

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **JUL 30 1986**
DATE ENTERED **AUG 13 1986**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

FORT PECK TOWNSITE AND DAM

AND/OR COMMON

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF FORT PECK

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

THE LIMITS OF FORT PECK TOWNSITE AND DAM

N/A NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

FORT PECK

VICINITY OF SECOND DISTRICT, SCOBEY

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

MONTANA

30-045-105

VALLEY

30-105

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Multiple Resource District	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
	<i>N/A</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(if applicable)*

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA

STREET & NUMBER

6014 U.S.P.O. and COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

STATE

OMAHA

N/A VICINITY OF

NEBRASKA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. RECORDER'S OFFICE

STREET & NUMBER

VALLEY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

CITY, TOWN

STATE

GLASGOW

MONTANA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY, GOVERNMENT TOWNSITE STUDY

DATE

1 May 1980

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA

CITY, TOWN

STATE

OMAHA

NEBRASKA

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1

PROPERTIES LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER:
Fort Peck Theatre

PROPERTIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER:
Administration Building
(Hospital) Apartments
Hotel and Garage
School
Recreation Building
Garage and Fire Station
Fort Peck Original Residences, Historic District

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u> </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Peck Townsite and Dam are located in the Missouri River Valley in northwestern Montana, upstream of the confluence of the Milk and the Missouri Rivers. The dam is located 1900 miles above the mouth of the Missouri, in Valley County, Montana. The Public Works Administration authorized the Corps of Engineers to begin construction of a dam and town on October 14, 1933. Plans for both the temporary and permanent components of the town were developed during the winter of 1933 by the Missouri River Division Office of the Corps of Engineers in Kansas City, Missouri.

Prior to the construction of the Fort Peck Dam, there was very little development in this part of Montana. The construction activities made it necessary to build a town to house and maintain the workers. Despite the vast scope of the project and a tight schedule (commencement of construction by the spring of 1934), the Corps did not attempt to sacrifice major aesthetic concerns for the sake of speed and efficiency. Landscape architects were engaged to coordinate townsite layout with the physical features of the location, and even temporary structures of similar function were planned in a variety of designs to guard against the visual tedium of a mass-produced town. The architecture was varied and curved streets eliminated the aspect of monotony common to ordinary construction camps and factory towns. A pleasing color scheme was selected for painting the exteriors of the buildings so that they harmonized with the landscaping and lawn areas between the buildings. Trees and shrubs native to the area were planted.

During construction of the dam, the town of Fort Peck experienced its greatest population density. At one time, over 10,000 people lived at Fort Peck. After the dam construction, many of the temporary buildings were torn down. The permanent buildings, as well as a few "temporary" buildings, still stand. These buildings represent only a fraction of the whole. The density of development is much lower now than it was during the construction period, the period during which the townsite and dam were built and have achieved significance.

The types of historic resources which are most prominent include the municipal buildings which were built in the Swiss chalet style, common during the 1930's for government buildings. Also prominent in the area are the dam and powerhouse. The Original Residences Historic District completes the Multiple Resource District with a variety of materials used in the "cottage picturesque" style.

All these buildings exist and are maintained and operated because of one important geographic feature, the Missouri River. Without the river and its opportune location for a dam, none of these historic resources would exist today.

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The historic resources which are represented in this Multiple Resource Nomination include: The Swiss Chalet style (arts and crafts) for the municipal buildings, the cottage picturesque style for the residential district, the hydraulic earthfill construction for the dam, and a modified art deco style for the powerhouse. These styles were all popular during the WPA era. The different components (other than the single-family residences) were generally presented on a scale to provide adequate space for the large construction population. Most of the municipal buildings are made of wood, with much attention given to detail. The dam is made of earth; the powerhouse is made of concrete. Most of the residential units are made of wood or logs, accented with brick or stone fireplaces.

The community buildings themselves are centered around the Administration Building and its adjoining green space to the front. The buildings are well located, with ample room given to each to achieve a feeling of space. Most of the streets curve away from the Administration Building area. The approximate percentage of residential buildings to commercial (or non-residential) buildings is 80% residential to 20% non-residential.

The survey upon which this nomination is based included all aspects of cultural resources. The attached nomination forms indicate which resources were determined eligible or significant. No prehistoric resources were discovered during the course of the survey. The entire townsite area was apparently graded prior to construction, destroying any cultural resources which may have been located in the area. The surveyors were MacDonald and Mack Partnership, private contractors from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Fort Peck Original Residences Historic District

The Original Residences historic district at Fort Peck consists of twelve (12) residences located between 1100-1112 East Kansas Avenue. ^{Ten} (10) of the residences were built by Johnson Drake and Piper and two (2) were built by the Madsen Construction Company in 1934.

The residences are mostly wood frame construction with horizontal siding. All of the residences are one story with an attic. Some of the residences are brick, log, or stone construction. The chimneys are constructed of brick or native stone.

The structures are varied in design and surface treatment, for example, the roofs are hipped and gabled differently on different houses. The variation in the residences can be considered typical of the construction done at Fort Peck in the mid 1930's and was done to avoid the appearance of mass production apparent in other government or company towns. The style of these structures is Cottage Picturesque.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1933-1937

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The overall significance of the Fort Peck Townsite/Dam can best be viewed in terms of its contributions of hydroelectric power, navigation, flood control, recreation, and much-needed employment during its construction phase. Fort Peck Dam was the first major dam on the Missouri River. It is also unique in terms of its construction method (a pumped slurry earthen fill technique), its WPA status, and the fact that the government provided an entire town to house the workers. President Roosevelt was particularly proud of Fort Peck, considering it a major accomplishment of his New Deal Policies. The Fort Peck townsite was the Corps' major experiment in social engineering; the dam construction method was a major experiment in civil engineering.

Water management along the Missouri River began to be developed with the construction of Fort Peck Dam. Since this was such a monumental undertaking, the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers created a town to house and entertain the workers in this remote outpost of Montana.

The townsite and dam are significant in terms of criteria A and C. Criterion A applies to properties "that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." As many as 50,000 workers participated in the construction activities during the 1930's. The Fort Peck townsite and dam construction brought meaningful work to the unemployed masses during the depression. As a part of the Roosevelt administration, Fort Peck dam stands as the symbol of the New Deal in Montana.

Criterion C applies to properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction . . . or that possess high artistic values . . ." The majority of the town depicts the Swiss chalet style which was popularized during the early 1900's to 1920's. The Swiss chalet style is a "distinctive characteristic of a type, period, or method of construction . . ." that, amongst architectural historians, is considered significant under criterion "C". This townsite is also representative of the New Deal architecture in Montana during the 1930's. There is very little government construction in Montana; the significance of Fort Peck townsite and dam also lies in the time frame in which they were built (embodying distinctive characteristics of a period in Montana history).

Fort Peck Dam and townsite represent the New Deal in Montana. These historic resources were built under the auspices of the Public Works Administration and were transferred to the "Pick-Sloan Plan" in 1944. The Fort Peck dam is the largest and

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oldest of the hydraulic earth-filled dams in the world (see dam nomination for an explanation of the Pick-Sloan plan and a detailed explanation of hydraulic earthfill). The main embankment of the dam is 4 miles long and contains 126 million cubic yards of earth. It is a multi-purpose dam, used for flood control, navigation, power generation, irrigation, public water supply, fish and wildlife conservation, recreation, and improvement of water quality. This basic nature of the dam (multi-purpose) and powerhouse have remained constant despite many changes and improvements in the last fifty years.

The townsite is an excellent example of labor intensive, arts and crafts construction which was prevalent during WPA days. This example of construction further strengthens the significance under criterion "C" ("that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction . . . or that possess high artistic values. ") The majority of the non-residential buildings were constructed in the Swiss Chalet style. These buildings include the Fort Peck Theatre, the Recreation Building, the school, the hotel and garages, the police and fire station, the apartments (formerly a hospital), and the administration building.

There is also a historic district located within the Fort Peck Multiple Resources nomination. This historic district consists of twelve (12) original residences located on East Kansas Avenue. These twelve houses were constructed in the Cottage Picturesque style. Each house is individual in terms of the types of construction materials. They are also located along a curved street to avoid the monotony which is often associated with company towns. These residences were included in the multiple resource nomination because they are an integral part of the permanent construction.

This combination of residential, non-residential buildings and the dam and powerhouse were chosen for the multiple resource nomination because they offer a good cross section of what the town of Fort Peck was like during the construction phase. The dam and powerhouse also contribute two categories of significance to this nomination, namely industry and transportation. The power plant produces hydroelectric power, giving the resource its significance under the industry category. The controlled release of water from the dam helps to maintain the channel in the Missouri River. This aspect of the water management is significant under the transportation category.

Some of the buildings in this nomination have been adapted for reuse (see enclosed sheets). Although many of the buildings are less ^{now} than 50 years old, their style and detailing is significant in terms of the labor-intensive era of the 1930's.

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The individual nominations include all of the construction camp era structures (see above). These buildings are situated in such a manner that they do not lend themselves to a district nomination. These buildings, along with the historic district of original residences have all been determined eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (see enclosed sheets).

The Fort Peck Fine Arts Council has had the theatre nominated to the National Register. They have plans for some preservation activities (painting, etc.). The Corps also operates in a preservation mode concerning these buildings. All of the buildings and structures have maintained their original character over the years. At present, there are no plans for restoration, however, with the type of maintenance that is practiced, authentic restoration would be a relatively simple process.

