

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received SEP 30 1982
date entered**1. Name**

historic Sweetwater Brewery

and/or common Green River Brewery

2. Location

street & number 48 West Railroad Avenue _____ not for publication

city, town Green River _____ vicinity of

state Wyoming code 56 county Sweetwater code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	n/a being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. Robert H. Lewis (875-7398)

street & number PO Box 1135

city, town Green River _____ vicinity of state Wyoming 82935

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Sweetwater County Courthouse

street & number 50 West Flaming Gorge

city, town Green River _____ state Wyoming 82935

6. Representation in Existing Surveystitle Wyoming Recreation Commission has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1967 revised 1973 _____ federal ☒ state _____ county _____ local

depository for survey records 1920 Thomes Avenue

city, town Cheyenne _____ state Wyoming 82002

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☐ good☒ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved date _____**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Green River Brewery is a 1900 structure constructed of native sandstone laid in ashlar courses with a rock-faced finish. The existing structure was once part of a three building complex that consisted of the Office/Saloon, the Engine House, and the Brewhouse but only the Office/Saloon remains today. The building is two stories, with a square plan, four bay front, with a single story section on the north wall. A one story, concrete block, addition was recently construction on the west side of the brewery. This recent construction is not particularly compatible with the existing building. The principle facades are the south and west walls.

The first floor of the south facade consists of two, wood infill, storefronts with the east or right portion of the facade having been the saloon while the west part was the office. The infilled area consists of raised and molded panels and is capped by a large, pressed metal, cornice with raised letters spelling 'office' and 'saloon' over the appropriate area.

The windows on the second story west and south facades were originally double hung fixtures. Recently, new windows that are not similar to the original ones were added. The current windows are rectangular and are topped by large stone lintels.

By far the most significant part of the structure is its castellated appearance. The south and east facades are composed of four towers with merlons, crenelles and coping. The largest tower is located on the southwest corner and it supports a flagpole topped by a large ball. Both the west and south facades have raised center portions with identical crenellation. This center portion is flanked by two inner towers. The western facade contains carved scrollwork that surrounds a keg. The south facade has decorative scrollwork with the inscription "Erected 1900." Each raised center portion is capped by a large stone urn.

This building is an interesting blend of architectural styles which, is architecturally significant to Green River, as well as, to the State of Wyoming. Unlike any other Wyoming structure, the castellated Green River Brewery is a distinctive and unique portion of Wyoming's past.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1900 **Builder/Architect** Hugo Gaensslen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Green River Brewery in Green River, Wyoming stems from two sources. First, the Green River Brewery is significant for being one of the pioneer industries in Green River and the first brewery in Wyoming as well. Through the years Green River beer gained a nationwide reputation for its quality. Also, the brewery is architecturally significant for its interesting blend of architectural styles reminiscent of castles along the Rhine River in Germany and patterned after the famous Chicago water tower. It is also unique in that it is the only known structure of its kind in the State of Wyoming.

**Addendum

From the beginning, the brewing business was operated by German immigrants who had the necessary know-how to run a brewery. The first brewery was opened in 1872 even before a school or courthouse had been constructed. It was operated by Adam Braun but unfortunately was washed away by a flood.

In 1875 Otto Rauch took over the business, building a one-story wooden structure on Front Street (later Railroad Avenue), which is the location of the present structure today.

It was after Karl Spinner purchased the business in 1879 that the fine reputation for Green River beer became widespread. Spinner had come to Green River in 1873 from Germany and after his purchase was able to increase business to the point where the brewery was producing 5,000 barrels of beer a year. It was at this time that the name Green River Brewery was adopted. As the reputation for Green River beer expanded, Spinner began shipping the beer throughout the country. This beer became known as "Columbia Beer" after placing second in the 1890 Columbia Exposition competition.

