

FORT WASHAKIE, BUILDING NO. 70  
(Civilian Conservation Corps, Indian  
Division, Building No. 4)  
Sacajawea Circle  
Fort Washakie  
Fremont County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-107-D

HABS  
WYO  
7-FOWA,  
ID-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225

United States Department of the Interior  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

HABS  
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Fort Washakie,  
 Building No. 70  
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STATE Wyoming		COUNTY Fremont	TOWN OR VICINITY Fort Washakie
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division Building No. 4 (CCC-ID #4) (Wind River Agency Building Records)			HABS NO. WY-107-D
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Building No. 70 (current name)			
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) Sacajawea Circle, Fort Washakie, Wyoming			
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1936 (Wind River Agency Building Records)		ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Unknown; standard government building plans	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) See continuation sheet			
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Depression Era-World War II Military Mobilization Architecture			
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Wood frame with poured concrete foundation			
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCE. See attached floor plan			
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE See continuation sheet			
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) None except full basement (see attached floor plan)			
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES pressed wood lap siding replaced original dark brown stained wood siding in mid-1960s; asphalt shingles replaced original wood roof shingles at unknown date; aluminum storm windows and doors installed at unknown date			
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Good condition; in use as agency employee housing			
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The Bureau of Indian Affairs will move Building Nos. 67-74 to other locations on the Reservation. Foundations will be filled in, landscaped, and the lots will remain vacant.			
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDE LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) See continuation sheet			
COMPILER AFFILIATION			

CONTINUATION SHEET

SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE).

Building No. 70 is a contributing element to the Fort Washakie Historic District, which is enrolled on the National Register of Historic Places. The Fort Washakie Historic District is a small community within the Wind River Indian Reservation. The Fort was constructed in 1871 to serve as a minor military post to administer to and protect the Shoshone Indian tribe on the newly created reservation. In this capacity, Fort Washakie was a typical nineteenth century frontier post that also served as a base for launching military campaigns against the Plains Indians during the 1870s. Shoshone Indians served as scouts in several of the campaigns, including the Battle of the Rosebud in 1876, and against Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce in 1877. In 1878, the Shoshone were joined by the Arapaho, who have shared the reservation with them ever since. Perhaps the most famous personage connected with Fort Washakie was Chief Washakie, the loved and respected chief of the Shoshone. He negotiated two early treaties in 1863 and 1868 that allowed westward migration through ancestral tribal lands and settled his people on the Wind River Reservation. He thereby secured for them at least a portion of their ancestral lands, averting inevitable bloodshed and perhaps more severe treatment at the hands of the United States Government. In return for his peaceful leadership, Fort Washakie was named for the famous chief in 1878. In 1883, President Chester A. Arthur visited the old chief on the Wind River Reservation. Fort Washakie settled into an uneventful military routine at the conclusion of the Indian Wars and was finally abandoned by the military in 1909.

Ownership was transferred to the Department of the Interior and Fort Washakie became the new Indian Agency in 1913. The old military buildings were occupied by the agency, and during the twentieth century many new buildings were constructed, especially during the Great Depression under New Deal Programs. Twentieth century agency history has been concerned with the slow, painful process of helping the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes become more self-sufficient and increasing their standard of living and economic opportunity. The transformation from a nomadic hunting society to a sedentary farming culture has been fraught with painful adjustments. The changing philosophy and resulting uneven policies of the federal government toward the American Indian since the nineteenth century has often retarded the process. In recent years, the government has granted the Indians more control over their destiny by encouraging them to take over more of the management decisions and to participate in the formulation of economic goals. The historic buildings that remain at Fort Washakie--the nineteenth century stone and adobe military structures, the early agency buildings, and

## CONTINUATION SHEET

the Depression Era-World War II housing and warehouses--represent several periods and types of distinctive architecture that often employed locally available materials and labor. The Fort Washakie Historic District, therefore, embodies the nineteenth century military-Indian conflict in the American West, and the government plan that slowly evolved during the next one hundred years for administering to and providing for the Native Americans it had displaced.

Building No. 70 represents a component of one of the major building programs at Fort Washakie that began in the 1930s. Most of these buildings resulted from Depression Era-New Deal federal programs, such as the Indian Emergency Conservation Work (IECW) Act of March 31, 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps-Indian Division (CCC-ID), created in 1934, and other Public Works Administration (PWA) and Soil Conservation programs. These programs provided on-the-job training for Indians on the reservation. They carried out such varied projects as highway and telephone construction, increased water development, fire protection, forest improvement, and range management. In 1936, the IECW was allocated over \$265,000, a part of which was used to construct facilities for the CCC-ID organizations at the Agency. Supervisory employe housing, including Building Nos. 67-74, and a commissary and equipment building (Nos. 57 and 64) were constructed using CCC-ID labor on the western perimeter of Fort Washakie. After World War II, the cottages continued to be used for Agency personnel until the present.

CCC housing used standardized para-military plans with modifications for differing climates. The buildings were constructed with cheap materials and were designed to be easily moved, modified, or enlarged, and to serve a number of different functions. This style is perhaps best described as World War II era mobilization architecture. As such, no attempt was made to instill the symbolic and permanent character of the earlier traditional military architecture at Fort Washakie. In fact, most CCC camps were built for temporary purposes and were torn down after World War II.

Building No. 70 contributes to the Fort Washakie Historic District as a good example of Depression Era-World War II mobilization architecture (National Register Criterion C). It is also associated with the history of the Wind River Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and their associated functions in administering federal programs to the Shoshone and Arapaho tribes that share the reservation (National Register Criterion A).

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EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE

Building Nos. 67-74 are grouped together in an ell-shaped configuration facing Sacajawea Circle. They have small, fenced yards planted with shrubs and small-to-medium trees. Building No. 70 is a one-story, five-room frame cottage with gable roof covered with asphalt shingles. It has a poured concrete foundation and basement. The exterior walls are covered with pressed wood lap siding with a baked-on pastel-colored finish. There is an enclosed wrap-around leanto porch built onto the south and west elevations that encloses the main entrance and a separate basement and kitchen entry. The porch also forms a fifth room in the interior. There is a set of cement steps, landing, and metal railings leading up to the main entrance. The windows consist of 1 over 1-light and 4 over 4-light double-hung windows set in wood frames with plain surrounds. The basement windows are above grade. Aluminum storm windows and doors have been installed on the building.

CONTINUATION SHEET

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- Buecker, Thomas R. "Letters From a Post Surgeon's Wife." Annals of Wyoming 53 (Fall 1981): 44-63.
- Hebard, Grace Raymond. Washakie. Cleveland: The Arthur C. Clark Company, 1930.
- Trenholm, Virginia Cole, and Carley, Maurine. The Shoshonis, Sentinels of the Rockies. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1964.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. Board of Indian Commissioners Annual Reports. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1930, 1931.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. Bureau of Indian Affairs. History and Economy of the Indians of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming. Report No. 106, Missouri River Basin Investigations Staff, Billings Area Office. Billings, Montana: Bureau of Indian Affairs.
- \_\_\_\_\_. The Montana-Wyoming Indian. Billings Area Office. Billings, Montana: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1965.
- \_\_\_\_\_. American Indian Tribes of Montana and Wyoming. Report No. 262, Planning Support Group. Billings, Montana: Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1978.
- Wheeler, Col. Homer W., "Reminiscences of Old Fort Washakie." Annals of Wyoming 1(April 15, 1924): 1-5.

Collections

- Bureau of Indian Affairs Building Records, Wind River Agency Building, Fort Washakie, Wyoming. Building records dating back to the 1940s are kept in the Facilities Manager's Office. A 1979 Site and Facilities Inventory conducted by Sheldon, Eggleston, Reddick Associates is also included in the records.
- Fort Washakie Collection. Microfilm Collection and Maps and Plans, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. The collection includes a Medical History, Quartermaster Consolidated Files, Post Returns and copies of maps and building plans. Wyoming State Archives, Museums and Historical Department, Historical Research and Publication Division, Cheyenne.

