United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable."   For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name   Carbon Cemetery

other names/site number   48CR1927

2. Location

street & number County Road 115   ☐   not for publication

city or town   Carbon   ☐   vicinity

state   Wyoming   code   WY   county Carbon   code   007   zip code   82329

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

__ **national**   __ **statewide**   X **local**

_____
Signature of certifying official/Title   Date

_____
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

_____
Signature of commenting official   Date

_____
Title   State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

__ entered in the National Register   __ determined eligible for the National Register

__ determined not eligible for the National Register   __ removed from the National Register

__ other (explain:)   _____

_____
Signature of the Keeper   Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property
(Check only **one** box.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

	Contributing	Noncontributing	
			buildings
			district
	1		site
			structure
			object
	1		**Total**

Ownership of Property:
- [X] private
- [ ] public - Local
- [ ] public - State
- [X] public - Federal

Category of Property:
- [ ] building(s)
- [ ] district
- [X] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary: Cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Funerary: Cemetery

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7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: N/A

walls: N/A

roof: N/A

other: N/A

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Carbon Cemetery is a rectangular site that is approximately five acres in size. *(see Figure 3, page 3)* It faces toward the east and occupies open ground that slopes distinctly upward from east to west, with an elevation gain of approximately thirty to forty feet. The lower area of the cemetery, along with the slope itself, is covered with a carpet of short prairie grass. The only other vegetation on the site consists of non-native perennial flowers and shrubs, along with three spruce trees that are in poor condition due to inadequate precipitation. Broken sandstone bedrock covers the ground throughout the upper area of the cemetery. While the site and its surroundings are windy much of the time, the exposed upper elevation of the site is buffeted by strong winds that can reach gale force. *(see Figures 4-6, pages 4-6)*

A woven wire fence supported by wood posts demarcates the property's perimeter. These wood posts date to the early years of the site, and while still standing are in deteriorating condition. However, rather than replacing the wood posts, the cemetery's caretakers long ago reinforced them through the installation of adjacent metal pipe posts. At each twinned location, the wood and metal posts are bolted together. The entrance to the cemetery is centered along its eastern fence line. Outside of this is an open area adjacent to the county road that is used for informal parking. The entrance holds a simple ranch-style gate designed to provide vehicular access to the site. Two tall metal pipe posts set into square concrete foundations support this gate. These are connected to one another at the top by a single horizontal wood post. The gate itself is of more recent post and rail construction.

A minimally graveled dirt track runs through the main entry gate and then loops through the site. This track runs up through the steep northern area of the cemetery, where it is severely eroded. In the southern area, it crosses over a grave and runs tightly between two adjacent headstones. The gravemarker that was in the middle of the track has been moved to the side. Another early gateway is found along the south fence line, marked by a pair of square concrete foundations with empty circular holes that previously held vertical wood posts. Just inside the eastern main entry gate is a tall metal flagpole. Adjacent to the flagpole are a long slab of sandstone and a metal platform. The sandstone slab appears to have been moved here from one of the area's mine sites.

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Narrative Description

Location, Setting & Access

Carbon Cemetery is located in the northwest ¼ of Section 26, Township 22 North, Range 80 West in a remote area of Carbon County, Wyoming approximately nine miles southwest of the town of Medicine Bow. *(see Figures 1 & 2, pages 1-2)* The countryside in this area consists of high open rolling hills to the north, west and south of the site, along with treeless short-grass prairie lands to the east. From the cemetery, the view to the east is one of expansive, open land that stretches for miles into the distance. Carbon Creek, a small intermittent stream, runs from west to east across the landscape. Also traversing the area are ranch roads, old railroad grades, and an early route of the Lincoln Highway. Situated in the high plains region of southern Wyoming, with an elevation of approximately 6,850' above sea level, the site and its historic resources sit exposed on the open prairie and experience the full range of seasons.

The cemetery and adjacent Carbon townsite are reached by way of Highway 30, which has an unmarked turnoff at the Como railroad crossing 9.5 miles west of Medicine Bow and 10 miles east of Hanna. No signage is present there to indicate that the Carbon townsite and cemetery are located to the south. County Road 115, formerly known as the Chace Brothers Ranch Road, heads south from the highway turnoff. This unpaved road immediately crosses over a cattle grate and then the active Union Pacific railroad tracks, which parallel the highway. The road is narrow and minimally improved from the Como crossing to the cemetery.

After passing over the railroad tracks, County Road 115 veers to the southeast for a short distance before arriving at a fork in the road where there is a small county road sign pointing to the left toward "Old Carbon." (The fork to the right terminates nearby at the only ranchstead in the area.) Beyond the fork is the first of two ranch gates along the county road, which snakes through open countryside and cattle range for several miles to the south. It traverses a high area of rolling hills where the ground is covered with darker, multi-colored rocks and soils that stand out from their surroundings.

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This area, known as Ridge No. 5, is about 7,000' in elevation and marks the location of two of Carbon's historic coal mines (#4 and #5). A panoramic view of the countryside to the east is gained from this high point.

About five miles due south of the Como crossing, the county road reaches Carbon Cemetery, which sits along the west side of the road. The cemetery is located just north of the ghost town, which is reached by curving past the cemetery a short distance along the same road. The townsite holds numerous stone foundations that mark the previous locations of buildings. Across the county road to the east of the cemetery is Carbon's former horse racetrack, an oval that is now barely visible from the ground but can be seen more clearly in aerial photographs. Also found in the vicinity are remnants of rail lines, roadways, and Carbon's seven underground mine sites. The Carbon townsite is under separate ownership from the Cemetery and is not included in this nomination.

Outhouse (contributing feature):
In the southwest corner of the cemetery is an old outhouse that is in dilapidated condition. *(see Figure 7, page 7)* This wood frame building has a footprint of 3' x 4' and faces toward the north. It is constructed with vertical wood planks and is in danger of collapse. The door is missing and wood planks are scattered on the surrounding ground. A modern portable outhouse is found just outside the cemetery fence at the site's southeast corner. No other amenities or conveniences of any kind are in the vicinity.

The Graves:
Carbon Cemetery holds numerous graves that are located throughout much of the site. The original plat map and burial records are no longer available, so the site's occupants and characteristics have had to be recreated in recent decades. The cemetery is clearly a planned site, with the burials oriented to the east and laid out in long rows on a north-south axis. Two areas appear to contain no graves at all: the low northeast quadrant and the high westernmost area of the cemetery. Field observations and historic photographs show no evidence of burials in these areas, and autos were sometimes parked in the lower open area of the site. According to the Carbon Cemetery Association's database, the site has 239 marked graves and another 98 documented burials that are no longer identified by markers. Additional unmarked graves may be present.

Among the marked graves, a number of the headstones contain the names of more than one person. In some cases, the cause of death was inscribed on the gravemarker. For example, the tall marble headstone for John and James Watson states that one died in a Hanna mine explosion and the other was dragged to death by a horse. Family names are predominantly Scandinavian and Anglo-Saxon, indicating that many of Carbon's residents were from places such as Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the British Isles and Germany, or had recent ancestors from these regions. Although the Finns constituted one of the largest ethnic groups in the coal camp, many of their gravemarkers are no longer readable. Three Civil War veterans -- John Butler, William West, and John Haddix -- are buried in the cemetery. Many cemeteries of this era have far more Civil War veterans' burials. The fact that Carbon Cemetery does not is indicative of its heavily immigrant population, many of whom arrived in the United States after the Civil War or for other reasons did not participate as combatants.

Unmarked graves are evident around the site. *(see Figure 8, page 8)* Many of these are identified by stone cairns constructed with small unshaped pieces of sandstone that were gathered locally. While some of the cairns are simply low piles of stones, many are arranged in the form of raised rectangular stone boxes that are laid in random coursing with no mortar. These are filled with dirt and stone and appear unlikely to contain the caskets. They were probably constructed to mark the grave locations, with the burial in the ground below, and most likely held wood crosses or gravemarkers that identified the occupants.

