		OMB No. 10	024-0018			(Expires 5/31/2012)
Jnited States Department National Park Service	of the Interior					RECEIVED 2280
National Regist Registration Fo		oric F	Places			MAR 1 6 2011 NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACE NATIONAL PLACE SERVICE
This form is for use in nominating of Complete the National Register	or requesting determine of Historic Places Reprint the state of the st	egistration F ation, mater	Form. If any item does ials, and areas of sig	s not apply t nificance, e	o the prop nter only o	ctions in National Register Bulletin, H erty being documented, enter "N/A" categories and subcategories from
1. Name of Property		-				
Historic name Sheep Cre	ek Bridge					
Other names/site number	24LC1157/MDT	Identifica	ation No. L250030	05+02001		
2. Location						
street & number Milepost			Recreation Road)	<u>.</u>	_	not for publication
	outh of Wolf Creel	1.1.1.7.8.1.1		2000	040	_ 🛛 vicinity
State Montana 3. State/Federal Agency Co	code MT	county	Lewis & Clark	code	049	zip code _59648
I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> standards for registering pr	nomination operties in the N	reques	st for determination	n of eligibi Places an	lity meet d meets	s the documentation the procedural and
THE	nificant at the foll	owing lev	el(s) of significanc		2011	
Title			MONTANA C	TAIL H	deral agen	RECERVATION OFFICE
In my opinion, the propertym	eets does not me	et the Natio	onal Register criteria.			
A second s						
Signature of commenting official				Date	_	
					deral agen	cy and bureau
Signature of commenting official Title 4. National Park Service	Certification				deral agen	cy and bureau
Title 4. National Park Service I, hereby, certify that this property	is:		Signature of the K	State or Fe	deral agen	Date of Action
Title 4. National Park Service I, hereby, certify that this property L entered in the National R	is: tegister		Signature of the K	State or Fe	deral agen	
Title 4. National Park Service I, hereby, certify that this property	is: legister e National Register	er		State or Fe	deral agen	
Title 4. National Park Service I, hereby, certify that this property entered in the National R determined eligible for the	is: Register e National Register or the National Regist	er	Signature of the K	State or Fe	deral agen	

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property

.... -5

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include prev	ources within Prope lously listed resources in the	erty he count.)
private public - Local X public - State public - Federal private	building(s) district site X structure building(s) object	Contributing 1 Number of cont listed in the Na	Noncontributing	buildings sites structures Objects buildings Total
Reinforced Concrete Bridges o 6. Function or Use	f Montana,1900-1958	-	3	
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) TRANSPORTATION/Road-re	lated (vehicular) =	Current Function (Enter categories fro TRANSPORTAT		ehicular) =
Bridge		<u>Bridge</u>		

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

Name of Property

Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the Wolf Creek Canyon two miles south of the community of Wolf Creek, the Sheep Creek Bridge consists of one contributing structure, a reinforced concrete T-beam bridge built in 1933. The two-span bridge is 64 feet in length and 25 feet wide. It is located on a bypassed segment of US Highway 91 locally referred to as the "Recreation Road". The bridge displays all of the structural features indicative of reinforced concrete bridges designed and built by the Montana Highway Department between 1929 and 1941, including overhanging deck, Art Deco-style guardrails, and brackets. The setting of the site in the Wolf Creek Canyon has been altered somewhat with the introduction of nearby Interstate 15 in the 1960s, but generally the setting is intact and the site and accompanying road segment still convey the appearance of a 1930s vintage two-lane highway.

Narrative Description

The Sheep Creek Bridge is located at Milepost 5 on the Recreation Road (old US Highway 91) about two miles south of the community of Wolf Creek in central Lewis and Clark County, Montana. The bridge is located in the spectacular Wolf Creek Canyon over an intermittent stream that empties into Little Prickly Pear Creek about 100 feet west of the bridge. The canyon is comprised of Precambrian Belt Formation rocks more than a billion years old. The area surrounding the bridge is used primarily for transportation and recreation purposes. The Burlington Northern–Santa Fe Railway Company line (formerly the Great Northern's Montana Central Railway) parallels the Recreation Road to the west. Interstate 15 bypassed this segment of US 91 in 1967.¹

The Sheep Creek Bridge is a two-span reinforced concrete T-beam structure. It is 64 feet in length and 25 feet wide with a roadway width of 22 feet. The bridge consists of two 31-foot spans. The substructure is comprised of two reinforced concrete abutments and backwalls, while the pier is an open hammerhead-type structure. The deck is supported by the standard four lines of reinforced concrete girders recessed under the deck. Concrete brackets at the compression joints partially support the overhanging deck which is flanked by raised concrete curbs with drains. The curbs are surmounted by the standard double-railed post-and-beam guardrails anchored at the ends to flared concrete endposts. The endposts display decorative bush-hammered recessed panels on the interior and exterior sides. The guardrail posts are tapered with beveled caps, while the rails are tilted 45° to provide a canted streamlined appearance.

