



HISTORIC SITES TOUR I

The region is rich in Indian War history. This tour focuses on sites east and south of Sheridan. The Bozeman Trail was a focal point of that history.

This trail left the Oregon Trail and directed immigrants from Fort Laramie to the Montana gold fields. John Bozeman, a native of Georgia, who developed this route, came west seeking adventure. The Bozeman Trail was the roadway along which the Federal government erected three forts to protect those moving westward: Fort Phil Kearny, along the Piney Creek; Fort Reno, further south; and Fort C.F. Smith, ninety miles north on the Big Horn River. Bozeman met an untimely death on this very trail through the hands of renegade Blackfeet on April 20, 1867. He died near the location where the trail crosses the Yellowstone River (north in Montana). Bozeman believed these men to be friendly Crow Indians.



(1) BOZEMAN TRAIL MARKER

A granite marker is located south of the town of Big Horn. It indicates the location of a portion of this trail.

(2) BRADFORD BRINTON MEMORIAL

The Memorial was once a vacation home to Chicagoan Bradford Brinton, who owned a tractor company which sold to the J. I. Case tractor company. The memorial houses his collection of fine art, rare books and historic documents. Brinton's furnishings and other possessions provide a glimpse into a prosperous lifestyle of the 1920's.

A reception gallery was added in the 1960's when the Memorial became public. This gallery provides the exhibit space for the extensive western art and Native American collection. The Memorial is on the National Register of Historic Places. It is open daily, May through September, 9:30 AM to 5 PM.



(3,4) FETTERMAN MASSACRE

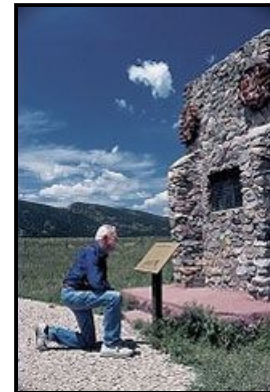
Twenty miles south of Sheridan, on December 21, 1866, a force of 3000 Sioux, Cheyenne, and Arapahoe Indians ambushed a detachment of 81 men and officers under the command of Brevet Lieutenant- Colonel Fetterman. This was the worst defeat experienced by the US Army during the Indian Wars until the defeat of Custer some ten years later. Fort Phil Kearny was one of three military posts established along the Bozeman Trail. This fort was built in 1866 as a cutoff from the Oregon Trail. Immigrants used this trail en route from Fort Laramie to the Montana gold fields. It was abandoned by the Army in 1868 under the terms of the Treaty of Fort Laramie in an effort to establish peace with the Indians, who under Red Cloud constantly harassed the garrison during its short existence.



The military portion of the fort was 600 x 700 feet, surrounded by an eight foot stockade of heavy pine logs. As the Army abandoned this fort, the Indians burned it to the ground.

(5) WAGON BOX FIGHT SITE

This fight site is located about five miles west of Fort Phil Kearny near the town of Story, Wyoming. It is here on August 2, 1867, that a detachment of 32 men and officers under the command of Captain James Powell expected to be massacred by thousands of Red Cloud's braves. However, the men had one advantage - they had cover behind a corral of 14 wagon boxes and new rifles which could fire rapidly and repeatedly. Over the eight hours of battle, they were able to repulse the many attacks of Red Cloud's warriors.



(6) UCROSS FOUNDATION

The Ucross Foundation is a nonprofit foundation incorporated in 1981. The primary objectives of the foundation include the restoration of the historic Clear Fork headquarters of the Pratt and Ferris Cattle Company (the complex of buildings known as Big Red and built in 1882), the promotion of the preservation of other historical sites in the area, and the provision of facilities and program activities for an artists- in-residence project. The Ucross Foundation opened its doors in 1983. The Foundation is located 27 miles southeast of Sheridan. The facilities are located on a 22,000-acre working cattle ranch. Approximately 60 residents are selected each year in a highly competitive application process. Big Red, as the gallery is known, provides space for fine art exhibits throughout the year. The hours are 8 AM to 4 or 5 PM daily.