The period of development which produced the present structure was begun in 1891 when Hugo Gaensslen purchased the brewery. He was a quality brewmaster who had graduated from the United States Brewers' Academy in New York City. Under his management, the brewery continued to prosper along with many additions and changes to the facilities. His first project was to construct a three-story frame building with tin siding. As Mr. Gaensslen expanded the operations, he had it incorporated and the name officially changed to the Sweetwater Brewery Company. Gaensslen adopted the slogan "The Pioneer Wyoming Brew" which it continued to use throughout its existence. The beer continued its fine tradition by winning medals at both the 1905 St. Louis Exposition and the Portland Exposition one year later.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Newspapers:

Green River Star. Green River, Wyoming June 30, 1976, June 29, 1977, Nov. 15, 1977.
Rock Springs Rocket-Miner. Rock Springs, Wyoming January 8, 1980
Green River Brewery, Vertical File, Sweetwater County Historical Museum

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Green River, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	2
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6	2	7	8	1	0
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4	5	9	8	3	9	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property only includes the original Saloon/Office building that is part of Lots 10-11, Block 17, Green River, Wyoming

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

state n/a code n/a county n/a code n/a

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Werner Henry Chadey
Survey Historian Director
organization Wyo. Rec. Comm. Sweetwater County Historical Museum DATE: April, 1982
street & number 1920 Thomes Ave. 50 W Flaming Gorge telephone 777-6301

city or town Cheyenne Green River state Wyoming 82002 82935

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Jan & Wilson

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 24, 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McCullard

date 11/1/82

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Statement of Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

In 1900 Gaensslen, a native of Chicago, built the stone structure which still stands today. It was patterned after the famous Chicago water tower which he had been so taken with in his youth. The new building was constructed of native sandstone quarried behind Tollgate Rock and then transported in horsedrawn wagons the mile and a half to the building site. Other stones used were quarried in the Spring Canyon area north of the town. With the completion of this building program, the brewery house built between the old plant and the old three story plant brewhouse building.

Usually Gaensslen leased the saloon to a separate individual so that he could concentrate solely on the work that went into brewing. He also operated an ice house which was essential to keeping beer fresh before pasteurization became a common brewing practice.

With the passage of the Volstead Act in 1919, the beer making operations were closed down and the name changed to the Sweetwater Beverage Company. The brewery sold non-alcoholic near beer, which became known as "Wyoming Beverage", a lemon-lime drink named "Green River", and various citrus crushes. However, due to the moon-shining going on in the area the near beer never took hold and the business faltered. In 1931, two years before Prohibition ended, Mr. Gaensslen died and the operation was closed.

The brewery remained closed until 1936 when an Irishman, Tom Flaherty, made the pretense of reopening the business. He was primarily a con man interested in making some quick money and as things got worse, (for one thing the beer was of extremely poor quality), Flaherty skipped to Canada. This was the last time that the brewery ever operated in such a capacity.

The stone building has since been used for other commercial endeavors including a plumbing shop and the present fencing company. Despite the fact that many of the buildings have been destroyed, the surviving stone structure is an exceptionally interesting and unique piece of architecture which retains its significance even today.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Substantive Review

Sweetwater Brewery
Sweetwater County
WYOMING

Working No. 9/30/82-2727
Fed. Reg. Date: 2.1.83
Date Due: 10/29/82 - 11/14/82
Action: ACCEPT 11/1/82
RETURN
REJECT
Federal Agency: _____

resubmission
nomination by person or local government
owner objection
appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria Accept / AHS
Reviewer L.M. Collins
Discipline A. Hist
Date 11/1/82
see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: technical corrections cited below
substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition	Check one	Check one
<u>excellent</u>	<u>deteriorated</u>	<u>unaltered</u>
<u>good</u>	<u>ruins</u>	<u>altered</u>
<u>fair</u>	<u>unexposed</u>	<u>original site</u>
		<u>moved</u> <u>date</u> _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

summary paragraph
completeness
clarity
alterations/integrity
dates
boundary selection

Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- _____ summary paragraph
- _____ completeness
- _____ clarity
- _____ applicable criteria
- _____ justification of areas checked
- _____ relating significance to the resource
- _____ context
- _____ relationship of integrity to significance
- _____ justification of exception
- _____ other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Average of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

USGS References

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

_____ national _____ state _____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Title

date

13. Other

- _____ ✓ Maps
- _____ Photographs
- _____ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: 202 272-3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



