beneficial; oftentimes, volunteers seek the Historic Site for camaraderie, meaningful work, and resume-building opportunities. For this reason, relationships between Historic Site staff and volunteers are actively shaped to be professional and consistent.

The Historic Site’s volunteer program for 2010 increased 43% over the previous year. The program saw active and steady participation from an increased volunteer base and also hosted a number of "one-time" volunteer groups, or individuals who volunteered for a specific project or event. These organizations and events included the organic vegetable garden – Laramie River District kids’ project, Butch Cassidy Days, Kids Pumpkin Walk, LDS gardening group, WyoTech, and Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

Volunteers were utilized in the following areas:
- Visitor Services
- Maintenance
- Special Events
- Guided Tours
- Education/Outreach
- Research
- Collections
- Volunteer Program
- Prison Industries Building/Interpretation/Living History

The Historic Site is open to the public daily from May 1 through October 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Historic Site is only open for special tours and public events during the off-season, November 1 through April 30, Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Staff hours are 8 hours per day, 5 days per week. During the regular season, staff schedules are rotated to cover hours of operation. During the off-season the staff works Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
2.4 Public Involvement/Friends Groups/Partnerships

The ability to run the Historic Site and bring in visitors at the current capacity would not be possible without the help received from local and state partnerships. Listed below are groups that have offered their resources to the benefit of the Historic Site.

- Albany County Museum Coalition
- Albany County Tourism Board
- AmeriCorps Connecting Campus and Community
- City of Laramie
- Daughters of the American Revolution Conservation
- Laramie Chamber of Commerce
- Laramie Rivers Conservation District
- University of Wyoming American Studies Program
- University of Wyoming Lab School Archeology & Science Studies
- Wyoming Territorial Park Historic Association (Friends Group)
- Wyo-Tech Institute

2.5 Physical & Topography Setting

The physical setting of the Historic Site falls in a broad valley on the high plains along the Laramie River. The majority of the land surrounding the Historic Site is considered upland, while catchment areas can be found that drain into the Laramie River. The uplands are on an alluvial terrace comprised of weathered sandstone and shale. Most of the uplands have been cultivated and consist of introduced grasses, forbs, and trees. Well-developed wetlands that filter and store water along the Laramie River are present on the north end of the Historic Site. These wetlands are crucial to supporting a wide diversity of ecosystems in the area.

2.5.1 Climate

The City of Laramie averages 300 days of sunshine per year with average temperatures ranging at a high of 78 degrees and a low of 12 degrees. Annual precipitation is about 10-14 inches and there are normally 85-110 frost free days on the Historic Site.

2.5.2 Soils

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Historic Site primarily features three types of soil; Bosler, Delphill-Blazon, and Redrob.

Bosler soils support rangeland and wildlife habitat. Limited areas are used for irrigated cropland and pastureland. Native vegetation is big sagebrush, needle and thread, thick spike wheatgrass, and blue bunch wheatgrass. Small grain, such as oats and barley, is common where irrigated.

Delphill-Blazon soils support vegetative communities used for grazing by domestic livestock and rangeland, and wildlife habitat. Native vegetation at the Historic Site is Gardner saltbush, western wheatgrass, low sagebrush, thick spike wheatgrass, big sagebrush, Sandberg bluegrass, and Indian rice grass.

Redrob soils are used mainly for hay production, livestock grazing and pastures with small areas used for wildlife habitat. Vegetation is cottonwood trees and an understory of western wheatgrass, sedges, basin wild rye, slender wheatgrass, redtop, roses, rushes, and willows.
2.5.3 Drainage

Currently, the Prison era buildings and the historic Stock Farm Complex area are not largely flood prone and there are no major issues with erosion. Areas of the Historic Site to the north of the abandoned railroad grade and adjacent to the Laramie River are flood zones.

The Laramie River experienced unprecedented flooding in the spring of 2010, reaching a high-water mark on June 14th of about 3,600 cubic feet per second (cfs). Since the U.S. Geological Survey started measuring the river in 1933, the highest flow on record before 2010 was 3,250 cfs.

The Laramie Rivers Conservation District is currently implementing the Laramie River Restoration Project which entails streambank stabilization and aquatic habitat restoration on the Laramie River (Maps may be found in Appendix E). This three year project will mitigate bank erosion and improve aquatic habitat by installing treatments at several sites along the Laramie River. Several of those areas are located on Historic Site’s land.

The restoration project for the Laramie River and its associated riparian and wetland areas will provide valuable habitat for many fish and wildlife species. This project might reduce fine sediment input from bank erosion, improving fish habitat impaired by fine sediment input. The focus of the treatment design is to add stability and diversity to the river system through the use of large wood, rocks, and re-vegetation. Where such vegetated rock toe treatments are used, rootwad spurs are also included in the design to promote habitat and biological diversity.

2.5.4 Geology and Physiography

The Laramie River is a tributary of the North Platte River and is approximately 216 miles long. The Laramie River originates in the Rawah Mountains of northern Colorado and generally runs northeast through the Laramie River Basin and Laramie Mountains before emptying into the North Platte River near the community of Fort Laramie.

The Laramie Mountains are the northernmost extension of the line of the ranges along the eastern side of the Rockies, often referred to as the Front Range. The mountains extend northward from southeastern Wyoming between Cheyenne and Laramie to Casper. They are named after the Laramie River, which cuts through the range from southwest to northeast and joins the North Platte River east of the range in eastern Wyoming. The mountains, in turn, give their name to the Laramide Orogeny. Beginning about 70 million years ago, the Rockies began uplifting along thrust faults that broke up the Precambrian granite of the Earth's crust. By 50 million years ago, all of Wyoming's major mountain ranges were elevated and the major basins defined. The mountains consist of a series of Precambrian Sherman granite monadnocks rising above broad erosion surface that form extensive unwooded parks whose surfaces are generally at about 7,000 feet above sea level. The high peaks of the range rise abruptly above the surrounding peneplain to altitudes between 8,000 feet and 9,500 feet above sea level, with the single exception of Laramie Peak which tops out at 10,274 feet.

The Medicine Bow Mountains extend for 100 miles from northern Colorado into southern Wyoming. Wyoming's northern portion of the range is often referred to as The Snowy Range or "The Snowies". The highest peak in the range is Clark Peak (12,951 feet), located in the southern end of the range near...
Cameron Pass. The highest peak on the Wyoming side is Medicine Bow Peak (12,013 feet) and is visible from the Historic Site. The Medicine Bow Mountains resulted from continental compression during the Laramide Orogeny. Rocks exposed along the flanks and peaks of the Medicine Bow Mountains in the Snowies span the Precambrian to modern, with the peaks composed of 2.4-2.0 billion year old Medicine Peak Quartzite.

2.5.5 Mineral Resources

Local minerals in the area are bentonite, gypsum, limestone, and sandstone.

2.6 Facilities and Infrastructure

2.6.1 Administrative Facilities

To support management of the Historic Site, a site superintendent’s house and a maintenance building were constructed in 2005.

The superintendent’s house is located on the west end of the Historic Site property. It is a three bedroom two bath home with an attached garage. The residence is approximately 2,000 sq. ft. and garage is 728 sq. ft.

The shop/office building is located in the administrative area of the Historic Site. It includes a three-bay shop with two office spaces, restroom facilities, and mechanical room. The office area is 524 sq. ft and the shop is 1905 sq. ft.

The superintendent’s office is located in the administrative area of the Historic Site. It is a remodeled modular that was moved onto the Historic Site in the early 1990s. This building has the Superintendent’s office, conference room, and staff and Historic Site scheduling center. A second modular building is located adjacent to the superintendent’s office and is used by staff for storage of the Historic Site’s living history costumes and props.

2.6.2 Visitor Facilities

The Visitor Center, the historic double house building, serves as the main point of entry for the Historic Site. At this location, visitors receive information on the Historic Site and can purchase souvenirs from the Gift Shop.

Educational information is provided to visitors in the Visitor Center. Self-guiding tour brochures of the Historic Site assist the visitor in expanding their knowledge and increase visitor enjoyment while touring the historic structures. Currently, the Historic Site offers self-guiding brochures in four languages, beyond English; French, German, Spanish, and Italian. Use of living history interpreters, (demonstrations in the Prison Industries Building broom making and candle making), audio and visual technology, and Historic Site personnel augment and disseminate factual information about the Prison and prison life, the University Agricultural Experiment Station era history and territorial history. The Historic Site provides opportunities to encourage visitors to participate in activities (such as historic lecture series) that strengthen their understanding of the uniqueness of the Wyoming Territorial Prison.
Interpretative signs are located outside the Warden’s Quarters, Shepherd’s Quarters (boxcar house), Horse Barn, Prison Building, and inside the Stockade describing structure history.

Public restrooms are located in two modular buildings on the Historic Site. One restroom is located just west of Visitor Center front entrance and the other located just south of Frontier Town buildings. There are two other public restrooms located within historic structures. One of these restrooms is located in the south end of the first floor of the Horse Barn and the other is located in the south end of the first floor of the Prison Building.

Public drinking fountains are located in the Horse Barn and in the Prison Building.

Outside picnic areas are available for visitor use. One is located just outside the east exit of the Visitor Center and the other area is located next to the Frontier Town buildings. Resting areas are also provided around the Historic Site with numerous benches strategically placed inside buildings, around structures and trees. In addition, the deck on the Visitor Center offers two patio tables with chairs and shade umbrellas for visitors use.

2.6.3 Interpretive Facilities

The Historic Site will rely on a material culture approach. This includes treating the Historic Site’s buildings, landscape, furnishings, and archeological collections as objects that can tell visitors about the experiences of people and significance of place while connecting with the past. This interpretive methodology must be supported by extensive research and documentation pertaining to the Territorial Prison and the University Agricultural Experiment Station.

Interpretation will be accomplished by two methods:

- **Personal** – live human interaction between staff and audience through one-on-one conversation or group presentations.
- **Non-Personal** – websites, brochures, displays, exhibits, self-guiding materials, signage, and mixed media presentations.

*Prison Building (1872)* – Interpretation provides visitors with an opportunity to understand the significance of confinement and reform during Wyoming’s territorial history, early statehood, and in a national context. Also relates the micro-community maintained by those who were confined within the cells. Future interpretation will include the topics of Law and Justice as they pertain to territorial Wyoming and early statehood.

*Prison Industries Building a.k.a. Broom Factory (1892)* – The first floor of the Prison Industries Building will interpret the Historic Site work industry, including the manufacturing of brooms. This living history component of the Historic Site uses convict-costumed interpreters to demonstrate...
traditional broom-making techniques on replica equipment and might possibly expand to include other industries that were attempted at the Historic Site, (i.e. candle making.)

Warden’s Quarters (1875) – Constructed as a domestic residence, interpretation provides visitors a view of 19th century family life in the shadow of a prison. Future interpretation will explore the specific role of the Warden in the penal and political contexts.

Horse Barn (1910) – The Horse Barn consists of two separate areas of visitor use.

- The lower level exhibit will interpret the Historic Site’s transition from a prison to an experiment station stock farm. Within this area visitors may understand why the University chose the Historic Site as the location for its agricultural experiment station and the type of research work completed by the University.

- Visitor orientation space might be located in the upper level in the Horse Barn Theater. An introductory video will give a brief history of the Historic Site. Discussion of each of the interpretative themes can give background information that may help visitors’ experiences within this historic facility.

Shepherd’s Quarters a.k.a. Boxcar House (1905) – Built as residence for the Stock Farm’s Herdsman (Shepherd), interpretation within Shepherd’s Quarters focuses on Stock Farm era history. The paint colors are University brown and gold.

Sheep Judging Pavilion (1920) – Visitors have an opportunity to view various agricultural equipment used on farms and ranches in the state. Future interpretation will include Stock Farm information; photos and activities specific to the Judging Pavilion.

Ranch Complex – Interpretation provides visitors an opportunity to see historic structures representing an 1880 ranch in Wyoming Territory.

St. Mary’s of the Plains Church (1920) – Visitors may view the original furnishings of this historic church from Rock River, Wyoming. St. Mary’s of the Plains Church allows visitors to consider the importance of social gatherings in 1920s society, and represents a 1920s rural social center.

2.6.4 Historic Facilities

Overview of Historic Standing Structures at the Historic Site:

The Historic Site currently has eight intact in-situ buildings that relate to the various eras of the Historic Site: the Prison Building, Prison Industries Building, Warden’s Quarters and Garage, Horse Barn, Shepherd’s Quarters, Judging Pavilion, and Double House Building.
Prison Building (1872) - The Wyoming Territorial Prison is one of the few remaining Federal Prisons built of a similar design during the latter half of the nineteenth century. It is the only federal penitentiary ever to have been built in Wyoming and the only facility which was used to house territorial convicts within the territory. It is one of the oldest buildings still standing in the State of Wyoming, and one of the few remaining from the 1870s. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978, the Prison Building is composed of a tall, gable-roofed center section, flanked by two-story, mansard-roofed wings extending to the north and south. An outstanding feature of the Prison Building is the masonry work. The two-foot-thick exterior walls are constructed of rock-faced ashlar blocks of locally quarried sandstone. The walls are accented with reddish-brown sandstone trim at the water table, quoins, window and door surrounds, and roofline coping.

Architecturally, the main Prison Building is a massive stone structure, indebted for its form not to the strict adherence to any particular architectural style, but to the function for which it was intended. When the original wing (north cell block) was constructed in 1872, it was the most massive stone structure to have been built in Wyoming at the time.

The original, or north, cell block of the Prison was built in 1872. The kitchen addition, located in back, was added shortly after the original building was constructed, probably in 1873. The central administrative area and south cell block of the Prison were added in 1889. The central area housed a boiler room, kitchen and dining room, guards sleeping rooms, an office, and a store room. Two barred watch chambers, which cantilever from the walls of the cell blocks and are accessible through the guards’ sleeping rooms, were installed to provide vantage points from which the cell blocks could be guarded. At the South end of the south cell block, a laundry and bath occupied the ground level, while the second floor was set aside as an infirmary with a partition separating five cells reserved for female prisoners and one for solitary confinement. The cells in the south cell block were slightly smaller in size and were made of iron, manufactured by the Pauly Jail Company of St. Louis, the contractor for the addition. The expansion increased the capacity of the Prison to 170 prisoners and almost tripled the size of the main building. The expanded Prison now consisting of two stories, totaled 18,000 sq. ft. with 36” thick stone walls.

The original stockade surrounding the Prison was built in 1875. Using convict labor, the stockade was expanded to about 300’ x 300’ and was later raised to a height of 16’ to include the Prison Industries Building in 1895. A boiler furnace plant was added inside the Stockade around 1895.

The Prison had telephone service sometime prior to September, 1895. The service was discontinued for a while due to failure to pay the bill. Service was reestablished in 1897 under Warden McDonald for $32
per annum. The Historic Site tapped into the Laramie City water system sometime after July 23, 1897. Prior to that time, water for domestic use at the Historic Site was obtained from a well on the grounds.

The boiler heating system at the Historic Site was in very poor condition by 1898. The Board of Charities and Reform decided to install a new heating plant in an “excavated boiler house between the Prison Building and the Prison Industries Building.” Convict labor was used for the excavation and the building was constructed of stone.

Between 1907 and 1910 the stockade around the Prison Building was removed in increments.

Between 1907 and 1908 the University Agricultural Experiment Station converted the Prison Building for use as a model dairy cattle barn which included a milk processing plant in the south wing. A wool-scouring machine was also housed in the Prison Building as well as sheep metabolism stalls for digestibility studies.

The interior of the Prison Building was extensively altered to adapt to its new use as a livestock feature. Modifications during this period included removal of cells, removing the interior of the kitchen, the hospital, the women’s cells, and the laundry and bath areas. The brick cells were dismantled, and the iron cells were removed and sold to cities around the state. Wood trusses similar to those used in the south cell block were installed in the north cell block. The stairway to the second floor in the central administrative area was moved to a new location. Additionally, numerous windows were converted to doorways. A floor system was installed, dividing both wings into two stories, with animal pens on the ground floors, and open lofts above. The dividing wall in the south wing was removed, while wall divisions in the central section were left intact.

The sandstone portico extending from the east wall of the central section forming the main entrance to the Prison Building was removed to allow for construction of two large tile block silos.

From 1989 to 1991, the exterior of the Prison Building was restored to its 1889 appearance. During this time, the interior of the building was rehabilitated for use as a prison museum. The work cost over $5 million and required removing or reversing numerous modifications and additions that happened between 1907 and 1989.

Prison Industries Building a.k.a. Broom Factory (1892) – The northern most east-west oriented portion of the Prison Industries Building was built in 1892. Most of the labor to construct the building was provided by the convicts. The building was a two-story wood frame structure measuring 24’ x 60’. The outside walls were covered with double-groove “ship lap” siding, and inside the walls were lined with red brick on the first floor. The brick was white-washed. The building had a 2” x 6” tongue and groove pine wooden floor. The upper level was used for storage of materials and no evidence has been found that this storage area was lined with brick. In 1893, a 24’ x 58’ addition was built onto the building forming an “L” wing. Evidence clearly shows the first floor of this addition had “lime-grout”
concrete lining the area between the wall studs and was also white-washed. Between 1896 and 1902, a second east-west addition was constructed on the south side of the first addition. There is evidence of “lime-grout” concrete being used to line the interior of this addition. In 1898 a sub-surface boiler-house was constructed between the Prison Building and Broom Factory. The Boiler-House had a substantial brick chimney and was connected to pipes and radiators sufficient to heat the Broom Factory and the Prison Building. During the Stock Farm era, the Broom Factory was modified into a modern Sheep Barn with pens, compartments and feeding racks, and a gravel floor. About 1911, shed additions were added to the east and west side of the Sheep Barn Building. In 2007, the Sheep Barn Building was rehabilitated back to its 1893 appearance as a Broom Factory for use as a museum and artifact storage facility. The Broom Factory Building measures 9,680 sq ft.

Warden’s Quarters (1875) and Garage (c.1930s) - The Warden’s Quarters was built in 1875 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. The building is approximately 1,994 sq. ft., including the basement. The garage measures 240 sq ft.

Warden Spicer was authorized to build a house for the warden’s use, and for housing the Prison Building guards. The Warden’s Quarters was constructed as a domestic residence which began in 1874 and was completed in the fall of 1875. The Quarters was 32’ wide x 64’ long with 2’ thick walls. It was a single-story structure with 12’ ceilings and a hip roof. Originally, there were twelve windows, two doors, and three chimneys. The Warden’s Quarters consisted of six rooms on the main floor (four bedrooms, dining room, and kitchen) with a quarter basement. This description is from a letter dated November 13, 1876 written to the U.S. Attorney General, Hon. Alphonso Taft, from Special Agent P.W. Forney of the Department of Justice. The north end of the Guard’s room become Marshal Schnitger’s office until an official office was built in the Prison Building in 1889.

Convict labor and stone quarried on Prison Building grounds were used in the construction of the Warden’s Quarters. Much of the glass in the Warden’s Quarters is original and came from a glass manufacturing company in Laramie. The cost of construction project was $1,298.34.

Horse Barn (1910) - In 1908, the State Legislature approved funds for the construction of a large horse barn at the Stock Farm. The Horse Barn was built in 1910 and remained essentially unmodified during the Stock Farm era. The building is a large two-story wood frame structure with a bellcast hipped gambrel roof resting on a concrete foundation. The completed Horse Barn had four box stalls and several open stalls for horses, along with a hay loft on the second floor, and a concrete floor granary. It also included a harness room, carriage room, and a stock-judging arena. The Horse Barn was well-lit and was provided with heating facilities. In 1989, the second floor of the Horse Barn was converted into a 4200 sq. ft., 160 seat dinner theatre. Actor dressing rooms and a 1423 sq. ft. commercial kitchen were added to west side at this time. On the first floor, the Horse Barn was converted into an exhibit gallery. The Horse Barn measures approximately 11,787 sq. ft.
Shepherd’s Quarters a.k.a. Boxcar House (1905) - The Shepherd’s Quarters, for the stock herdsman, was built from a railroad boxcar that was utilized as a work building inside the Historic Site’s prison yard. The Shepherd’s Quarters was moved to its current location in 1905 and a small kitchen was added. In 1907, a rear wing was added to the Shepherd’s Quarters. During the ensuing years, two other additions were added. The Shepherd’s Quarters is the first University Agricultural Experiment Station constructed building that is still standing today at the Historic Site. In 1989, the Shepherd’s Quarters was used as storage and offices by the WTPC until modular trailers were acquired in the early 1990s and then the Park’s security guard occupied the house until 1997. In 2008-09, the Shepherd’s Quarters was rehabilitated to its 1907 appearance for use as a museum and exhibit area. The Shepherd’s Quarters Building measures 654 sq. ft.

Machine Shed/ Sheep Judging Pavilion (1920) – The Machine Shed/Sheep Judging Pavilion building was constructed to serve as a machinery shed and work space. In 1935, modifications were done to create a Sheep Judging Shed. Using Works Progress Administration (WPA), depression era labor, an addition on the east side and a garage on the west side of the Sheep Judging Pavilion was constructed. Once again, in 1938 repairs were made and the structure was enlarged. In 1989, minor changes were made for use as storage and maintenance building. In 2009, the Sheep Judging Pavilion was rehabilitated to its 1938 appearance for use as a museum exhibit space and storage area. The Machine Shed/Sheep Judging Pavilion Building measures 4,386 sq. ft.

Double House Building (1919) - The wood frame Double House Building was constructed in 1919 to house Stock Farm employees. Each side contained four rooms, a breakfast nook, a bath, and a small cellar room for storage. The Double House remained essentially unmodified during the Stock Farm era. In 1989-90, the Double House was converted into an entry station, guest relations office, merchandising area, and WTPC offices. In 1996, a middle wall was removed to expand the gift shop. The Double House Building measures 2,206 sq. ft.