Integrity

The bridge is the standard reinforced concrete T-beam bridge common to Montana's highways beginning in the 1930s. It retains excellent integrity of design, materials, and feeling. There have been no significant alterations made to the bridge since its construction in 1933.

David Alt and Donald W. Hyndman, Roadside Geology of Montana, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1991), 274.

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(Expires 5/31/2012)

nty, MT

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property	Lewis & Clark Cour County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Engineering Transportation
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1933-1961
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates 1933
Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply) Property is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)
owed by a religious institution or used for religious A purposes. B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation
C a birthplace or grave.	
D a cemetery.	Architect/Builder
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Montana Highway Department
F a commemorative property.	Robert Boomer and Evarts Blakeslee
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance	

Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The Period of Significance for this site encompasses the year the bridge was constructed in 1933 and the time it functioned as a component of US Highway 91 in southwest Montana before bypassed by Interstate 15 in 1967. The bridge still carries traffic across Sheep Creek on what is now a frontage road.

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary)

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Sheep Creek Bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The bridge is eligible under Criterion A because of its association with the make-work New Deal programs of the Great Depression and the Montana Highway Department's attempt to modernize the state's roads utilizing federal funds available from that program. The bridge is also significant under Criterion C as an intact example of the highway department's standard reinforced concrete T-beam structure built between 1929 and 1941. The bridge retains all of its original components and features and is an excellent representative of the type.

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

The Sheep Creek Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the Montana Highway Department's road and bridge programs during the New Deal of the 1930s. The bridge was part of an extensive program by the highway department to improve and modernize Montana's transportation system utilizing federal funds during the Great Depression. The bridge was constructed under New Deal regulations and represents how the program was designed to maximize labor through minimizing the use of heavy machinery. The bridge is a contributing component of an intact segment of US Highway 91 through the Wolf Creek Canyon north of Helena.

The bridge is also an excellent and intact example of the type of reinforced concrete T-beam bridge designed and built by the Montana Highway Department between 1929 and 1941. The bridge retains the streamlined open appearance standard to all T-beam bridges built during that period. The design also reflects the pervasive Art Deco influence of the 1930s, including the flared endposts, canted guardrails, and overhanging deck. The bridge is an excellent example of the type and is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C.

Engineering Significance

The Sheep Creek Bridge is an excellent example of the standard reinforced concrete T-beam bridge designed by the Montana Highway Department between 1929 and 1941. The standard T-beam design before 1929 was bulky and ponderous with small openings in the guardwalls. The post-1929 bridges, in comparison, were open and streamlined reflecting the Art Deco styling popular during that era. The department intended T-beam bridges to be ubiquitous to Montana's highway system and, consequently, were constructed in great numbers in the 1930s. They were, however, eventually replaced by treated timber bridges as geographic and economic restrictions during the Great Depression forced a modification in the highway program. The Sheep Creek Bridge is representative of state-designed reinforced concrete T-beam bridges built between about 1929 and 1941.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

On 7 November 1932, the Great Falls contracting firm of Boomer and Blakeslee won a contract from the Montana State Highway Commission to build a reinforced concrete bridge and a timber bridge on the Wolf Creek – Sieben section of US Highway 91 in the Wolf Creek Canyon north of Helena. The partners submitted a low bid of \$5,165 for the project; the contract stipulated a completion date for the bridges of 30 June 1933. The Sheep Creek Bridge utilized 101 cubic yards of concrete and 12 tons of reinforcing steel, supplied by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company of Denver. The final cost of the bridge was \$4,725.²

Robert Boomer and Evarts Blakeslee

Born in 1883 in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, Evarts H. "Blake" Blakeslee was long associated with the Montana Highway Department, both as an employee and as an independent contractor. After obtaining a degree in engineering from the University of Wisconsin about 1906, Blakeslee relocated to the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana in 1906 or 1907.

