

Travel the Oregon Trail with WyoHistory.org

The Oregon, Mormon Pioneer and California trails all cross

Wyoming in the central and most popular corridor of the transcontinental migration of the 1840s, '50s and '60s. As many as half a million people may have traveled this corridor in the 19th century. To many, the environments of the Great Plains, Rocky Mountains and Great Basin seemed like another planet, full of strange and alien landscapes.

Use the QR Codes on the following pages with your mobile phone or tablet or visit www.wyohistory.org/oregon-trail to learn more about these Oregon Trail landmarks, including in-depth articles, maps, directions, photo galleries, videos and more.

1 Fort Laramie

Fort Laramie began as a fur-trade post in 1834 near the confluence of the Laramie and North Platte rivers. Soon it changed into a post for the trade in buffalo robes, and for supplying emigrants bound west on the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail.



2 Register Cliff

Register Cliff, near present Guernsey, is one of three large “registers of the desert” in Wyoming where emigrants carved their names on rock.



3 Oregon Trail Ruts

Ruts carved 2 to 6 feet deep in a sandstone ridge on the south side of the North Platte River, about a half mile south of Guernsey, provide striking physical evidence of the route followed by hundreds of thousands of emigrants.



4 Reshaw's Bridge

John Richard's bridge across the North Platte River near present Casper eased the way for thousands of those who traveled the trail.



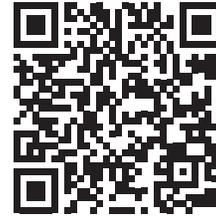
5 Fort Caspar

The U.S. Army established Platte Bridge Station in 1862 to protect the Oregon/California/Mormon Trail crossing of the North Platte River and the new transcontinental telegraph.



7 Martin's Cove

In 1856, a group of handcart emigrants from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints took shelter in this small cove after a late start in their journey across the plains.



9 Fort Bridger

Established by mountain men Jim Bridger and Louis Vasquez in 1843, Fort Bridger was an important rest and re-supply spot for emigrants.



6 Independence Rock

People have been leaving carvings and images on this rock since prehistoric times. When Father De Smet visited in 1841, he named it the "Great Register of the Desert."



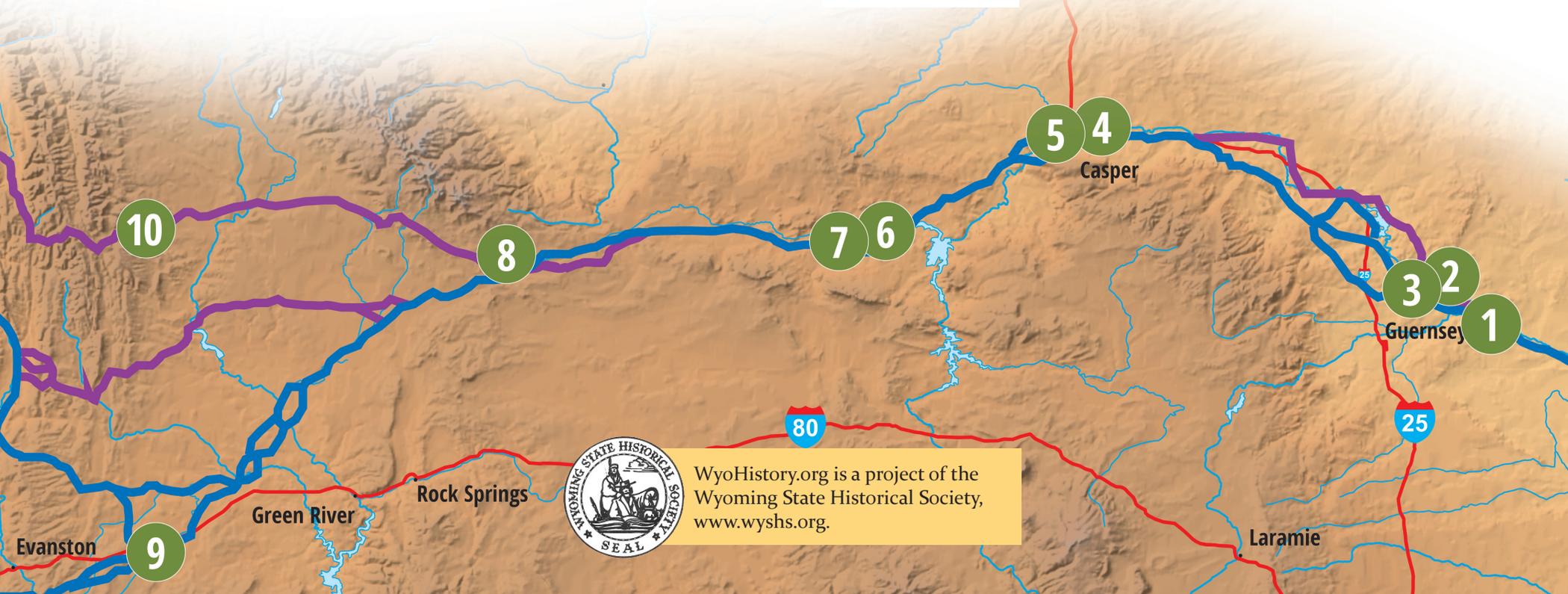
8 South Pass

Without South Pass and the easy grade it offered to early transcontinental travelers, the history of the United States would have been much different.



10 Lander Trail

In 1857, the U.S. Congress passed the Pacific Wagon Road Act, allowing the survey and construction of wagon roads. A segment of the first such national road built in the West is the Lander Trail.



WyoHistory.org is a project of the Wyoming State Historical Society, www.wyshs.org.