

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

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

## 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Fortin Ranch House

Other names/site number: Blarney Ranch

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

## 2. Location

Street & number: 191 Ant Flat Road

City or town: Trego State: MT County: Lincoln

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B X C     D

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Signature of certifying official/Title:</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Date</div> </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</div>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Signature of commenting official:</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Date</div> </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;">Title :</div> <div style="width: 60%;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</div> </div> </div>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register  
☐ determined eligible for the National Register  
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register  
☐ removed from the National Register  
☐ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private: ☒
- Public – Local ☐
- Public – State ☐
- Public – Federal ☐

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☒
- District ☐
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐



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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: National style with Neo-Classical influences

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: STONE; Walls: WOOD,  
Weatherboard; Roof: METAL

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Fortin Ranch House stands in the beautiful Tobacco Valley in Lincoln County, just over 20 miles south of the Canada/US border and about 50 miles east of the Montana/Idaho line between the Tobacco River and Dickey Lake in the northwest Rocky Mountains of Montana. The property lies approximately 38 miles northwest of the town of Whitefish at an elevation of 3,067 feet. Fortine Creek flows along the west side of the property and empties into the Tobacco River, 16 miles to the north. The Whitefish Mountains stand to the north and west providing a glorious backdrop to the Fortin Ranch House. Brimstone Creek runs north-south immediately east of the buildings and the small town of Trego lies just to the southwest. The historic Great Northern Railroad bed runs north-south, west of the house. The National Register boundary that encompasses the Fortin Ranch House also includes the contributing root cellar/summer kitchen and one modern noncontributing shed.

### Narrative Description

#### Farmhouse (One contributing building circa 1911)

Constructed around 1911, by Octave and Lena Fortin, the stout, front-gable, wood frame farmhouse stands sentry on the 160-acre working cattle ranch. The gable roof exhibits boxed eaves and eave returns mark the corners of east and west ends of the roof. Historically, split shakes topped the roof (and remain) but are now covered with corrugated metal roofing applied around 1964. The main block of the house sits on a rock foundation that shows signs of settling. Lapped siding clads the walls. The house is painted white but has lost much of the paint over the



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decades. An exterior eave wall concrete block chimney, constructed circa 1964, clings to the far east end of the south elevation. The footprint measures 28 ft. x 48 ft.

A dropped-hipped porch with boxed eaves and topped with corrugated metal roofing attaches to the east façade. The roof features a centered small gable dormer accent. Four paired, for a total of eight, smooth and round classical columns support the porch that displays a half-wall enclosed with lapped siding. The porch ceiling is finished with narrow boards painted white. Cut stone tops the half-wall. Four steps approach the porch landing, which is constructed of boards. The porch rests on four concrete footings.

A circa 1964 16-ft. x 28-ft. single story addition covered by a dropped gable roof topped with corrugated metal attaches to the west wall. Cladding mimics that of the original structure.

East façade fenestration includes an off-center one-light wood door and one-over-one double-hung window to the south on the ground floor and two one-over-one double-hung units in the upper story. The south wall holds a near-centered five-panel wood door and a one-over-one double-hung window to the west; a small hipped-roof bay projects just east of the entry that holds two one-over-one double-hung units with the center opening boarded over with plywood. The top story displays two one-over-one double-hung windows. Two one-over-one double-hung windows appear in the upper story of the west wall and a six-panel metal door provides entry through the gable addition. The north elevation holds a number of windows including two one-over-one double-hung units and a vertical fixed unit on the ground floor; a small hipped-roof bay projects from the west end of the original building and holds three one-over-one double-hung units. The fixed unit was added when an external eave chimney that once stood in this location was removed. Second story windows include two one-over-one double-hung units. The north wall of the addition contains a single fixed unit near the eave. All windows are single-pane original units.

### **Interior**

The eight-room house retains its original wood floors made from old growth timber harvested locally. The original board trim, hand-constructed doors and hardware, and beadboard also remain. Oak woodwork and built-in cabinetry grace the interior.

### **Root Cellar and Summer Kitchen (counted as one contributing building, circa 1903/1904)**

A 28-ft. x 16-ft. root cellar and outdoor kitchen, commonly referred to as the summer kitchen, lies west of the farmhouse. The gable roof summer kitchen constructed by at least 1903/1904 encloses the cellar that lies below grade—the cellar likely predates the summer kitchen by several years as a family member noted the construction of the summer kitchen occurred upon the existing cellar.<sup>1</sup> The summer kitchen's corrugated metal sheeting tops the roof which features a square ridge ventilator covered by a small gable roof. Beneath the lapped siding lies 1-inch by 12-inch boards covered with tar paper held in place by furrowing strips. The date of

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<sup>1</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, approximately 1972, p. 5.

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the installation of the lapped siding remains uncertain, but likely dates to at least the 1930s or 1940s. Log stilts support the building.

Fenestration includes a single person entry in the west wall that holds a mostly deteriorated one-light wood door. The south wall contains a single one-light gable window and the north wall holds off-centered paired oversized plywood doors; a small square opening above the plywood doors has been infilled with narrow horizontal boards. The west wall exhibits two person-openings toward the center of the elevation, both holding portions of wood doors, and one window opening that originally contained paired units toward the south end of the wall.

A four-element cook stove helmed by Lena Fortin as she cooked for about 40 Great Northern construction laborers at the time the Whitefish to Columbia Falls route was constructed through this section of Lincoln County stood in the northwest corner of the building. One corner of the summer kitchen held a bench upon which a pail of drinking water with long handled dipper sat. Two granite wash basins also occupied this area. A large table with wooden benches stood in the center of the room.<sup>2</sup>

### **Modern Shed (one noncontributing building, 2020)**

Immediately south of the house and root cellar/summer kitchen stands a modern gable roof shed. The shed measures 22 ft. x 12 ft. and faces east. The southeast corner features a recessed entry with the roof overhang supported by a vertical 4-in. x 4-in. board; the entry holds a nine-light metal door. Window placement and style include a single one-over-one double hung window in the east wall, and a single one-over-one double hung and single paired sliding unit in the south elevation. The north elevation holds a paired sliding unit and the west elevation lacks fenestration. A small wood stoop approaches the front entry.

### **Spatial Arrangement**

The Fortin Homestead represents an historic diversified agricultural property dating to its initial settlement in 1894 by Octave and Lena Fortin. Access to the ranch house and root cellar/summer kitchen occurs from Ant Flat Road to the east along a southwest-northwest ranch road that leads to the buildings. The access road meanders to the south immediately east of the buildings turning southwest to travels immediately behind (southwest) of the ranch house and root cellar/summer kitchen. This drive has served as the primary access since the ranch house construction.

### **Integrity**

Architecturally, the Fortin Ranch House most strongly represents the National style, while secondary influences attributed to Neoclassical intrude. The house retains strong integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, materials, design, and workmanship. It stands in its original location in a rural setting little altered from the time of its construction, hence, integrity of feeling and association also remain exceptionally strong. Very little change has occurred to the house with the result that integrity of design, workmanship, and materials also remain. The

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<sup>2</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, approximately 1972 (handwritten donation date notation almost indecipherable).

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house appears much as it did when constructed around 1911. The Fortins would immediately recognize the house if they visited the property today. Of the few changes since its construction, the greatest constitutes the small addition off the rear (west) wall in the early 1960s; a concrete block chimney was attached to the south wall at the same time, likely correlating with the removal of a chimney off the west wall.

Although the root cellar/summer kitchen displays heavy deterioration, it too displays sound historic integrity and easily conveys its original presentation. Both the root cellar and summer kitchen remain in their original location, retaining integrity of workmanship, materials, and design, albeit, somewhat compromised by deterioration. The setting remains much the same as when constructed, providing a strong sense of feeling and association with the ranch house.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Period of Significance**

1903-1941

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1903

1911

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Octave Fortin

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Fortin Ranch House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A and Criterion C at a local level of significance. Under Criterion A, Octave Fortin and wife Lena, represent one of the earliest, if not the earliest, and most notable local ranching families in the Trego, Montana area. Together, the two raised cattle, horses, and crops in a sparsely populated area, mostly unsuited to agriculture. The second home they constructed, the Fortin Ranch House, served as the focal point of their lives and their ranch. Under Criterion C, the Fortin Ranch House gains additional significance as a solid example of the National Style of architecture associated with the arrival of railroads across the United States. Providing highlights to the functional presentation is the embrace of muted Neoclassical touches.

The beginning of the period of significance is 1903. Although Lena and Octave Fortin were unquestionably on the property by at least 1900, and likely prior, the earliest evidence of their occupation that remains dates to circa 1903/1904, the root cellar and summer kitchen, a date confirmed by the use of the building to feed Great Northern Railroad crews at the time—it is highly likely both the root cellar and summer kitchen building predate this estimate. The end of the period of significance is 1941, marked by the passing of Octave Fortin and bringing an end to the operation of the ranch by either Lena or Octave. Significant dates include 1903, reflecting the earliest extant building remaining on the property, and 1911, the year of the construction of the Fortin Ranch House.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Early History**

Prior to the arrival of Europeans, this portion of northwest Montana served as the homeland of the Kootenai Indian Nation who lived along the upper and lower stretches of the Kootenai River and surrounding valleys. The resources of the area, including the waterways, yielded food and transport, and were central to their lifeways. The rivers provided resources obtained with weirs, traps, and poles, and the surrounding area supplied big game such as elk, caribou, moose, and deer. Seasonal trips to the Columbia River to spear salmon and later, with the introduction of the horse, forays into the plains to hunt bison supplemented their provisions. The Kootenai oral traditions place them here as long ago as anyone can remember.<sup>3</sup>

**Exploration**

The first non-native party to explore the area was the North West Company, led by David Thompson. Between 1807 and 1811, Thompson travelled the Columbia from its source to its mouth and followed many important tributaries. In 1808, Finan McDonald, a Thompson assistant, established a storage facility and trade outpost near the present town of Libby, 30 miles west of the Fortin Ranch House, though its exact location remains unknown. Thompson himself

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<sup>3</sup> Donald Spritzer and the Montana Historical Society, *Interpretive Plan: Libby Dam, Kootenai River, Montana*. Chapter I, U.S. Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army Engineer District, 1973.

