

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Montana
COUNTY:	Fergus
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Rocky Point

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
SE 1/4, SE 1/4, Sec 1, T21N, R25E (Army Corps of Engineers Tract #15)

CITY OR TOWN:
Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
2

STATE: Montana CODE COUNTY: Fergus CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. AGENCY

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
Omaha District

CITY OR TOWN:
Omaha

STREET AND NUMBER:
6014 US Post Office & Court House

STATE:
Nebraska

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Fergus County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Lewistown

STATE:
Montana

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

OCT 11 1974
NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE: MT

COUNTY: Fergus

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rocky Point site consists of eight buildings on a terrace of the Missouri River overlooking its former channel. In 1965 the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range renovated one of the buildings to preserve the remains of this one busy and now historic site. The remaining buildings are slowly deteriorating and falling down. The remaining buildings include:

1. 2 cabins
2. barn
3. restaurant or hostelry
4. saloon
5. well house
6. stable
7. feed storage shed

This site was once a "little town" of 75 people and included a saloon, restaurant, hotel and other buildings.

No sketch of bldg sites is available. The sketch below shows relative locations:

(1) renovated building

(2) storage shed

(3) cabin (presently roof and sides falling in)

(4) nearly gone

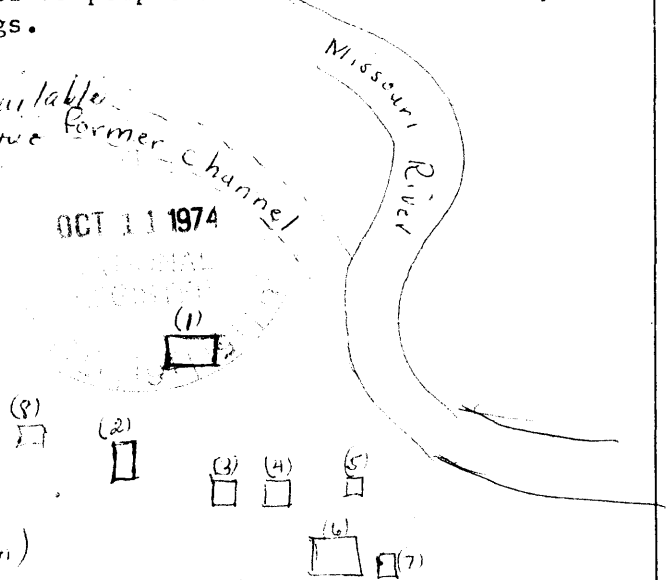
(5) well house (no roof)

(6) barn (sw corner falling in)

(7) bldg (all but general foundation remains)

(8) bldg gone (except for foundation)

(see copy of photo)



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1860's to 1910

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rocky Point and the immediate surrounding area played a significant part in the early history of this section of the Missouri River and filled an important role in the lives of the early settlers of the area. This area also served as an important crossing or ford of the river long before any buildings occupied the site. Cattle rustlers and horse thieves often moved their stolen property across the river at this location driving them north for sale in Canada.

In about 1883 or 1884, Rocky Point grew into an important trading post. Later in addition to the trading post, two saloons as well as other places of business and a number of cabins for the small number of people living here occupied this site.

During the early 1880's, Rocky Point often served as a rendezvous point for all manner of thieves and outlaws, from the lonely horse thief to the notorious Kid Currey and his gang. Later during the era of the steamboat traffic on the Missouri River, Rocky Point served as a steamboat landing and during periods of low water, freight was unloaded here to be hauled overland along the Carroll Trail to Fort Maginnis, the mines at Camp Maiden, and on to the gold fields further west. Remnants of the old telegraph line from this area to Fort Lincoln in the Dakota territory can also be seen.

Rocky Point remained in existence until about 1910, serving as a stopover between the mining towns in the Little Rockies and Kendall and later served as a line camp for cattle operators in the area.

With the construction of the faster and more efficient railroad, boat traffic on the river came to a close. Later as the mines in the area were closed or ceased to produce, Rocky Point was abandoned and succumbed to rot and decay. In 1965 the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range renovated one of the remaining buildings to preserve the remains of this once busy and now historic site.

As described above this site and the buildings involved served a variety of interests and people-----from rustlers and trappers (wolfers) to settlers, miners from nearby Zortman and Landusky and river boat traffic. Perhaps the most significant use, however, was the river boat traffic.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. "Names on the Face of Montana" by Roberts Carkeek Cheney
2. "History of the Missouri River: Fort Benton to Fort Peck" (no publisher, available at Ft. Peck Corps of Engineers Admin. Office.)
3. "Montana: High, Wide, and Handsome" by Joseph Kinsey Howard
4. "Montana Pay Dirt: A Guide to the Mining Camps of the Treasure State" Muriel Sibell Wells,

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		47°	35'	48"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		108°	25'	40"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: **Staff, Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range, Larry L. Calvert, Refuge Manager** DATE: **5/30/74**

BUSINESS ADDRESS: **Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Range**

STREET AND NUMBER: **P. O. Box 110** PHONE: **538-8707**

CITY OR TOWN: **Lewistown,** STATE: **Montana** CODE: _____

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

State Liaison Officer recommendation:

- Yes
- No
- None

William C. Roberts
State Liaison Officer Signature

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The recommended level of significance is National State Local

Robert Wells **OCT 2 1974**
Federal Representative Signature Date
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Title

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

William C. Roberts
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: *W. M. ...*
Keeper of The National Register

Date **5/20/75**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS