



- Name of Property:** Deer Medicine Rocks
City, State: Lame Deer vicinity, Montana
Significant Dates: June 4-8, 1876; June 25-26, 1876; and September 1877
NHL Criterion: 1
NPS Themes: I. Peopling Places
 5. Ethnic Homelands
 6. Encounters, Conflicts, and Colonization
IV. Shaping the Political Landscape
 3. Military Institutions and Activities
 4. Political Ideas, Cultures, and Theories
- Previous Recognition:**
- National Historic Context:** I. Cultural Developments: Indigenous American Populations
 D. Ethnohistory of Indigenous American Populations
 1. Native Cultural Adaptations at Contact
 3. Varieties of Early Conflict, Conquest or Accommodation
 b. Forced and Voluntary Population Movements
 4. Military Removal and Concentration
X. Westward Expansion of the British Colonies and the United States, 1763-1898
 C. Military-Aboriginal American Contact and Conflict



NHL Significance:

- Deer Medicine Rocks is significant for its associations with the Great Sioux War of 1876-1877. In early June 1876, Hunkpapa medicine man Sitting Bull held a Sun Dance in the Rosebud Valley during which a prophecy of tribal victory at the Battle of the Little Bighorn was revealed to him. This vision is inscribed on Deer Medicine Rocks, which includes an etched drawing of “many soldiers falling into camp,” representing army defeat. Approximately two weeks later, the tribes were victorious over Lieutenant Colonel George A. Custer’s Seventh Cavalry Command at the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25-26, 1876.
- Deer Medicine Rocks represents an alternate historical interpretation of the Battle of the Little Big Horn as viewed from a Native American perspective. To date, this is the only site nominated to offer a wholly Native American historical interpretation of the Battle of the Little Big Horn.

Integrity:

- Deer Medicine Rocks and its associated petroglyphs have a high level of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Owner of Property: Private corporation.

Acreage of Property: approximately 2 acres

Origins of Nomination: The nomination was initiated and funded by NPS at the request of the Northern Cheyenne Tribe.

Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:

- Nomination of this site offers an opportunity to designate as an NHL a property associated with the Great Sioux War that is a non-battle related site.
- The nomination is strongly supported by the landowner and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, as well as several associated tribes.

Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program: None known.

Landmarks Committee Comments:

Landmarks Committee Recommendation:

Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of 05/19/11):

John L. Bailey and Carol M. Bailey, Bailey Cattle Company, L.L.C.
Mark F. Baumler, Ph.D., State Historic Preservation Officer, Montana Historical Society
Glen H. Livermont, Superintendent, Pipestone National Monument, Minnesota

Advisory Board Recommendation: