United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name _Haddenham Cabin___________________________
other names/site number _N/A________________________________

2. Location

street & number _N/A__________________________________________
not for publication _N/A______________
city or town _Kemmerer__________________________
state _Wyoming__________________________ county _Lincoln__________
zip code _83101__________________________

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets _______ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally statewide x locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official ____________________________ Date __________________
National Park Service _______________________________________
State or Federal agency and bureau ____________________________

In my opinion, the property x meets _______ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official ______________________ Date 10/16/03
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office ______________________
State or Federal agency and bureau ____________________________
4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

1. determined eligible for the National Register
2. determined not eligible for the National Register
3. removed from the National Register
4. other (explain): ____________________________

Signature of Keeper: ____________________________ Date of Action: __________

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

1. private
2. public-local
3. public-State
4. public-Federal

Category of Property

1. building
2. district
3. site
4. structure
5. object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing Noncontributing
1 buildings
___ sites
___ structures
___ objects
1 Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions

Cat: Vacant/Not in use Sub: ____________________________
HADDENHAM CABIN
LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING

7. Description

Architectural Classification
Other: A-frame cabin

Materials
foundation 3"x 6" wood tie beams on dirt
roof 2"x 4" wood studs
walls Exterior: 1/2"x 8 and 1/2"x 12'
vertical wood siding.
other

Narrative Description
See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
___ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

___ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
___ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

Period of Significance Science ca. 1918-1950
Significant Dates Science ca. 1918
Significant Person Science N/A
Cultural Affiliation Science N/A
Architect/Builder Science David C. Haddenham

Narrative Statement of Significance

See continuation sheet.
Major Bibliographical References


Previous documentation on file (NPS)
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary Location of Additional Data
State Historic Preservation Office
x Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository: NPS, Intermountain Region, Denver

Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 12 522330 4630740 3  _______  _______
2  _______  _______ 4  _______  _______ 
See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description
The boundary encompasses a less than one acre area where the Haddenham Cabin is located. This area corresponds with the UTM reference point noted above.

Boundary Justification
The boundary includes only the historic cabin.

Form Prepared By

Christine E. Maylath, Benjamin Brower
National Park Service, Intermountain Region, Denver
02/23/95; revised/updated by Kathy McKoy, 5/10/00
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Denver  CO  80225
**HADDENHAM CABIN**

**LINCOLN COUNTY, WYOMING**

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Continuation Sheets
- **Maps**
  - A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
  - A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- **Photographs**
  - Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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SEE CONTINUATION PAGES AND ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

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### Property Owner

**name** Fossil Butte National Monument  
**street & number** P.O. Box 592  
**city or town** Kemmerer  
**state** WY  
**telephone** (307) 877-4455  
**zip code** 83101

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary
The Haddenham Cabin is located in the southeast portion of Fossil Butte National Monument, 10 miles west of Kemmerer, Wyoming. It is located on the Quarry Trail, which is a 2.5-mile loop leading to the south face of Fossil Butte. The cabin is situated approximately 2000 feet east of the abandoned fossil quarry. It is a crude A-frame built of wood tie beams, wood studs, and vertical wood siding. It is vernacular in architectural style and is constructed of local materials. The cabin, constructed ca. 1918, is in poor condition: the wood is deteriorated and holes exist in some sections. However, the Haddenham Cabin has never been modified and thus retains integrity; it conveys a strong sense of time and place associated with the historic era.

Setting
The Haddenham Cabin is situated on the uppermost of a series of slump benches immediately below a talus slope on the south face of Fossil Butte from which fossil specimens were quarried in the historic era. The elevation is approximately 7,110 feet AMSL. It is reached by climbing a 2.5-mile loop dirt Quarry Trail and is located approximately 1.25 miles along the trail. There is an altitude gain of about 600 vertical feet from the base of the trail to the cabin. The setting is semi-arid landscape of flat-topped buttes and ridges dominated by sagebrush, Indian rice grass, June grass, wild rye, rabbit brush, snowbush, and greasewood. The visual setting has changed little from the historic era.