Other Historic Structures:

Currently, the Historic Site has three standing buildings that are historic structures moved to their current location.

Ranch Cabin and School – In 1997, a historic log building was moved onto the Historic Site from the Chimney Rock Ranch located on Sand Creek near the Wyoming/Colorado border. Also donated from the ranch were the school house and a single-hole outhouse for the ranch’s exhibit. Native stone was also moved from Chimney Rock Ranch for the buildings’ foundations.

St. Mary’s of the Plains Church (c 1920s) - In 2002, the Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming donated the Church to the Wyoming Territorial Park. It was moved from Rock River, Wyoming.
Previous Buildings:

There are many other Territorial Prison era structures, which have been removed. It is hoped additional historic research, backed by archeological study, will help identify these structure’s locations, construction, and functions. The 13th Annual Report of the University Agriculture College included in its inventory the following ancillary structures on the Historic Site in 1902:

- Barns and Fences
- Boiler House
- Tobacco Shop
- Duck House
- Granary
- Hen House (2)
- Ice House
- Warden’s Quarters Summer Kitchen
- Pig Sties
- Railroad Cars
- Tannery
- Root Cellar
- Stable
- Storage Building
- Closet in Stockade with sewer
2.6.5 Infrastructure

The original plan for restoring the Historic Site complex included developing an amusement park on the north side of the property. Considerable infrastructure was installed at the Historic Site to service the proposed amusement park.

A massive system, consisting of over 7,000 feet of underground water and sewer lines, natural gas pipelines, and electrical lines runs north to south through the property, designed to serve all current and any future areas throughout the Historic Site.

2.6.5.1 Water

The Historic Site is zoned under B-2 fire water requirements; under this zoning requirement water flow rates must meet 4000 gpm. To accommodate these needs, a 12” water main is provided by the City of Laramie. This requirement was met prior to the opening in 1991 with water system improvements and tie-in with the McCue Street area water line.

2.6.5.2 Sewage

Sewer is provided by the City of Laramie.

2.6.5.3 Electric

Rocky Mountain Power provides electrical service.

2.6.5.4 Telephone (landlines/cellular coverage)

- Qwest Telecommunications furnishes the telephone lines, DSL services, and the fax at the Historic Site.
- MicroTech Telephone provides business lines.
- USA DIGITAL provides Intrastate and Interstate long distance coverage, and the 1-800 number is also part of the package with USA Digital.

The following buildings have installed telephone extensions:
- The Visitor's Center (3)
- Building #1 (3)
- Maintenance Shop (2)
- The Horse Barn Theater (1)
- Prison Industries Building (Broom Factory) (2)

2.6.5.5 Gas

Source Gas provides gas service.

2.6.5.6 Cable

There is currently no cable service at the Historic Site.

2.6.5.7 Fiber Optic

There is currently no fiber optic service at the Historic Site.
2.6.5.8 Other Infrastructure

**Prison building HVAC-**
The Prison Building has additional infrastructure for the HVAC system that draws water from a grid of 60 closed loop heat pump wells which are located in the bottom land, east of the Prison Building. The ground water is usually at 43-45 degrees and is extracted from the wells and circulated through thirteen electric furnaces/air conditioning units located throughout the Prison Building, in a closed loop configuration. The estimated depth of each well is 170’. The heating medium is a mixture of propylene-glycol and distilled water. In conjunction with the closed loop grid, there are three alluvial material monitoring wells ranging from a depth of 12’, 47’ and 190’ to monitor for leak detection of propylene-glycol used in the closed-loop heat pump wells. These monitoring wells are located to the south of the grid and evident by three lockable stand pipes.

**Water Sprinkler Systems-Irrigation**
The Historic Site has two separate sprinkler systems with eleven zones. One system is located east of the Visitor Center and the other system is located north of the maintenance shop and west of the Sheep Judging Pavilion.

**City of Laramie Forebay Structure-**
The City of Laramie has worked on addressing drainage problems in the western part of the City and implemented a plan for storm water being collected in west Laramie and being diverted to the Laramie River via a system of storm water drains. The storm water runoff will be collected in a series of drains and pipes which connect to a main collector and runs under I-80 at the bridge constructed for the Laramie, Hahn’s Peak, and Pacific Railroad. The storm water is then be released out of a 4’ x 5’ box culvert into a forebay structure to be constructed on Historic Site land.

The forebay structure is a shallow pond that dissipates hydraulic energy allowing suspended particles to settle and is designed to spread the storm drainage runoff over a wide area of land located in Section 32, T16N R73W on the Historic Site’s lands.

The City of Laramie constructed its storm water runoff/drainage project and maintains the forebay structure. The City has adequate ingress and egress to the structures that are part of the storm water runoff/drainage project, as needed, in the future to operate and maintain the proper and safe flow of water runoff to the McCue Wetlands and the Laramie River.

### 2.7 Circulation

To provide a better glimpse of what visitors encounter when touring the Historic Site, a detailed description of the circulation on the Historic Site is provided below. With this information, it is easier to see how updates will provide beneficial improvements to the experience of Historic Site visitors.

The visitor will approach the Historic Site from the south via the parking lot. The first building is the Visitor Center. The Visitor Center serves as the main point of entry for the Historic Site. At this location, visitors receive information on the Wyoming Territorial Prison and can purchase souvenirs from the Gift Shop. Self-guiding tour brochures of the Historic Site assist the visitor in expanding their knowledge and help increase visitor enjoyment while touring the historic structures.

Upon exiting the Visitor Center, the visitor will begin the self-guided walking tour of the Historic Site. The first building visited on the tour would be the Warden’s Quarters. Restored to its original appearance, the home is a historically furnished period building. The furnishings contained within are those of a typical 19th century middle class family dwelling.
After exiting the Warden’s Quarters, the visitor will proceed to the Prison Building and tour the structure. The visitor enters through the front door, located on the east side of the structure, and be directed to the Warden’s Office. This room is a historically refurnished room, seen through a glass barrier. Furnishings include a desk, bookshelves, chairs, a file cabinet, center floor carpet, and other period office equipment. The second office, across the hallway from the Warden’s Office, is furnished as a processing room for taking the “mug shot” of the new convicts, and is viewed through a glass barrier from the entrance hall. This room is furnished as a period room complete with camera, and prisoners’ uniforms in supply cabinet, along with period furniture.

Leaving the processing room, the visitor will view the refurnished prison kitchen. After the kitchen, the visitor proceeds to the north cellblock where the exterior façade of the prison cells and surrounding hallways can be seen. The interior of the first floor of cells have two reconstructed cells and archeological exhibits of the foundation and heating system. The second floor of the interior of the cellblock is an exhibit hall featuring lawman N.K. Boswell, the Prison’s first Warden and outlaw Robert Leroy Parker, alias “Butch Cassidy”.

After viewing the exhibits, the visitor passes into the dining room and two of the guards’ quarters. The guards’ rooms have beds, clothing hooks, book cases, wardrobes, and a table for playing cards or games. The dining room features an exhibit on the prison’s chaplain Dr. May Preston Slosson, first woman chaplain to work in the U.S. prison system.

The visitor will exit the dining room into the south cellblock exhibit gallery that features women convicts and a viewing area of the infirmary and women’s cellblock. Passing down the stairs to the first floor of the south cellblock, the visitor can view the iron cells, laundry room, and bathroom.

Visitors will use the back door of the south cellblock to exit the Prison Building and walk into the enclosed Prison Yard. Visitors are allowed free access to the Prison Yard with its high stockade and elevated guard walks and towers. While within these walls, the visitor may enter the Prison Industries Building. Inside, living history interpreters portray convicts that demonstrate the various trade skills conducted at the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Prisoners were expected to work to provide income for the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Currently, demonstrations are broom making and candle making.

Exiting the Prison Yard through the north wall gate, the visitor can choose to walk the Laramie River Interpretive Nature Trail. The ¼ mile long trail begins at the Prison stockade and winds north along the Laramie River to a scenic overlook shelter at a bend in the river.

If the visitor chooses not to travel along the Laramie River Interpretive Nature Trail, they can exit the Prison Yard through the south wall gate; the visitor enters the Horse Barn in the lower level where exhibits on the University Agricultural Experiment Station era history and Horse Barn architecture are on display. The upper level is a theater where theatrical productions are held on occasion.
The visitor may exit the Horse Barn from either the south or north doors. Depending on their choice determines the next route. If exiting from the south doors, then the next building on tour will be the “Boxcar” or Shepherd’s Quarters. The Stock Farm constructed this house from an old railway car for use as a residence. Restored back to its 1907 appearance, the exhibits in the Shepherd’s Quarters are a photographic display of the Stock Farm era.

If the visitor exits the Horse Barn from the north doors the next building on the tour will be the Stock Farm “Sheep Judging Pavilion” where the visitor views various pieces of agricultural equipment used on farms and ranches in Wyoming. When leaving the Sheep Judging Pavilion, they proceed to Frontier Town where they can view a reconstructed General Store and Saloon. The remainder of the Frontier Town buildings and plywood false fronts are closed to the public. They are for background ambiance.

Visitors can then walk to the Ranch Exhibit area. The buildings are historic log structures moved to their current location from Chimney Rock Ranch. A single level small log barn is located to the east of the cabin and the entire exhibit represents 1880s structures in Wyoming. The log buildings contain period furnishings and occasionally have living history interpreters discussing how early settlers made a living during Wyoming’s challenging territorial days. A large reconstructed 1920s barn is located just behind the Ranch Exhibit.

The next stop on the tour is the 1920s St. Mary’s of the Plains Church. The Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming donated the church and it was moved to its current location from Rock River, Wyoming.

To exit the Historic Site visitors will walk south to the Visitor Center and exit from the building out to the parking lot.

2.8 Handicap Accessibility

All facilities at the Historic Site are ADA accessible. Most of the buildings are single story structures and have ramps to facilitate ADA access. The Prison Building, Horse Barn Theater, and Prison Industries Buildings all have elevators to the second floor. All public restrooms meet ADA standards and there is signed ADA parking in the main parking lot.

2.9 Visitation

2.9.1 Visitor Use

2.9.1.1 Annual and Monthly Trends
2.9.1.2 Daily/Weekly Use Patterns

Visitation has increased by approximately 10% since 2005. The busiest months are June and July. Strategies are being reviewed to increase visitation during other periods of the year. The Historic Site is working more closely with school groups, which helps to account for the increase in visitation during the months of May and June.

2.9.1.3 Season of Use

**Under WTPC Management 1989-2003:**
The Park was open to the public 12 months a year with the regular season designated as May to September.
Off-Season Activities and public events were held at the Park throughout the rest of the year. Additional detailed visitor use data can be found in Appendix G.

**Under SPCR Management 2004-Present:**
The Historic Site is open to the public six months a year with the normal season designated as May 1 to October 31.
In the off-season, there are school tours in April and potential public events.
Admission fees: Adults $5.00, Ages 12 to17 $2.50, under 12 Free.

2.9.2 Visitor Experience

2.9.2.1 Origin of Visitors and Length of Stay

Out of state visitors account for 76% of visitation at the Historic Site, with 2% of visitors coming from out of country. Visitors stay at the Historic Site an average of 4.5 hours. For 28% of visitors, the Historic Site is the main destination of their trip.

2.9.2.2 Principal Activities

A number of things influence visitor movement at the Historic Site. Currently, there are two vehicle entrances to the Historic Site, one with limited signage. A large public parking lot is available to meet visitor needs. A pedestrian entrance is accessible to the Historic Site, with limited signage. Since 2006, a network of brick faced concrete sidewalks has been constructed to facilitate circulation around the Historic Site. Public restrooms are located at the entrance, in the Horse Barn, in the Prison Building, and on the west side of the Historic Site near Frontier Town.

The following methods of presentation are currently available at the Historic Site:

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### Visitation

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</table>
Self-guided tours of Historic Site -

- Daily Visitors
- School Tours
- Group Tours

Guided, third person tours of the Historic Site -

- Daily Visitors (scheduled tours 11 am & 2 pm Friday, Saturday, and Sunday only)
- School Tours
- Group Tours

Outreach programs -

- Presentations to students in classrooms, civic organizations, etc.
- Programs and displays at festivals and public awareness events.

2.9.2.3 Visitor Expectations

SPHST conducted a survey for the period May 1, 2009 to October 31, 2009. The results of this survey indicate 85% of visitors were first time visitors to the Historic Site. Over 80% of visitors were with their family. The average visitor was 42 years of age. When asked to rate prison staff, 99% of visitors found Historic Site staff to be “helpful” or “very helpful.” When visitors were asked what technological facilities they would like to see developed at the Historic Site, audio walking tours was the most popular answer followed by improved internet information.

2.10 Relationship to the Community and Surrounding Areas

Due to the Historic Site occupying 197-acres of land inside city limits, its relationship to the community of Laramie is very important. It is intersected by two main through-ways, Snowy Range Road and McCue Street, and bordered by one of the most traveled interstates in America, Interstate 80. The physical location of the Historic Site requires that it actively maintain open communication with individuals and groups who are traveling across, around, and adjacent to the property. This includes a concerted effort by the Historic Site to inform local residents, business owners, and city, county, and state policy makers, and other non-profits and institutions of events, management decisions, and Historic Site use expectations.

In general, current and recent past public opinions of the Historic Site are widespread and include feelings of disappointment, mistrust, excitement, optimism, indifference, curiosity, and dedication. Overwhelmingly, a lack of awareness persists regarding the Historic Site’s mission. Confused by the dramatic transformations of the Wyoming Territorial Prison over a twenty year period, Laramie residents sometimes have misinformed expectations that are not met when they visit the Historic Site. The State acknowledges there is some concern expressed by Laramie community members about the Historic Site’s direction.

Confusion and concerns notwithstanding, the Historic Site currently enjoys increasing attendance and positive reaction from visitors from the local area, Colorado Front Range, and all across the country. In this context, the Historic Site’s relationship to the Laramie community and the Front Range remains active and prosperous. As the Historic Site’s mission continues to reinforce a “State Historic Site”, and not an “Old West Theme Park”, community members are encouraged by the consistent development of exhibits and events that are in keeping with the Historic Site’s mission.

The Historic Site enjoys improving relationships with the University by way of an internship program, with the local community of Laramie through a burgeoning volunteer program that offers diverse opportunities,
with the City of Laramie doing continued development of the Laramie Greenbelt on the Historic Site’s property, and with elementary schools throughout Wyoming as the Historic Site’s school program expands to directly addresses state standards, curriculum requirements, and benchmarks.

2.11 Demographics of the City of Laramie

The 2010 Census Data for Wyoming will not be released until April 1, 2011, past the date the Master Plan is to be finalized. All data found below is from the Census’ 2009 population estimates for Laramie, WY.

From the 2009 United States Census estimates, there were 28,051 people and 5,324 families residing in the City of Laramie. The population density was 2,504.5 people per square mile. There were 13,782 housing units at an average density of 1,241.6 per square mile. The racial makeup of the city was 89.1% White, 1.2% African American, 0.3% Native American, 2.5% Asian, 0.1% Pacific Islander, 3.3% from other races, and 3.4% from two or more races. Hispanic or Latino of any race constituted 7.8% of the population.

There were 12,068 households out of which 18.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 35% were married couples living together, 5.6% had a female householder with no husband present, and 55.9% were non-families. Of all households, 34.4% were made up of individuals and 5.4% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.07 and the average family size was 2.74.

In the city the population was spread out with 25.5% under the age of 20, 30.7% from 20 to 24, 11.3% from 25 to 34, 9.2% from 35 to 44, 9% from 45 to 54, 7.3% from 55 to 64, and 7.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 23.8 years. For every 100 females there were 107.7 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 108.3 males.

The median income for a household in the city was $36,659, and the median income for a family was $51,616. Males had a median income of $40,938 versus $29,457 for females. The per capita income for the city was $22,283. About 9.4% of families and 24.5% of the population were below the poverty line, including 10.4% of those under age 18 and 6.2% of those aged 65 or over.

2.12 Socioeconomic Impact

In 2010, SPHST conducted an economic impact study for all state parks and historic sites. At that time the economic impact of the Historic Site was calculated at 13 jobs created Statewide and $647,000 value added, and 12 jobs created within the region and $592,000 value added. Further the Historic Site has a high spending profile for tourists and visitors locally, due to the spending opportunities found around the Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site.
CHAPTER III

HISTORIC SITE

RESOURCES
3.1 Management Zoning

SPHST is proposing four management areas for the Historic Site. Please reference Proposed Management Zones Map in Appendix E for a detailed location of each management zone.

1.) The Historic Prison and Stock Farm Management Area.
This area contains all remaining Prison and Stock Farm buildings, administrative facilities, and the main visitor parking lot. The area is the heart of the Historic Site and receives the bulk of the visitation. Management needs to be focused on maintaining the historic integrity of the buildings, maintaining the historic landscape, and historic interpretation of the overall complex.

2.) Ranch Exhibit Management Area.
This area contains several historic log buildings moved from the Chimney Rock Ranch to the Historic Site, some reconstructed log structures, and a historic church. Management needs to be focused on maintaining the agricultural related buildings and church and interpreting the territorial history of Wyoming.

3.) Open Space/Natural Area Management Area.
This area is on the east and north side of the Historic Site’s property and contains portions of the Laramie River, wetlands, upland prairie, City of Laramie Greenbelt Trail, and the remains of the Laramie & Hahn’s Peak Railroad grade. Management needs to be focused on maintaining the natural and open nature of this area, interpreting the natural flora and fauna and ecosystems at the Historic Site, and maintaining the area around the Greenbelt trail and abandoned railroad grade.

4.) Isolated Parcel Management Area.
The area is bounded by I-80 on the west, the Laramie & Hahn’s Peak Railroad Grade to the north, McCue Street on the east, and Snowy Range Road to the south. This viewshed is significant to the public’s sense of place and connection to the past of the Historic Site. When development occurs on or in the vicinity of a well-recognized landmark or historic site, it can have a dramatic effect upon whether people will consider that place special. Management of this area includes landscaping to buffer the Historic Site from I-80, or appropriate development through a lease agreement such as visitor center or interagency offices.
3.2 **Cultural Resources**

3.2.1 **Archaeological Resources**

The entire Historic Site has been formally surveyed for archaeological and historic resources. In 1989, the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist surveyed 150 acres of the Historic Site. The remainder of the Historic Site was surveyed in 2001 by TRC Mariah for the McCue Street Extension project. The surveys recorded one non-significant prehistoric fire hearth/lithic scatter. The 1989 survey formally recorded the Prison complex and Stock Farm complex. These have been listed as a district on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). All of the historic structures were determined to be contributing components of the NRHP district. The abandoned Laramie and Hahn’s Peak Railroad grade and railroad bridge across the Laramie River were recorded at this time. The railroad grade and bridge were both determined eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The bridge has been incorporated into the Laramie River Greenbelt and the railroad grade is used by residents of West Laramie to access the Greenbelt. East of Snowy Range Road, there are the remains of a Works Progress Administration constructed bathhouse and swimming pond, which were determined not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. There is also an unevaluated concrete structure near the Laramie River.

3.2.2 **Historic Resources**

Through the years a number of documents have been prepared pertaining to the history, development, and interpretation of the Historic Site. Many of these reports were prepared in the late 1980s during development of the Historic Site and Park. These include:

- “Wyoming Territorial Penitentiary Historic Structure Report”
- “Wyoming Territorial Penitentiary: Archaeology of A Complex Institution”
- “A History of the University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station Stock Farm”

Two other reports were prepared after SPHST was assigned management of the Historic Site in 2004. In preparation for doing work on the Prison Industries Building and the Warden’s Quarters the Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist wrote “Archaeological Test Excavations of the Warden’s House and Prison Industries Building, Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site, Albany County, Wyoming.” Pursuant to W.S. 36-8-1001(d), SPHST is required to develop a master plan for the Historic Site. In 2006 a draft updated master plan was developed for the Historic Site. “Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site and Park, Development and Interpretative Plan” was developed as a draft, but never formalized.

3.2.2.1 **Historic Views**

Historic views would have included the Snowy Range, the Laramie River, the Laramie Range, and the plains of the Laramie Basin. Most of these historic views, beyond the Laramie River, are no longer the same due to impacts from modern development in the area. The construction of I-80 has
significantly impacted views of the Snowy Range and the Laramie Basin. Modern developments have impacted the view of the Laramie Range from the Historic Site. Great care ought to be taken by SPHST to maintain the views of the Laramie River. Seeing the landscape whole means looking for relationships; between buildings and open spaces, between the cultural and natural landscapes. The Historic Site’s viewsheds are important to the public’s sense of place and connection to the past.

3.2.2.2 Museum Collections

The Historic Site will collect and maintain permanent and educational artifacts associated with the history, folklore, and material culture relative to the Wyoming Territorial Prison, 1872 – 1903, and the University Agricultural Experiment Station, 1903-1989. The concentration of the collection shall be between 1872 and 1990, during which time the Historic Site was utilized as a Prison and University Agricultural Experiment Station Stock Farm. This does not prohibit collecting, where deemed necessary, items which may have been found or used on the Historic Site prior to 1872 or after 1990, so long as they pertain to the exhibit goals of the Historic Site.

The Historic Site currently holds 677 objects, not including items that are considered “teaching collection” items, and library/research materials.

Roughly 400 items are “three-dimensional.” These include books, bibles and hymnals, bottles, jars, and glass items, small jewelry and personal items, decorative items, small tools, pieces of furniture, small metal items, boxes, large/medium metal items, works of art (paintings and frames), medium/large wooden signs, large farm equipment, clothing, organic items, sheep barn ventilators, medium/large jewelry and personal items, weapons (including leather holsters), toys, and a large sculpture. This portion of the collection also includes 25 oral history cassettes, CDs, and videos.

There are 260 items that are “two-dimensional.” These include cards and labels, photographs, wallpaper samples, bookmarks, music sheets, envelopes, newspaper pages, manuscripts, booklets and programs, certificates, letters, posters, large receipts, and maps.

Collection materials that are not on exhibit are stored on the second floor of the Prison Industries Building. Currently, the entire collection awaits organization, documentation, and museum quality storage. Items that are on permanent display are found in the Prison Building, Sheep Judging Pavilion, Shepherd’s Quarters, Warden’s Quarters, Ranch Cabin, Prison Industries Building, and Horse Barn.

The research library of the Historic Site is located in the south end of the upper floor of the Prison Industries Building and contains roughly 600 books pertaining to Laramie, Albany County history, Wyoming State history, penal and convict histories, agriculture and ranch history, animal and crop science history, rodeo history, early settlers, railroads, and the American West.

In addition to these books, the library contains archived editions of the following journals:
Finally, the collections area also houses archive documents and media relating to the Historic Site’s past management history as the “Wyoming Territorial Prison State Park and Historic Site” and previous to that as “Wyoming Territorial Prison and Old West Park.” Dating from 1989 to 2003, these documents include various studies, surveys and reports, photographs/VHS videos documenting park events and attractions, and correspondence regarding legislation, policy, and planning pertaining to the Park.

3.3 Biological Resources

The most notable natural features at the Historic Site are the wetlands, which provide valuable habitat for many aquatic and terrestrial species (Appendix C). No federally threatened or endangered species are known from the Historic Site.

3.3.1 Water Resources

A high water table is present north of the abandoned railroad grade and poorly drained, alkaline wetlands support greasewood, sedges, cattails, and rushes (Appendix C).

3.3.2 Wildlife Resources and Viewable Wildlife

The Wyoming toad, a federally listed endangered species, does occur to the west of the Historic Site in the Laramie Basin. State Species of General Conservation Concern (SGCN), including boreal chorus frogs and northern leopard frogs, may be present at the Historic Site. Numerous birds and mammals also inhabit the area. Several SGCN bird species that might frequent the wetlands include the bald eagle, black-crowned night heron, great blue heron, white-faced ibis, and sage grouse leks. Some of the mammals present in this area include mule deer, white-tail deer, antelope, elk, red squirrel, muskrat, beaver, mink, black-footed ferret, Preble’s meadow jumping mouse, big brown bat (SGCN), and little brown myotis (SGCN). Along the Laramie River streamside vegetation includes willows and cottonwood.

The Laramie River Interpretive Nature Trail was opened on May 1996. Sponsored by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department’s “Wildlife Worth the Watching” program, the ¼ mile long trail begins at the Prison Stockade and moves north along the Laramie River to a scenic overlook shelter at a bend in the river.

3.3.3 Fish Resources

The predominate game fish in the Laramie River are Wild Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, and Cutthroat Trout. The Laramie River also contains bottom feeding fish such as carp, sucker, and catfish. There are several native, non-game fish species that also occur within the Laramie River.
including Brassy Minnow, Common Shiner, Creek Chub, Fathead Minnow, Iowa Darter, Longnose Dace, and Longnose Sucker.

3.3.4 Vegetation

Several nonnative species have been documented along the Laramie River and may be present at the Historic Site.

3.3.4.1 Wetlands

Approximately a third of the Historic Site land is designated as wetlands or flood zone. The wetlands consist of riparian areas adjacent to the Laramie River, and the flood zone north of the abandoned Laramie and Hahn’s Peak Railroad Grade. SPHST proposes to maintain and interpret these areas for the public.

3.3.4.2 Noxious Plants

Of the nonnative species the State-Listed Noxious Weeds salt cedar, Canada thistle, cheatgrass, field bindweed, and dalmation toad flax are present in the area. A noxious weed inventory for the Historic Site has not been completed. Nonnative species are denoted in Appendix C in bold and those that are State Listed Noxious Weeds are marked with an asterisk (*).

3.4 Recreation Resources

There are ample recreation opportunities within the region that may help draw visitors to the recreational opportunities at the Historic Site.

3.4.1 Facilities/Recreation Areas

Recreational resources available at the Historic Site include pathways and walking trails, picnic area facilities, and self-guided tours. The Historic Site also contains part of a recreational outdoor Greenbelt managed by the City of Laramie.

Parking Lot: There are 202 spaces for vehicles; seven handicap parking spaces; 16 RV and/or bus parking spaces with 12 street lights in the parking lot. This is sufficient to meet the current demand of Historic Site visitors. Main vehicular entry to the Historic Site is located at Snowy Range Road (Highway 130/230) and Garfield Street. This entrance provides an inbound and outbound lane separated by an unmanned informational kiosk. The main entrance drive has five street lights. A pedestrian cross-walk moves visitors from the parking lot to Visitor Center where there are two more street lights for illumination. A second vehicular entrance is located off McCue Street and is the south access to the parking lot.
In 1992 an RV sanitary trailer dump station was installed in the south boundary of the parking lot and empties directly into the City of Laramie sewage system.

3.4.2 Accessibility

The Wyoming Territorial Prison has excellent access and visibility to and from I-80 and State Hwy 130/230. Its location is an advantage in attracting interstate travelers.

SPHST installed a sidewalk to facilitate visitor movement about the Historic Site and to allow access under the American with Disabilities Act [ADA]. Available for visitor comfort are two manual wheelchairs to assist with mobility around the Historic Site. All buildings and public restrooms are ADA accessible, complete with ramps. There are three buildings with elevators to access their respective floors - the Prison Building, the Prison Industries Building, and the Horse Barn.

3.5 Events

From 1992 – 1995, numerous events and programs were held on the grounds of the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Events were held to generate revenue and also to offer entertaining activities for local Laramie residents along with in-state/out-of-state tourists. Below is a list of those events:

- Albany County Days
- An Olde Fashioned 4th of July
- Antique Tractor Pull and Show
- Butch Cassidy Day
- Dinner Theater productions
- Frontier Festival
- Haunted Prison Tours
- 1870s vintage baseball games with Colorado Vintage Base Ball Association
- An Olde Fashioned Family Christmas Celebration
- Conversations with Wyoming Authors
- Performances by Sharp Nose Singers/Medicine Bow Dancers
- Pioneer Pals (program for children)

From 1996-2003, various events and programs were added to past favorites and others eliminated at the Historic Site under the new name of Wyoming Territorial Prison & Old West Park. Events were varied to entice new audiences to visit the Park and to generate much needed additional revenue. Below is a list of those events:

- 1870s Vintage baseball game
- A Taste of Old Wyoming
- Beer Fest
- Children’s Dinosaur Dig
- Country Jamboree
- Cowboy Poetry Gathering
- Days of the Outlaws
- Dinner Theater productions
- Fall Fest
- Frontier Festival
- Gambling Games in the Saloon
- Gold Rush Wagon Train
- Great Prison Break 5K run
- Homesteader’s Days
- Logging and Wood Working
- Lumberjack competition
- Mining Association event
- Old West Skills Exhibition
- Stock Farm Days
- Storytelling Weekend
- Territorial Horse Expo
- Territorial Sweetheart Ball
- Tractor Festival
- Transportation-Past and Present
- Vintage and Antique Car Show
- Western Heritage
• Western Heritage Gala
• Women of the West
• An Olde Fashioned Family Christmas
• Celebrations of the Native American
• Great Wyoming Outdoors Weekend
• Geological Discoveries of Southeast Wyoming
• Old West Gunfighters Gun fighting State Championships

From 2004 to 2010, events and programs were held using a combination of Wyoming Territorial Prison Historical Association volunteers and Historic Site staff. The number of events were reduced to lessen the impact on staffing and the budget. Below is a list of those events:

• Butch Cassidy Days
• Chili Cook-off
• Dinner Theater productions
• Old Fashioned Territorial Christmas
• Windy Wyoming Horse Trials (Equestrian Triathlon)

• Haunted Prison, Holiday Wine Fest
• Indian Plains War Re-Enactments
• Tribute to Horses and Their Riders
• Western Music Talent competition

• Ghost Tours of Laramie City
• Historical Lecture Series
• Kids Pumpkin Walk

Windy Wyoming Horse Trials (Equestrian Triathlon), 2010
4.1 **Historic Site Management**

The staff of the Historic Site will work to provide balanced management of various areas within the grounds to maintain and improve the overall facility. These subjects include property, structures, collections, funding, and general management.

4.1.1 **Historic Site Property Management**

SPHST will manage the Historic Site in four management areas/zones (refer to Appendix E to see a map of the management zones). These zones should be:

1. Open Space/Natural Areas;
2. Prison, Stock Farm, and other historic buildings;
3. Ranch Exhibit;
4. Isolated parcels.

4.1.2 **Structure Management**

The Wyoming Tourism Board [WTB] has expressed an interest in acquiring Frontier Town to use as a movie set. They cannot use Frontier Town in its current location due to traffic and constant noise from McCue Street and Interstate 80. The WTB is looking for another location to move Frontier Town; however they must find funding to cover the cost of moving the structures.

If Frontier Town is unable to be utilized by the WTB the buildings need to be removed except the General Store and the Saloon. The buildings to be removed are false façade structures that were not meant to be permanent structures and were not built on permanent foundations. The General Store and Saloon will no longer be surrounded by appropriate structures of a “town”, so SPHST may possibly discuss alternate/appropriate locations for the General Store and Saloon on the Historic Site.

In the current location of Frontier Town, a natural play area and family picnic area will be developed. This space is ideal to be repurposed to accommodate a much needed natural interaction area for children. Natural play spaces are the ultimate play environments and children instinctively seek out and discover ways in which to interact with and use nature. Playing in natural settings and on climbing structures allows children to find ways of challenging themselves and experience the fun and excitement of testing themselves. Combining landscape elements, movement corridors, sun paths, plant groupings, and other Historic Site amenities with carefully chosen natural materials, structures, and features would create safe, accessible, age-appropriate play, social, and learning opportunities in a natural play space that looks and feels like it’s been there forever.

The Announcer’s Stand for the former arena ought to be removed. The Historic Site will not have permanent livestock on the property, there are no plans to hold a rodeo and the arena has already been removed. The Announcer’s Stand no longer serves a purpose and needs to be removed.
The St. Mary’s of the Plains Church will be left in place. It is an historic structure that has a significant relationship with the Laramie Basin. The Church can be used to interpret the settlement and development of the Laramie Basin. The Church was moved to the Historic Site from the town of Rock River and is on a permanent foundation. It may do considerable harm to this building to try and move it again. Additionally, SPHST should attempt to develop interpretation for the Church.

In 1991, a commercial kitchen was added to the Horse Barn. The kitchen was built to support theater by offering dinner theater cooked on the Historic Site. WTPC purchased used appliances for installation. To date, none of these appliances have been replaced, except the dishwasher in 2001. During the last eight years, the kitchen has demonstrated serious deficiencies, which has resulted in constant maintenance and financial support. Since 2004, there have been three winters (2007, 2009, and 2010) where substantial pipe damage resulted in frozen or broken water pipes. Costly plumbing repairs are related to the decision not to heat the Horse Barn building year round. Due to rising utility costs, it was determined the Historic Site’s budget could not afford to keep heat on in the building at the necessary high temperature in times of sub-zero temperatures. Lower thermostat settings along with inadequate insulation in the kitchen area, resulted in serious plumbing problems. Due to the kitchen’s cinder block construction, constant monitoring is required in the winter.

Utility costs heating the entire kitchen, which was originally built to operate in the summer only, is cost prohibited. During WTPC’s management, this facility was heated year round at an enormous rate.

- The central work counter on the east end of the kitchen is a refrigeration unit that has not been operational for the past eight (8) years. The compressors on the cooler and the freezer have been replaced and in 2009 the freezer was once again repaired but currently is not operational due to a possible Freon leak.
- The marathoner ovens have been repaired on several occasions and the water softener system has been completely removed.
- Several appliances have never been used during the past eight (8) years including a grill and fryer.

The kitchen has been used during SPHST’s management sporadically. The kitchen is old and has not been maintained properly, mainly due to lack of use. To keep the kitchen requires a contract to modify the building, installation of new appliances, and installing an adequate heating system to allow year round operations. SPHST does not have the funding available to support these modifications and the ensuing maintenance and utility costs. To continue use of the kitchen, SPHST will need to have the kitchen modified and updated, utilized only during the summer operations, and contracted with a professional cleaning service to maintain the kitchen in accordance with Health Department standards.

City of Laramie, Environmental Health Division conducted their annual inspection of the Horse Barn Kitchen in August 2010. There were eight (8) violations that were discovered during the routine inspection. All will require correction before the kitchen can be reopened. In addition, the inspector remarked on numerous equipment violations from re-caulking counters to cleaning rust off equipment. See Report (Appendix L)
Dinner theater can be provided through self-contained caterers that bring food and table service to the Historic Site. In order to accommodate catered food service, the Horse Barn will need a staging area. The food preparation room on the second floor of the Horse Barn could be modified to accommodate catered food service for dinner theater.

The kitchen area should be removed. This area is currently under-utilized and would better serve the public and the Historic Site by repurposing that space. One sink and the restroom ought to be maintained in this area, along with a representative sample of the dinnerware. Surplus kitchen equipment and dinnerware is to be offered to appropriate non-profit organizations. If SPHST cannot find interested non-profit organizations, they will attempt to sale any surplus kitchen items. The former kitchen could be used for, up to a three year period, an exhibit preparation area/work shop until new and remodeled exhibits are completed for the Historic Site. The space might possibly then be utilized as a temporary/traveling exhibit space and/or multi-purpose area.

The Horse Barn Theater ought to continue to operate as a seasonal theater. A theater board may possibly be developed to provide counsel on managing the theater and productions. SPHST could put out a Request For Proposal nationally and enter into a contract with a professional artistic managing director. The artistic managing director will be responsible for all components of theater operation.

- The director will be responsible for booking performances beyond theater productions to ensure continued use of the theater during the summer season.
- The director will be responsible for writing grants and generating enough revenue to pay their salary.
- The theater needs to also be promoted for use by the City of Laramie, the University, and the surrounding community for a variety of public and/or private activities.

The theater production companies should move away from preparing food on-site and could provide dinner theater through catered food service. If the horse barn cannot continue to be used as a theater, it possibly will be used as a visitor orientation and meeting space.

4.1.3 Collection Management

SPHST needs to review the artifact collection policy to determine if it accurately reflects the mission of the Historic Site.

SPHST needs to ensure that the Historic Site has appropriate collections storage facilities and equipment and develop a Collections Storage Plan for the Historic Site. This is a viable way to examine all the options for storing the Historic Site’s collections while addressing conservation, preservation, and security.

- Replace inadequate shelving with state of the art collection-care system. Collections storage renovation and expansion will improve storage capacity for artifacts and archives and handle future acquisition growth.
- Design critical habitat for collections use with a curator processing area. Focus on preventive conservation.

The Historic Site’s collection storage, documentation, and location inventory of archives and collections ought to be reorganized for better accessibility.
4.1.4 Funding

Historic Site operations, maintenance, and staffing needs are critical to proper management. All three items need strong budget support. SPHST should investigate every opportunity to generate revenue for the Historic Site. The following is a list of previous, current, and/or proposed funding sources:

- Albany County Facilities Tax
- Building Rental
- Grants (i.e. Save America’s Treasures, TEAL, CLG, etc.)
- Land Sales/Leases
- Legislative Appropriations
- Major Maintenance Account
- Private Donations (general public and corporations)
- SPHST Capital Enterprise Fund—
- Friends Groups (fundraising, merchandise sales, etc.)
- Wyoming Territorial Prison Capital Enterprise Account

4.1.5 General

No camping to be allowed at the Historic Site, with exception for the Historic Site’s site hosts and special event participants.

The area between McCue Street and Interstate 80 ought to be maintained as an open space. Attempts shall be made to use landscaping, or hard-scaping (i.e. fencing, art in public places, transportation enhancements), to soften the entrance and act as a buffer for the Historic Site. SPHST could consider appropriate development, Visitor Center/Interagency Offices, through a lease agreement following the rules and regulations outlined in the SPHST Concessions Manual. In this case, SPHST would own the improvements and lease to an interested party. Such a lease must be done for the benefit of the Historic Site and care needs to be taken to protect the historic integrity. Excluding easements, no sale or transfer of land will be considered for this or any other parcel of land on the Historic Site.

The Historic Site is compliant with ADA standards and is equipped with restrooms, drinking fountains, and benches for visitors. Currently, there are two manual wheelchairs to assist in visitor mobility. Future demands include purchasing two motorized scooters to offer better mobility of visitors around the Historic Site. Accessible interpretation for people with disabilities shall be offered. All public buildings, interpretive exhibits and signage will meet ADA standards. SPHST staff is investigating the potential of installing audio tours for visually impaired visitors. The Visitor Center provides visitors information on local and state tourist attractions, lodging, restaurants, etc.
There are two billboards on the Historic Site, one billboard is located on the railroad right-of-way and the other billboard is on the northwest corner of the property. Oversight of leasing the billboards will be by SPHST and the lease monies from one billboard are deposited to the SPHST Capital Enterprise Account. The other billboard is on property not owned by SPHST, but currently it is being reviewed by the legislature to be acquisitioned.

The National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Historic Site needs to be amended to include the structural changes to the Prison Building, Prison Industries Building, and Warden’s Quarters, and include the Stock Farm, its buildings and surrounding landscape.

By statute, SPHST is required to collect fees when users are on SPHST property. Greenbelt users are exempt from fees as part of the Greenbelt Easement. The remainder of the 195 acres of the Historic Site should be a fee area. When it floods under Snowy Range Road, Greenbelt users enter the Historic Site and exit through the parking lot. The City of Laramie indicated they will look at this and try to develop some fencing to alleviate this issue. Possible buck and pole fencing along Greenbelt would help minimize egress onto the Historic Site.

SPHST might encourage fee system compliance for those leaving the Greenbelt to enter the Historic Site by placing fee canisters (iron rangers) at key locations. The public has entered the Historic Site from the Greenbelt without paying fees during the regular season and events.

4.2 Natural Resource Management

Our goal is to increase visitor enjoyment of the Historic Site, and additionally provide an opportunity for understanding natural resources and their historic significance. Priorities for conservation and evaluating natural resource management practices are identified below, including Open Space, the Laramie River Greenbelt, and Animal/Plant Concerns.

4.2.1 Open Space

The wetlands north of railroad ROW needs to be maintained as an open space and natural area. The area north of RR ROW, east of I-80, and west of McCue will have permanent easement for short-term storage of floodwater. This area can be maintained, preserved, and improved as a wetland along with its related ecosystems. The effect of the Laramie River Greenbelt management on the Historic Site might possibly be evaluated. A nature walk with interpretative signage should be developed for this area.

A natural resource inventory of the Historic Site ought to be developed, with a strategy for protection of unique and historical resources, and a plan for management of natural resources that will maintain and/or improve health. Management projects must emphasize native vegetation.

4.2.2 Greenbelt

The legal description in the Greenbelt Easement does not include the full extent of Greenbelt. This needs to be corrected. Further, the City of Laramie has posted signs to keep dogs on leash, and this will be followed.
SPHST is in the process of acquiring formal title to the RR ROW. Once this is completed, a long term easement should be developed with the City of Laramie to incorporate the RR ROW into the City’s Greenbelt system. The section of the Greenbelt within the Historic Site ought to be surfaced with natural materials and have interpretation related to the history of the railroad. This interpretative project aims to create a theme related path for cyclists and walkers. It could give a deeper and diverse insight into the Historic Site’s past. The Greenway must comply with the ADA, if this is unable to be accomplished with natural materials, colored pavement may possibly be investigated. The public can be provided free access to the Greenway, but not to the remainder of the Historic Site. A buck and pole fence should be installed on both sides of the Greenway with signs indicating the public is entering the Historic Site and to stay on the trail. As part of the easement agreement, the City will be responsible for development of the Greenway, maintenance of Greenway, fencing and signs.

4.2.3 Animal/Plant Concerns

SPHST needs to prepare an inventory and treatment strategy for control of noxious weeds and other invasive plants, inventory and map vegetation types and species and prepare a “desired future condition” statement to guide management plans, and conduct a surface and subsurface soil inventory.

The Historic Site needs to manage tree areas for public safety and tree health conditions, replace trees with 10’ saplings rather than seedlings, manage grassland areas to maintain healthy stands by grazing, mowing, burning, etc., and improve irrigation of tree plantings.

A road need and management plan should be prepared, improving desired roads by gravel surfacing, and for roads not needed, rip the topsoil and re-seed with native grass.

SPHST needs to develop a means to deal with any sensitive, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species discovered on the Historic Site and determine species plan for the Historic Site by identifying what trees, plants, and vegetation were native to the area. Create landscaping plan for the Historic Site’s structures that include regional species.

4.3 Visitor Opportunities

The Wyoming Territorial Prison will engage visitors through clear orientation and introduction, entertaining tours, and educational opportunities, resources for non-traditional visitors to discover the Historic Site, programs and events about the Prison era, Law and Justice, Wyoming Territorial history, and the University Agricultural Experiment Station history. The entire Historic Site should have an interpretive plan and an exhibit plan to guide the interpretation and exhibiting efforts with primary and secondary focuses. Each Historic Site structure needs to have a furnishing plan to also guide exhibiting.

- Primary focus will be on two themes; the Prison era and the Stock Farm era.
- Secondary focus should be on the following themes: historic preservation and adaptive reuse, natural history and the ranch exhibit including the church. This would include interpreting the related buildings and grounds by utilizing surviving structures and illustrating structures that were removed with interpretive signs and building footprints.

4.3.1 Orientation and Introduction

A visitor orientation space may possibly be created in the Horse Barn Theater (upper level). The Historic Site Staff might look into producing introductory film in-house or through outsourc contracting. Also, a new interpretive DVD for the Wyoming Territorial Prison that is a production of a 10-12 minute introductory, closed-captioned, DVD about the history should be developed. The DVD
could also provide interpretation for visitors with disabilities by showing images of the entire Historic Site’s buildings, wetlands ecosystem, and by being closed captioned. After viewing the film, visitors will begin their self-guided tour. This space can also be an area that large scheduled group tours gather to receive information before beginning their guided tour.

4.3.2 Visitor Tour Management

All visitors touring the Historic Site will experience a fun, interactive, and informative tour that explores the primary interpretive themes of Law and Justice in the Wyoming Territory through the Prison Building, along with interpretive messages through the Historic Site transitioning from a Prison era to the University Agricultural Experiment Station era. The tour shall include elements of the secondary themes, settlers in early Wyoming, natural history, historic preservation, and adaptive re-use.

Creative programs for adults and families presented at the Historic Site will offer opportunities for visitors to explore aspects of the vast history.

Re-write the Historic Site’s existing general audiences tour. In addition to factual information, tours might include interesting true-life stories related to the Historic Site’s interpretive themes. The stories, which could be related to specific artifacts, lawmen, prisoners, specific buildings, or territorial history, will be taken from a variety of sources. Interpretation uses many different elements of the history and material culture to illustrate and reinforce essential concepts, including animated, engaging delivery techniques in all interpretive media to stimulate visitors’ curiosity and interest.

A distinct visitor flow needs to be developed and defined between the Historic Site’s different thematic eras on the grounds. Research ought to be done to utilize better signage, maps, guiding materials, etc.

Modern technologies should be integrated into the tour experience. Adding touch screen computer kiosks in the Prison Building, Horse Barn, etc. for additional historical information will be useful to visitors. IPod tours can be created and downloaded to focus on a more technological focused visitor. SPHST needs to investigate other technology, such as cell phone audio tours, that might be beneficial to the visitor and also financially feasible for the Historic Site. Visitors are currently asking for this type of technology, which would add another dimension to their experience at the Historic Site.

4.3.3 Educational Opportunities

New student tours and programs should be developed that correspond to Wyoming State Curricular Standards.

- Develop thematic school tours that focus on the Prison era, the University Agricultural Experiment Station era, and Wyoming Territorial history. Tours can also be a combination of two themes as well. Staff will offer educators a choice of tours to best fit their area of study. Move away from the “show all and tell all” type of tour.
• Develop tours that teachers can conduct themselves if they choose to. Territorial history is one such tour. This may be beneficial for educators when teaching Wyoming Territorial History which might focus on territory versus statehood.

• Revise third grade and under tours to include props students can touch during their visit, an activity during their visit, and a post activity to complete back in their classroom.

• Revise fourth through sixth grades tour to include an activity using copies of primary documents, or another activity related to the Wyoming Territorial Prison history. The activity will take place in the Prison Dining Room or in the lower level of the Horse Barn, depending on the theme of tour.

Summer courses relating to the Historic Site could be developed for school teachers. These courses would be conducted in coordination with the school district and count for continuing education credits.

A research library may possibly be developed on the second floor of the Prison Industries Building. The WTP Research Library could contain primary and secondary research materials that pertain to the Historic Site, other similar facilities, law enforcement, corrections and rehabilitation in the U.S. The WTP Research Library will be available to the public by appointment.

4.3.4 Web-Based Visitation/Education

SPHST needs to add an interpretive component to the Historic Site website. Creating an interactive, interpretive component for the website would be very useful. Activities might include short video clips, access to primary documents, prisoner processing photos and a brief description of their crime, and educational pieces that teachers can utilize in the classroom, (i.e. lesson plans that demonstrate which State standards and benchmarks are met or enhanced through study of the history of the Historic Site). Also, virtual tours of buildings using photographs and short interpretive labels should be included. Finally, the website could include user-activated learning opportunities, for example, user-driven exploration into prisoner cells, and the objects they might find therein.

4.3.5 Programs, Events, and Services

The Historic Site may host or participate in events that will attract visitors to explore the primary and secondary interpretive themes of the Historic Site. Some of these events shall be planned for the public while others could be designed for specific audiences such as students, adults, senior citizens, etc.

The Historic Site could host discussion forums and/or workshops focused on Historic Site related themes.

The Historic Site staff should develop informative and enjoyable programs related to one or more of the Historic Site’s interpretive themes.

• Continue to offer Dr. May Preston Slosson Lecture Series during the summer season.

• Create new program/event to be held each April as a spring launch for the season opening.
• Create a “floor to ceiling” experience for visitors. Identify techniques that will immerse the visitors within the exhibitions - engaging the visitors’ five senses.

Limited concessions could be provided for the public at the visitor center. The Historic Site may consider adding to current inventory of candy some snack chips, dried fruit, nuts, granola bars, ice cream bars, freeze pops, microwave pretzels, etc. Food and beverage ought to include items that can be stored for long periods of time and do not require on-site preparation. Promotion of the Historic Site’s family picnic area for visitors who bring in their own food shall be done.

Many citizens are attracted to the mystery of crimes and this is one reason why they choose to visit the Territorial Prison. The Historic Site should provide a unique visitor experience by giving rides in a prison wagon. This would be a generational experience for families and serves as a people mover, transporting the visitor around the Historic Site or by bridging the distance between the Prison Building and the wetlands interpretative area. It could serve as a mobility enhancing option for those who wish to see the Historic Site but are unable to walk that distance. And finally it serves as an interpretative tool where visitors will get a full sensory experience by setting the mood and tone of a prison. The goal is to give edginess to the Prison era story, humanize the convicts’ stories and extend the interpretative theme of the Prison Building itself. The prison wagon can provide visitors a sense of what it was like to be transported to the Prison Building. The prison wagon rides may possibly be conducted by on-site staff, but ideally a driver with team of horses could be hired under a concession contract agreement. In addition, funding must be found to restore the prison wagon to working condition. This might generate an excellent marketing opportunity for the Historic Site by offering a specific activity that visitors cannot find anywhere else in region.

The use of volunteers will continue to be emphasized and further opportunities in the Program and Events category shall be evaluated.

4.3.6 Historic Site Interpretation

SPHST and staff need to organize the Historic Site’s interpretive content. Good interpretation requires an understanding of the history of the Wyoming Territorial Prison, familiarity with its contextual history, and in-depth knowledge of the content-related strengths and weaknesses of the Historic Site, its stories, and its collections. Statements of Significance that clearly define the most important things about the Historic Site’s resources and values should be created. Primary Interpretive Themes that are the key ideas ought to be stated through which the Historic Site’s significant resource values will be conveyed to the public.

Effective interpretation will accomplish the following for the Historic Site.

• Interpret the most important things first.

• Serve as the doorway through which visitors may begin to understand and appreciate the significance of the Historic Site’s story.

• Forge tighter connections between resources management and visitors.
• Foster stewardship of Historic Site resources, especially in the local community.

• Provide an opportunity for visitors to understand and appreciate the value and significance of the Historic Site’s resources.

The Ranchland area can be retained, but the name shall be changed to Ranch Exhibit. Interpretative themes should be developed to tie the exhibit to the Historic Site. This may include discussing the role of prison convicts and agriculture, and interpreting territorial Wyoming history and the University Agricultural Experiment Station facilities and landscape.

Interpretative information and history on the University Agricultural Experiment Station era might be exhibited in the Horse Barn. Additionally, the evolution of the University Agricultural Experiment Station into a State Historic Site can be interpreted. The theater may possibly be used as a Historic Site introduction video viewing area during the day for visitors.

Development of the natural history interpretation in Open Space/Natural Area ought to be done by SPHST. Interpretive elements need to be developed in concert so messages have unity in design to create an identity for the interpretive theme and to fit into the Historic Site. Open space/Natural Areas preserve, enhance and restore, maintain and/or improve the natural, scenic, ecological, cultural, hydrological, or geological values of the Historic Site.

Effective natural history interpretation guides visitors to more deeply and thoughtfully exploration of the Historic Site’s sense of place. Natural history interpretation is a walk or presentation that takes place outside, and its subject matter related to the immediate environment. Additionally, in the spirit of interpretation, the tour guides not only provide information about the landscape or ecosystem, but also use that landscape to inspire and educate the audience toward deeper "meanings and relationships". Maintaining these open spaces and natural settings and providing a diverse system of land and recreational resources while preserving the historical character of the Historic Site will be the objective.

Better interpretive and directional signage should be developed for the Historic Site grounds.

4.4 Development
To help accomplish many of the goals proposed, restoration, construction and development shall take place on the Historic Site. This will include creating distinct areas, such as entry to the Historic Site, and enhancing current structures, which provide easier movement through the grounds. Signage and new features to promote the Historic Site are being suggested.

4.4.1 Entry to Historic Site

To create a better sense of entry to the Historic Site, many facets will be developed, including a boundary fence, seeking ways to screen traffic, installing living snow fence along Interstate 80 and Snowy Range Road, and developing landscaping/beautification along McCue Street.

More specifically, a perimeter fence needs to be installed around the Historic Site property to give the public a sense of what is, and is not, Historic Site property. A buck and pole fence is recommended for the north and east property boundaries/open space boundaries. Installation of a buck and pole fence on both sides of the new Greenbelt that extends on the railroad grade might be developed. Also, installing a buck and pole to the west of the section of Greenbelt that parallels the river is recommended. Further,
installing a stone/concrete and iron fencing and a prominent entrance will help to delineate Historic Site areas.

Install significant Historic Site entrance signage at the parking lot entrance. This should be either red brick or wrought iron in design to enhance the theme. Bricks were made at the Wyoming Territorial Prison for many years and used in the construction of the Prison Building. The combination of brick and iron will be long lasting, low maintenance, and gives visitors the cold feeling of incarceration as they approach the Historic Site.

On each end of McCue Street, signs must be erected at Historic Site boundaries that say: “Now entering Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site.” The reverse side of these signs will read: “You are now leaving Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site.” Purpose of these directional signs is to educate the public that when they are driving on McCue Street they are in fact on Historic Site property not city property.

4.4.2 Current Structures

Evaluating the current Visitor Center building for adequate usage and for future growth necessities shall be done. Originally constructed as a double house living quarters for the Stock Farm employees, the building has been adapted for its current use but is poorly designed for this use. A new Visitor Center may need to be constructed to replace using this historic building.

A large building constructed at a centralized location in the immediate proximity of the parking area could house administrative offices, a visitor center, and a museum. This state-of-the-art facility would allow the Historic Site to provide interpretive content, an administrative structure, and a level of visitor services that appropriately represent and support a historic site of national significance. The visitor center and museum will serve as the sole point of entry for the Historic Site.

The Visitor Center Building will include-

- **Administrative Area:**
  A 10,000-12,000 sq. ft. administrative area, including offices for the various staff members, a conference room, a server and/or communications room, private restroom facilities, and a kitchenette. The administrative area will be closed to the public.