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followed the Kootenai River in 1808, passing by the future site of Libby on his way into Idaho.<sup>4</sup> Thompson's mission to scout the area for its fur trading potential eventually led to the founding of 11 posts along the Kootenai River, in Montana, Idaho, and British Columbia over the next 50 years. Trade with the Kootenai occurred and was actively pursued into the 1860s.<sup>5</sup>

Thirty years after Thompson's travels through the area, missionaries began to arrive. Father Pierre-Jean De Smet visited the Kootenai in 1842 and passed through the Tobacco Plains, just north of the future location of the Fortin Ranch House in 1845.<sup>6</sup> The area hosted explorers and travels that ranged from John Mullan, who followed an established Kootenai trail through the area in 1853 as an engineer with Isaac Stevens, to the establishment of the Fort Steele Road through the area, roughly following present-day Highway 93.<sup>7</sup> The ruggedness of the area prompted Mullan to move south for his namesake road that travelled between Fort Benton, Montana and Walla Walla, Washington; the road proved influential in enticing people to the Kootenai area, lying south of the Tobacco Valley. Two years later, Stevens visit to the area resulted in negotiated treaties and the establishment of the Flathead Reservation.<sup>8</sup> Miners poured through the area in the mid-1860s with the discovery of gold in British Columbia; despite the rush to British Columbia, strikes in the Tobacco Valley itself proved few and insignificant.<sup>9</sup>

### **Euro American Settlement**

Two of the earliest settlers to the area were Colin Sinclair and Johnny Campbell who originally passed through with the second James Sinclair expedition in 1854, returning in the early 1880s to settle near Sinclair Creek, about 13 miles north of the Fortin Ranch House.<sup>10</sup> Attempts at ranching soon followed; William Ferguson made an attempt in the 1880s but departed by 1887.<sup>11</sup> Forage potential for grazing cattle was high but the remoteness of the area slowed

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<sup>4</sup> Katherine McKay, "Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, BN Overpass and Kootenai River Bridge, Montana State Highway 37, Libby, Montana, Lincoln County" (submitted to for Carter & Burgess, Inc and the Montana Department of Transportation, 1997), p.11.

<sup>5</sup> *Nuggets to Timber: Pioneer Days at Libby, Montana* (Libby: Libby Pioneer Society and the Libby Woman's Club, 1970), no page numbers.

<sup>6</sup> Heritage Research Associates, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4 (4) 168]," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 12.

<sup>7</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 25; Heritage Research Associates, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4 (4) 168]," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 12.

<sup>8</sup> Michael Malone and Richard Roeder, *Montana, A History of Two Centuries*, (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1976), p. 88.

<sup>9</sup> Heritage Research Associates, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4 (4) 168]," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 12.

<sup>10</sup> Heritage Research Associates, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4 (4) 168]," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 13.

<sup>11</sup> Heritage Research Associates, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4 (4) 168]," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 13.

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ranching progress.<sup>12</sup> Only once wagon roads were established did ranches and farms of the Tobacco Valley find accommodation to move their goods. One of the earliest wagon roads established near the Fortin Ranch didn't occur until 1892 and followed the early Fort Steele Trail, established circa 1895 by Henry Bierman and Frank Leonard.<sup>13</sup>

The earliest homesteaders arrived during the mid-1890s and included John Beck, Frank Stryker, Lyman and Charles Loring, Henry Bierman, and Octave and Lena Fortin, whose ranch house is the subject of this nomination.<sup>14</sup> Octave and Lena's homestead is the earliest patent in Township 34 North Range 25 West. Similar to homesteaders and ranchers to the north, the area around Trego and Fortine proved difficult to raise crops or cattle, with many resorting to seeking employment that paid wages to make ends meet. Many of these homesteads failed through the years, unable to adjust to the limited resources needed for ranching or agriculture.

Settlement of the entire Tobacco Valley escalated with the arrival of the Great Northern Railroad to the south in 1893. A reroute of the line through the Tobacco Valley occurred in 1903/1904 connecting Whitefish, south of the Fortin Ranch House, to Eureka, north of the ranch; this line lays just west and less than ½ mile from the Fortin Ranch. The reroute that avoided steeper grades associated with the original 1893 line was laid predominantly through the efforts of Chinese and Japanese workers using shovels and picks; construction of the line resulted in an influx of Bulgarians and Greeks employed as section hands.<sup>15</sup> With its winding path, the railroad linked much of Lincoln County east-west and north-south.<sup>16</sup>

The arrival of the railroad through the area resulted in the construction of the town of Harrisburg, moved to the present location of Fortine after the completion of the line. The small communities of Trego and Stryker also represented railroad towns.

The laying and subsequent rerouting of the Great Northern line and abundance of trees in the (at the time) Kootenai National Forest, facilitated the rise of the area's lumber companies. "The government's forestry service takes a most liberal attitude toward the development of the natural resources under its care. All of its timber is for sale as needed...and no saw milling industry need hesitate to enter this field because of the government has possession of the timber."<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 26.

<sup>13</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 26; Heritage Research Center, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4(4)168] Impact Upon Cultural Resources," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 14.

<sup>14</sup> Heritage Research Center, "Fortine North Highway Improvement Project [F 5-4(4)168] Impact Upon Cultural Resources," submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation, 1985, p. 14.

<sup>15</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 28.

<sup>16</sup> Lincoln County was created in 1909 from part of Flathead County (1890-1909) which was originally part of Missoula and Choteau counties.

<sup>17</sup> Western News of Libby with the Cooperation of the Eureka Journal and Libby Times, "Lincoln County, Montana, History, Resources, Industrial Development and Record In The Great War," 1920, no page number.



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Similarly, praises of the area for homesteading found voice: "Though confronted by many handicaps incident to the nature of the country, the forest homesteaders of Lincoln county thus far cannot be said to have fared badly... Forest homesteaders who have been willing to apply their energy to the task of improving their places have invariably provided their families with comfort besides making a handsome profit out of the enterprise."<sup>18</sup>

Much of Lincoln County found an economy based on the lumber industry, with Libby to the west hosting many of the early operations due to its location along the original 1892/1893 Great Northern. With the reroute through the Tobacco Valley, however, Eureka at the valley's north end gained prominence attracting a number of sawmills and a variety of businesses that included banks, hotels, churches.<sup>19</sup> The biggest player in the lumber industry in Eureka stood as the Eureka Lumber Company, a position it held until 1924 when it moved operations to Bend, Oregon; after it left, Christmas tree production and tie mills assumed the mantle of the wood products industry of Eureka.<sup>20</sup>

Timber also provided some of the economic impetus for nearby Fortine, just north of the Fortin Ranch House, and Trego, just to the south of the ranch.<sup>21</sup> Swede Dahlberg of the Fortine area started a sawmill, purchased a year later by Joseph Gussenhoven.<sup>22</sup> Other small mills soon opened and provided income to many of the locals. The economic downturn that beset many small communities in the 1920s and 1930s resulted in a shift of wood production to the independent businesses and portable sawmills; many of the smaller tie mills continued as an important economic driver into the 1950s until the need for ties fell dramatically with the pullback by the railroads.<sup>23</sup> After World War II, the stud market developed driving an increase in new mills in the Fortine area.

By 1910, the towns of the now-recognized Lincoln County began a slow climb in population. Those closest to the Fortin Ranch House, Eureka and Fortine, boasted populations of 795 and 155, respectively.<sup>24</sup> By 1920, population totals represented areas encompassed by school district with the area around Trego, the closest locale near the Fortin Ranch House, noting 438 individuals.<sup>25</sup> The Eureka and Fortine areas grew to count 1318 and 594 residents, respectively.

<sup>18</sup> Western News of Libby with the Cooperation of the Eureka Journal and Libby Times, "Lincoln County, Montana, History, Resources, Industrial Development and Record In The Great War," 1920, no page number.

<sup>19</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 29.

<sup>20</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 30.

<sup>21</sup> The town of Fortine assumed its moniker from the Fortin family, that included Octave, Lena, and their children.

<sup>22</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 30.

<sup>23</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 31.

<sup>24</sup> Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, "Thirteenth Census of the United States, Taken in the Year 1910, Statistics for Montana," p. 577.

<sup>25</sup> Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, "Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920," p. 17.

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The 1930 census noted a dramatic downward shift in population with the districts of Trego, Eureka, and Fortine all dropping precipitously to 194, 1057, 236, respectively.<sup>26</sup> The downward trend in population corrected itself slightly by the 1940 census with the Trego, Eureka, and Fortine districts rebounding to 258, 1173, and 218 individuals.<sup>27</sup> Nineteen-fifty witnessed populations for the Trego District of 285, the Eureka District of 1391, and the Fortine District of 285.<sup>28</sup>

Passage of the Forest Homestead Act in 1906, allowed the opening of forest lands to settlement. This act post-dated the arrival of Octave and Lena to the area by several years, confirming their drive and desire to make a home in the area on their own. Agriculture and ranching always proved a steep climb in Lincoln County where over 90 percent of the land was classified as forest in 1940, reflecting the lack of open areas suitable to either pursuit.<sup>29</sup> Octave and Lena's early arrival to the valley allowed them to select land most conducive to their ranching dreams, an economic pursuit where at the time, few succeeded in an area dominated by lumber.

Despite the difficulty of raising crops or cattle, by 1920, the Tobacco Valley that included the towns of Fortine and Trego reported, "the valley's chief industry is agriculture, although lumbering...also plays an important part..."<sup>30</sup> A hyperbolic account of the valley in 1920 stated "wonderfully fertile" soils and "sparkling streams of the purest mountain water."<sup>31</sup> Additional accolades included, "the favorable climate, the rich grasses, both native and tame, the open timber, with its bunch grass parks, numerous lakes and mountain streams, naturally make the section well adapted to stock raising. Here horses, cattle and sheep can be grown at a minimum expense, producing a quality that tops the market."<sup>32</sup> The reality, however, was that not all of the early homesteaders and settlers found the valley's agricultural and ranching potential quite as accommodating as the overly-flattering depictions touted in 1920, a period before severe drought overcame much of the West.

The majority of the homesteads around the Fortin Ranch House were claimed under the Forest Homestead Act and developed from 1906 to 1920, several years after the arrival of Lena and Octave.<sup>33</sup> These homesteads could only be taken up if they lacked significant stands of timber and many fell victim to purchase by one of the large timber companies within 10 years. Such turnover likely reflected homesteaders knowledge that once they proved up, the property could

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<sup>26</sup> United States Federal Census (information for 1930-1950), "Number of Inhabitants, Montana," p. 26-12.

<sup>27</sup> United States Federal Census (information for 1930-1950), "Number of Inhabitants, Montana," p. 26-12.

<sup>28</sup> United States Federal Census (information for 1930-1950), "Number of Inhabitants, Montana," p. 26-12.

<sup>29</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 34.

<sup>30</sup> Western News of Libby with the Cooperation of the Eureka Journal and Libby Times, "Lincoln County, Montana, History, Resources, Industrial Development and Record In The Great War," 1920, no page number.

<sup>31</sup> Western News of Libby with the Cooperation of the Eureka Journal and Libby Times, "Lincoln County, Montana, History, Resources, Industrial Development and Record In The Great War," 1920, no page number.

<sup>32</sup> Western News of Libby with the Cooperation of the Eureka Journal and Libby Times, "Lincoln County, Montana, History, Resources, Industrial Development and Record In The Great War," 1920, no page number.

<sup>33</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 91.

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be sold to a timber company for a profit, an especially attractive option if the proving-up period entailed greater effort and more difficult than planned.<sup>34</sup> Many of the homesteads scattered around the area of the Fortin Ranch House exhibit few buildings or remains, suggesting limited effort by the homesteaders who may have hoped to turn the property over to the timber companies. Such manipulations undoubtedly caused a furrowed brow by people like Lena and Octave Fortin who came to the area to make a permanent home with no pretense to sell their property to make a dollar. The continued operation of Octave and Lena's ranch and a few others like them through numerous decades earns a nod of respect to their success where others failed.

### **Octave and Lena Fortin**

Born in St. Jean, Quebec, Octave Fortin arrived in the United States at the age of 21 in 1880, becoming a United States citizen in 1888.<sup>35</sup> His early years in the States entailed work in a cotton mill while living with his older brother and his family in Brunswick, Maine.<sup>36</sup>

Lena Hack from Loumburcle, Prussia arrived in the Flathead area in 1891, moving to the Trego area a few years later.<sup>37</sup> Lena was apparently married prior to her union with Octave and had two sons from that marriage, Edward and Walter. No information regarding Lena's previous marriage surfaced, nor information related to how she found her way to the Flathead area of Montana.

In 1892, Lena married Octave who adopted Lena's children from her earlier marriage.<sup>38</sup> The marriage of Octave and Lena appears to have resulted in a short business association between the families as suggested by an advertisement in the Kalispell newspaper from November 2, 1892, for the Hoffman House, a "Traveler's Home," with "Hack & Fortin, Props."<sup>39</sup>

The family likely made it to the Tobacco Valley by as early as April 1897, based on Octave's homestead entry that dates to that year.<sup>40</sup> They undoubtedly settled the property by 1900 based on census information, though for some reason, Octave isn't called out on the specific page for the Tobacco Plains Township, though his adopted sons Edward and Walter, and his two sons with Lena, Oscar and Philip, are, as is Lena, noted as the head of the household.<sup>41</sup> Octave and Lena's homestead patent for the Fortin Ranch predates the next patent in Section 17 (of

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<sup>34</sup> GCM Services, Inc., "The Pinkham Project: Cultural Resources 30% Sample Survey, Rexford and Fortine Ranger Districts, Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana, Volume I," submitted to the Kootenai National Forest (contract #53-03J1-1-0084), 1992, p. 91.

<sup>35</sup> "Octave Fortin," Fortin Family Tree, found at [https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/186650365/person/312437708874/facts?\\_phsrc=nSL547&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/person/tree/186650365/person/312437708874/facts?_phsrc=nSL547&_phstart=successSource), accessed June 15, 2024; "Declaration of Intention, No. 344," October 31, 1888.

<sup>36</sup> 1880 United States Federal Census, found at [https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21810184:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=c16fcfad-0433-49a8-aa06-eca9ad9bc8f7&\\_phsrc=nSL554&\\_phstart=successSource](https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/21810184:6742?tid=&pid=&queryId=c16fcfad-0433-49a8-aa06-eca9ad9bc8f7&_phsrc=nSL554&_phstart=successSource), accessed June 15, 2024.

<sup>37</sup> Marriage license between Octave Fortin and Lena Hack," March 17, 1892; "Mrs. Lena Fortin," *Daily Missoulian*, February 6, 1940, p. 2.

<sup>38</sup> Marriage license between Octave Fortin and Lena Hack," March 17, 1892.

<sup>39</sup> "Hoffman House," *Kalispell Graphic*, November 2, 1892, p. 4.

<sup>40</sup> "Notice For Publication," *Weekly Montanian*, February 8, 1902, p. 3.

<sup>41</sup> 1900 United States Federal Census for the Tobacco Plains Township.

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Township 34N Range 25W) by 15 years and stands as one of the earliest in the entire valley. The family's intent to make a go of ranching is indicated in the census information by listing their occupation as "stock raising." The purchase of property owned by Octave and Lena in Kalispell by the Kalispell Townsite Company in 1899 for \$300 likely helped the family toward the purchase of their Tobacco Valley property, which the census noted as the family owned with no mortgage.<sup>42</sup>

The 1910 census found Octave and Lena, and sons Edward, Oscar, Philip, and new addition Henry, making their life at the Fortin Ranch within Joint School District 53 in Lincoln County. The next three decades witnessed Octave and Lena continuing to operate the ranch as the passage of years marked the transition of their sons moving away.<sup>43</sup>

## **The Fortin Ranch**

### ***The Early Years***

In February of 1902, four witnesses testified that Octave lived continuously on the ranch for the required set number of years.<sup>44</sup> Henry Fortin, one of Lena and Octave's sons, reminisced about living and growing up in the now nonextant log cabin that once occupied the property prior to the construction of the wood frame house, the subject of this nomination.<sup>45</sup> Henry recalled the summer kitchen that continues to stand behind the residence.<sup>46</sup> He noted Lena frequently used the kitchen during the warmer months as an alternative to the kitchen in the house, which retained the summer heat to a greater degree. His memories included Lena preparing meals for railroad workers at the time of the line's reroute through the area in 1903/1904 indicating the building's existence by this time, and likely earlier. Octave also lent a hand feeding the workers: "Many a night she and Father sat up until after midnight, baking for the crew." The summer kitchen also found use by the Fortin family during warmer months with a table set in the middle of the building.<sup>47</sup> Although the laying of the Great Northern tracks through the valley increased immigration and business, its presence, while significant, proved more muted to Octave and Lena who had already established themselves in the area.

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<sup>42</sup> "Real Estate Transfers," *Libby News*, February 16, 1899, p. 2; 1900 United States Federal Census for the Tobacco Plains Township.

<sup>43</sup> The addition of an "e" to the end of the Fortin name is reported by Octave and Lena's son, Henry. Henry related in his memoir, "The OF Ranch," that "when some of the (Great Northern) railroad engineers asked Father (Octave) how he pronounced his name...he naturally pronounced it the French way, For - Tan. Since it was very difficult for Father to write, and even more difficult for him to spell his name, they asked him if it wasn't spelled Fortine. Being a little embarrassed and not wishing to discuss it further, Father replied, 'Oui Oui,' meaning, 'Yes Yes' in English, and so the name Fortine came into existence." Lena and Octave's last name commonly appears in print both as "Fortin" and "Fortine."

<sup>44</sup> "Notice For Publication," *Weekly Montanian*, February 8, 1902, p. 3.

<sup>45</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, undated (possibly circa 1972).

<sup>46</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, undated (possibly circa 1972), pp. 5-6.

<sup>47</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, undated (possibly circa 1972), p. 8.

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Illustrating the perils of negotiating the road of successful rancher in the valley and despite only proving up on his homestead the previous year, by the end of 1903, Octave was already crowned “one of the old-timers of the section...stockman and rancher,” in a notice that mentioned him searching for some of his “cattle which had strayed in the recent storms.”<sup>48</sup> Trips to the surrounding towns to sell “a bunch of beef cattle from his ranch” regularly made the newspapers.<sup>49</sup> The ranch property also availed Octave and Lena of grain, some sold in nearby Marston.<sup>50</sup>

Although the Fortins sold grain, son Henry recalled the delivery of flour to the ranch that arrived by horse and wagon in 100 lbs. sacks.<sup>51</sup> Following the motto of waste-not-want-not, the “sacks were always saved and used as dishcloths.” Salted potato water was also saved and used in the preparation of bread making. Once the bread was made and began to cool on the counter is when the loaves fell under great peril: “for...if left unguarded, one of us was sure to cut off the hot heel...and spread on it a layer of cold lard, sprinkled with sugar and devour it with greedy relish.”<sup>52</sup>

Continual reference to Octave as “one of the old timers” when he travelled north “from his ranch on Fortine Creek, near Trego,” in 1908 indicate he and Lena were firmly ensconced on their property.<sup>53</sup> Octave noted he “cut hay on the flat where Eureka stands 15 years ago,” illustrating his movements circa 1893 included the north end of the Tobacco Valley. By 1909, the ranch branched out to include the sale of not only cows, but also bulls as Octave advertised the sale of “one thoroughbred Durham bull, 4 years old.”<sup>54</sup>

Whether by need or desire, in 1910, Octave began cutting and hauling railroad ties for the Great Northern.<sup>55</sup> This work continued into the spring when he hired several workers to assist him “near the right of way, a short distance from Trego” with the government contract.<sup>56</sup> The contract assumed some bodily risk noted by Octave’s “unfortunate...fall under a load of ties” that resulted in three cracked ribs, an outcome that could have likely proved significantly more dire.<sup>57</sup> By December of that year, Octave received compensation for his service as a deputy sheriff indicating sufficient healing of his ribs to allowed him to assume responsibilities outside those required at the ranch.<sup>58</sup> Octave’s brushes with injury proved more common than he and

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<sup>48</sup> “Local Drift,” *Tobacco Plains Journal*, November 21, 1903, p. 1.

<sup>49</sup> No title, *Tobacco Plains Journal*, May 13, 1905, p. 1.

<sup>50</sup> “Nearby News,” *Tobacco Plains Journal*, December 19, 1903, p. 1.

<sup>51</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, undated (possibly circa 1972), p. 6.

<sup>52</sup> Henry O. Fortin, *The O.F. Ranch*, personal memoir of Henry Fortin, son of Lena and Octave, donated to Eureka Library, undated (possibly circa 1972), p. 7.

<sup>53</sup> No title, *Tobacco Plains Journal*, April 17, 1908, p. 6.

<sup>54</sup> “For Sale,” *Tobacco Plains Journal*, March 26, 1919, p. 4.

<sup>55</sup> “Trego,” *Western News*, January 13, 1910, p. 5.

<sup>56</sup> “Trego,” *Western News*, March 10, 1910, p. 5.

<sup>57</sup> “Fortine,” *Eureka Journal*, June 3, 1910, p. 1.

<sup>58</sup> “Commissioners Proceedings,” *Western News*, December 22, 1910, p. 1.

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Lena would like, as three years later, he again injured himself working on the ranch when hauling hay through the timber, seriously harming his face.<sup>59</sup>

Work on the ranch entailed using horses prior to the later mechanization of farm and ranch equipment with the increased development and use of diesel and gas. Horses powered a variety of ranch and farm endeavors that included pulling haying machinery, plows, as well as wagons. The value of horses and the service they provided is illustrated by Octave and Lena's reward offer for one that wandered off the property.<sup>60</sup>

By 1911, Octave's name found mention in a critique of the Forest Service. The Forest Reserve Act of 1891 changed how much of the land in Lincoln County (then part of Flathead County) was treated and used, setting aside large swaths of land for the public interest, a change that upset many stockmen, miners, settlers, and lumbermen.<sup>61</sup> The area of Fortin Ranch fell under the purview of the Flathead Forest Reserve, though Lena and Octave apparently lost no land in its establishment. By 1905, the Forest Reserves reorganized under the Transfer Act and moved from the Department of the Interior to the Department of Agriculture, assuming the name, the U.S. Forest Service.

A disparaging article in the local paper about the Forest Reserves noted:

The town of Fortine is growing, slowly of course, for, spread over everything like a pall is the forest reserve. Where the forest reserve commences the energies and progress of man ceases... the few places which were taken early... and have been made into homes by such enterprising, hard-working citizens as Octave Fortine... proclaim how fitting a place it is in which to live and make homes.<sup>62</sup>

Whether Octave and Lena viewed the establishment of forest reserves with such hostility remains unknown, but Octave certainly enjoyed visiting the woods as he joined the author who penned the critique as part of the "first auto to make the trip" into the nearby reserve:"

Octave Fortine has lived on his ranch for many years, and took his first auto ride in this, the first auto to enter the great forest reserve... the highest speed we could make through the narrow defiles of hills and trees gave Octave the joyride of his life... the sheriff with one foot out on the side rail, and Octave making motions that looked like he was crossing himself. The Fortine place, with its wide expanse of meadow, proclaims the opportunities that await the settler who can get in through the closed door of the forest reserve.<sup>63</sup>

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<sup>59</sup> "News Notes From Fortine," *Eureka Journal*, February 13, 1913, p. 8.

<sup>60</sup> "Lost," *Eureka Journal*, July 8, 1910, p. 5.

<sup>61</sup> Janene Caywood, Theodore Catton, and James McDonald, "Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places (Contract No. 53-0343-9-00047)," submitted to United States Department of Agriculture, Region 1 Forest Service, Missoula, Montana, 1991, pp. 16-17.

<sup>62</sup> "The Blooming Forest Reserve," *Eureka Journal*, May 4, 1911, p. 1.

<sup>63</sup> "The Blooming Forest Reserve," *Eureka Journal*, May 4, 1911, p. 1.

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While Octave scampered around the local area, Lena often travelled to destinations a bit more distant, including Kalispell and Camas Hot Springs.<sup>64</sup> She also volunteered in the area, donating her time to assist with county fair activities in addition to donating items to the Red Cross.<sup>65</sup>

It was around this time that Octave and Lena built the striking ranch house, the subject of this nomination, where they lived the remainder of their days. The new house immediately garnered attention by the Eureka newspaper who reported on a friend's visit to Octave and Lena:

They also called on Mr. and Mrs. Octave Fortine in their new home or new house, rather. Mr. Fortine has built a modern up-to-date residence, finished in larch and Mr. Weil states it is one of the best houses he has seen in the county. If there is a family in Lincoln county that is deserving of a nice house, it is the Fortines, who have stuck to their ranch for 20 years and made it one of the best in the state. They have a fine meadow and a lot of good farming land as well as good stock range.<sup>66</sup>

Because of the size and stature of the house, it became a reference point for those passing by and a focal point for local gatherings hosted by Lena and Octave, a tradition that carried forward from their earlier residence.<sup>67</sup> Such gatherings included hosting the Fortine Embroidery Club when everyone "had a dandy time."<sup>68</sup>

By 1911, gatherings occurred that focused on bringing the early settlers of the area together; these celebrations of course included the Fortins, universally acknowledged as elders of the community. One such gathering promised an evening of dancing where "they'll 'swing 'em around and swing 'em agin, agin, swing 'em agin for Mrs. O'Flannegan."<sup>69</sup> The celebratory occasion promised "plenty of good music will be on hand and 'We won't go home until morning.' "

Complimentary reference to Octave, Lena, and their ranch occurred regularly in the local newspaper, a testament to their standing in the community and the success of their ranch operation:

Octave Fortine, who owns a fine hay and stock ranch near Trago, was in town... he reports things very quiet in that vicinity, owing to the fact that the Eureka Lumber company is not doing as much logging there this winter as usual. Mr. Fortine is a progressive rancher and realizes the value of a concern like the

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<sup>64</sup> "Fortine," *Eureka Journal*, September 22, 1911, p. 3; "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, June 5, 1913, p. 6.

<sup>65</sup> "Premium List Lincoln Co. Fair," *Eureka Journal*, September 19, 1912, p. 1; "Red Cross Doings," *Eureka Journal*, February 28, 1918, p. 1.

<sup>66</sup> "Some Fine Homes," *Eureka Journal*, October 13, 1911, p. 1.

<sup>67</sup> "Fortine," *Eureka Journal*, October 27, 1911, p. 2; "Ten Years Ago," *Eureka Journal*, December 4, 1913, p. 1.

<sup>68</sup> "Goings At Fortine," *Eureka Journal*, February 5, 1914, p. 1.

<sup>69</sup> "Old Timers Planning Big Time," *Eureka Journal*, December 29, 1911, p. 1.

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Lumber company to the community in providing markets for the ranchers' products, such as hay and grain.<sup>70</sup>

Life after the turn-of-the-century wasn't easy with accidents possible both on and off the ranch. An accident-bug visited the Fortin family beginning the end of 1913, though sparing Octave. Son Edward split both wood and his knee with an axe in November, an occurrence that preceded a wagon accident that found Lena and her passenger tumbling to the ground causing severe injury to Lena who remained under the care of a local doctor for some time. The same day as Lena's misadventure, son Oscar cut three fingers while working on the construction of a new hotel.<sup>71</sup>

When ranch duties allowed, Octave and Lena enjoyed travelling. Their visits to the surrounding towns often found mention with allusions to their property in glowing terms: "Mr. and Mrs. Octave Fortine...live on one of the best ranches in the Trago and Fortine country..."<sup>72</sup> Their travels also included what became a common event, old timers dances. One that occurred in February of 1915 reported, "a grand social success...and the crowd did not leave until nearly four o'clock."<sup>73</sup> Such events undoubtedly found Lena and Octave happy to return to the comfort of their ranch house.

In April of 1915, Octave filed a suit against the Great Northern Railroad to recover losses associated with four of his and Lena's registered shorthair Durham cows killed by a train two miles west of Trego.<sup>74</sup> The suit requested compensation in the amount of \$600.

Octave stayed engaged with the local community and performed his civic duty in a number of ways. In April of 1916, he served as a one of three Trego Schoolhouse precinct judges for the upcoming special primary slated for late that month and again for the primary nomination election in August, as well as serving for jury duty.<sup>75</sup> He stood as witness for several neighbors for their homestead proof documentation, an excellent character reference.<sup>76</sup> It is not a stretch to imagine that Lena and Octave's success displayed by the construction of one of the finest houses in the area inspired many.

Reports indicate the Fortin's ranching acumen extended beyond stock and into crops. By 1916, Octave and Lena cut their "alfalfa hay, which is one of the heaviest in the valley, followed up soon after with their harvest of grain."<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>70</sup> "Local News and Notes," *Eureka Journal*, January 5, 1912, p. 5.

<sup>71</sup> "Goings At Fortine," *Eureka Journal*, November 20, 1913, p. 1.

<sup>72</sup> "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, February 11, 1915, p. 4.

<sup>73</sup> "Local Happenings of the Past Week," *Eureka Journal*, February 25, 1915, p. 1.

<sup>74</sup> "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, April 22, 1915, p. 5.

<sup>75</sup> "Election Judges April 21," *Libby Times*, March 22, 1916, p. 1; "Commissioners Proceedings," *Western News*, July 20, 1916, p. 7; "District Court Here March 11, Many Cases," *Western News*, February 28, 1918, p. 2.

<sup>76</sup> "Notice For Publication," *Eureka Journal*, July 11, 1918, p. 8; "Notice For Publication," *Eureka Journal*, April 20, 1922, p. 8.

<sup>77</sup> "Trego News," *Kootenai Times*, August 2, 1916, p. 2; "Trego Items," *Kootenai Times*, September 6, 1916, p.2.



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With the entry of the United States into World War I in 1917, Lincoln County residents embraced the efforts to assist the cause. Lists of Liberty Bond purchasers filled the local pages of the newspapers identifying those who were "100 per cent American," a list that included Octave and many of his neighbors.<sup>78</sup> Just two weeks later, Lena and Octave's son, Henry, was drafted.<sup>79</sup> By early 1919, a second son, Oscar, also served.<sup>80</sup> Octave stayed active with supporting the War cause, attending the "Victory Loan campaigners," meeting in April of 1919 where a banquet occurred that "gave the touch that promoted a fine feeling of patriotic fellowship between the representative men of the county."<sup>81</sup> In April of 1919, Octave was appointed local chairman of the Victory Drive for the Trego area.<sup>82</sup> The Fortin Ranch House always provided a welcome respite through these stressful times.

In 1918, tragedy struck Lena, Octave, and their son Edward and his wife Katherine with the death of their three-year old grandson.<sup>83</sup> No doubt attempting to spare his son any more pain, Octave travelled to Eureka to "secure a casket." Six months later, Edward and Katherine brought another grandson into the extended family of Lena and Octave.<sup>84</sup> Hardship for the family continued, however; two weeks after the child's birth found Katherine, age 26, succumbing to influenza and son Edward very ill.<sup>85</sup> Instead of a place of enjoyment and relaxation, the Fortin Ranch House turned somber as it hosted the funeral and service of Katherine whose burial occurred at the Fortine Cemetery. Within a year of Katherine's passing, Lena fell ill to an undisclosed condition resulting in a stay at the hospital; Lena's misfortune continued into the summer as she received a bad wound to her head from a small slingshot-wielding boy.<sup>86</sup> Some good news intervened, however, with the marriage of Lena and Octave's son, Oscar, in July of that year.<sup>87</sup> To further her recuperation, Lena in late 1921 and early 1922, visited friends and family in Massachusetts and Michigan, returning with "improved health."<sup>88</sup>

Despite the War and family tragedy, the ranch continued operations as usual, noted by the sale of cattle by Lena and Octave in Eureka in November of 1918 with destinations of Kalispell and Chicago.<sup>89</sup> During this period, the drought that affected much of eastern and central Montana in 1917 and 1918, slowly spread west to encapsulate much of western Montana too.<sup>90</sup> With the drought came hordes of grasshoppers followed by high winds in 1920. With the cessation of

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<sup>78</sup> "Honor Roll of 4<sup>th</sup> Liberty Bond Buyers," *Eureka Journal*, October 3, 1918, p. 2.

<sup>79</sup> No Title, *Troy Echo*, October 18, 1918, p. 2.

<sup>80</sup> "With The Colors," *Eureka Journal*, February 6, 1919, p. 8.

<sup>81</sup> "Held Big Loan Meeting Here," *Eureka Journal*, April 24, 1919, p. 1.

<sup>82</sup> "Ready For Big Victory Drive," *Eureka Journal*, April 3, 1919, p. 1.

<sup>83</sup> "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, July 18, 1918, p. 7.

<sup>84</sup> "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, January 9, 1919, p. 7.

<sup>85</sup> "Is Influenza Victim," *Eureka Journal*, January 16, 1919, p. 1; State of Montana Bureau of Vital Statistics, Certificate of Death for Katherine Stone Fortin, filing date January 14, 1919.

<sup>86</sup> "Of Local Interest," *Eureka Journal* February 5, 1920, p. 7; "Of Local Interest," *Eureka Journal*, August 12, 1920, p. 2.

<sup>87</sup> "Bartlett-Fortine Nuptials," *Eureka Journal*, July 8, 1908, p. 8.

<sup>88</sup> "Of Local Interest," *Eureka Journal*, March 2, 1922, p. 5.

<sup>89</sup> "Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, November 7, 1918, p. 7.

<sup>90</sup> Michael Malone and Richard Roeder, *Montana, A History of Two Centuries*, (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1976), pp. 216-217.

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World War I, commodity prices inflated by wartime demand cooled, tumbling dramatically by the end of 1920; this downward economic turn corresponded to the greatly reduced crop yields of earlier years—a one-two punch. Despite the economic and climate challenges, Lena and Octave persevered, highlighted by their submission to the county fair of *Bromis inermis*, a submission that proved superior to the local competition witnessed by their first place award.<sup>91</sup> Lena and Octave continued raising horses, adding to the number they owned illustrated by a tax “increase in 6 horses from \$180.00 to \$300.00” in December of 1920.<sup>92</sup> They stayed active in the local associations attending the livestock association meeting in June of 1921 followed by the sale and shipment of “fine cattle...to the western markets” a few months later with additional cattle shipped from Libby the following September.<sup>93</sup>

The Fortin’s’ ranch operations proved successful enough that in June of 1919, Octave and Lena made the news with their embrace of modern technology: “Octave Fortin, one of the pioneers of the valley, has abandoned the ponies in favor of a Ford car, which was purchases of (*sic*) L.L. Adams this week, and as a consequence we expect to see Mr. and Mrs. Fortin more frequent visitors to our city.”<sup>94</sup>

Reference to the Fortin Ranch other than using that sobriquet proved few, though in 1923, the property found mention in the local press by the moniker, Mountain Meadow Ranch.<sup>95</sup> Regardless of appellation, the ranch continued raising cattle for shipment to various western points, with the ranch house serving as the heart of the operation.<sup>96</sup>

Again, highlighting the perils of ranching, Octave seriously injured himself while working in the fields. The ranch house undoubtedly served as Octave’s refuge as he recuperated from what once more, could have been a far more serious accident:

The fore part of last week Octave Fortin was the victim of a somewhat serious accident. Mr. Fortin was cutting hay when he found it necessary to stop the team and go a few steps away from the mower to attend to some work. While thus engaged the team became frightened and started to run. Mr. Fortin succeeded in getting hold of the lines but being compelled to run he was unable to exert much force, and stepping into a hole he fell but clung to the lines. In falling his head struck against the mower and he received a bad gash in the right side of his head, and his body was badly bruised from being dragged along the ground.<sup>97</sup>

<sup>91</sup> “List Of Prize Winners,” *Eureka Journal*, September 29, 1921, p. 6. *Bromis inermis* is a species of the true grass family native to Eurasia.

<sup>92</sup> “Commissioners Proceedings,” *Western News*, December 17, 1920, p. 12.

<sup>93</sup> “Of Local Interest,” *Eureka Journal*, June 9, 1921, p. 5; “Ship Two Carloads Cattle,” *Eureka Journal*, September 8, 1921, p. 1; “Local News,” *Eureka Journal*, September 28, 1922, p. 5.

<sup>94</sup> “Local News Notes,” *Eureka Journal* June 26, 1919, p. 1.

<sup>95</sup> “Name Your Ranch,” *Eureka Journal*, September 13, 1923, p. 10. The ranch was also reputedly referred to as the O.F. Ranch, though no mention of this title ever appeared in the newspapers.

<sup>96</sup> “Trego News Items,” *Eureka Journal*, September 4, 1924, p. 1.