The cairns are a unique and interesting feature of Carbon Cemetery. At this time they do not have a clear ethnic or cultural association, although they may prove to have originated with the early Finnish miners who came to Carbon. Readily available across the landscape, the same stones were employed in various locations as coping stones around graves. Toward the upper end of the site is an area that holds a series of graves that are marked with simple, blank vertical sandstone slabs. These reportedly mark the burial location of Carbon residents who died during a single epidemic. Although additional archival research and archaeological analysis may answer questions about the cairns and other unmarked graves at the site, it is likely that the specific occupants of many of these graves will never be determined.

The site's numerous gravestones are predominantly fabricated from granite and marble, and were carved by skilled masons and sculptors. *(see Figure 9, page 9)* In addition to these, the cemetery holds a smaller number of sandstone and metal markers. Stone markers that exhibit notably fine carving include those for the Boisen family and Robert

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Widdowfield. Sandstone blocks, ornamentally carved with scoring, stippling and diamond patterns, support most of the inscribed headstones.

In terms of styles, the site holds a variety of tablets, pedestals, obelisks, ledgers, slant markers, and squared dies. This diversity of funerary art is typical of the period from the 1860s to the early decades of the 1900s. Among the gravestones, the Boisen family markers are unusually carved, one of them a horizontal granite cylinder and the other a taller marble sculptural stone. The Ben Jose gravemarker is an inscribed marble disk mounted to a metal fence enclosure. Most of the gravestones and inscriptions are professionally carved and face toward the east. Footstones are also found throughout the site, typically inscribed with the deceased's initials. Some of these have sunk into the ground and are barely visible above the surface. Even though the cemetery is located in a relatively arid climate, lichens and mold are found on some of the stonework.

Marble children's headstones capped with carved lambs are found throughout the cemetery, standing as somber evidence of the frailty of childhood in the pioneer era. At most cemeteries, lambs such as these are portrayed resting upon their bellies with their heads up and front legs naturally tucked beneath them. Occasionally the head is turned sideways in a lowered, rested position. However, in Carbon Cemetery many of the lambs are unusually carved with their heads down in a forward position and their front legs curved and pointed toward the rear. In addition, these lambs have faces that are simplistically carved and do not look like true depictions of the animals they represent. These characteristics point to the likelihood that the carvings may be a local form of folk art completed by a single stone carver, whose work may also be found in other southern Wyoming cemeteries.

Most of the historic woodwork, which consisted of crosses, gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, deteriorated over the decades and has been forever lost. Today the cemetery holds a single unreadable wood tablet and a recently reconstructed fence enclosure. The most substantial metal marker is the tall ornamental Nixon obelisk that was fabricated with cast zinc. Small metal fraternal organization emblems are mounted on metal posts next to some of the headstones.

Another interesting feature of Carbon Cemetery is its Finnish gravemarkers. *(see Figure 10, page 10)* These are found in various locations and each consists of a tall vertical metal bar that has a flat vertical metal plate bolted to the top. The metal plates were painted with information related to the deceased. Over the decades, the painted information has worn off and been lost. Some of the plates are also torn or broken. This type of gravemarker is found in historic cemeteries in the rural area surrounding Lake Lappajarvi, Finland, in the west-central area of the country. The burial tradition using metal gravemarkers was clearly brought to southern Wyoming with the immigrant Finnish miners and their families.

A number of the larger family plots in Carbon Cemetery are surrounded by perimeters of concrete or stone coping, along with historic metal fencing. Because the site is built on a slope, some of these family plots are terraced through the construction of what are essentially low stone and concrete retaining walls that hold back the slope and also serve as coping. The fence enclosures exhibit a combination of wire fencing, pipe posts and rails, and both cast and wrought ironwork. Most appear to have been ordered from catalogs and delivered to Carbon by the railroad. Several are unique and were likely to have been fabricated by local blacksmiths or possibly by metal foundries associated with the mines.

Alterations & Integrity:
Carbon Cemetery appears to have experienced few alterations since its period of significance ended around 1940, and today exhibits a high level of integrity. Although the site was most active from 1868 to 1902 during Carbon's heyday as an active coal-mining town, it continued to evolve over the following decades as the cemetery remained in use and was maintained by family and friends. Changes to the perimeter fence that involved shoring up the original wood posts with twinned metal ones took place sometime around 1910 and are historically significant. The south gate may also have been removed at that time. Non-historic changes to the site appear limited to periodic burials and replacement of the original main entry gate at the east entrance in recent years (although with a historically sensitive replacement), along with the installation of a flagpole and platform nearby. None of these non-historic changes have diminished the site's overall integrity and NRHP eligibility.