² Montana State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes, Book 5, 227, 228 (7 November 1932; Construction File, Project ECHP-FAP No. 269-A, Unit 2.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

There, he worked as a surveyor and contractor on the Bitterroot Valley Irrigation District, a reclamation project designed to promote the cultivation of apple orchards in the valley. After the Apple Boom collapsed in 1917, Blakeslee moved to Helena, Montana and began work as a Resident Engineer for the Montana State Highway Commission (SHC) in 1918. Between 1915 and 1926, the Commission assigned Resident Engineers to supervise the construction of large bridge projects in the state. In 1919, the Commission assigned Blakeslee to supervise the construction of the First Avenue North and Tenth Street (HAER no. MT-8) bridge projects in Great Falls. New job opportunities in the Electric City, however, compelled Blakeslee to permanently relocate to Great Falls after the bridge projects were completed in 1921. He resigned from the SHC in 1921 and began work as an independent bridge contractor. Blakeslee's experience with the use of reinforced concrete on the two Great Falls bridges had a profound impact on his subsequent career as an independent contractor.³

While still employed by the SHC in 1920, Blakeslee purchased the seven truss spans of the old First Avenue North Bridge in Great Falls for use at other sites. By 1922, he had gone into business with Angus McGuire, whom he had met in the Bitterroot Valley when both men were employed on an irrigation project. McGuire relocated to Great Falls around 1921 and went into business with Blakeslee. The McGuire and Blakeslee company hit the ground running in 1922; that year, the highway commission awarded them contracts to build a bridge in the Gallatin Canyon south of Bozeman and paved one-half mile of city street in Glendive with a roller leased from the commission. The projects established McGuire and Blakeslee as reliable contractors who completed their projects by the deadline specified in the contracts. Between 1921 and 1933 when McGuire left the company, the men built bridges throughout Montana and Wyoming, including the Yellowstone River at Glendive (24DW290) in 1926 and the Missouri River at the community of Hardy (24CA389) in 1931. Both structures were (and continue to be) substantial through truss bridges. For the most part, however, the company built small reinforced concrete slab and T-beam bridges. In 1933, McGuire left Montana for parts unknown.⁴

From 1933 until 1936, Blakeslee partnered with Anaconda Copper Mining Company employee Robert Boomer. The company operated under the name of Boomer & Blakeslee. The company built bridges on U.S. Highway 91 between Great Falls and Helena, including the Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) in 1934 and the Prewitt Creek Bridge (24CA642) in 1931. In 1936, Blakeslee dissolved his association with Robert Boomer and formed a partnership with Great Falls area rancher Thomas Staunton to construct road and bridge projects in Montana. The partnership endured as Staunton & Blakeslee until about 1945 when Staunton retired to devote full-time to his cattle ranch. In all his incarnations, Blakeslee was best known for his knowledge and use of reinforced concrete for bridge construction. After the Second World War ended in 1945, Blakeslee formed the Utility Builders Company, a family business that specialized in the construction of curbs, gutters, and pavement in the Great Falls area. Blakeslee remained active in the business until his death in October, 1967 at the age of 84.⁵

³ "Great Falls Contractor E. H. Blakeslee Dies," *Great Falls Tribune*, 18 October 1967; Robert Blakeslee Interview by Mitzl Rossillon, 3 March 1992; *Polk Directory for Helena and Lewis and Clark County*, (Helena: R.L. Polk, 1918); *Water Resources Survey: Ravalli County, Montana*, (Helena: State Engineers Office 1958), 45.

⁴ There is no record of McGuire in Montana after his departure from Great Falls in the U.S. Census Records. "\$6842 Offered for Iron in Old Bridge Across Missouri," *Great Falls Tribune*, 11 September 1920; *Polk Directory for Great Falls*, (Great Falls: R.L. Polk, 1918-1967); *Third Biennial Report State Highway Commission of Montana*, *1921-1922*, (Helena: State Highway Commission, 1923), 54-55, 56-57, 58-59, 62; Butte City Directories, 1900 – 1921; "T. Staunton, Rancher and Businessman, Dies," *Great Falls Tribune*, 9 April 1956.

⁵ Although Boomer had formed a partnership with Blakeslee in 1933, he kept his job at the Anaconda Company plant in Great Falls throughout the period he was associated with Blakeslee. "Great Falls Contractor," *Great Falls Tribune*, 18 October 1967; Blakeslee Interview; *Great Falls City Directories* 1949-1967; "T Staunton," 9 April 1956.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property

Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Alt. David and Donald W. Hyndman. Roadside Geology of Montana. (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing, 1991).

Axline, Jon. Conveniences Sorely Needed: Montana's Historic Highway Bridges, 1860-1956. (Helena: Montana Historical Society, 2005).

Bridge Condition Survey No. 125-0910-0369. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Bridge Inspection Record No. L25003005+02001. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Construction File. Project ECHP-FAP No. 269-A, Unit 2. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Great Falls City Directories, 1918-1967. Montana Historical Society. Helena, Montana.

"Great Falls Contractor E. H. Blakeslee Dies." Great Falls Tribune, 18 October 1967.

Helena City Directory, 1918. Montana Historical Society. Helena, Montana.

Montana State Highway Commission Meeting Minute Books. Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana.

Robert Blakeslee Interview by Mitzi Rossillon, 3 March 1992.

"\$6842 Offered for Iron in Old Bridge Across the Missouri." Great Falls Tribune, 11 September 1920.

"T. Staunton, Rancher and Businessman, Dies." Great Falls Tribune, 9 April 1956.

Water Resources Survey: Ravalli County, Montana. (Helena: State Engineers Office, 1958).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	State Historic Preservation Office
requested	X Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark	University
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Name of repository: Montana Department of Transportation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Shee	р	Creek	Bridge
Name	of	Propert	v

Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.5

(do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	12	417805	5203020	3	-	-	A Antonio and	_
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
2				4				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	_

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundary for the Sheep Creek Bridge is a rectangle measuring 64 x 25 feet. The rectangle encompasses the bridge and its approaches on both sides of the creek. The boundary is centered on the bridge.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundaries for the Sheep Creek Bridge are drawn to encompass the three spans of the bridge, its immediate approaches and that portion of the creek spanned by the bridge. The width is increased beyond the measurements of the structure to include the pier and abutments.

11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Jon Axline/Historian	
organization Montana Department of Transportation	date November 13, 2009
street & number 2701 Prospect Avenue	telephone (406) 444-6258
city or town Helena	state MT zip code 59620-1001
e-mail jaxline@mt.gov	

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Sheep Creek Bridge Name of Property Lewis & Clark County, MT County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

(See Continuation Sheets)

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mon	tana Department of Transportation		
street & number	2701 Prospect Avenue	telephone 406	-444-6200
city or town Hel	ena	state MT	zip code 59620-1001

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, PO Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page

1

Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, Montana County and State Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana, 1900-1958 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Location of Sheep Creek Bridge. Found on the Sheep Creek, Montana (1962) 7.5' Quadrangle map (photorevised 1979).

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs

Page _____

Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, Montana County and State Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana, 1900-1958 Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photolog

Name: County and State: Photographer: Date of Photograph: Location of original negative: Description and view of camera: Photograph: Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) Lewis and Clark County, Montana Kristi Hager 2005 Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana. West profile. View to northeast. MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_SheepCreekBridge_0001

NPS Form 10-900-a (Rev. 8/2002)	NPS	Form	10-900-a	(Rev.	8/2002)
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OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interio National Park Service	Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) Name of Property Lewis and Clark County, Montana	
National Register of Historic Continuation Sheet	County and State Reinforced Concrete Bridges of Montana, 1900-1958	
		Name of multiple listing (if applicable)
Section number <u>Photographs</u>	Page	2

National Register Photographs



Name: County and State: Photographer: Date of Photograph: Location of original negative: Description and view of camera: Photograph: Sheep Creek Bridge (24LC1157) Lewis and Clark County, Montana Kristi Hager 2005 Montana Department of Transportation. Helena, Montana. West profile. View to northeast. MT_LewisAndClarkCounty_SheepCreekBridge_0001

OMB No. 1024-0018

NPS Form 10-900a (8-86)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section ____ Page ____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 11000225 Date Listed: 4/28/2011

Sheep Creek Bridge Property Name Lewis & Clark MT County State

Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Montana, 1900-1958 MPS 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.

the Keeper Signatur

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification:

The Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register should read: **0** [The reference refers to resources within the boundaries of the nominated property not the larger MPS study or property type category.]

These clarifications were confirmed with the MT SHPO office.

DISTRIBUTION: National Register property file Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Sheep Creek Bridge NAME:

MULTIPLE Reinforced Concrete Bridges in Montana, 1900-1958 MPS NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Lewis and Clark

DATE RECEIVED: 3/16/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/05/11 DATE OF 16TH DAY: 4/20/11 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/01/11 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 11000225

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL:	N	DATA PROBLEM:	N	LANDSCAPE:	N	LESS THAN 50 YEARS:	Ν
OTHER:	N	PDIL:	N	PERIOD:	N	PROGRAM UNAPPROVED:	N
REQUEST:	Y	SAMPLE:	N	SLR DRAFT:	N	NATIONAL:	N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The bridge is significant under National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Transportation and Engineering. Serving local transportation needs, the bridge is a well preserved example of early twentieth century reinforced concrete bridge design. The nomination meets the registration requirements set forth in the MPS cover document.

RECOM. / CRITERIA Accept CRITERIA A.	C
REVIEWER PAUL R. LUSIQNAN	DISCIPLINE HISTORIAN
TELEPHONE	DATE 4/20/11

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.