<sup>97</sup> “Trego News Items,” *Eureka Journal*, August 7, 1924, p. 4.

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The success of the ranch allowed Lena and Octave to focus on a few home improvement projects. In July of 1925, “Mr. and Mrs. Octave Fortin have increased the comforts of their beautiful home by screening in the front porch and by laying a wooden walk around the house and from it to the different outbuildings.”<sup>98</sup>

Never one to shy from opportunity, Octave and Lena embraced the potential of cattle grazing on nearby Forest Service lands. For years, the Forest Service authorized such grazing to support ranchers and the livestock industry and by the mid-1920s, the Kootenai National Forest followed suit. The first to receive a cattle grazing permit in the Trego area? Octave Fortin.<sup>99</sup> Although a degree of negativity of the Forest Service permeated parts of the Trego and Fortin area, the advantages associated with additional grazing lands wasn’t lost on Octave and Lena.

By 1932, Octave and Lena slowed down a bit. As their time on the ranch stretched to three decades, two decades living in the ranch house, the close relationships of the Trego community continued: “a number of the men who live in the vicinity of Trego got together last Sunday and built a loading chute and corral at the Trego Depot,”<sup>100</sup> Although the passing years prohibited Octave from actively participating in the chute and corral construction, he and Lena contributed to the effort by welcoming the workers and their wives to a chicken dinner at their home following the completion of the project. Such gatherings reinforce the role the Fortin Ranch House played in the community. Newspapers continued to note Lena and Octave’s early presence in the valley: “Octave Fortin was transacting business in Libby on Tuesday...Mr. Fortin, it is said...is about the first... settler in the north end of the county.”<sup>101</sup>

### End of an Era

The beginning of 1940 witnessed the end of the Octave-Lena partnership, an accord that lasted 48 years. In February, Lena passed away from “chronic myocarditis.”<sup>102</sup> Her obituary noted, “...Mrs. Fortin...coming here long before the railroad and at a time when there was just one road through the county...taking up a homestead near what is now Trego, and where they have lived ever since.”<sup>103</sup> At the age of 80, Octave continued to list his occupation as “rancher.”<sup>104</sup> Octave soon followed Lena, passing on February 8, 1941 bringing an end to the operation of the Fortin Ranch by either Lena or Octave.<sup>105</sup> Long time friend F. R. Baney called Octave, “a man of unusual character—honest as the day is long, deeply loyal to his friends, one who would never

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<sup>98</sup> “Trego News Items,” *Eureka Journal*, July 23, 1925, p. 2.

<sup>99</sup> U.S. Forest Service, “Livestock on National Forest System Lands,” May 13, 2022, found at [Kootenai National Forest - News & Events \(usda.gov\)](https://www.kootenai.nationalforest.gov/news-events), accessed July 3, 2024.

<sup>100</sup> “Fortine News Notes,” *Western News*, November 3, 1932, p. 3.

<sup>101</sup> “Local Stuff,” *Western News*, May 7, 1936, p. 4.

<sup>102</sup> Standard Certificate of Death, State of Montana for Lena Fortin, February 7, 1940; Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920-Population (School District 53 Trego); Fifteenth Census of the United States: 1930 Population Schedule (Trego School District #53); Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940 Population Schedule (School District #53).

<sup>103</sup> “Mrs. Octave Fortin Passes Away February 4<sup>th</sup>,” *Eureka Mirror*, February 8, 1940, p. 1.

<sup>104</sup> Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940 Population Schedule (School District #53).

<sup>105</sup> Standard Certificate of Death, State of Montana for Octave Fortin, February 8, 1941; “Oldest Pioneer Passes After Long And Busy Life,” *Western News*, February 13, 1941, p. 1.

Fortin Ranch House

Lincoln County, MT

Name of Property

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knowingly harm anyone, a hard worker and fine citizen in every way.”<sup>106</sup> Despite the passing of Lena and Octave and years after its construction, their ranch home still garnered admiration: “Their first home was a log cabin close to the road which was the main highway from Kalispell to British Columbia. A number of years later he built a beautiful spacious new home for his family.” Both Lena and Octave are buried at the National Register-listed Conrad Memorial cemetery in Kalispell.<sup>107</sup>

The town of Fortine, Fortine Creek, and Fortine Creek Road are all named in honor of the Octave and Lena Fortin family. What is now known as Marl Lake, just west of Fortine, was originally named Fortine Lake.

### **Owners Subsequent to Lena and Octave**

Since the passing of Lena and Octave, the property has transferred from private owner to private owner. Presently, the Fortin Ranch House serves as the focus of the restored ranch land and a working cattle ranch, the Blarney Ranch. The present owners, Brian and Karla Gorman, raise Dexter cattle, a small European breed, for sale to the local public in the Lincoln County and Flathead County areas of Montana. The original ranch house remains highly visible as one enters Trego, providing a visual reminder of Lena and Octave’s time spent in the valley.

### **Architectural Significance**

The Fortin Ranch House gains additional significance under Criterion C as a sound example of the National style of domestic architecture with Neo-Classical influences. The style generally presents as unadorned and utilitarian. The National Style developed across the United States following the arrival of the railroads and the greater availability of outside materials. In the case of the Fortin Ranch House, its construction very near the recently emplaced Great Northern rail line fits hand-in-glove with the emergence of this style. National Style houses are generally classified by form with the Fortin Ranch House emblematic of the gable-front family.

Gable-front houses were often sited in narrow urban lots in cities.<sup>108</sup> However, despite its modest roots in compacted cities, the style found its way to occupy larger sites, such as on ranches or farms in the West. Further interest in gable-front construction arose from the styled houses of the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Craftsman push that also embraced the gable-front design.<sup>109</sup> National style homes often display front verandas, or in the case of the Fortin House, a large full width porch.

Adding a twist and bit of sophistication to the house, the Fortin Ranch House displays Neo-Classical elements that include the large scale of the house that twines nicely with the front-gable form. Other Neo-Classical elements include the dominating triad and paired Doric façade columns; while these columns don’t support a full-height porch, the full width partial-height

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<sup>106</sup> “Attends Funeral of Long-Time Friend,” *Western News*, February 13, 1941, p. 5.

<sup>107</sup> Listed December 5, 2012, (NR #12000995).

<sup>108</sup> Virginia McAlister and Lee McAlister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) p. 90.

<sup>109</sup> Virginia McAlister and Lee McAlister, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2000) p. 90.

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

porch dominates the façade and provides a sturdy yet welcoming touch. The façade also presents symmetrically balanced windows and a central door, common to the design. The remaining flair is limited to bay windows, one each on the north and south elevations.

The impressiveness and local stature of the Fortin Ranch House is illustrated by the number of mentions it received in the local newspapers through the years. It presents almost exactly as when constructed with very little change occurring through the decades.

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The Fortin Ranch House (and associated root cellar/summer kitchen) is eligible for listing under Criterion A at a local level of significance for its association with early ranching in the Trego/Fortine area of the Tobacco Valley. The buildings represent one of the earliest attempts to launch a working ranch in the area, an area that presented numerous challenges including less than optimal topography and soils to raise crops. Through the perseverance of the ranch's owners, Lena and Octave Fortin, the operation proved successful. The Fortin (Fortine) name graces many of the nearby landmarks, acknowledging their contribution to the area. The simple yet dignified lines of the ranch house proper also allow significance under Criterion C as a sound example of the National Style of architecture of the period embellished by Neoclassical touches.

Fortin Ranch House  
Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT  
County and State

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"Local News Notes," *Eureka Journal*, April 22, 1915.

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Fortin Ranch House

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---

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** \_\_\_\_\_

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approx. 0.51 acres

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- 1) Lat. 48.709169 Long. -114.863270
- 2) Lat. 48.709480 Long. -114.862536
- 3) Lat. 48.709283 Long. -114.862319,
- 4) Lat. 48.708794 Long. -114.862533
- 5) Lat. 48.708791 Long. -114.863105

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Fortin Ranch House is located in the NW¼ SW1/4 of Section 17, T34N. R25W. The boundary demarcating the house and associated resources is pentagonal in shape with the north boundary defined by a southwest-northeast gravel drive that parallel the long axis of the house; it extends northeast to a point (2) just east of where the main entry road from Ant Flat Road divides with one branch leading west beyond the building cluster to the fields beyond and the other leading to the ranch house area. From this point, the boundary turns southeast to follow a field to point 3 where it turns southwest, again paralleling the field to point 4; the boundary from point 2 to point 4 is further demarcated by a steel rail field fence. From point 4 the boundary runs west, just north of a circular metal corral to point 5. From point 5, the boundary returns to point 1, paralleling a field and associated steel rail fence. See attached maps Section 9 pages 32 and 33; reference to these maps confirms that boundary.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Boundaries for the Fortin Ranch House are drawn to encompass the both the house and root cellar/summer kitchen, the noncontributing modern shed, and the immediate grounds surrounding them to provide a sense of setting.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

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city or town: Trego state: MT zip code: 59934  
e-mail kristieeggebroten@hotmail.com  
telephone: 307-699-5026  
date: May 2024

Fortin Ranch House  
Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT  
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## Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