Description
The Haddenham Cabin is a crude A-frame. The dimensions are 12' x 8' x 7'. The foundation consists of 3" x 6" wood tie beams on dirt. The exterior walls are 1/2" x 8-1/2" x 12 vertical wood siding. The framing consists of 2" x 4" and 2" x 6" wood studs. The roof of the cabin is butt-lapped 1/2" x 6" vertical wood boards. Located on the top half of the roof on the west elevation is a hatch constructed of 1/2" x 12" horizontal wood. Attached are two metal strap hinges. This hatch could be opened to provide ventilation within the cabin. A tin chimney protrudes from the south roof. The interior is constructed of 1/2" x 8" and 1/2" x 12" vertical wood siding. The interior also includes corrugated cardboard insulation.

Integrity
The remote location and isolated setting of the Haddenham Cabin has remained unchanged since its construction. The cabin has never been modified and thus it retains integrity of original design, workmanship, and building materials. The cabin is in poor condition: the wood is deteriorated and holes exist in some sections. It still evokes a strong feeling and association with its original function as a shelter for those quarrying fossils at Fossil Butte in the early twentieth century.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary
The Haddenham Cabin has local significance under National Register Criteria A for its association with the quarrying of fossils in the Green River Formation. The cabin was built by David C. Haddenham ca. 1918 to serve as an on-site shelter for himself and his family during their seasonal quarrying work. David C. Haddenham actively quarried in the area of the present monument from the late nineteenth century to his death in 1968. From this work he provided universities, museums, and private collectors with specimens of rare fossils dating back 40 million years. The period of significance dates from ca. 1918, date of the cabin's construction, to 1950, the end of the historic period as defined by the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin was used after the historic era into the 1960s.

David C. Haddenham and Fossil Quarrying at Fossil Butte
The Green River Formation, from which Haddenham quarried, contains a rich variety of fossil specimens of the life forms that inhabited the area some 50 million years ago. At this time three large freshwater lakes covered what is now western Wyoming and northeastern Utah. Geographic changes have long since altered the ecology of the area, but a record of the amazing variety of life forms which existed at the time has been preserved in the fossil specimens of the Green River Formation. Fossil Butte was located at the center of Fossil Lake, the deepest of the three prehistoric lakes. Unlike the silts and clays of the other two lakes, the excellent preservation of the fossils at Fossil Butte is due to the fact that when fish and other species died they were buried by blankets of a fine sediments of calcium carbonate which preserved intact skeletons, delicate fin and tail rays, and scales, all of which eventually turned to fossils. It was these unusually well-preserved fossils that brought Haddenham and others to Fossil Butte.

The growth of fossil quarrying, an important form of local commerce for over 100 years, began in the late nineteenth century. The 1856 excursion of Dr. John Evans provides the first report of fossil collection from the Green River Formation. The construction of the Transcontinental Railway in the late 1860s served to further focus attention on the richness of the area's fossil deposits. In 1868 workers for the Union Pacific Railroad discovered large amounts of fossil specimens while laying track near Green River Wyoming. They dubbed this area "Petrified Fish Cut." At this time, a scientific study of the geology and fossil deposits near the railroad was undertaken by Ferdinand Hayden (1871), later director of the Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. The reports of Hayden and word of the Petrified Fish Cut attracted the attention of paleontologists and amateur fossil hounds alike. In the years that followed, Fossil Butte emerged as the center of fossil quarrying activity as it had the richest and best preserved specimens. The completion of the Oregon Short Line adjacent to Fossil Butte in 1881 simplified transportation to the remote area and further contributed to the rise of fossil quarrying at Fossil Butte.
According to his own testimony, David C. Haddenham (1881-1968) began quarrying fossils at Fossil Butte in the 1890s and his fossil career continued until his death. He was among the best known early fossil quaryers at Fossil Butte. Along with Robert Lee Craig and Samuel Small, Haddenham pioneered the removal of museum quality specimens from the local stone. Work generally occurred at the quarry site during the summer months and the winter was spent preparing the rough-cut specimens for sale. Haddenham was variously assisted in his labor-intensive activities by his sons, grandsons, and his brother, George.