Today the cemetery holds numerous graves that date from the period prior to 1902, along with a smaller number of burials dating from the several decades following Carbon's demise. By far, most of the graves are more than fifty years old, and are considered historically significant. From 1902 through around 1940, Carbon Cemetery continued to receive burials of former Carbon residents and their descendents, some of whom had resettled in the nearby coal-mining community of Hanna. Family and friends continued to visit the remote site during these years, ensuring that it was

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maintained as an active cemetery. However, the World War II era was a watershed in terms of rural population out-migration, and a corresponding shift to a national mindset that favored forward-looking thinking and action. Many historic rural cemeteries throughout the West went into decline and, in some cases, were abandoned. While additional burials took place in Carbon Cemetery after 1940, these occurred less frequently than before. In addition, the previous maintenance efforts and Memorial Day observances fell by the wayside. For these reasons, the period of significance has been established as 1868-1940 because this period relates to the site's most intensive period of use, visitation and maintenance.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[X] 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
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

[ ] A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

[ ] B removed from its original location.

[ ] C a birthplace or grave.

[X] D a cemetery.

[ ] E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

[ ] F a commemorative property.

[ ] G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance

1868-1940

Significant Dates

1868

1902

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

N/A

Period of Significance (justification)
From 1868 to 1940, Carbon Cemetery continued to receive burials of former Carbon residents and their descendents, some of whom had resettled in the nearby coal-mining community of Hanna. Family and friends continued to visit the remote site during these years, ensuring that it was maintained as an active cemetery. While additional burials took place in Carbon Cemetery after 1940, these occurred less frequently than before. In addition, the previous maintenance efforts and Memorial Day observances fell by the wayside. For these reasons, the period of significance has been established as 1868-1940 because this period relates to the site's most intensive period of use, visitation and maintenance.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)
Carbon Cemetery is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria Consideration D for its history as a burial ground that derives primary significance from its age, distinctive design features, and direct association with the historic mining town of Carbon. Historical geographer Richard Francaviglia wrote in his groundbreaking 1991 book *Hard Places: Reading the Landscape of America's Historic Mining Districts*, that among the many important physical remnants of each mining town, the cemetery is a microcosm of that urban environment and its economic underpinnings. These sites reflect and tell us a great deal about the ethnic variety, cultural values, social and economic stratification, and burial traditions of the community. They are, in effect, an important part of each mining community's social landscape. Historic cemeteries also provide evidence of early landscape design and examples of funerary art as these features evolved over time.   As Francaviglia states, "The cemetery remains one of the most intriguing aspects of the mining landscape, for from its serene vantage point we may look back and see the rest of the mining district as an island of buildings, structures, and forms that permitted its occupants to extract wealth quickly from the earth, and each other, and then move on." This, exactly, is the broad scope of the story told by Carbon Cemetery and its association with the adjacent town and mines of Carbon.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Recognizing the importance of Carbon Cemetery in the history of Carbon and early Wyoming, this site is nominated to the National Register of Historic Places on the local level under Criterion A. Carbon was the first coal camp to be established in Wyoming, and the cemetery is among the first formal burial grounds established in the state.   The town of Carbon grew along with the mines, and reached its peak population around 1890. Over the following decade, the mines began to be depleted and the railroad diverted its main line a distance to the north as the Hanna coalfield to the northwest came under production. In 1902, the last of the mines was closed and Carbon was soon reduced to a depopulated ghost town. Many of the town's buildings were moved over the following decades, both to Hanna and area ranches, leaving behind numerous stone foundations and the cemetery.

The cemetery is the most intact surviving feature of the formerly bustling community, and is nominated with clear, justifiable boundaries and owner consent (no consent has been provided for the townsite). Because the cemetery remained in use throughout the early decades of the 20th century by persons associated with the former mining town, the site's period of significance extends from 1868 to 1940. The site has changed little since the period of significance ended, and exhibits a high level of integrity, as discussed on the previous page.