## Photographs see attached photo addendum

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Fortin Ranch

City or Vicinity: Trego

County: Lincoln

State: MT

Photographer: Kristie Eggebroten

Date Photographed: December 2023 – July 2024

See photos below

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours  
Tier 2 – 120 hours  
Tier 3 – 230 hours  
Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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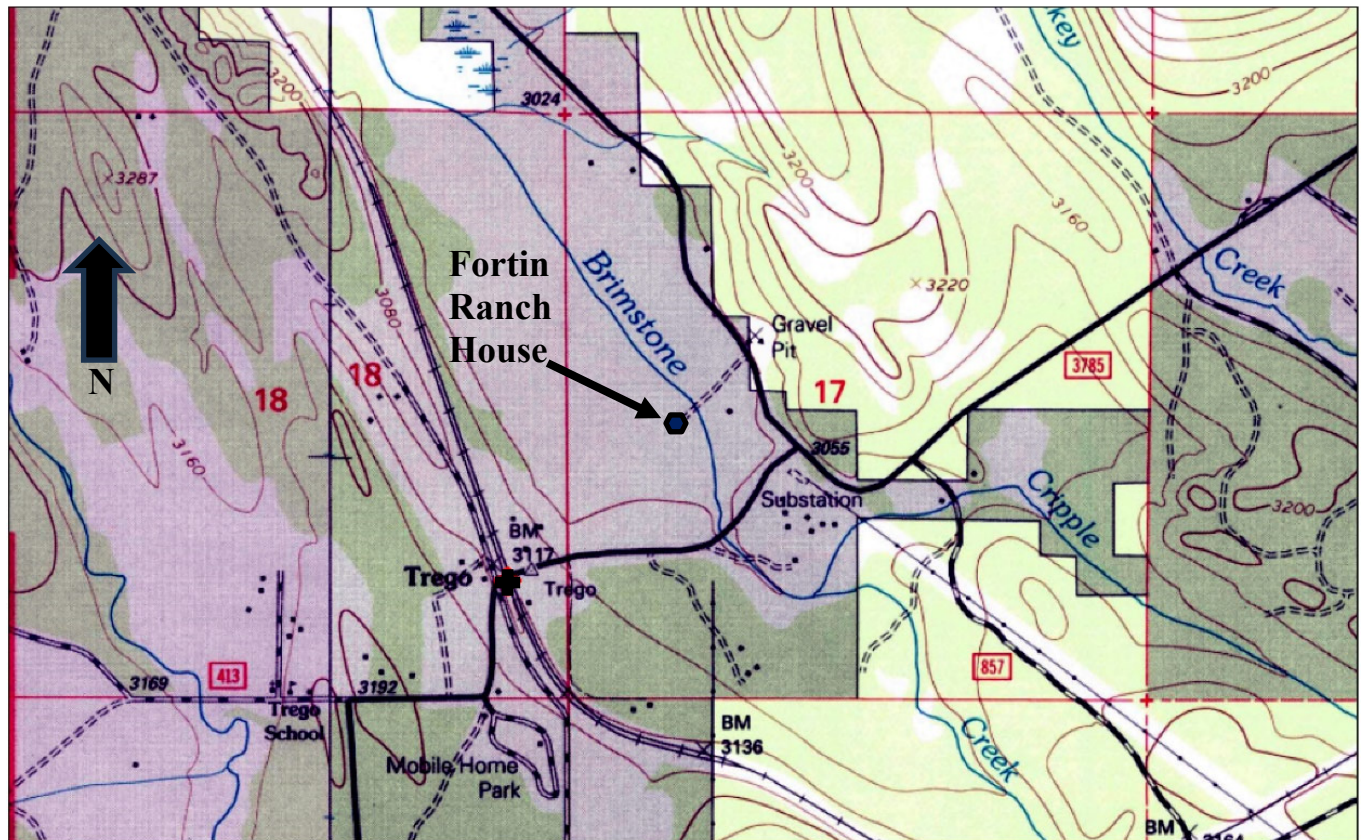
Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



◆ —◆ = 1/2 mile

Map created using the Digital Atlas July 23, 2024  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GISAtlas>

Montana State Library - Digital Library  
(406) 444-5354 | [geoinfo@mt.gov](mailto:geoinfo@mt.gov) | <http://msl.mt.gov>

**Location of Fortin Ranch House, found on the Stryker 7.5' quadrangle map. NW1/4  
SW1/4 of Section 17, Township 34N Range 25W.**



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Section number Additional Documentation—Maps and Floorplans Page 33

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



◆————◆ = 1/4 mile

Map created using the Digital Atlas July 23, 2024  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Montana State Library - Digital Library  
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**Close-up of National Register boundary of Fortin Ranch House, found on the Stryker 7.5' quadrangle map. NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 17, Township 34N Range 25W. 1) Lat. 48.709169 Long. -114.863270, 2) Lat. 48.709480 Long. -114.862536, 3) Lat. 48.709283 Long. -114.862319, 4) Lat. 48.708794 Long. -114.862533, 5) Lat. 48.708791 Long. -114.863105**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Fortin Ranch House

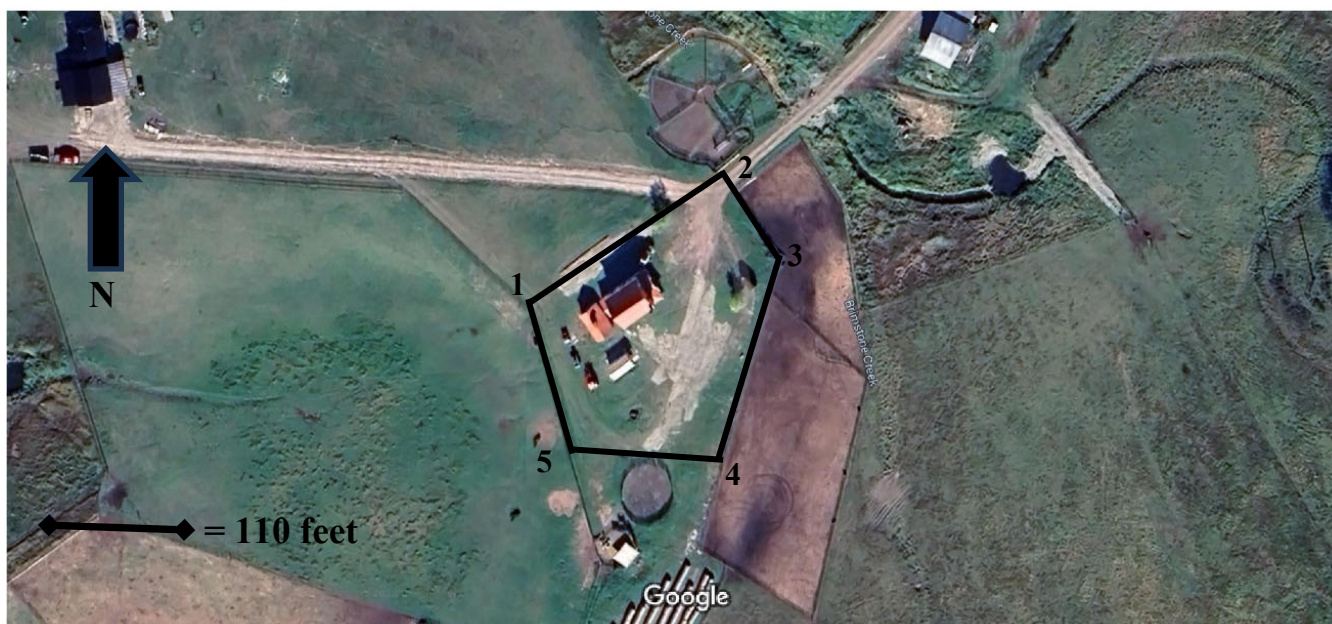
Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Google Maps Trego



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 50 ft

**Aerial view of Fortin Ranch House, NW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 17, Township 34N Range 25W.** 1) Lat. 48.709169 Long. -114.863270, 2) Lat. 48.709480 Long. -114.862536, 3) Lat. 48.709283 Long. -114.862319, 4) Lat. 48.708794 Long. -114.862533, 5) Lat. 48.708791 Long. -114.863105



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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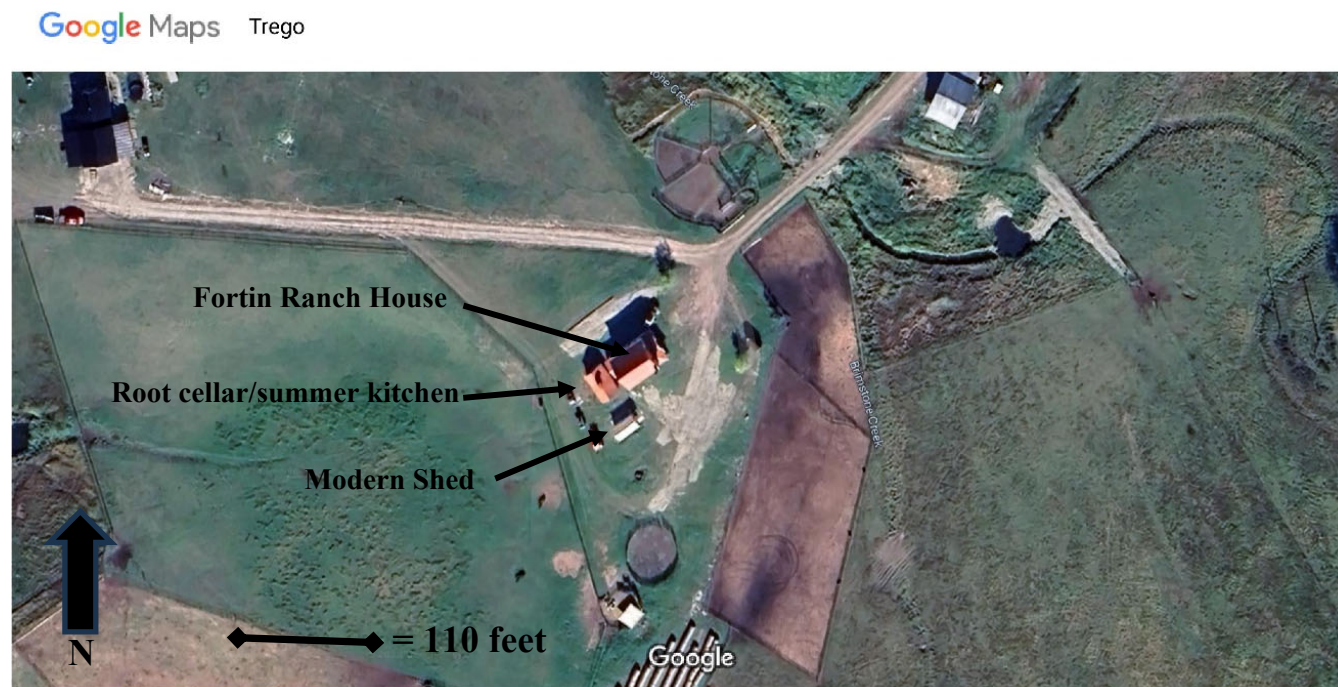
Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Imagery ©2024 Airbus, Maxar Technologies, Map data ©2024 50 ft

