

Shoshone Indian Cemetery
One mile northwest of Mission Boarding School,
Fort Washakie Vicinity, Wind River Indian
Reservation
Fremont County
Wyoming

*See also LOT 5638
ca. 1900 views
Scott Coll.*

HABS No. WYO-52

HABS
WYO,
7-FOWA.V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20005

SHOSHONE INDIAN CEMETERY

HABS
WYO,
7-FOWA.V,
1-

Location: One mile northwest of Mission Boarding School (Shoshone Episcopal Mission), Fort Washakie Vicinity, Wind River Indian Reservation, Fremont County, Wyoming.
Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: (USGS Wind River Quadrangle Map) 12.670080.4761930.

Present Owner: Shoshone and Arapahoe Indian Tribes.

Present Use: Cemetery.

Statement of Significance: This cemetery supposedly contains the grave of Sacajawea, Indian guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Also located in the cemetery is the oldest chapel built for the Indians in Wyoming.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Established: ca. 1868.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The cemetery is on the land of the Wind River Indian Reservation which was given to the Shoshone Indians by the Fort Bridger Treaty of 1868. It has been under continuous ownership of the Indians since the treaty.

B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

The Shoshone Indian Cemetery was established in 1868. It is believed to be the burial place of Sacajawea, Indian guide of the Lewis and Clark expedition. The Reverend John Roberts, who arrived on the Wind River Indian Reservation in 1883, was introduced to an elderly Indian woman who died the following year. She was buried by the Reverend Roberts in the Shoshone Indian Cemetery. Roberts was told by her adopted son that she had guided Lewis and Clark across the United States. Dr. Grace Hebard, in her book on Sacajawea, asserted that Sacajawea was buried at Wind River. In 1934, the Reverend Roberts verified these statements. However, both North Dakota and Oregon also claim to have the grave site of Sacajawea with sufficient evidence to raise considerable doubt as to whether Sacajawea is actually buried in this cemetery.

The building now on the cemetery grounds was originally built ca. 1873 at the Wind River Agency as a chapel and a school for the

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Indians. It was later moved to its present location (ca. 1890), and now serves as a shrine to Bishop Randall of the Protestant Episcopal Church.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

There are some photographs at the Shoshone Episcopal Mission Boarding School Office, Fort Washakie Vicinity, Fremont County, Wyoming.

2. Bibliography:

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Miss Gwen Roberts and Mrs. Gladys Graham, daughters of the Reverend John Roberts, in Lander, Wyoming on July 24, 1973.

b. Secondary and published sources:

File on Sacajawea, Wind River Agency, Fort Washakie, Wyoming.

Fremont County, Abstract of Titles for the Wind River Agency; Fremont County Courthouse; Lander, Wyoming.

Hebard, Grace Raymond. Sacajawea, Guide and Interpreter of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Linford, Velma. Wyoming: Frontier State. Denver: Old West Publishing Company, 1947.

Ward, Audrey. 1883-1973 Shoshone (Episcopal Mission). A pamphlet on the history of the Mission prepared by the Guild of Holy Saints John at Fort Washakie, Wyoming, 1973.

Prepared by John Paige
Project Historian
National Park Service
Summer, 1973

PART II. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were made during the summer of 1973. The Wyoming Project was undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Wyoming Recreation Commission.

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This project was under the general supervision of John Poppeliers, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The Project Supervisor was Professor J. William Rudd, Architect, of the University of Cincinnati and the Project Historian was John Paige. The measured drawings were prepared by John Uhlir (University of California, Berkeley), Architect; and Student Assistant Architects Richard Duflocq (University of Cincinnati), Clayton Fraser (University of Tennessee) and Richard Wyatt (California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo). Jack E. Boucher, HABS staff photographer, provided the photographic record. This report was edited for HABS in 1977 by Candace Reed.