_____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Carbon Cemetery is significant in the area of Exploration/Settlement, specifically the period of settlement and town building that followed the 1868 arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad. It has remained in use from 1868 through the present time, primarily as a final resting place for residents, former residents, and descendents of the pioneers who first populated the historic coal-mining town of Carbon and the surrounding ranchlands.

_____

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Carbon Cemetery's origins trace back to 1862, when Congress passed the Pacific Railway Act, which authorized federal assistance for the construction of a transcontinental rail and telegraph line that would extend westward from Council Bluffs, Iowa and Omaha, Nebraska to Sacramento, California and the Pacific coast. To assist and encourage the line's development, seen as key to uniting the country and taming the frontier, the government provided financing through the sale of bonds, along with extensive land grants that cut linear swaths across western regions that for centuries served as the undisturbed home and hunting ground of numerous native tribes. Survey parties crossed the frontier and completed much of their work between 1864 and 1867, locating the best route for the new rail line.

Construction commenced early the following year with crews consisting of hundreds of surveyors, graders, tracklayers, tie hacks, and other support workers. *(see Figure 11, page 11)* Many of the men were sturdy veterans of the Civil War. As

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the track was completed, boomtowns emerged along the route and then leapfrogged ahead of one another to keep up with the pace of construction. However, most of these end-of-track construction towns proved temporary as work proceeded rapidly into the distance and they were soon replaced by the next location. The towns initially attracted legitimate businessmen, along with a rougher slice of humanity that sought income and entertainment in the form of saloons, brothels and gambling halls. Gunplay and knife fights were daily occurrences. Vigilance committees and dedicated town boosters eventually drove troublemakers out. While not all of the towns thrived, communities such as Cheyenne and Laramie became railroad repair and supply centers and began to grow. The transcontinental line was completed at Promontory Summit, Utah on 10 May 1869 and opened for through traffic.

On 29 June 1868, track construction along the Union Pacific Railroad reached the area now known as Carbon, eighty miles northwest of Laramie. Located in Wyoming Territory, officially established by Congress one month later, the site was more than 650 miles from Omaha at an elevation of just over 6,800 feet. As grading and then track construction passed through the area, a railroad geologist and the rail contractor both noted that it contained evidence of extensive coal beds. Until then, the Union Pacific line west of Omaha was dependent upon wood to power its steam engines. Midwestern contractors were kept busy cutting down cottonwood forests along the Missouri River and providing endless cords of wood to the railroad. The open, largely treeless lands of Nebraska and southern Wyoming Territory contained inadequate sources of wood and the railroad was in dire need of a reliable western source of fuel to keep its trains running. Carbon was about to provide the railroad with all the fuel it needed.

Although mineral rights attached to the Union Pacific's land grants, the railroad was not in the mining business and required a contractor to provide it with supplies of coal. Within weeks of the discovery of coal at Carbon, mining entrepreneur Thomas Wardell of Missouri secured a lease on the Carbon-area coal lands. Following an initial inspection, he reported to the railroad's directors that the area in fact held "enormous beds of very excellent coal." His Wyoming Coal & Mining Company signed a contract to supply the railroad with fuel and immediately brought in a crew of miners from Missouri to open Carbon's first mine, which was operational by September 1868. Typical of corporate practices of the era, ninety percent of the stock in Wardell's firm was actually owned by Union Pacific President Oliver Ames and five of the railroad's directors. Through savvy business dealings, the Wyoming Coal & Mining Company further enriched these men by selling the Union Pacific's own coal to the railroad at artificially high prices. *(see Figure 12, page 12)*

In addition to the mines, the town of Carbon was established during the summer of 1868 and emerged as the first coal camp located along the Union Pacific Railroad's route. The 1870 census showed that 244 residents occupied the camp. With few building materials available in the arid, treeless landscape, the earliest miners and their families built dugouts, stacked stone hovels, and a few log cabins along Carbon Creek to serve as residences. Enduring these primitive living conditions, they struggled with illnesses and injuries related to the harsh environment and the dangers of mining. *(see Figure 13, page 13)* Common to pioneer towns of the era, funerals soon became a periodic and sobering element of daily life.

During the fall of 1868 and into 1869, Native warriors roaming the surrounding countryside killed several men, including a Carbon stable boss attempting to retrieve wayward mules. Several tie hacks transporting wood from Elk Mountain for the railroad were killed near what has since been known as Bloody Lake. Their bodies were brought to Carbon, where a burial ground was established on a sloping parcel just north of the town. A few persons hit by trains, or brought down by drowning, lightning strikes, and blizzards were periodically carried to town from the surrounding countryside for burial at Carbon Cemetery. In Carbon, a few men died in the mines, and diseases, suicides, railroad accidents, and shootings (both intentional and accidental) began to fill the cemetery. Fatalities in the mines were relatively infrequent, although some men died as a result of cave-ins, falls, and explosions. In 1878, deputy sheriff Robert Widdowfield was ambushed and killed by a gang of would-be train robbers he was attempting to apprehend near Elk Mountain. He was buried in Carbon Cemetery, after which one of the killers was arrested and then lynched at the Carbon depot by an enraged mob.

Common to pioneer towns of the era, primitive medical practices surrounding childbirth took a toll on both mothers and their children. Maternal mortality was high, as it had been for centuries, due to complications of birth for which doctors (if they were even around) had few effective treatments. Giving birth was a dangerous time for both mother and baby. Child mortality was particularly high as young people succumbed to a diversity of diseases that were later conquered through the development of vaccines and other treatments in the 20th century. For example, on 12 November 1887, the *Laramie Weekly Sentinel* reported that forty children in Carbon had died of scarlet fever during the preceding three months. Diphtheria, typhoid, and tuberculosis also claimed the lives of both children and adults, filling Carbon Cemetery's grounds with the graves of those struck down. Bodies were initially transported to the cemetery on wagons that were soon

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replaced with a horse-drawn hearse owned by John Jackson. In most towns, the undertaker employed a team of black horses to be used if the deceased was an adult and white horses for children.

The coal camp grew into a town during the 1870s and 1880s, and its early dugouts and shanties were eventually replaced with more substantial log, milled lumber and sandstone buildings. In 1871, Carbon's miners were organized by the Knights of Labor and went on strike after their wages were cut. Wardell responded by calling in troops, firing the men, and hiring strikebreakers who agreed to lower wages. The Wyoming Coal & Mining Company's contract was suspended by the railroad in March 1874 and government criticism of the close relationship between Union Pacific management and the firm forced the railroad to establish its own coal department. The railroad took direct control over Carbon's mines, first through the Union Pacific Coal Department. In 1890, this was reorganized into a Union Pacific-owned subsidiary, the Union Pacific Coal Company. From the mid-1870s on, the railroad asserted itself more fully in the mining town's operation and development. Coal from Carbon fueled the railroad's steam engines and brought additional income to the Union Pacific as it was shipped to buyers throughout the region.

A downtown commercial district emerged in Carbon during these decades, surrounded by numerous small residences that occupied the otherwise barren landscape. *(see Figure 14, page 14)* The town also included a school, churches, a horse racetrack, cemetery, and an opera house. Seven underground mines were eventually developed, a few of which became the area's largest producers. Some of these had tunnels that ran underneath the townsite, which eventually rested upon a shell and was constantly under threat of collapse. According to an article in Cheyenne's *Daily Leader* (12/16/1888), "For this reason trains move through the place slowly…No one ever sings or sneezes…" Throughout its early history, Carbon had no domestic water source, so liquid gold was brought to the town by tank car from Medicine Bow and distributed for a fee. Following a devastating 1890 fire that required much rebuilding, the town established the Rattlesnake Waterworks, which involved pumping spring water from the #5 mine to a large wooden tank on a nearby hill, from where it was gravity fed into Carbon.

Census records from 1870 to 1900 show that hundreds of men, women and children populated the town. Carbon's population rose from 244 in 1870 to 1,140 in 1890, when approximately 500 men worked in and around the mines. As many as two-thirds of the town's early residents were immigrants to the United States, many of them natives of England, Scotland, Wales and Germany. Numerous "Lankies" from Lancashire, England were employed in Carbon's mines.