Sweetwater Brewery
Green River, Wyoming
Photographer: Clay Fraser
Date: 1980
Neg: Wyoming Recreation

Commission
View is northeast



Sweetwater Brewery
Green River, Wyoming
Photographer: Clay Fraser
Date: 1980
Neg: Wyoming Recreation

Commission
View is north



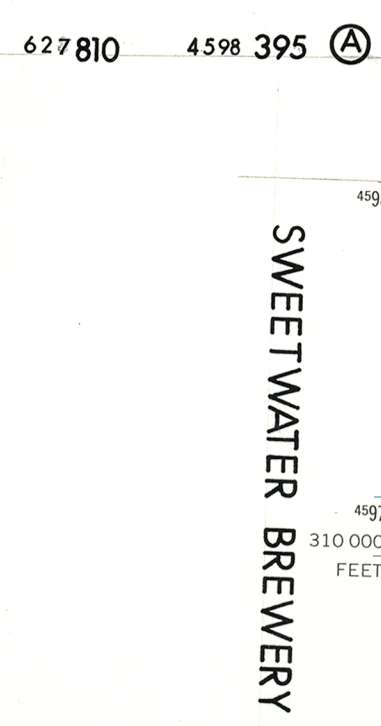
Sweetwater Brewery
Green River, Wyoming
Photographer: Liz Stambaugh
Neg: Wyoming Recreation
Commission

Date: August 9, 1982
View is looking to the NE
Neg. No. 2044

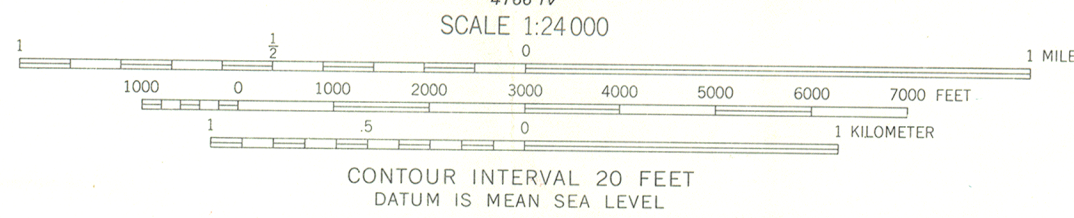


Sweetwater Brewery
Green River, Wyoming
Photographer: Liz Stambaugh
Neg: Wyoming Recreation
Commission

Date: August 9, 1982
View is north
Neg. No. 2045



4066 I
1:62 500
(MC KINNON JUNCTION)



WYOMING

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

GREEN RIVER, WYO.
N4130—W10922.5/7.5

1961
AMS 4167 III SW—SERIES V874

THE STATE



OF WYOMING

ED HERSCHLER
GOVERNOR

Wyoming Recreation Commission

1920 THOMES

CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82002

**COMMISSION
OFFICERS**

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900 Foyer Avenue
Cheyenne 82001

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Thayne 83127

ALBERT PILCH

P.O. Box AF
Evanston 82930

DAN MADIA

1017 Victoria
Sheridan 82801

Mr. Jerry Rogers
Keeper of the National Register
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

September 28, 1982

Dear Mr. Rogers:

Our office is submitting 17 nominations for your review. The following nominations are enclosed: Arlington, Jim Baker Cabin, Boeing/United Airlines Terminal Building, Hangar and Fountain, Centennial Depot, Clearmont Jail, Cody-Sheridan Avenue Historic District, George Ferris Mansion, Hanna Community Hall, Hotel Higgins, Lehman Tunnell Mansion, Medicine Bow Union Pacific Depot, St. Paul's Church, Sheridan Main Street Historic District, Stone Ranch Stage Station, William Sturgis Residence, Sweetwater Brewery, and Union Congregation Church and Parsonage. I hope these meet with your approval.

If you have any questions, please contact our National Register Co-ordinator, Eileen Starr at 307-777-6301.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jan L. Wilson".

Jan L. Wilson, Director
and State Historic Preservation Officer

JLW:EFS:glb
Enclosure
cc: Linda McClelland

JAN L. WILSON

Director

777-7695

1982