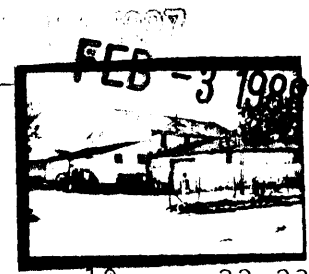


# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # 4



Legal Description: Old Townsite Blk 5, Lots 31-40

Address: Towne and Clough St.

Ownership: Name: City of Glendive

private address: City Hall Glendive, MT  
public

19 22-23

Roll # 15 Frame # 27-28 23-26

Northern Pacific Railroad Settling Tanks

Historic Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Common Name: Glendive City Shops

Date of Construction: 1905-10  estimated  documented

Architect: unknown

Builder: Northern Pacific Railroad

Original Owner: Northern Pacific Railroad

Original Use: water settling tanks

Present Use: City repair shops

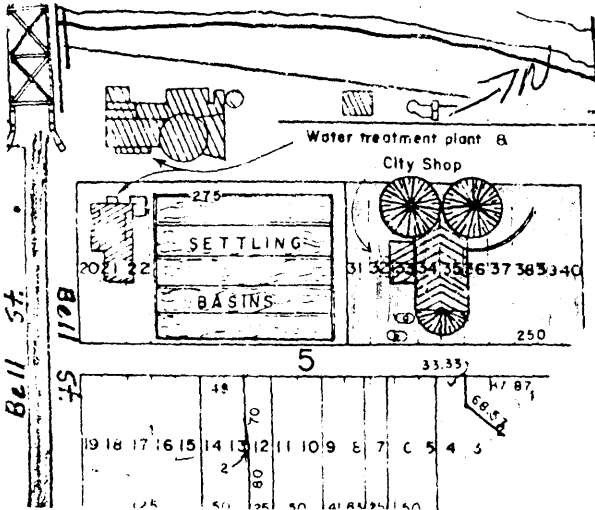
RESEARCH SOURCES: Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Title Search: X Tax Records: X

Bldg. Permit: n.a. Census Records: \_\_\_\_\_

Sewer/Water: n.a. Sanborn Maps: 1905-10

Directories: X Newspapers: X



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

1. Interview with Charles Mohr, Superintendent, Glendive City Water Filtration Plant, by Bill Babcock, 4/21/1987.
2. Plan of Proposed Water Resources, Glendive, MT, Office of City Engineer, St. Paul, MN, 1906. On file at Glendive City Hall Archives, Glendive, MT.
3. Plan of Water Softening Plant, Glendive, MT, Office of Civil Engineer, St. Paul, MN, 1929. On file in Glendive City Hall Archives, Glendive, MT.

**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.

An irregular shaped maintenance and repair building consisting of semi-circular and circular shaped conical roof section, joined by a centered two story gable roof post and beam building with a front shed roof section. Center section has cedar shingle roof, extending, enclosed eaves with fascia, asphalt sheet siding on the sides and vertical bond siding on gable ends and post beam foundation. South facing shed roof section also has vertical board siding. Circular and semi-circular section are old treatment plant tanks of the Northern Pacific water system. They have concrete foundation, vertical board top (upper side has a gabled roof dormer with partial gable return and molded eaves and conical asphalt sheet roof). The shop facility sits in an open area to the north of the treatment plant settling ponds.

Located behind and to the northeast of the settling tanks is a small frame gable roof residence with novelty siding and concrete foundation. Roof is asphalt shingles with interior chimney. Windows are wood frame double hung with wood surround. East side of residence has concrete stoop with gable door over. North side of building is enclosed gable roof porch. A shed-roof shed with plywood siding is located behind it.

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

This facility was constructed by the Northern Pacific Railroad between 1905-10, as a water settling tank. It was constructed near the location of a pump and well located near the Yellowstone River. (1) The plans for the settling tanks were drawn up by the Office of the Chief Engineer, St. Paul, Minnesota, in 1906. (2) The tanks were constructed with a capacity of 1 million gallons with 10 ft. walls (6 ft. concrete and 4 ft. frame) to the eaves. The NPRR system also included a pump house with two pumps, one of which pumped water from the river to the settling tank and one to pump water from the tank to the railroad shops and water towers. The water was settled in the ponds to be used by the railroad for its boilers. The NP also provided water for fire purposes to those parts of the town that could be reached by NP company hydrants.

By 1929, the Sanborn maps show that the city water system pumps were pumping water to the NP settling tank and the NP pump house was no longer used. Between 1929 and 1941, a gable roof addition was constructed over the settling tank which contained a pump house. Plans available at the Glendive City Hall archives include those drawn in 1929 by the office of the Chief Engineer in St. Paul for a water softening plant. (4) This tank facility was eventually acquired by the City of Glendive to serve as city maintenance shops. (5) (continued on next page)

**Footnote Sources**

1. Sanborn maps, 1905, 1910.
2. Plan of Proposed Water Resources, Glendive Mt. Office of City Engineer, St. Paul, MN. 1906 on file at Glendive City Hall Archives, Glendive, Mt. (cont. on next sheet)

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

Other than the addition of the asphalt sheet siding to the Northern Pacific Settling Tank building, the material and design integrity remain intact, and the unique shape of the building is preserved. Since the building has been owned by the City of Glendive and used as the city shop and storage facility, a door has been cut into the side wall of one of the settling tanks to provide easier access.

**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 characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

This former settling tank is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion a. It is associated with the period in which the Northern Pacific Railroad played a major role in the life of Glendive. It shows the way in which the railroad obtained water for its locomotives, water towers and repair shops. In view of the rapid disappearance of railroad structures, it is an increasingly important resource to illustrate the historical importance of the railroad and its associated structures to the city. It is indicative of the way in which railroad facilities also provided services to the town, in that water from this tank was provided to the city to put out fires that could be reached from NP hydrants. Also, the NP later used city pumps to provide water to the NP tanks. The facility is probably one of the few remaining NP settling tanks in existence in the state.

The associated facility operator's residence is considered to be a contributing component of this property. The building was moved approximately 60 feet in 1941.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: Bill Babcock

Address: Missoula, MT

Date: August 1987

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: One acre

USGS Quad: Glendive, MT 1967 7.5'

UTM's: 13/521460/5216860

OTS Blk 5 Lots 31-40

Footnote Sources (cont.)

3. Sanborn maps. Interview with Charles Mohr, Supt, Glendive City Water Filtration Plant, by Bill Babcock, 4/21/1987
4. Sanborn maps, 1929, 1941; Plan of Water softening Plant, Glendive, Mt. Office of Chief Engineer, St. Paul Minn., 1929, on file in Glendive City Hall Archives, Glendive Mt.
5. Mohr interview

Historical Information (continued)

- The house was built about 1910 and, historically, has been the residence for the operator of the pump that used to pump water to the tanks from the Yellowstone River. The house used to be located near the tanks (southwest of them) and was moved to the present site after 1941.

Integrity (continued)

The movement of the "pumper's" house to its present location from the southwest side of the complex has caused some loss of its integrity of location. Because of the residence's long association with the tanks and the relative short distance of the relocation, the residence still should be considered a contributing part of the site.