

Project Summary

Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Evaluative Archeological Testing of the 1866 Infantry Barracks to Develop a Treatment Plan for Foundation Stabilization

Discipline: Cultural Resources
Type of Project: Technical Assistance
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Wyoming
Effective Dates: 9/30/08-5/1/12
Funding Amount: \$20,000

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: This archeological survey project will focus on providing background archaeological data on the 1866 Infantry Barracks foundation area at Fort Laramie NHS. This area has seen increased natural erosion and a reduction in stabilizing vegetative cover in recent years because of the on-going drought in the area. The lack of vegetative cover and natural erosion has resulted in numerous artifacts becoming exposed with the resulting concern about visitors picking up souvenirs. The work proposed here will provide basic archaeological background information on the current condition of the foundation, its constructions methods, and an indication of artifact density within and outside the foundation for eventual development of such a stabilization plan. Work proposed will include the following: (1) Review of all available historic literature, maps and photographs of the structure, (2) Archeological testing of a minimum of 25 square meters, randomly placed around and within the structure, (3) annual reports will be prepared discussing the work conducted during that specific fiscal year. At the end of the project, a final technical summary report will be submitted, (4) Collections will be returned to the park for housing after the cooperator has cataloged them into the ANCS+ system, (5) The appropriate portions of the CSI will be updated at the next park update. This is the narrative portion of the park's archeological database and (6) The ASMIS database for the park will be updated at the next park update.

Outcomes with Completion Dates: Final report of archeological testing results, to include the preservation needs of the 1866 Infantry Barracks, and an appropriate treatment plan developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. A draft long-term Resource Monitoring Plan/Program will be developed in consultation with Fort Laramie National Historic Site to ensure adequate and appropriate monitoring of site conditions. Final report will be submitted by February 1, 2012; final version will be submitted by May 1, 2012.

Keywords: archeological survey, infantry barracks, long term monitoring, Fort Laramie NHS, University of Wyoming