

Statewide Historical Significance

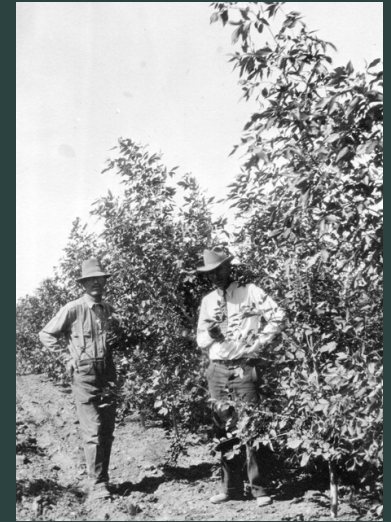
of the proposed High Plains Research Station and
Arboretum State Historic Site



HIGH PLAINS
ARBORETUM
CHEYENNE, WYOMING

Community Beautification

Horticultural Research from 1930-1974 sought trees, shrubs, flowers, fruits, and vegetables that could thrive in Wyoming's tough climate. This research changed the landscape of the state, helped residents establish homesteads, and continues to make Wyoming a more beautiful place. Many trees that were given to landowners and government properties (WY state capitol, VA hospital, highway department, UW, CSU, and more) are still alive today. Research was coordinated with experimental stations in Laramie, Torrington, Lander, Colorado, Kansas, North Dakota, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Canada. Shelterbelt research took place on private farms and ranches all over the state and region.



A Living Collection

A collection of almost 600 historical trees remain in the arboretum, including rare specimens of plants collected by USDA plant explorers around 1900 from similarly harsh climates around the world. There are hundreds more historic shelterbelt trees around the buildings and station grounds, many of which came from the USDA research station at Mandan, North Dakota.



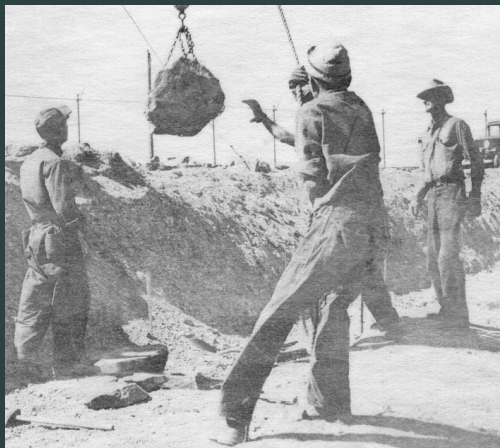
Notable Architecture

Station buildings were designed by renowned Wyoming architect William Dubois, who also designed the Wyoming State Capitol house and senate wings, the Agricultural Hall at the University of Wyoming, dormitories at the Wyoming State Hospital in Evanston as well as public buildings and private residences in Douglas, Green River, Basin, Rock Springs, Casper, and Cheyenne.



Depression-era CCC Structures

The station hosted two Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camps between 1935 and 1942. This depression-era federal program gave work experience and education to unemployed men while beautifying public lands. Many structures constructed by the camps remain on the station including stone terraces, bridges, campsites, a root cellar, and lath house.



Historic Public Utility Facilities

The site includes two historic buildings originally used to manage the municipal water supply to Cheyenne, including a valve house with living quarters and one of the earliest water treatment plants in the state of Wyoming.



Shortgrass Prairie Research

Ongoing grasslands research has helped ranchers around the state implement sustainable grazing practices since 1975. New research is exploring the use of targeted grazing by sheep and cattle for control of invasive weeds.



Continuing Horticultural Contributions

Plants released by the station or rediscovered by the nursery industry from the historic arboretum continue to contribute to the landscape of the region. Fort Laramie strawberries, Hot Wings Maple, and Cheyenne Mock Orange are just a few examples of plants that originated at the station and have become regional favorites.