- **Visitor Services Area:**
  Historic Site information, gift shop, concessions, first aid care, and public restroom facilities will be available in a large reception area near the public entrance to the Visitor Center.

- **Museum/Theatre:**
The 2,000-3,000 sq. ft. museum will include permanent and rotating exhibits that interpret the role and significance of the Prison era, University Agricultural Experiment Station era within the larger context of Wyoming, and U.S. history. The museum shall also provide an introduction and unified context for the Historic Site’s other interpretive areas.

4.4.3 Signage

Updated signage needs to be installed. Design of effective signage that advertises and provides direction to the Historic Site should be done. Creating signage that complements the architectural character and essence of the history will attract new visitors.

The Historic Site needs to have prominent entrance signs at both parking lot accesses. Envision a design of durable materials such as red brick with wrought iron to enhance the Prison era theme.

Historic buildings need interpretive signs to present information to visitor. These should be installed low to the ground level, yet elevated at least 18” and sloped toward the reader.

Directional signs need to be placed on the Historic Site’s grounds to help with visitor flow. Installing advanced weather-resistant signs on walkways helps assist visitors in finding various historic features and different exhibit eras on the Historic Site. Use of universal symbols on all directional signs will be necessary.

All WYDOT brown highway/interstate directional signs need to be changed to reflect 2010 WY State Statute §36-8-1001 declaring the Historic Site to be known as “Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site. Signs to read: “Wyoming Territorial Prison State Historic Site” removing Old West Park.

4.4.4 New Features

A scenic pullout area on the west side of the Snowy Range Road in front of the Prison Building ought to be designed. Currently, travelers are pulling over onto the side of the road in this area, causing some traffic concerns. A well designed roadside stop will give tourists a glimpse of the Historic Site and create photographic opportunities. Also, installation of interpretative signage at this location would help explain the historic view-shed.

4.5 Partnerships and Promotion

SPHST will work to promote the Historic Site through updated brochures, the SPHST website, signage, working with partner agencies and organizations, advertising on the highway radio network, utilizing print media inserts, working with Wyoming TV stations, and working to develop a heritage corridor along Interstate 80.

4.5.1 Partnerships
Recognizing the significance of the Historic Site in the tourism plans of Albany County and the state of Wyoming, SPHST will continue to collaborate with the Laramie Chamber of Commerce, the Albany County Tourism Board, and Wyoming Tourism Board to evaluate the Historic Site's economic impact.

The Historic Site desires to have a Friends Group which shall work with the site superintendent, site staff, and senior management for the betterment of the historic site. Examples of activities could include, but are not limited to, fund-raising, selling merchandise on the Historic site, volunteering, and co-sponsoring community events with site staff. The Friends Group acts as a liaison between their members, the state, and the community at large to enhance relationships, seek new opportunities for the site, and continue to strive to make this a positive partnership for all involved.

SPHST shall review the City of Laramie’s Master Plan and Transportation Plan to determine any potential interactions with the Historic Site.

The Historic Site should fully utilize the staff, students, and facilities of the University for the development of the interpretive plan and obtaining interns for interpretation, collection management, research, etc. Partnering with the University for museum interns to research archives on primary and secondary interpretative themes would be beneficial for both parties.

The Historic Site will continue to work with educational programs, such as Albany County School District, to do archaeology day/excavation, History Day, building techniques/maintenance, etc.

The Historic Site needs to create and develop special focus tours for the Wyoming Territorial Prison. Some ideas include:

- Working with local organizations (such as University of Wyoming, etc.) or State personnel to create an interactive architectural tour for adults.

- Working with regional organizations or individuals and State personnel to create historic tours within the vicinity, such as barn tours, historic homes, and ranch tours.

- Offering “Theory Tour” which explores the work of major social theorists as their work pertains to penal institutions and how their theories apply to the Historic Site.

- Partnering with local 4-H and FFA groups to create “Pens and the Pen” tour exploring how historic buildings were adapted for reuse as agricultural research facilities. Working with these groups to periodically bring animals on-site to display for the public.

Partnering agencies and organizations could include the following:

- Albany and Laramie County School Districts
- Albany County Historic Preservation Commission
- Albany County Museum Coalition
- Albany County Tourism
- Albany County/Wyoming State Historical Society
- City of Laramie Main Street
- Colorado/Wyoming Association of Museums
- Laramie Motel Association
- Laramie Chamber of Commerce
- Local libraries
- Office of the Wyoming State Archaeologist
- Rest areas (Wyoming Travel & Tourism Board and Wyoming Department of Transportation)
- Scenic Byways (Wyoming Department of Transportation)
- Tracks Across Wyoming
- University of Wyoming (i.e. Office of Public Relations and Information, College of Agriculture newsletter, Branding Iron Newspaper, UW Alumni Magazine, etc.)
- West Laramie Business Association
- Work with the Highway Advisory Radio System (HARS)
- Wyoming Travel and Tourism Board

SPHST must continue to develop and maintain partnerships with the University (i.e. American Studies program, History Department, College of Agriculture Animal Science Department, Anthropology Department, etc.), State entities (i.e. Department of Education, etc.), City/County Government, Laramie Main Street Program, Wyoming Frontier Prison Museum, other museums, historic associations and cultural institutions in the area and build on those partnerships. Developing new partnerships with other agricultural organizations (i.e. Wyoming Stock Growers Association, Wyoming Wool Growers Association, etc.) would help promote the Historic Site’s goals.

The Historic Site needs to utilize and expand on existing sources of volunteers (i.e. University of Wyoming, Wyoming Conservation Corps, AmeriCorps, WyoTech, Laramie County Community College, cultural institutions, Cathedral Home, citizens groups, etc.).

Work will be continued on archeology field classes involving the University Lab School and expansion of the program should be conducted to include other middle schools in the region.

To expand and utilize the volunteer program effectively, the Historic Site needs a strong volunteer coordinator who is organized, passionate, and can supervise diverse groups of people. This person will be responsible for a Historic Site volunteer recognition program.

4.5.2 Promotion

SPHST has a Public Information Office [PIO]. Historic Site staff will work with the PIO to handle the website, radio studio, videographer, newspaper releases, graphic design, etc. Additionally, the PIO should ensure the website is linked to other suitable websites.

SPHST needs to expand on branding for the Historic Site. Further, there ought to be promotion on new developments that have happened at the Historic Site and new management. An additional suggestion is to have an annual free day for local citizens.

Marketing and promotional activities as well as other outreach efforts can generate a growth in the Historic Site’s visitation numbers. In addition, as the Historic Site gains local and national exposure, it will draw new visitors from the sizable tourist traffic visiting nearby popular national parks.
4.6 Future Plans and Studies

In August 2004, SPHST hired Carter & Burgess, Inc. to perform a detailed condition survey of the transportation assets within Wyoming State Parks. Wyoming Territorial Prison Site Roadway Classification Score is 1.7 miles of Class VI Restricted (General) and 0.12 miles of Class IV Special Purpose. Road Types: Paved parking lot, gravel roads used as pedestrian trails in the Historic Site, park staff roads and maintenance roads, surrounding roads are City of Laramie, some two-track maintenance roads on north end of property.

Historic Site staff recommends a Travel Management Study on current road system, defining roads and replacing road base. Removing all other roads/paths not pertinent to pedestrian travel and roads that are redundant to Historic Site operations and visitor experience will create a better flow.

Each structure needs to have a furnishing plan and interpretative plan to guide exhibiting.

There should be a defined and developed visitor flow between the Historic Site’s different thematic eras on the grounds. Investigating and utilizing better signage, maps, guiding materials, etc. can make the flow easier to understand. Further, a Visitor Flow Management Study ought to be developed to avoid excessive queues at the Historic Site’s entrance. This will manage capacity and flow at the Historic Site, improve security at the front desk, and increase the service level towards the visitor.

SPHST might expand on the system for evaluating the type of visitor and visitor experience at the Historic Site. This shall include an evaluation of underserved audiences which may be developed for growth. SPHST staff could develop an exit survey specifically for the Historic Site. This survey will be created in coordination with the SPHST headquarters staff to ensure it can be utilized in conjunction with existing survey data and is administered in a statistically valid way. Further, a Visitor Plan for increased visitation amenities should be developed. Studying visitation patterns ought to provide input to understand when and how visitors use the Historic Site. This study might help identify visitor impacts: noise conflicts, trash, and vandalism. Targeting awareness programs should focus on local or out-of-town visitors, programming, and marketing. Also, an evaluation on current staffing levels needs to be done to see if increased visitation is being adequately handled.
5.1 Implementation Tasks

Implementation of the Master Plan will be divided into short range and long range goals. Short range goals may consist of smaller projects that are accomplished with available funds, staff in-kind, or volunteers. Short range goals can also consist of management actions, visitor opportunities, partnerships, and promotional activities. Typically short range projects are to be completed within four years of finalization of the Master Plan. The Historic Site’s operation and maintenance account and Capital Enterprise account are available to fund short range goals.

Long range goals may typically require a legislative appropriation or other significant source of funding. These projects will normally be accomplished by a professional contractor and should take at least four years after the finalization of the Master Plan to complete.

Short Term Goals

Year One
In the first year, the Historic Site ought to be able to implement most of the management recommendations outlined in the Master Plan that do not require funding. This includes items, such as, implementing the four management zones, reviewing existing policies, managing the theater, Greenbelt issues, and partnership and funding opportunities.

Year Two
In the second year, the Historic Site should be able to implement many of the smaller projects that do not require legislative appropriations or extensive environmental review. This includes items such as, installing fee canisters, developing a natural resource inventory, and developing interpretative and exhibit plans.

Years Three to Four
Many of the items that are accomplished in years three to four may require a contractor, but are small enough in scale they can be funded through existing financing sources. These include items, such as, creating a visitor orientation space in the Horse Barn, developing boardwalks in the open space/natural area, implementing the interpretation and exhibit plans, removing many of the buildings from Frontier Town, removing the kitchen from the Horse Barn, and completing many of the plans proposed in Section 4.6 Future Plans and Studies.

Long Term Goals

Many of the long term goals might require a considerable investment on the part of the State of Wyoming. Given the State’s current financial condition, it is likely it will be at least five years before funding is available to implement extensive projects. This includes most of the items recommended under Section 4.4 Development. Long term goals can also include items that carry a considerable cost such as revising the National Register of Historic Places nomination and purchasing museum collection compact storage system. SPHST ought to look into other ways of accomplishing these goals such as partnering with the University to revise the NRHP nomination.

5.2 Funding

Funds come from a combination of sources, including the SPHST Capital Enterprise Account and the Historic Site being the only facility in the SPHST system that is allowed to retain entrance revenue. These funds are deposited into a Trust In Agency Account. All other revenue generated at the Historic Site, including money generated from facility rental and leases and donations to use the waste dump station are deposited into the SPHST Capital Enterprise Account. In addition to this, the Historic Site can receive legislative appropriations, private donations, and revenue generated by the friends group and interest on the endowment and investment accounts.
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A History of the University of Wyoming Agricultural Experiment Station Stock Farm by Robert G. Rosenberg. September 1989.


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