

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received JUN 5 1980  
date entered AUG 11 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Kevin Depot

and/or common

**2. Location**

Central Ave + 1st St.

street & number

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town

Kevin  
Kevin

\_\_\_ vicinity of

congressional district

1st

state

Montana

code

30

county

Toole

code

101

**3. Classification**

**Category**

- \_\_\_ district
- building(s)
- \_\_\_ structure
- \_\_\_ site
- \_\_\_ object

**Ownership**

- \_\_\_ public
- \_\_\_ private
- both

**Public Acquisition**

- \_\_\_ in process
- \_\_\_ being considered

**Status**

- \_\_\_ occupied
- \_\_\_ unoccupied
- work in progress

**Accessible**

- \_\_\_ yes: restricted
- \_\_\_ yes: unrestricted
- \_\_\_ no

**Present Use**

- \_\_\_ agriculture
- \_\_\_ commercial
- \_\_\_ educational
- \_\_\_ entertainment
- \_\_\_ government
- \_\_\_ industrial
- \_\_\_ military

- \_\_\_ museum
- \_\_\_ park
- \_\_\_ private residence
- \_\_\_ religious
- \_\_\_ scientific
- \_\_\_ transportation
- other: Community

**4. Owner of Property**

name Kevin Economic Development Corp., a community-based civic action organization

street & number Corner of Central Ave and 1st Street

city, town

Kevin

\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.

Toole County Courthouse

street & number

city, town

Shelby

state

Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None

has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date

\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>12/14/79</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Kevin Depot is one story and of a basic rectangular shape measuring 24 x 84, with a square bay on the eastern side. An addition was built in 1925 and finished as living quarters for the railway agent. With the exception of normal maintenance, the building retains its original qualities.

The roof is shingled in wood and overhangs approximately two feet on all sides. The exterior walls are in white clapboard. There are three six-over-six windows on the north side. On the East side, there are four four-over-four windows in the bay, one six-over-six window, and two doors. A long narrow, high window on the west side lights the shipping area. Also on the western face there are two large sliding freight doors. There are no windows on the south side.

The interior of the building is divided into three sections : a waiting room with two bathrooms to the side, an office, and a three-room apartment. There is a centrally placed chimney in the waiting room.

The building was moved in 1979 from the railroad right-of-way and set on a new cinderblock foundation two blocks away. The 10 x 10 rough timber floor joists aided the successful move and the entire chimney remains intact. Much of the original wooden boardwalk will be incorporated in the new site.

The Kevin Depot was moved from its original location at the insistence of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The depot played a very significant role as a community center in the town of Kevin. Although now two blocks from the railroad right-of-way, the Kevin depot retains its close historical association with the town and its railroading history.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1903 **Builder/Architect** Great Northern Railroad

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Kevin Depot was the first building erected on the townsite of Kevin. Established on the Great Northern railroad line in wild, largely unsettled sheep-herding country, the town of Kevin grew around this original depot. As in other whistle-stop towns, it was not the school or the courthouse which was the most important building in the community. Rather the depot was the ticket office, the post office, the telegraph office, the center of commerce - virtually the hub of the community.

The Kevin depot is architecturally significant because it is typical of small town stations of turn-of-the-century Montana. The Great Northern Railroad created the Kevin site for steam locomotives to take on water half-way on their journey from the high-line to the Canadian border. Rainwater was collected in a pit behind the station. These small stations have all but disappeared; Kevin is one of the few left.

In 1922, the oil 'boom' hit Northern Montana, and once again because of the rail stop at Kevin, the town also boomed. At this time, many Italians worked on the early day gandy-dancer crews. They built an oven next to the depot which they covered with available gumbo mud, baked bread daily, and enticed the local children with hot, fresh bread in exchange for a few words of English.

The Great Northern discontinued passenger trains on its run to Canada in the 1930's and attached one passenger car directly in front of the caboose, the rest of the train being regular freight. Later this practice also was discontinued and the Great Northern handled freight exclusively. In 1975, the railroad abandoned use of the Kevin Depot altogether.

Now the railway is owned by Burlington Northern. The company intended to raze the Kevin depot as has been the fate of stations at Sweetgrass, Sunburst, and other towns along the highline. However, the Kevin Economic Development Corporation was successful in acquiring the building from the Burlington Northern. The entire town turned out to lay a new foundation and to assist in moving the depot from the BN right-of-way to a new site two block away. The EDC proposes to remodel the interior of the building and use it as a Senior Citizen's Center.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Burlington Northern archives: Mrs. Clara Postlewaite; Toole County Historical Society

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property  $\frac{1}{4}$  acre (3 town lots)

Quadrangle name Shelby

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References UTM References are not available on this quadrangle map

A 

1	2	4	2	8	5	3	9	9
Zone		Easting			Northing			

B 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

C 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

D 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

E 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

F 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

G 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

H 

Zone		Easting			Northing				

### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 16, 17 and 18, Block 6 of original Kevin townsite, Sec. 35 NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  T.34N. R.3W

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
None			
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Pam Porter

organization Kevin Economic Development Corp. date 12/31/79

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone 406-337-2711

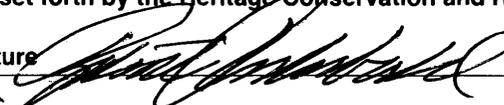
city or town Kevin state Montana

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

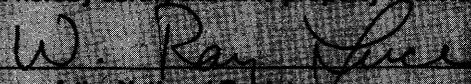
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 5-29-80

**For NCHS use only**

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

 date 8/10/80

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 7/30/80

