

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

DEC 21 1987

Site # 2



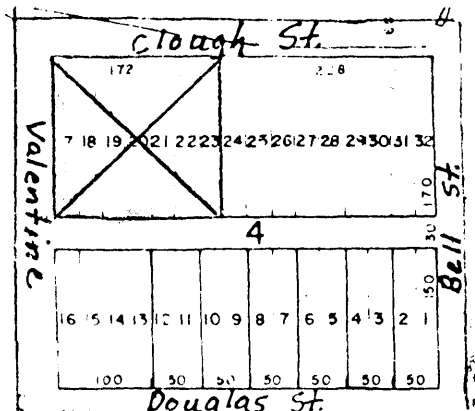
Legal Description: Original Townsite, Block 4 Lots 17-23

Address: Clough Street

Ownership Name: Montana Dakota Utilities

private address: 113 W. Towne St., Glendive, Mt.

Roll # 15 Frame # 5-14
20 29-30
33



Location map or building plan with arrow north

Historic Name: Glendive Heat, Light and Power

Company Power Plant

Common Name: Montana Dakota Utilities

Date of Construction: 1914-1940 estimated documented

Architect: Not known

Builder: Glendive Heat, Light & Power Co.

Original Owner: Glendive Heat, Light & Power Co.

Original Use: Power generating plant

Present Use: vacant

RESEARCH SOURCES: Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Title Search: Tax Records:

Bldg. Permit: n.a. Census Records: 1910-29, 1929-41

Sewer/Water: n.a. Sanborn Maps:

Directories: Newspapers:

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Fanger Review 1/19/1975; 12/4/1986.
2. Interview with Roy Roney, Plant Chief, by Bill Babcock, Glendive Mt. 4/20/1987.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with its original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

The power generating complex is composed of a large, masonry power plant, one contributing outbuilding (the gas regulator house), one non-contributing ancillary building, a tall, tapered concrete stack, and two sheds. A cyclone fence borders the property.

The power plant building (1914) has a flat roof, 4 front bays and 7 side bays. Various patterns of decorative brick work enlivening the facade. The building sets on a 4-foot-high concrete foundation and is composed of a two-, and three-story section. The two-story, south section features a concrete top cornice and lower raking metal cornice. It and the 3-story section of the building have brick pilasters with brick capitals defining the bays and separating recessed window panels that have been set off with corbelled brick along their tops and bottoms. Windows have header sills and relief brick rectangular panels beneath the sills. Large metal doors with multi-pane lights are located on street level. An addition to the northwestern corner of the building, also of brick construction, was constructed in 1940 when the plant was updated with a new switchboard. The transformer is located on west side (front) of building and relay on south side. Contributing.

A tall, tapered concrete stack (1914) divided into 8-foot-high horizontal sections is located at rear of building. It is 217' in height overall.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION: Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

This power generating plant was constructed in 1914 by the Glendive Heat, Light and Power Co. (incorporated in 1905 as Hughes Electric Co.). At the time of its construction, the plant had two General Electric 500 KW turbo-generators and three coal-fired sterling boilers which were hand-feed and burned lignite coal, delivered on a rail line that has since been removed from the property.¹ The plant was taken over by the Eastern Montana Light and Power Company in 1920. In 1926, Minnesota Northern Power Company (the predecessor of Montana-Dakota Utilities) purchased the plant and installed a 2,000 KW Allis Chalmers generator with a Webster gas burner, which provided the company with enough power to serve Glendive, Wibaux and Beach.² At this time (August 1926), the power company completed its first natural gas pipeline between Glendive and the Cabin Creek gas field, an event celebrated in Glendive as "Gas City Day." In 1940, a 5000 KW General Electric generator (actually made in 1928) was added and the three original coal fired boilers were removed. This change involved the construction of a 20x30 foot addition, where the switchboard was placed.³

The steam produced as a by-product of the generator's turbines was piped to businesses along Merrill Avenue. Steam heating of downtown businesses ceased in 1962 with the start up of the Lewis and Clark Heating plant in Sidney. After that time, the Glendive facilities became a peaking plant for use only during periods of highest electrical consumption. One of the 2 stacks serving the plant was torn down about 1960. The remainder of the buildings on the site are scheduled for demolition in 1988.⁴

Footnote Sources(below)

INTEGRITY: Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

The main building was added to in 1940 when last of coal-fired boilers were eliminated and the second gas-fired boiler installed. Also the west-side stack used for the coal-fired boiler has been removed. Railroad tracks that used to bring coal to plant has been removed. Still the main utilities plant has generally good integrity and its association with past uses remains evident. The 1940 addition is of similar architectural style and detailing to original plant.

HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE: Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive

The Glendive Heat, Light and Power Company Power Plant is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. It was built to replace a small electrical power plant on Merrill Ave. during a period of intense economic growth in Glendive. The plant was the major source of power for Glendive, Wibaux, and Beach during the historical period. In 1939, when the 5000 KW generator was added, the plant was the largest in what would later become the Montana Dakota Utilities power system. It also provided steam heat to Glendive businesses along Merrill Area until the early 1960's. Its remaining stack is a Glendive area landmark. Even though the original building was enlarged in 1940, and one stack was demolished in the early 1900's, the plant possesses sufficient integrity for listing on the Register.

Footnotes (Historical Information section)

1. Ranger Review, 1/19/1975; Ranger Review 12/4/1986.
2. Ibid.
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid; Interview with Roy Roney by Bill Babcock, Glendive, MT., 4/21/1987.

Name: Bill Babcock

Acreage: One acre

Address: Missoula, MT

USGS Quad: Glendive, MT 1967 7.5'

Date: August 1987

UTM's: 13/521460/5216640

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 87002511 Date Listed: 2/03/88

Glendive Heat, Light and Power Co. Plant	Dawson	MT
Property Name	County	State

Glendive Multiple Resource Area
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Chris R. Shull
Signature of the Keeper

2-3-88
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

The resource count was not clear for this nomination. The problems were resolved following a phone conversation with Pat Bick, Montana Deputy SHPO. The count should read as follows: the power plant is one contributing building, the gas regulator building is one contributing building, the smoke stack is one contributing structure, and the transformer is one contributing structure. There is one ancillary building which should be counted as non-contributing and two sheds which are insignificant in size and scale and thus should not be included in the resource count at all.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)