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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 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: FORSYTH WATER PUMPING STATION
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: north end of north 3rd Avenue not for publication
city, town: Forsyth vicinity
state: Montana code: MT county: Rosebud code: 087 zip code: 59327

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public - local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public - State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		1	_____ Total
Name of related multiple property listing: HISTORIC RESOURCES OF FORSYTH, MONTANA		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register <u>0</u>	

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.

Signature of certifying official Maecelle Sheff Date 12-21-89

State or federal agency and bureau MT SHPO

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

I, Patrick Andrews hereby, certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register. 2/12/90
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other. (explain:)

for Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions) Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
GOVERNMENT: Public Works VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions) Materials (enter categories from instructions)
OTHER: vernacular industrial foundation: concrete
walls: brick
wood
roof: asphalt
other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Forsyth Water Pumping Station is located at the north end of North Third Avenue in the community of Forsyth, Montana. Forsyth has an estimated 1989 population of 2,100; its economy is based largely on agriculture, railroad, and energy-related employment. North Third Avenue is a residential street with a variety of building forms dating from ca. 1900 to 1980. The water pumping station is located at the end of the street, within the street right-of-way. The east side of the street is lined with modern ranch-style homes, while the west side is a vacant field; this field formerly contained the settling ponds for the historic water system (no trace remains). The Yellowstone River is immediately behind (north of) the building; a large dike constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers bounds the river channel, its edge touching the pumping station building on the north. The remains of Forsyth's historic Yellowstone River Bridge (1905) rest just northwest of the building.

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

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The pumping station is a single-level rectangular building constructed of load-bearing red brick with reinforced corners and a simple overhanging brick cornice. It has a wood-framed end gable roof with a very slight slope. The building rests on a concrete foundation, and has a concrete floor. The primary (south) facade is marked by a large vehicular entry area. The wooden overhead door currently placed here is historic but not original (probably 1930's); it operates with the aid of a large metal counterweight. A heavy metal lintel is set in the brickwork above this entry. All fenestration openings feature concrete sills and brick relieving arches. Original windows appear to have largely disappeared, but surviving remnants indicate that windows were probably wood-framed two-over-two assemblies. Most window areas are now partially or wholly blocked shut with plywood.

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
Community Planning and Development

1906-1931

1906

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

n/a

Des Moines Bridge Building Company

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

The former Forsyth Water Pumping Station meets criteria "a" and "c" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. It is significant as the last surviving remnant of Forsyth's earliest publicly-financed public works project. In turn, the early water system of which this was a part was an important reason behind the incorporation of the community of Forsyth. Its presence served as both a reflection of evolving technology and community standards, and a strengthened community faith in the town's stability and future. The building's design, simple and solid, is a good example of largely unadorned early twentieth-century industrial architecture. Its brick construction, locally unusual, is an indication of the substantive nature of Forsyth's first waterworks project.

Historical Significance

As Forsyth's population began its steady growth soon after the turn of the century, its "booster" citizens (reflected in the writings of the local newspaper) began to push for construction of a number of civic improvements. The community's wish list included such accoutrements as concrete sidewalks, electricity, and public water and sewer systems. Such projects, however, required either public authorization or outright sponsorship; this in turn helped make municipal incorporation seem an attractive goal. The incorporation option was put before Forsyth voters in April, 1904 and overwhelmingly approved. Within months a number of civic improvement ordinances had been enacted and a private franchise electric utility was authorized. It was not until 1906, however, that the new local government decided to attempt a large-scale municipal construction project. In

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November, 1906, city voters approved a \$50,000 bond issue to begin a municipal public works system. This amount included \$45,000 for a waterworks and \$5,000 for a sewer system. The sewer funding level was quickly realized to be wholly inadequate for any practical construction, but in early 1907 planning began for a municipal water system. The May 30, 1907 Forsyth Times reported that construction was ready to begin. The entire project was contracted to the Des Moines Bridge Building Company; for at least part of the project the company employed William Agnew as its "clerk of works," or superintendent. The local newspaper billed Agnew as "a Scottish expert" in the field of masonry. By that September a large steam trencher was excavating water lines and hollowing out a small reservoir site.

By January, 1908 the new waterworks was nearly ready for use. The pumphouse was operational drawing water from the Yellowstone River to nearby "seepage galleries" which presumably allowed river sediment to settle. A network of water pipes accessed most of the built-up sections of town.

This basic water system served Forsyth until 1931, when work began on a new treatment plant with larger capacity and a more sophisticated filtering system. Forsyth's city water, though, is still drawn from the Yellowstone River at nearly the same spot it was drawn eighty years ago.

Architectural Significance

This building's stark, almost looming "industrial" design is locally uncommon. Unlike most of its contemporary buildings, where both form and detailing were often heavily influenced by aesthetic concerns, this facility reflects the notion of providing only an efficient outer shell for the necessary but unglamorous functions contained within. Only the simple brick cornice and relieving-arch window areas lend a sense of architectural detail -- and the window design was simply an efficient construction method.

Relatively few industrial-style buildings existed in early twentieth-century Forsyth. Most such buildings were warehouses, and were gable-roofed clapboard buildings. A much larger cousin to the waterworks building, though, may be found in the 1904-5 power plant building erected by the Forsyth Electric Light and Power Company. Other brick industrial structures were erected by the Northern Pacific Railroad in their Forsyth yards, including a 16-stall roundhouse. The railroad buildings, however, were razed in the 1920's and 1930's.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A	<u>113</u>	<u>31619171910</u>	<u>511214181010</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary begins at the northeast corner of Lot 1, Block 11, Original Townsite of Forsyth, Rosebud County, Montana. It continues east approximately 120 feet to the western edge of platted Block 10, Townsite of Forsyth, and then north approximately 120 feet to the Forsyth Yellowstone River Dike. It continues southeasterly along said dike approximately 150 feet to a point directly north of the point of beginning, and then continues south to the point of beginning.

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the nominated building and its immediate site. It excludes noncontributing properties to the south and east.

See Continuation Sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mark A. Hufstetler

organization _____ date November 1, 1989

street & number 610 Dell Place, #10 telephone (406) 587-9518

city or town Bozeman state Montana zip code 59715

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Major Bibliographical References:

Dietchler, Karen. Forsyth: 100 Years. Forsyth, Montana: Forsyth Independent, [n.d.].

Forsyth Times, November 8, 1906; May 30, 1907; September 19, 1907; January 23, 1908.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1920.