

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Froggie's Stopping Place on the Whoop-Up Trail

other name/site number: Lucille
Midway Station

2. Location

street & number: n/a

not for publication: X
vicinity: X

city/town: [redacted]

state: [redacted]

code: [redacted]

county: [redacted]
county: [redacted]

code: [redacted]
code: [redacted]

zip code: [redacted]

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maureen Byers MT SHPO 2-25-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register see continuation sheet
- other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Maureen Byers

~~Entered in the~~

~~National Register~~ Date of Action

4/15/93

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing Noncontributing

Category of Property: Site

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register: 0

___ building(s)
___ sites
___ structures
___ objects

Name of related multiple property listing:
Whoop-Up Trail of Northcentral Montana

___ Total
2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Current Functions:

TRANSPORTATION/road related
COMMERCE/trade
GOVERNMENT/post office
DOMESTIC/hotel, single dwelling, secondary structure
EDUCATION/school
AGRICULTURE/irrigation facility

Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:
n/a

Materials:
foundation: n/a
walls: n/a
roof: n/a

Narrative Description

"Froggie's" was a stopping place on the Whoop-Up Trail, which operated during the late 19th century. Between 1888 and 1901 a post office was located at the small settlement, which became known as Lucille (named after Froggie's daughter). At some point in time, the site gained the third name of Midway Station [redacted]. Historically Froggie's/Lucille/Midway Station consisted of a house, post office (possibly incorporated into the house), school, barn(s) and windmill. Today this site consists of three cobble foundations, sheet garbage scatters and depression features which are surficially visible. The nomination also includes a piece of pasture land in which a portion of the Whoop-Up Trail is still faintly visible.

Froggie's Stopping Place is located on the [redacted] of Pondera Coulee on a flat uncultivated bench. The banks on the [redacted] creek are steep and shelter the basin-like area in which the site is located. Hills rise to the [redacted] of the site, while the area to the [redacted] is more open as it holds the stream channel. The area to the [redacted] is the only uncultivated pasture land in the site vicinity. Fence lines along the [redacted] boundaries of Section [redacted] are the closest visible modern intrusions on the site, although one can see a farmhouse and outbuildings in the distance [redacted]. Otherwise the historic sense of setting in terms of natural environment is well-preserved.

The contributing components of this site include the visible remains of three buildings marked by cobble-lined foundations and an intact segment of the Whoop-Up Trail. The foundation remains represent three structures known to have existed at the turn of the century. Although the oral history record of the appearance of the buildings is not firm, a reconstruction of the site was painted by Ernie Bendorf in 1973 based on the memory and imagination of Albert Stordahl of the abandoned site upon his arrival in the area in 1913.

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The three foundation features are located along an east-west axis. The most westerly foundation ("A") is approximately 18 feet square and contains no cellar depression. Sixty feet to the east is a rectangular foundation ("B") measuring approximately 40 by 15 feet in size with a round cellar depression (approximately 20 feet in diameter) on the west side. About 100 feet to the east is the third cobble-lined foundation ("C"), which measures 18 by 30 feet and contains a large cellar depression within. Sheet garbage including artifacts such as glass and ceramic fragments, and miscellaneous metal pieces is visible on the surface surrounding the foundations. Cattle have kicked up some of this sheet scatter. Cattle create the only real disturbance to the site today.

Originally there was a windmill across the creek from the small settlement. Today only the remains of a concrete cistern, now cracked by vegetation, can still be observed.

Very faint traces of the Whoop-Up Trail can be viewed in the swale of the hills that border the site [REDACTED]. The ruts are manifested today basically by changes of quality and texture of prairie grasses, being thicker and greener than surrounding patches in the swale. This intact segment of the Whoop-Up Trail is included in the nomination boundary.

The owner of the largest section of land to be included in this nomination, Mr. Ernie Stordahl, and his mother Mrs. M.A. Stordahl, recall that individuals with metal detectors have visited the site over the past 30 or so years and found items such as square nails and cartridge cases datable to the last quarter of the 19th century. No formal archaeological excavations (testing included) have ever been conducted at this site.

The site is an excellent example of the trading post/stopping house property type identified in literature searches or the oral tradition for the Whoop-Up Trail. Only three such properties have been identified for the trail in all its routing through both the American and Canadian prairies. Froggie's, with its close association with the trail ruts, its good archaeological condition, and preservation of associated activity areas offers excellent potential for providing information on daily life at a stopping place along what was, in the late 19th century, a vital transportation corridor in northcentral Montana.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, D	Areas of Significance: Transportation Archaeology: Historic Non-Aboriginal (subsistence, commerce)
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a	Period(s) of Significance: 1870 - 1910
Significant Person(s): n/a	Significant Dates: 1870
Cultural Affiliation: Euroamerican	Architect/Builder: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

In order for the Whoop-Up Trail to operate efficiently as a transportation corridor, there was a need for regularly spaced stopping places where horses could be changed and passengers rest. Froggie's Stopping House, which is also known as the Lucille post office and Midway Station, is an excellent example of such a node. The locale offered the first good water north of the Teton River [REDACTED] and was somewhat sheltered compared to the open plains [REDACTED] of Pondera Coulee. Also, it was located [REDACTED] between the stopping place of Captain Nelce's on the Teton and Fort Conrad on the Marias. An intact segment of the Whoop-Up Trail approaching the site [REDACTED] is included in this nomination.

Froggie's Stopping Place qualifies for listing in the National Register under Criterion A due to its direct links to the historic pattern of events that made important contributions to the development of northcentral Montana, particularly in the field of transportation. The Whoop-Up Trail began as a route by which whiskey trading establishments in the British Possessions could be supplied with goods from the merchant houses of Fort Benton. After the cessation of the trade in the winter of 1874-75 in the British Possessions, the trail became a vital supply link for the new North-West Mounted Police posts in Canada, as well as a well-recognized highway in northcentral Montana.

The foundation remains of Froggie's Stopping Place/Lucille/Midway Station possess excellent potential to yield archaeological information on the character of life at a stopping place on a major trail system of the 19th century, and hence it qualifies for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D. No subsurface investigation has been conducted by archaeologists at the site. However, examination of the surface context and comparison with known sites suggests that prospects for intact deposits are excellent. The site shows no extensive subsurface disturbance. At present the only threat to the preservation of the site comes from cattle kicking rocks about. Although soil cover appears relatively thin, the cellar foundations and outhouse depressions that are presumed to function as excellent sediment (and, hence, artifact) traps, leading to good material culture preservation. Furthermore, the close vicinity of the site to the creek edge raises the possibility that its inhabitants may have used the slope for disposal of garbage. Slope wash, which would have covered up the deposits, would also assist in the preservation of these deposits.¹ The sediment traps formed by outhouse and cellar depressions often contain a great deal of artifactual material, as people are drawn to disposing garbage in nearby holes and slopes. Froggie's has excellent potential for preserved material and features in its foundation depressions, (to be located) outhouse holes and coulee slopes.

See continuation sheet

¹ Sites with similar deposition scenarios have been excavated by the author. For example, Lille, an early 20th century coal mining town in the Crowsnest Pass, southern Alberta, and Morleyville, a late 19th/early 20th century settlement west of Calgary, Alberta.

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There are no existing archaeological data on stopping houses relating to the development of transportation and commerce in northcentral Montana. Various research objectives could be pursued at Froggie's. An initial small-scale testing program could probe the quality and depth of artifact-bearing sediments at the stopping house site. Using a grid, small tests could be placed in each foundation feature, on a dispersed pattern on the level ground between the features, and at the base of the adjacent creek slopes. Only after some preliminary assessment has been conducted can a management plan (which may include larger scale excavation) be completed for Froggie's.