The data included in this multiple resource nomination will be used by the Corps of Engineers as pertinent information when planning what to do with the townsite. The Federal government has been instructed to dispose of any land which is not essential to the mission of the agency. ~~The Fort Peck Townsite may be sold in the future. The Corps has plans to rehabilitate the town to make it maintenance free for the first five (5) years after the incorporation as a town. This will allow the town to get on its feet (financially) without undue burdens during its first few years.~~ In accordance with P.L. 99-88, all these structures except the dam and power house and administration building will be transferred out of Federal ownership Aug. 15, 1986.

The results of this survey have been incorporated into the data base at the Montana Historical Society. A comprehensive plan has not developed for the area, however, one may be developed in the future. If a plan is developed, the historic resources at Fort Peck will be incorporated.

Fort Peck Original Residences Historic District

The Original Residences historic district is significant in terms of criteria A and C. The residences are contemporaneous with the construction of the dam and associated "with events that have made significant contributions in the broad patterns of our history". Fort Peck Dam represents one of the most important contributions made by the New Deal toward alleviation of unemployment, and providing much needed flood control, hydroelectric power, recreation in the area. The Cottage Picturesque residences can be said to "embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction" because they are representative of New Deal Architecture in general and one style in particular.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MacDonald and Mack Partnership: "Cultural Resources Survey, Government Townsite Study." Report prepared for the Omaha District, Corps of Engineers, 1 May 1980. Published by the Omaha District. Copies available upon request.

Fort Peck Dam and Lake, Montana, Pamphlet, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha Dist.

Fort Peck, A Job Well Done. October 1933-August 1977. Commemorative booklet put out by Fort Peck Reunion Committee

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 800 approximately E: 13/391875/53118030

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	39,20,0,0	53,1,8,6,8,5	B	1,3	39,52,7,5	53,1,8,3,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,3	39,57,1,0	53,1,7,9,4,5	D	1,3	39,27,7,5	53,1,6,6,3,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at the northernmost point on East Kansas Avenue, proceeding southeast along the same to intersection of Teton Road. Northeast along Teton Rd. to the South Branch of Yellowstone Rd. Proceed along South Branch Yellowstone Rd. to the east until intersection of Highway 24. Take Hwy 24 west to the West Base Bench.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
MONTANA	30-045-105	McCONE	30-055
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

REBECCA J. OTTO/Archeologist

ORGANIZATION

U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

STREET & NUMBER

6014 U.S.P.O. & COURTHOUSE

CITY OR TOWN

OMAHA

DATE

OCTOBER 1984

TELEPHONE

FTS 864-3070 (402) 221-3070

STATE

NEBRASKA 68102

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Marvella Sheffer 12-18-84
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE LTC Kit J. Valentine

TITLE Chief, Office of Environmental Overview

DATE 15 April 1986

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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

See Continuation Sheet for Listings DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION DATE

ATTEST DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Mark. From there, proceed northwest to Yellowstone Road (behind gas station). Proceed northeast on Yellowstone to the intersection of Big Horn Road and Missouri Avenue. Take Missouri Avenue to Grand Street, Grand to West Kansas Avenue. Go northeast to Osage Avenue between the school and the houses. Take Osage to North Platte, bisect "Block 1100" (houses from 1100-1112 East Kansas Avenue to be included).I

Fort Peck Original Residences Historic District

Acreage of nominated property approx. 11 acres.

UTM reference (of Historic District Nomination (see appropriate form))

A. 13/392000 5318385

B. 13/392185 5318330

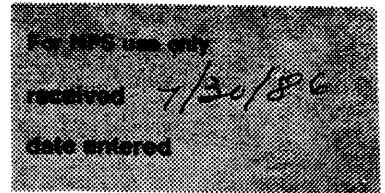
C. 13/392175 5318310

Verbal boundary description

The boundaries of the Original Residences Historic District are as follows: starting at the intersection of Teton Road, North Platte Street and East Kansas Avenue, proceed west along North Platte Street 220 feet immediately past house 1100 and proceed north 1200 feet bisecting the 1100 block at 1113 and 1112 East Kansas Avenue. Reenter East Kansas Avenue at this point, which is 380 feet east of the intersection of Osage Avenue and East Kansas Avenue, and then proceed southeast along East Kansas Avenue 1250 feet to the point of origin.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Fort Peck MRA
State Valley County, MONTANA

Com William B. Bushong 8/13/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Administration Building

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

2. Employee's Hotel and
Garage

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

3. Fort Peck Dam

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

4. Fort Peck Original
Residences Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

5. Hospital

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

6. School

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

7. Garage and Fire
Station

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13

8. Recreation Hall

~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper

Attest

William B. Bushong 8/13/86

9. Fort Peck Theater
(Already listed)

Keeper

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest