

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF WYOMING

University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

TRACES OF MAN IN WYOMING

GHOST TOWNS

There are few true ghost towns in Wyoming. Much more common are the abandoned coal and gold mining camps. Some of these are listed below.

Carbon County - Carbon, southwest of Medicine Bow on Highway 30
- Battle, on the road between Encampment and Baggs
- Gold Hill, west of the Snowy Range on Highway 130 between Laramie and Saratoga

Fremont County - Atlantic City and South Pass City located at the southern end of the Wind River Range on Highway 28 between Farson and Lander

Lincoln County - Cumberland, south of Kemmerer

Weston County - Cambria, in the Black Hills near Newcastle

MINES

Old mines are abundant in many areas of Wyoming. Although the underground areas of abandoned mines are generally too dangerous to visit, many interesting specimens can be collected from the piles of tailings.

Locations of old mines are not difficult to find. Naturally one would expect them to be present in the vicinity of the mining camps listed under ghost towns. In addition, they are common in many mountain ranges of Wyoming. Since mines are usually indicated on USGS topographic maps, it is suggested that you order maps of the area you intend to visit in Wyoming and see for yourself if there are any mines located there. These maps may be purchased from: U.S. Geological Survey, Denver Federal Center, Denver Distribution Section, Building 41, Denver, Colorado 80225.

PREHISTORIC INDIANS

Artifacts found in Wyoming indicate that man has occupied this area for nearly 11,000 years. Folsom Man, known from his beautiful projectile points, occupied many sections of the state. Remains of mammoths indicate that the animals had been slain and butchered by humans.

Many Indian tribes followed prehistoric man in occupation of the area. Apache and displaced Woodland groups came first, succeeded by Arapahoe, Cheyenne and Sioux tribes in the eastern half of the state. The Crows lived in the north while Shoshonis and Utes' were found in southwestern Wyoming.

The amateur archaeologist can render valuable assistance in tracing early man's progress by reporting all artifact finds and site locations to the Wyoming Archaeological Society. However, permission to collect on Wyoming State Lands must be obtained in advance from the State Land Commissioner, State Capitol Building, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001. Persons primarily interested in searching for arrowheads, spearheads, scrapers and other surface items of early man should contact the Chamber of Commerce in the areas to be visited. In addition, many county libraries have a lot of information available about local archaeological sites.

Further information about Wyoming artifacts can be obtained from the following state agencies and organizations:

Wyoming Travel Commission
2320 Capitol Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

State Department of Economic Planning
& Development
210 West 23rd Street
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

Secretary, Cheyenne Chapter
Wyoming Archaeological Society
118 East 2nd Avenue
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001