The early fossil hunters attempted to make a living selling the fossils to museums, private collectors, and the occasional tourist. Although fossil collecting never provided great riches, Haddenham did make an occasional large find which fetched a sizeable price from museums. In the 1930s, as the Great Depression wreaked economic havoc on the region, Haddenham reportedly sold a gar fish fossil to a Paris museum for $500. Haddenham's fossil specimens were also sold to museums in Germany, Japan, as well as the United States. Haddenham supplemented his sales to museums with smaller specimens that Haddenham sold to tourists during the 1930s when he operated a "museum."

Although not a trained paleontologist, David C. Haddenham is locally known for perfecting a technique for removing fossils and preparing them for display. According to the testimony of his grandson, Robert Haddenham, this method entailed a multi-step process. First a quarry site bounded by settling cracks that divided the entire face was selected. Overburden was then removed by blasting and by hand, thus exposing the "fish" layer. Haddenham was able to remove the stone between the cracks in blocks that were easy to handle. He would lay the slabs on a sawhorse, drive thin chisels in the end of the slab to split it in half exposing fish fossils covered by a thin film of matrix. Then Haddenham would begin the laborious task of cleaning the fish. He created his own trademark whereby he "squared" around the fish creating a natural frame and retaining the color of the fish. He used his own specially made tools for the cleaning process. These included a solid brass powder monkey's tool and crimping pliers.

David C. Haddenham gained some local notoriety for his alleged - but never proven - role in the poisoning death of his sister-in-law, Anna Ritchey, or "Queen Anne" as she was locally known. In November 1919 Anna Ritchey was found guilty of cattle rustling, the only woman in Wyoming ever convicted of this crime. An ensuing legal battle ensued which went as far as the Wyoming Supreme Court. It often focused on the gender of the accused, during which time Anna Ritchey was free on bail. In May 1922 as the legal battle dragged on, Ritchey and her ranch foreman, Otto Palesenberger, were poisoned and Ritchey died. David C. Haddenham who was known to have vehemently disliked Ritchey and was also known to be well versed in the method of poisoning predators. He immediately emerged as a suspect, with some speculating he'd been hired to do the job by Ritchey's rival ranchers. No murder charges were ever filed against Haddenham, however, and no other suspects were ever charged with Ritchey's murder. The case remained in the local popular memory as an unsolved mystery of sorts with various murder theories being speculated upon. In a 1989 interview Robert H. Haddenham, grandson of David C., stated that his grandfather had poisoned and
killed Mrs. Ritchey. According to Robert Haddenham, his grandfather mixed up the poison in a bathtub at the site of the Haddenham Cabin at Fossil Butte. The bathtub is no longer at the cabin site, and it is unlikely that more substantial evidence will emerge to corroborate Robert Haddenham's testimony.

An archeological survey of the cabin site was conducted by Midwest Archeological Center (MWAC) on April 12, 1991, to determine if it was eligible for National Register listing as an archeological site under Criteria C. MWAC evaluated the cabin site as ineligible for listing. This survey, however, did find evidence that determined that the cabin had been actively used from the 1920s continuously through the end of the historic era in 1945 and beyond into the post-war period. The MWAC survey also found evidence of fossil quarrying activity such as blasting powder cans and remains of hand tools.

The quarrying of fossils at Fossil Butte represents an important period of scientific discovery. The efforts of the Haddenhams provided paleontologists with an important record of life forms that inhabited the planet millions of years ago. In addition, such activities provided a meager yet important livelihood for the so-called "fossil miners." While not as important in dollar value as the agricultural, transportation, mining, and oil enterprises, the history of fossil quarrying provides a broader and more nuanced view of the often varied economic activities undertaken by early Euro-Americans in the American West in their efforts to make a living. The Haddenham Cabin is a rustic reminder of that colorful past.
**LIST OF PHOTOGRAPHS**

The following information is the same for all of the photographs listed below:

- **Name of Property:** Haddenham Cabin
- **Location:** Fossil Butte National Monument, 10 miles west of Kemmerer, Wyoming
- **Name of Photographer:** Steve Turner
- **Date of Photographs:** April 13, 1993
- **Location of Negatives:** National Park Service, Division of Cultural Resources Management, Intermountain Region

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