During the 1880s they were joined by Finns who came to Carbon not because they had mined in Finland but due to their willingness to take on hard physical labor. Some may have previously been employed (as were many Finns) in the coal mines of Pennsylvania or the copper and iron mines of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The Finns were known for their friendly culture and the skills, stamina and resourcefulness they brought to mining, timbering, and working with machinery. This ethnic group became such a sizable presence in the town during the 1880s that they erected their own community hall, to which they welcomed members of the entire Carbon community. The town's annual July 4th celebrations included readings of the Declaration of Independence in Finnish. The Finns reportedly buried their dead after sundown and erected painted metal markers at the graves. The most prominent Finn to come through Carbon was Oskar Tokoi, who worked in the mines starting in 1891 and then returned to Finland, where he became the nation's first prime minister in 1917 when it was established as an independent republic.

By the late 1880s, the Union Pacific realized that Carbon's coal deposits were being depleted and it began to search for other sources of coal. The town's peak year of production occurred in 1888, when more than 347,000 tons of coal were removed from its underground workings. A new field of rich coal beds was located about ten miles northwest of Carbon by 1890, where mines and the coal town of Hanna soon emerged. Carbon's mining families began migrating to Hanna and other southern Wyoming mining camps, where they reestablished themselves. Others went into livestock ranching. The number of miners and others living in Carbon began to drop along with the corresponding decline in its coal production.

In 1899, the Union Pacific moved its main line several miles north, where it still runs parallel to Highway 30 as it passes through Medicine Bow and Hanna. Carbon ended up on a spur line and the last of its operating mines were closed in 1902, when the coal beds were finally worked out. Typical of western boomtowns, with no source of income and distanced from the main rail line the remaining miners and their families moved on to greener pastures. The 1910 census listed just 117 people in the entire Carbon district, very few of them residing within the old townsite (thirty-one of those counted in the census were Japanese and Turkish/Armenian railroad workers parked on a nearby side track). Two years

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Name of Property   County and State

later, the last resident of Carbon died and the site became a ghost town. Many of its buildings were hauled away, some of them intact, to Hanna and area ranches, where they remain today.

In 1903 and then again in 1908, a number of the men killed in devastating mine explosions in Hanna were buried in Carbon Cemetery. Although they had resettled in the countryside or other mining communities, over the following decades many of Carbon's former residents and their descendants returned to the old coal camp at least one final time as they were buried close to family and friends. During the early 1900s, crowds of former residents and their children visited the townsite and cemetery each Decoration Day, now known as Memorial Day *(see Figure 15, page 15)*. They were often accompanied by a small marching band, and gathered to hear speeches and decorate the graves of loved ones. By 1910, the wood post and wire perimeter fence was in need of attention as the posts were weakening. Sometime around then, an area blacksmith named Stebner was engaged to cut numerous short lengths from metal steam piping salvaged from the #2 mine. These were delivered to the cemetery, where a team of men and boys installed them to stabilize the fence's old wood posts. Once the metal pipes were set in the ground and bolted to the wood posts, the wires were secured and the fence has lasted to the present time.

In 1923, the Union Pacific Coal Company transferred its ownership of part of the cemetery grounds (approximately 1.5 acres) to the Carbon Cemetery Association for a token sum of twenty-five dollars. The Cemetery Association, UP Land Resources Corporation (now Anadarko Land Corp.), and federal government (through the BLM) have owned the site since then. From the 1940s on, Carbon Cemetery was largely abandoned, except for occasional burials and periodic visits by descendents and history buffs. The World War II era was a watershed for many rural cemeteries in the West, as historic populations shifted away, traditions were abandoned, and burial grounds were left to the elements.

Even though the townsite and cemetery were abandoned, Carbon's place in Wyoming history was not forgotten. The story of Carbon appeared in newspaper articles and books throughout the early and middle decades of the 20th century. Starting in the late 1960s and 1970s, Carbon began to gain more attention as the Union Pacific's centennial, the nation's bicentennial, and the emerging historic preservation movement spurred greater interest in genealogy and preserving important elements of the past. Between 1974 and 1979, staff historians from the Bureau of Land Management and Wyoming State Archives visited Carbon and its cemetery. They completed a brief Antiquities Site Inventory form and launched limited analysis and documentation of the site. Inscriptions on the gravemarkers were eventually recorded. Years later, between 2002 and 2004, a photographer from the Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office documented the graves at the site.