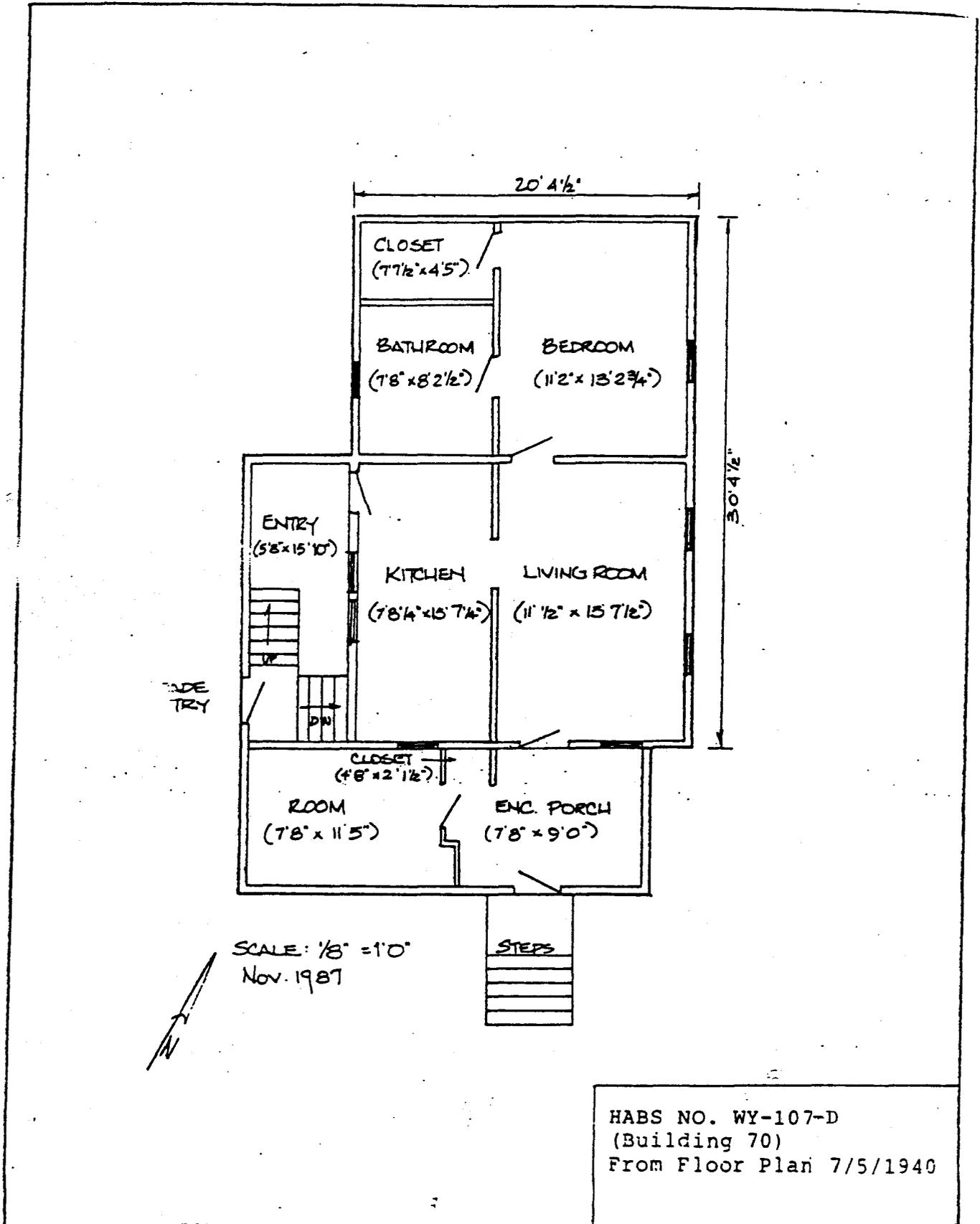
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Fort Washakie, Wyoming. Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Site Files, Barrett Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

Fort Washakie, Wyoming Subject File (F775-was) and Photo Archives. Collections include newspaper clippings, research by Grace Hebard, a short manuscript entitled "Pioneer Days Around Fort Washakie," by William L. Simpson dated 1928, and numerous historic photographs of Fort Washakie. University of Wyoming Archives-American Heritage Center, Laramie.

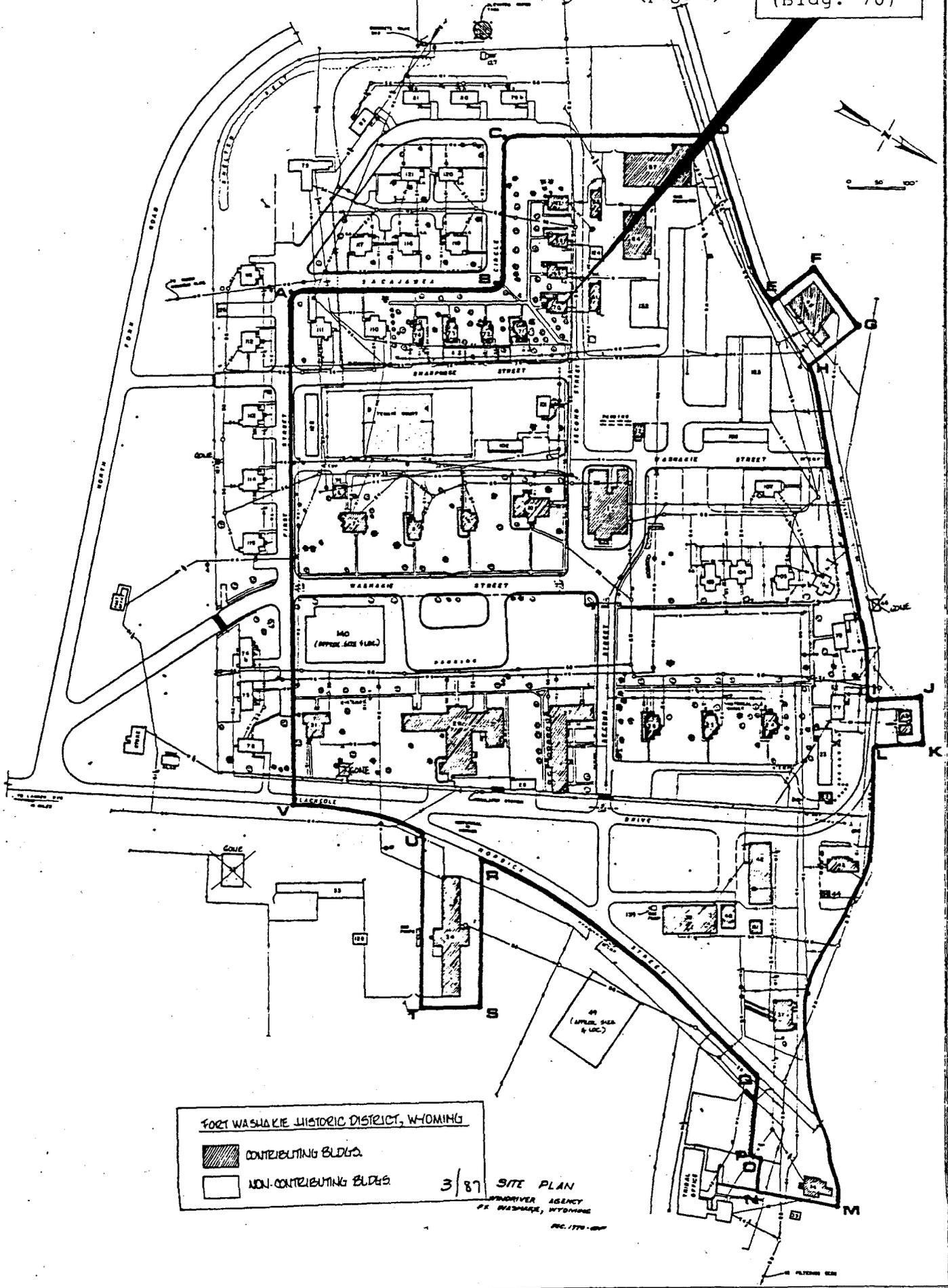
Records of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wind River Agency, Wyoming, 1890-1960. Record Group 75, National Archives-Denver Branch, Denver Federal Center, Bldg. No. 48, Denver, Colorado. These are the most complete existing records for the Wind River Reservation and Fort Washakie. They include several complete building surveys, building repair reports, building plans and blueprints, superintendent's annual reports, administrative records, fiscal and census reports, and general correspondence. Modern records not yet turned over to the Archives Branch are located in the Federal Records Center in the same building.

\*The Fort Washakie Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



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(Bldg. 70)



FORT WASHAKIE HISTORIC DISTRICT, WYOMING  
CONTRIBUTING BLDGS.  
NON-CONTRIBUTING BLDGS.

3/87 SITE PLAN  
SPINDRIVER AGENCY  
22 WASHAKIE, WYOMING  
ENC. 177A-007