As the site was evidently an important regional focus in that it provided educational and postal services in addition to its residential and traveller accommodation functions, archaeological research could be oriented towards identification of individual building functions, site activity areas and possibly sequences of abandonment of individual site components. The associated material culture could be examined for illustration of how this isolated little settlement was tied into the larger national economic sphere via the supply line of the Whoop-Up Trail upon which it was situated.

The nominated property possesses very good historic integrity. Modern alteration of the landscape in the immediate vicinity of the property is restricted to fence lines and cultivation in adjacent areas. Viewplanes in most directions are little disturbed by modern elements. Thus, the natural prairie setting has been largely maintained which enhances the qualities of association and feeling. The inclusion of the set of ruts relating to the Whoop-Up Trail completes the contextual setting of the property.

Froggie's Stopping Place
Name of Property

Pondera and Chouteau counties, Montana
County and State

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other - Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: 90 acres

UTM References: **Zone** **Easting** **Northing** USGS map: [redacted]
A [redacted] [redacted]
B [redacted] [redacted]
C [redacted] [redacted]
D [redacted] [redacted]
E [redacted] [redacted]

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is located in the [redacted] half [redacted] and the [redacted] quarter of Section [redacted] and overlies the border [redacted]. The property nomination includes [redacted] Pondera Coulee.

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked by the UTM reference points.

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Margaret Kennedy
organization: Dept of Geography, University of Lethbridge date: September 1991
street & number: 4401 University Drive telephone: (403) 329-2225
city or town: Alberta state: Lethbridge, Canada zip code: T1K 3M4

Property Owners

name/title: [redacted]
street & number: [redacted]
city or town: [redacted] state: [redacted] zip code: [redacted]

name/title: [redacted]
street & number: [redacted]
city or town: [redacted] state: [redacted] zip code: [redacted]

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Secondary Sources

Cheney, Roberta, Names on the Face of Montana - The Story of Montana's Place Names, Shelby: Shelby Promoter, 1984.

East Community Historical Society, Country Roads - A History of East Community - The Southeast Corner of Pondera County, Brady Montana. Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 1984.

Newspaper Articles and Unpublished Manuscripts

- 1) Conrad Independent-Observer: "Methodist Minister Describes Travels on Old Whoop-Up Trail" April 12, 1984
- 2) Fort Benton River Press, "Fort Benton to Fort Conrad," December 3, 1884.
- 3) "Activities along the Whoop-Up Trail" May 3, 1984; Montana Backgrounds 315, Northern Montana College, Havre, Montana; Extension Course handbook (on file, Montana Historical Society Archives, Whoop-Up Trail file).

Maps and Plans

General Land Office Plans [REDACTED] (1875) and [REDACTED] (1874)

Oral Informants (all interviewed by Kennedy)

Mr. Ernest Stordahl (Conrad East) July, 1991
Mrs. M.A. Stordahl (Conrad East) July, 1991
Mr. Jack Hayne (Dupuyer) July, 1991

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Boundary Justification

In selecting boundary lines for the nominated property, two concerns were predominant. First, as the qualities of feeling and association are critical to the integrity of the site, the nomination had to include topographical features that created natural boundaries in terms of the view plane as observed from the central resource, Froggie's Stopping Place. Thus, the high banks [REDACTED] Pondera Coulee, and the hills [REDACTED] of the flat enclose the area that was once active as Froggie's Stopping Place.

[REDACTED], the [REDACTED] slopes of the hills there are included since faint traces of the Whoop-Up Trail are visible there, again from the perspective gained when situated at the site of Froggie's Stopping Place. Thus, the geographic features were chosen so that the experience of setting and place are preserved when one is sited at the stopping place remains.

Secondly, the nomination boundaries must respond to the areal extent of the archeological remains of the stopping place. Distribution of surface artifact scatter from the archaeological site observed during a walkover of the site area suggests that the set limits are adequate. The nomination therefore includes all flat land in the immediate vicinity of the stopping place that potentially was used for associated activity as well as being traversed by the Whoop-Up Trail. Additionally, the nomination includes the locale of the former windmill [REDACTED]