The 1970s Antiquities Site Inventory document noted the historic importance and deteriorated condition of the townsite and cemetery. It also mentioned that although the remote townsite was abandoned, the cemetery remained in use and was being minimally maintained. Little else, other than occasional visits and burials, took place regarding the cemetery until the very early 2000s. In 2002, exactly a century after the mines were closed and the town of Carbon was largely abandoned, the Hanna Basin Historical Society's board of directors decided to launch an effort to protect and restore the Carbon Cemetery. This resulted in re-establishment of the defunct Carbon Cemetery Association as a non-profit corporation that has overseen the site since that time. A preservation plan for the cemetery was completed in 2009.

Ownership of the site is split between two entities: the Carbon Cemetery Association, which owns approximately two thirds of the cemetery, and the BLM, which owns the upper western section. The BLM has formally leased its parcel to Carbon County and the county has assigned management responsibility to the Cemetery Association. The Cemetery Association is working to consolidate the site into one parcel under its ownership.

Annual volunteer cemetery cleanup days were launched in 2003 and have continued to the present time. An extensive carpet of sagebrush and greasewood was cleared from the site and native grass seed spread to encourage the growth of healthy vegetation. In 2006, many of the headstones were reset and straightened, and the main entry gate was reconstructed in 2007. Burials at the site have been researched and a comprehensive database compiled. Today the remote cemetery is a maintained and protected part of Wyoming's heritage.

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Name of Property   County and State

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Name of Property   County and State

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_____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been   _____ State Historic Preservation Office
         requested)   X   Other State agency
_____ previously listed in the National Register   _____ Federal agency
_____ previously determined eligible by the National Register   _____ Local government
_____ designated a National Historic Landmark   _____ University
_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey   #_____   X   Other

Carbon Cemetery   Carbon County, WY
Name of Property   County and State

____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____   Name of repository: **Hannah Basin Museum**
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____   _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property   5 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 13   385560   4634260   3 ____   _____   _____
   Zone   Easting   Northing   Zone   Easting   Northing

2 ____   _____   _____   4 ____   _____   _____
   Zone   Easting   Northing   Zone   Easting   Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The nominated property includes, and is limited to, the following parcel of land:
   This nomination includes all of the ground, including the graves, their associated monuments, and other cultural
   artifacts that are found within the original and still-standing fence line that marks the perimeter of the site. The
   approximately five-acre property is located in the northwest ¼ of Section 26, Township 22 North, Range 80 West
   in a remote area of Carbon County, Wyoming approximately nine miles southwest of the town of Medicine Bow.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The nominated property consists of the fenced cemetery that was established in 1868 to serve as a burial ground for the
mining community of Carbon. This area includes all of the known burials associated with the cemetery. These
boundaries are preferred due to the fact that they include all of the property historically associated with the cemetery and
its decades of use. Inclusion of the entire parcel in the nomination is crucial to protecting the site and its integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Ron Sladek, President

organization Tatanka Historical Associates, Inc.   date 26 February 2010

street & number   P.O. Box 1909   telephone   970-221-1095

city or town Fort Collins   state   CO   zip code 80522

e-mail   _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Carbon Cemetery   Carbon County, WY
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> A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- **Continuation Sheets**

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Carbon Cemetery
City or Vicinity: Carbon
County: Carbon
State: Wyoming
Photographer: Richard Collier
Date Photographed: 7-22-2010
Description of Photograph(s) and number:

Photo 1 of 11: Overview of cemetery, view to the southwest

Photo 2 of 11: Overview of cemetery, view to the southeast

Photo 3 of 11: Overview of cemetery, view to the northwest

Photo 4 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the west

Photo 5 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the west

Photo 6 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the northeast

Photo 7 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the northwest

Photo 8 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the west

Photo 9 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the west

Photo 10 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the south

Photo 11 of 11: Representative gravemarkers and fenced grave enclosures, view to the west