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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: VANANDA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
other names/site number:

## 2. Location

street & number: US Highway 12, 17 mi. w. of Forsyth  not for publication  
city, town: Forsyth  vicinity  
state: Montana code: MT county: Rosebud code: 087 zip code: 59327

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property

private  
 public - local  
 public - State  
 public - Federal

### Category of Property

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>16</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
<u>16</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
none

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

Maureen Sheffy  
Signature of certifying official

March 8, 1990  
Date

SHPO  
State or federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

Entered in the National Register

- I, hereby, certify that this property is:
[X] entered in the National Register.
[ ] See continuation sheet.
[ ] determined eligible for the National Register.
[ ] determined not eligible for the National Register.
[ ] removed from the National Register.
[ ] other. (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Allous Beyas

Date of Action: 4/19/80

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling
Domestic: secondary structure
Education: school
Commerce/Trade: financial institution

Vacant/Not in Use
Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow/Craftsman
Classical Revival

foundation: concrete
walls: weatherboard
brick
roof: shingle
other: asphalt

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Vananda Historic District encompasses the site of a small Montana homestead community that developed during the state's agricultural boom of the 1910's. The townsite rests on an arid, gently rolling plateau approximately 17 highway miles west of the community of Forsyth. The surrounding terrain, divided into 320-acre homestead tracts during the 1910's, is now used almost exclusively as grazing land. The countryside is virtually treeless; the dry, alkaline soil supports only scattered sagebrush and native grasses.

The district's southern boundary is marked by two historic transportation arteries: U.S. Highway 12 and the right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad ("The Milwaukee Road"). Highway 12, once known as "The Electric Highway," is a two-lane paved route connecting Forsyth with Ingomar, Melstone, Roundup and points west. The railroad grade (constructed 1907, abandoned 1980) is a portion of the Milwaukee Road's former Chicago-Seattle main line. A gravel north-south county road marks the western edge of the town.

[XX] See continuation sheet

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Although native vegetation has reclaimed much of the former townsite, the basic configuration of the town remains visible. The grid of city streets survives, roughly bladed by modern earthmoving equipment. Vestiges of historic landscape features (generally fences and boardwalks) survive near the remaining buildings. A total of 16 contributing and 1 non-contributing buildings existed within the town in 1989; of the contributing buildings, one is a school; two are commercial buildings; three are residences; and 10 are outbuildings and utility structures. The Jacobsen residence continues to be occupied on an intermittent, seasonal basis; all other buildings are abandoned or are used for agricultural storage. In addition to the extant buildings, scattered ground depressions and domestic debris mark former sites of additional buildings.

Descriptions of Vananda's remaining buildings follow. ~~Outbuildings~~ are grouped with their associated primary building. Building numbers are keyed to the attached site map.

1. **The Vananda School** (erected 1920; contributing) is a two-story building with a partial daylight basement. It is steel-framed; walls are faced with commercial red brick. The building rests on a concrete foundation. The primary south facade, as well as the east and west elevations, are topped with angled parapets. Decorative brickwork and simple concrete medallions mark the upper surfaces of all three facades; there is also a decorative concrete cornice. A large brick chimney projects upward from near the center of the north elevation. A set of double entry doors, accessed by six concrete steps, marks the small central pavilion defining the symmetrical south facade. The front doors are of paneled wood, and originally featured sidelights and transoms. A second paneled entry door projects from the largely unadorned north elevation; it once opened to a series of wooden stairs which have now collapsed. A paneled basement entry door is reached by a concrete stairwell descending from ground level on the west facade. An iron railing protects this stairwell. A coal chute is to the left of the basement stairwell. Original wood-framed windows appear to survive, although nearly all window openings are boarded over. Basement windows are three-over-three double-hung, while first and second floor windows are six-over-six double-hung.

The building has been largely abandoned since the mid-1950's. In spite of this, most brick and concrete work is in very good condition, although some spalling and loss of mortar have occurred on the porch and in areas subject to roof runoff. Woodwork, once painted white, is now very heavily weathered.

Although an inspection of the schoolhouse interior was not possible, it is likely that considerable historic fabric remains.

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The schoolhouse lot, encompassing a full city block, is enclosed by an historic wire fence. A single gable-roofed outhouse (ca. 1920) surfaced with sheet asphalt material rests behind the school. It has partially fallen into the pit it once covered. Much historic metal debris is stored on the lot.

2. **The Vananda State Bank** (erected 1917; contributing) is a single-level rectangular building, measuring 24 by 40 feet. Wall surfaces are brick; the south, west, and north walls rise to a parapet. Commercial yellow brick, with detailing of red brick, are used on the primary south and west facades; the remaining walls are of lesser-quality red brick. The building has a shed roof, covered with built-up material. An end brick corbeled chimney rises from near the north wall. The building rests on a concrete foundation. A concrete sidewalk abuts the building's south and west facades; the sidewalk has light well openings (covered with glass brick) to the bank basement. The symmetrical three-bay entry facade (west) has double entry doors of paneled wood flanked by large single-light windows. Each of these areas of fenestration is topped by a pair of smaller eight-light windows with the panes arranged in a "Union Jack" pattern. The three west bays of the five-bay south facade possess a similar window arrangement. A transomed rear door of paneled wood in the east wall opens to a wooden deck; an opening (apparently a cellar door) is to the south of the deck.

Although the building has been largely abandoned since 1959, the brickwork remains in good condition. Woodwork, originally painted white, is now very weathered.

Two small outbuildings, **2a and 2b**, (erected ca. 1930; contributing) are at the rear of the lot. Both have horizontal wood siding and gable roofs. The northerly building (accessed by a walkway of wooden slats) is a small gable-roofed outhouse, while the larger second building may have been used for wood or coal storage. It has a large, empty window opening.

3. **The Berg Residence** (erected ca. 1920; contributing) is a small single-level building, wood-framed with an end gable roof. Walls are surfaced with clapboard, and the roof is covered with wood shingles. The foundation is concrete. There is a central red-brick chimney. The primary (west) facade is marked by a large hip-roofed wood-framed front porch with a solid balustrade and screening above. Most windows are one-over-one double-hung, although some single-light windows exist; fenestration is wood-framed and original to the building. A one-over-one window is in the gable end over the porch. Much of the window glass is missing. Much of the building (inside and out) is painted blue.

Portions of the interior configuration may be historic, although it is probably not original. Many interior surfaces appear to be of fiberboard.

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A large "L"-shaped wooden outbuilding, **3a**, (erected ca. 1950; non-contributing) is at the rear of the lot. It consists of two large roughly-built buildings (one gable-roofed, one shed-roofed) connected by two or more small, primitive shed-roofed buildings. A considerable amount of domestic debris litters the yard.

4. **The Jacobsen residence** (erected ca. 1921; contributing) is a single-level bungalow building, wood-framed with narrow clapboard siding. The building rests on a concrete foundation. A central chimney is faced with concrete, possibly covering earlier brickwork. The side-gable roof, flared on the street facade, is surfaced with tan asphalt shingles (modern). The gable ends are shingled. The primary facade (east) is symmetrical, marked by a full-length front porch under the main roof, and by a pair of gabled dormers. The porch is partially enclosed by a solid balustrade faced with clapboard; the open portion may have once been screened. Exposed rafter tips and shingle siding lend detail to the dormers. Each dormer contains a pair of four-light windows, placed horizontally. As with all the home's four-light windows, the long, narrow panes are arranged in a horizontal row. Most of the remaining windows are four-over-one double-hung; some have two-light storm windows. All fenestration is wood-framed and original to the building. The main entry door is wood, with four-light fenestration; it is framed with sidelights. An enclosed shed-roofed rear porch is on the west facade. There is also an exterior cellar door. The building is painted red, with white trim.

Although the home's interior was not inspected, it is likely that a substantial amount of historic fabric remains.

A walkway made of wooden slats leads from the home's rear door to a small gable-roofed outhouse, **4a**, (erected ca. 1921; contributing). The outhouse shares the construction materials and details of the main residence.

A relatively large, primitive, wood-framed homesteader's shack, **4b**, (erected ca. 1915; contributing) rests at the northwest corner of the lot on a series of wood piers. It is sided with rough shiplap laid horizontally. Its asphalt roofing material has largely blown away. The windows and entry door are boarded. It includes a concrete chimney. Some wood members retain evidence of a coating of red paint. This building is in fair to poor condition.

A gable-roofed shiplap barn, **4c**, (erected ca. 1921; contributing) is at the southwest corner of the lot. It is also accessed by a wooden-slat walkway from the main house. The barn's roof is surfaced with corrugated metal. The building features wood-framed four-light windows. A large wooden entry door on the south facade is hung from a metal horizontal runner; above it, a small

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loft door is visible. Two small shed-roofed additions made of lumber have been added to the north end of the barn. This building, too, was once painted red.

5. **The Sigman residence** (erected ca. 1919; contributing) is a single-level building, wood-framed with a hip roof. Exterior walls have narrow clapboard siding; the roof is surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. The building's foundation is faced with concrete, which is beginning to crumble away. A small shed-roofed dormer is centered on the east facade. An inset front porch with a solid balustrade and screening above is at the southeast corner of the building, opening to a concrete stoop. It is reached by a walkway of wood slats from the street; the walkway then continues around the south side of the home. Most primary windows consist of large single panes topped by an area of small multiple decorative panes; windows near the rear of the building are one-over-one double-hung. All fenestration is wood-framed and original to the building. The rear (west facade) of the building is marked by a hipped addition (historic) of like materials. A central brick chimney with a corbeled cap rises from this portion of the home. An enclosed rear porch is at the southwest corner of the home; it rests on an unusual circular foundation of brick faced with concrete. A cellar door (partially collapsed) is on the north facade. The building is painted yellow, with green trim.

The home's interior appears to be largely historic. Vintage wallpaper and varnished wood moldings are visible.

A number of outbuildings stand at the rear of this lot. They are listed below, from north to south:

A gable-roofed shed, **5a**, (erected ca. 1920; contributing) is at the lot's northwest corner. It is sided with horizontal boards of rough lumber. This building has partially collapsed.

A small shed-roofed building, **5b**, (erected ca. 1920; contributing), also sided with rough lumber, is next. It has a wooden entry door, and a large single-pane window opening.

A small square clapboard building, **5c**, (erected ca. 1919; contributing) with a pyramidal roof follows. It matches the main residence in design, materials and paint. Its symmetrical east wall contains two entry doors; the north door opens to a coal storage area (still filled with coal), while the south room was presumably used for firewood. The south door has a four-light window.

A large shed-roofed building, **5d**, (erected ca. 1920; contributing) with weathered clapboard siding is at the south end of the lot. This building may have been a kitchen area, or perhaps a workshop. Empty door and window openings exist on the east wall. This building is leaning badly.

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The home's original two-seat outhouse, **5e**, (erected ca. 1919; contributing) is found behind the workshop. This small square clapboard building has a pyramidal roof. It is similar in design, materials and paint to the main residence. Although in reasonably good condition, the outhouse has partially fallen into the pit it once covered, and is leaning crazily to the north.

6. **The Vananda Garage** (erected 1917; contributing) is a rudimentary wood-framed building with an end-gable roof. The front portion of the roof has blown away, and much of the building is listing badly to the south; collapse within a few years appears inevitable. (Historic photographs indicate a false front on the main (west) facade, which has presumably also blown off.) Walls are surfaced with horizontally-laid lumber; the roof is covered with unpainted wood shingles. The building has a concrete foundation and floor. The remains of an interior brick chimney are evident near the south wall. The north side of the street facade is marked by a pair of hinged vehicle entry doors (historic); an identical set of doors in the east facade. There is also a paneled wood entry door and a large window area. The building's southwest corner features a total of seven window areas (three on the south wall, four on the west), each containing three four-light sashes mounted vertically. An interior workbench is visible in this area. A handsome pair of owls make their home in the rafters.

The area surrounding the garage is strewn with much domestic debris, largely automobile-related. A depression to the north marks a former building site.

In addition to the buildings described above, the Vananda townsite also reveals scattered, faint depressions marking former building sites, as well as scattered domestic debris of varying ages. Most of the area has seen very little ground disturbance since its period of historic use, and the district may hold potential for future historic archeological research. The site has not been formally surveyed by a professional archeologist, however; this remains a project for the future.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:  
 nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register criteria:  A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):  A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1907-1935	1907
Agriculture		
Exploration/Settlement		
	Cultural Affiliation	
	N/A	
Significant Person	Architect/Builder	
N/A	Wahl, L.W., and others	

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Vananda Historic District meets criteria "a" and "c" for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The townsite is a representative surviving example of the dozens of small agricultural communities that sprang up in central and eastern Montana during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Most of these small towns declined rapidly after the state's agricultural boom fizzled in the drought years that followed 1918. Many, including Vananda, suffered near total abandonment, while others survive today with reduced populations. Among these agricultural "ghost towns," the Vananda townsite includes a relatively complete cross-section of the predominant building forms employed both by the period homesteader and the town-dwellers who followed. The representative buildings survive in a setting almost totally devoid of modern intrusions, giving good site integrity and an excellent historic "feel." This combination of surviving building forms and the high level of site integrity make Vananda one of the best surviving examples of an early 20th Century eastern Montana homestead community.

**Historical Significance**

The remote, arid hills and prairies of northern Rosebud County received only limited attention from Montana's earliest settlers; the area was away from established travel routes and lacked adequate water and forage. By the late 1870's, though, limited cattle and sheep grazing was underway in the area, a use which remained dominant throughout the nineteenth century. The region's agricultural development remained focused on the more fertile Yellowstone River valley to the south, with its relatively stable water supply.

These usage patterns underwent a dramatic, radical change beginning in 1907, as the transcontinental rail line that was to become the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul



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and Pacific Railroad ("the Milwaukee Road") began construction through northern Rosebud County. The railroad, building to connect previously constructed line segments, cut through the center of this arid rangeland on its path from the Yellowstone to the Musselshell River valleys. The Milwaukee's freight and passenger trains were crossing the region by early 1908.

As the Milwaukee Road built across Montana, it began a broad program of townsite development along its new lines, and simultaneously undertook an ambitious advertising campaign designed to attract homesteaders to the regions the railroad now served. Both activities were common among western railroads of the period, although the Milwaukee's efforts were larger in scope than most. The Milwaukee platted several small townsites -- including Ingomar and Sumatra -- in northern Rosebud County. For unknown reasons, Vananda was not initially chosen as a townsite, although the railroad established a depot there and constructed a large reservoir (south of town) in a partially successful attempt to provide a water source for its steam locomotives in this exceptionally arid area.

Early homesteaders began arriving in the Vananda area simultaneously with the railroad construction crews. (A number of the area's first settlers were former employees of railroad construction contractors.) The influx of homesteaders to the Vananda region increased markedly after the railroad's completion in 1908, due both to the railroad's advertising campaign and the ease of access its trains provided. As unclaimed land near the Milwaukee line became scarce, homestead activity spread both north and south from the rail line.

Although a formal townsite did not exist at Vananda, the presence of a depot and a small nucleus of railroad employees made the site a natural location for a small town to evolve. A post office was established at Vananda in 1912, and a small general mercantile was in operation. The site grew in importance as the rail station and shipping point for several hundred homesteaders in the immediate vicinity and in the Porcupine Creek region to the north. As the town's importance grew between 1910 and 1915, other commercial and community facilities appeared: a small clapboard school, a hotel and restaurant, a lumberyard, and a grain elevator. By 1915 approximately 75 to 100 people resided in the immediate area of Vananda.

In spite of this activity, no steps were taken to establish a formal Vananda townsite until 1915. That year, the partnership of "Abe" Bookman and Charles Greening hired Charles Taber, the Rosebud County surveyor, to plat a townsite at Vananda. Bookman and Greening were active "boosters" and realtors in Ingomar, Vananda's larger counterpart to the west, and Bookman operated a large department store in Ingomar. Their Vananda townsite included ten platted blocks, one of which was reserved for school purposes. Streets were laid out to follow compass points. The town's east, west, and north boundaries were defined by section lines; the south boundary followed the angled Milwaukee right-of-way, creating a series of fractional blocks at the town's south end. A north-south Main Street, four blocks long, was faced with a series of 25' wide commercial lots. (Residential lots were 50' wide.)

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The platting of the Vananda townsite spurred a second round of growth in the little community. By 1918, most of the town lots had been sold, and several relatively substantial buildings had appeared. Main Street hosted a fairly complete selection of commercial ventures, including the Mastin Hotel, Vananda State Bank, Vananda Garage Company, and Vananda Mercantile Company. The Vananda Mercantile, owned and operated by Simon "Si" Sigman, was the community's principal retail establishment. Sigman was Abe Bookman's cousin, and Bookman provided financial support for the mercantile.

Other developments at the town included construction of small Catholic and Protestant churches and the establishment of the Vananda Sun, a short-lived weekly newspaper. The schoolhouse was home for most of Vananda's dances and other social activities, although a rustic movie theatre operated for a period and summertime saw frequent swimming parties at the Milwaukee's reservoir.

At its peak, the population of Vananda probably never exceeded 200. Most townspeople either worked in local businesses or were employed by the Milwaukee. The homesteaders, required to live on their claims, nevertheless provided Vananda with most of the patrons for its stores and most of the students for its school. The town's economic base and initial prosperity were thus predicated primarily on the agricultural activities of the area's wheat-farming homesteaders. These farmers enjoyed a measure of success through 1917, due to seasons of abnormally high rainfall and inflated wheat prices. A prolonged period of draught began the following year, however, and wheat prices simultaneously fell; these events quickly destroyed the economic viability of the Vananda area homesteads. By 1920 a substantial exodus from the region had begun, and by the late 1920's nearly all the region's initial homesteaders had left. In turn, Vananda's population and economic activity quickly declined. The Vananda State Bank folded in 1923, and most of the town's businesses were gone by 1930. The town's last two retail establishments, the Vananda Garage and the Vananda Mercantile, closed in 1934 and 1935, respectively, victims of both the area's eroded population base and the improved automobile road connecting the region with the county seat of Forsyth.

The town continued a precarious existence for the next two decades, with a population hovering near two dozen. Most of Vananda's buildings disappeared during this period; some burned, others were razed for salvage, and at least two were moved to other communities. The railroad continued to employ a small number of people, however, and the school and post office remained. In addition to the people thus employed, two or three farm and ranch families maintained small second homes in Vananda. Most of the region's former agricultural land reverted to grazing, although unrealized hopes for an agricultural renaissance continued for some time. Frequent oil and natural gas exploration activity north of the town offered additional hope, but that, too, was ultimately futile.

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Vananda's final demise came in the 1950's. In 1953 the Milwaukee Road ended its local employment and requested regulatory approval to close its depot; the advent of the diesel locomotive had made the water stop at Vananda unnecessary. The loss of the railroad families was probably responsible for closure of the school in approximately 1955. Vananda's post office (long housed in the former bank building) was discontinued after the town's long-time postmaster retired in 1959. One or two families remained at the town during the 1960's and 1970's, but by the mid-1980's only a single house was occupied, and that only for a few weeks each summer.

#### Architectural Significance

The building forms utilized in Vananda are typical of small homestead communities in the region. The earliest residential buildings were small, one-room homesteader's shacks, typically built of roughly-cut lumber and without foundations (Building 4b is an example of this form.) In Vananda, these buildings generally predated the formal platting of the town, and most had disappeared by 1920.

After Vananda's formal establishment, residential building forms became somewhat more sophisticated. The Berg residence (Building 3) is representative of many of Vananda's historic homes with its clapboard siding, simple gable roof, and covered porch areas. Visual detail on most homes was limited to the porches and the texture provided by the clapboard. Residences were universally accompanied by outhouses (because of the lack of water, no Vananda building is known to have had indoor plumbing); small barns and chicken coops were also common. These working-class cottages indicate the community's general lack of wealth and, perhaps, an uncertainty about the town's permanence.

Few larger residences were constructed locally. The Jacobsen and Sigman homes were probably Vananda's two finest houses, and both survive today. Both followed national trends of the day by employing Craftsman building forms and detailing. The relative distinction of these homes was enhanced by their fenced yards, wooden sidewalks, and architecturally-compatible outbuildings.

Nearly all the commercial buildings which lined Main Street were gable-roofed, wood-framed structures sided with lumber. Most sported rectangular wooden false fronts; the Vananda Mercantile building gained added distinction with its use of pressed metal siding. The Vananda State Bank was the town's only brick commercial building; the small facility exhibits Neoclassical facade detailing and a basic plan utilized by many small-town Montana banks of the era.

The Vananda School was the community's largest and most substantial building. Erected in 1920, it shared with the bank the distinction of being the town's only brick buildings. Detail was added to the largely utilitarian design by providing a small central entry pavilion in the plan, and including simple decorative concrete medallions and a cornice. Other civic buildings included two churches

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and an earlier school; the first school became a community hall after its replacement was built. All three of these buildings were small rectangular structures, with end-gable roofs and clapboard siding.

A limited number of other buildings and structures were also erected at Vananda. Of these, the most prominent were two wooden grain elevators erected on the Milwaukee right-of-way at the south edge of town. This area also included a small gable-roofed railroad depot (similar to the depot surviving at nearby Ingomar) and a railroad water tower. All of these facilities had apparently disappeared by the 1950's.

#### Agricultural Significance

Vananda, in common with most small eastern Montana towns, was a product of the brief, intense agricultural boom which transformed the region between 1900 and 1918. Lured by overstated railroad promotional literature and unrealistically high expectations, thousands of homesteaders entered the region during the period, breaking the vacant sod to establish 320-acre dryland wheat farms. Although the homesteaders were required by statute to live on their new farms, their settlement of an area was inevitably followed by the nearby establishment of small, service-based agricultural townsites. Vananda was one of dozens of such communities in eastern Montana.

These towns were, in many respects, similar to the hundreds of small farming communities that dotted the upper Midwest during the early 1900's, but circumstances unique to Montana mandated differences, as well. Most Montana homesteads were 320 acres in size, compared to the 160 acre farms in most regions with earlier settlement. This reduced the population base available to support community services in the towns. In general, most Montana homestead towns were formed slightly later than in other states; this is reflected in the Craftsman architecture common in many of the Montana towns. Most significantly, however, the Montana homestead era was brief and explosive: many homestead communities were born, grew and died within a single decade. This is directly reflective of the brief duration of eastern Montana's homestead boom, which in turn reflected the state's arid climate and brief summers. The towns, in common with the homesteads they depended on for their livelihood, were thus temporary aberrations predicated on an agricultural movement doomed to fail. The abandoned townsite of Vananda survives, therefore, as an architectural monument to that agricultural effort.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs in Roll #6 were taken by Mark A. Hufstetler on February 20, 1989, in conjunction with an historic and architectural survey of the community of Forsyth, Montana. Photograph #9-9 was taken by Pat Corley on January 10, 1990. Original negatives are in the possession of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana.

<u>Photograph:</u>	<u>Description:</u>
6-1	Vananda schoolhouse, south elevation
6-2	Vananda schoolhouse, view looking northeast
6-3	Jacobsen residence, view looking northwest
6-4	Jacobsen residence outbuildings, view looking northwest
6-5	Sigman residence outbuildings, view looking northwest
6-6	Sigman residence, view looking northwest
6-7	Berg residence and outbuilding, view looking southeast
6-8	Vananda State Bank building, view looking northeast
6-9	Vananda Garage Company building, view looking southeast
9-9	Vananda townsite overview, view looking northeast

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State Agency

Federal Agency

Local government

University

Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of property approximately thirty-two acres

UTM References

A	<u>113</u>	<u>345950</u>	<u>5139160</u>	B	<u>113</u>	<u>345950</u>	<u>5139520</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>113</u>	<u>3461180</u>	<u>5139520</u>	D	<u>113</u>	<u>3461180</u>	<u>5138940</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Mark A. Hufstetler

organization \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 610 Dell Place, #10

city or town Bozeman

date November 1, 1989

telephone (406) 587-9518

state Montana zip code 59715

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Major Bibliographical references:

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Boundary Description:

The district includes all of Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 of the Original Townsite of Vananda, as well as all of Blocks 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 of the First Addition to the Town of Vananda. A metes and bounds description of the boundary follows:

The boundary begins at the corner of Main Street and Railway Avenue (point "A" on the attached site map) and proceeds north on Main Street to the corner of Main Street and Seventh Avenue (point "B"). It continues east to the corner of Seventh Avenue and Third Street East (point "C"), and thence south to the corner of Third Avenue and Third Street East (point "D"). It then continues west to the corner of Second Street East and Third Avenue (point "E"), and thence south to the corner of Second Street East and Railway Avenue (point "F"). It then continues northwesterly along Railway Avenue to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

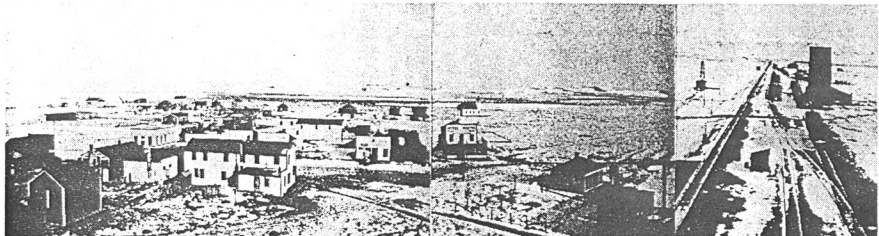
The historic district boundary includes the bulk of the platted townsite of Vananda, and the area in which most historic development occurred. It includes all remaining contributing properties associated with the community. The boundary excludes the five platted city blocks west of Main Street; these blocks contained somewhat less development than the included area and contain the fringes of a non-contributing ranch house complex.



## Vananda Skyline and More



Aerial shot from Coal Dock. Upper left: New brick school, old school in front; lumber yard nearer to downtown; impressive brick structure is bank building; hotel in foreground. Retail stores and saloon to left and bottom of photo - 1921.



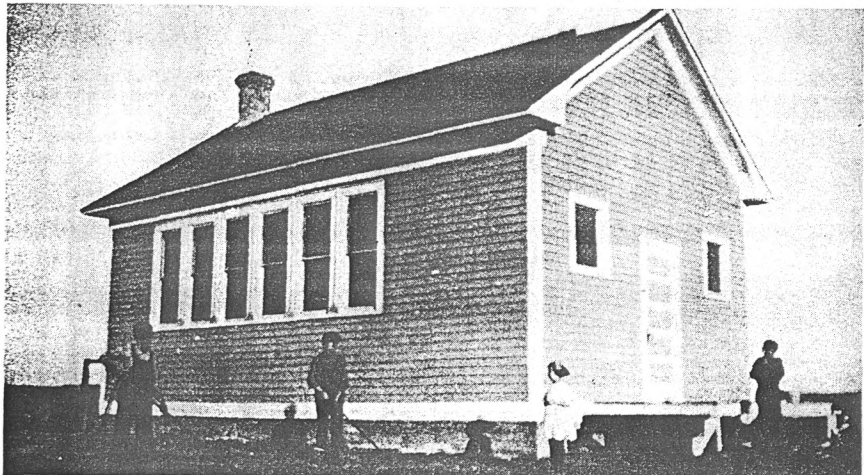
Panoramic view of Vananda looking East from Coal Dock. Catholic Church in center above Mastin Hotel. Brick School not yet built. February - 1920.



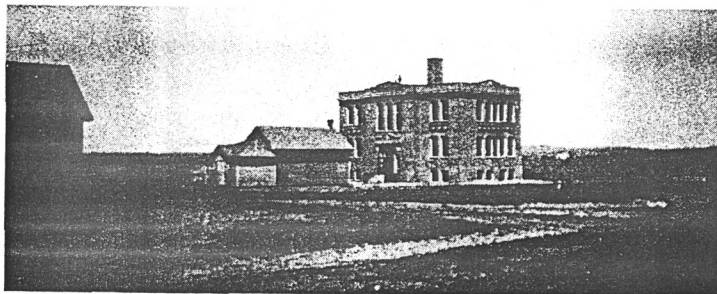
A Winter View. 1922.



Community Hall at Vananda. This Civic Center served as gymnasium, Sunday School and Dance Hall. It was moved from a position in front of the brick school to a spot east of the school grounds. 1928 or 1929.



Vananda's first school. Picture shows students clearing yard of sagebrush. The teacher was Margaret Schow; pupils in picture are Gale and Lyle Ballard, Roy Martin and Clara Evinson. 1913.



Progress at Vananda has this new brick school. The "old" school in in front and has had additions for more room. About 1921.



red: contributing  
brown: noncontributing

# Vananda Historic District

approximate scale:  
1 inch = 250 feet