Aerial view of Fortin Ranch House showing resources = Fortin Ranch House  
(contributing), root cellar/summer kitchen (contributing), modern shed (noncontributing)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation—Maps and Floorplans Page 36

Fortin Ranch House

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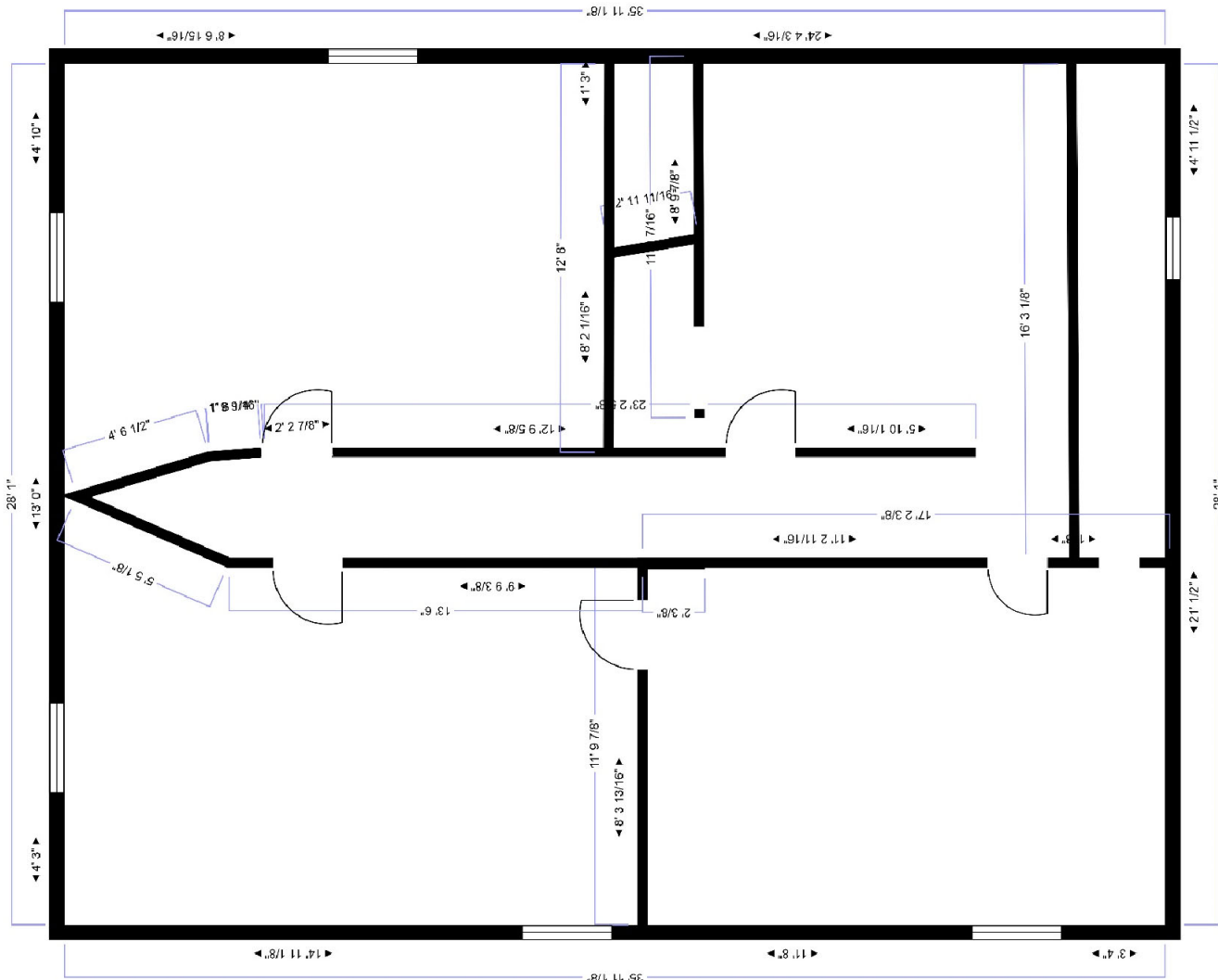
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Ground floor floorplan



Fortin Ranch House  
Name of Property  
Lincoln County, MT  
County and State  
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



## Top floor floorplan

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Section number Additional Documentation—Historic Images

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Overview of Fortin Ranch House, view northwest, circa 1920.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number Additional Documentation—Historic Images

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Overview of Fortin Ranch House, view northeast, circa 2010.



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National Park Service

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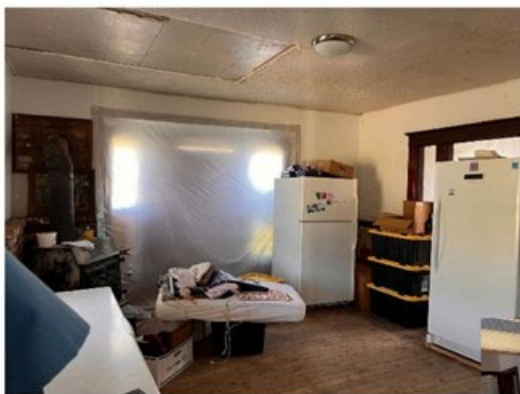
Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Front room at SE corner

Main Floor



Stairway at NE corner  
at front door



Kitchen on North side of home



Looking out from kitchen to root cellar  
facing west

Main Floor



Bathroom at rear of house NW corner



Sitting room with original  
"front door"

Interior of Fortin Ranch House

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National Park Service

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Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Second floor  
hallway from top  
of stairs, facing  
west

### Second Floor



Bedroom on south side



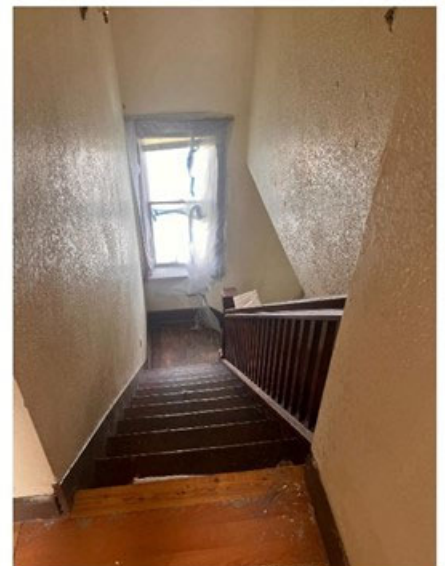
Looking into south side  
bedroom from bath on SW  
corner



Stairwall taken from lower  
landing



Upstairs hallway taken from  
top of stairs



Stairwall taken from upstairs  
landing

Interior of Fortin Ranch House



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—Interior Photographs Page 42



**Interior of Fortin Ranch House.**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

## Root Cellar



**Interior of Root Cellar and Summer Kitchen**

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fortin Ranch House

Name of Property

Lincoln County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation—National Register Photographs Page 44

### Photo Log (All Photographs)

Name of Property: Fortin Ranch House

City or Vicinity: Trego Vicinity

County: Lincoln State: MT

Photographer: Kristie Eggebroten

Date Photographed: December 2023-August 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of \_\_\_\_.



MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0001: East elevation of Fortin Ranch House, view west.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Fortin Ranch House

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0002: Close-up of front porch, view northwest.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0003: South elevation of Fortin Ranch House, view north.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0004: East elevation of Fortin Ranch House, view south.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0005: North elevation of Fortin Ranch House, view south-southeast.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0006: West elevation of summer kitchen, view south.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0007: South elevation of summer kitchen, view north.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0008: East elevation of summer kitchen, view southeast.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0009: North elevation of summer kitchen, view south.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0010: Interior of summer kitchen, view south.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0011: Modern Shed, view west.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0012: Modern Shed, view east.



MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0013: Modern Shed, view north.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0014: Modern Shed, view south.



MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0015: Driveway and Fortin Ranch House, view southeast.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0016: Overview of Fortin Ranch House, view northwest.



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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0017: Overview of Fortin Ranch House, view northwest.

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MT\_LincolnCounty\_FortinRanchHouse\_0018: Fortin Ranch House at dusk, view west.