

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Montana	
COUNTY: Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-225-0701	DATE 2/11/70

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Beaverhead Rock - Lewis & Clark Expedition

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
T5S, R7W, Sect. 22 (NW 1/4, & north half of SW 1/4)

CITY OR TOWN:  
Approximately 14 miles NE of Dillon

STATE Montana	CODE 25	COUNTY: Madison	CODE 057
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input 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) None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments X See attachment
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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Bureau of Land Management / Norman Ashcraft

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Billings / Dillon	STATE: Montana	CODE 25
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Madison County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Virginia City	STATE: Montana	CODE 25
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
State Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: September, 1968  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Montana Fish and Game Department

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN: Helena	STATE: Montana	CODE 25
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Montana
COUNTY: Madison
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

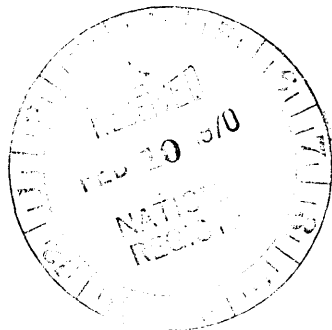
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Massive stone outcrop. Unchanged since first viewed by Lewis & Clark.



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) August, 1805

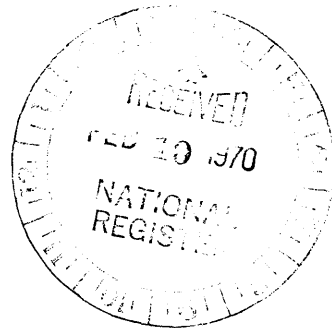
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Always a prominent landmark in the community, this rock was first of note because it was the first landmark recognized by Sacajawea, August 8, 1805 on the Lewis & Clark trip west. This marked the margins of the range of the Shoshoni at that time, and for the first time on the trip, she became of some value in the capacity of a guide while in immediate Shoshoni country. Sacajawea's people were soon found and much needed horses were first obtained, in friendly trading. The horses were a critical factor which, if not obtained, would not have enabled the Lewis & Clark expedition to continue to the Pacific Ocean.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

De Voto, Bernard, Lewis and Clark Journals  
 Various Lewis and Clark Trail publications.

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	45° 23' 37"	112° 27' 49"		0		
NE	45° 23' 37"	112° 27' 11"				
SE	45° 22' 58"	112° 27' 11"				
SW	45° 22' 58"	112° 27' 49"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 240 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Robert A. Murray, Historical Consultant

ORGANIZATION: Montana Fish and Game Department DATE: 9-68

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Mitchell Building

CITY OR TOWN: Helena, STATE: Montana CODE: 25

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Wesley R. Woodgerd  
Wesley R. Woodgerd  
 Title State Liaison Officer  
 Date January 27, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Curran  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

FEB 11 1970

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST:  
William J. Smalley  
 Keeper of the National Register  
 Date FEB 11 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

0-146270/5-007800  
 0106000

Harold G. Stearns of Harlowton, Member of the Historical Society Board of Trustees and Director of the Ding Darling Foundation, among other Montanans, is disturbed by the removal of rock for riprapping purposes from the Beaverhead Rock near Dillon, Montana.

The following was dictated by Mr. Stearns:

This rock is one of the major landmarks of the Lewis and Clark expedition and is highly important in that it was recognized by the Indian woman, Sacajawea, as the area in which her people, the Shoshones, had been when she was kidnapped as a child some years before.

Quotation from THE JOURNALS OF LEWIS AND CLARK, Houghton-Mifflin edition of 1953, edited by Bernard DeVoto, page 181, quoting from the journal of Thursday, August 8, 1805:

The Indian woman recognized the point of a high plain to our right which she informed us was not very distant from the summer retreat of her nation on a river beyond the mountains which runs to the west. this hill she says her nation calls the beaver's head from a conceived re(se)mbulance of it's figure to the head of that animal. she assures us that we shall either find her people on this river or on the river immediately west of it's source; which from it's present size cannot be distant. as it is now all important with us to meet with those people as soon as possible I determined to proceed tomorrow with a small party to the source of the principal stream of this river and pass the mountains to the Columbia; and down that river untill I found the Indians; in short it is my resolution to find them or some others, who have horses if it should cause me a trip of one month. for without horses we shall be obliged to leave a great part of our stores, of which, it appears to me that we have a stock already sufficiently small for the length of the voyage before us.

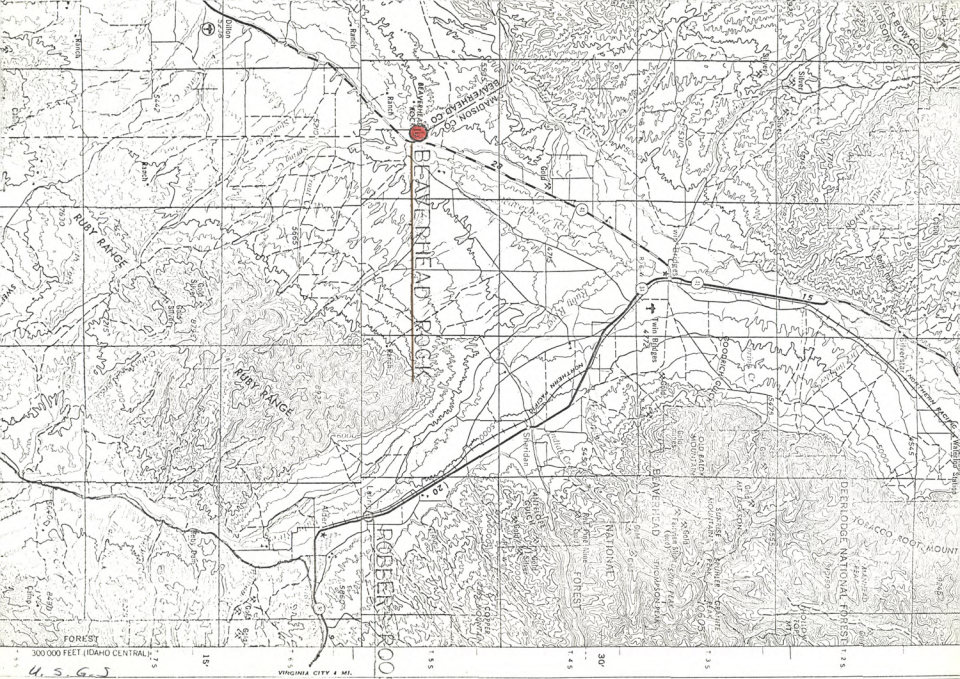
As a result of having discovered the Beaverhead Rock, Lewis and Clark were able to find their bearings and shortly afterwards met with Sacajawea's people and obtained the horses which were needed to enable them to go on to the Pacific Ocean.

At the Arch in St. Louis is a large painting by John K. Ralston which depicts the crucial meeting between the explorers and the

Shoshones. The significance of Beaverhead Rock in leading to the obtaining of the horses may well have been the point of no return for the expedition which meant so much to the creation of the United States from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

We deem the preservation of this rock as of the utmost significance. Designation of Beaverhead Rock as a national landmark has too long been delayed.





U.S.G.S

DILLON, MONTANA; IDAHO

NL 12-7

1:250,000

SUPPLEMENTARY  
MAP

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	
Montana	
COUNTY	
Madison	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-2,25,5001	2/11/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

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AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

T5S, R7W, Sect. 22 (NW 1/4, & north half of SW 1/4)

CITY OR TOWN:

Approximately 14 miles NE of Dillon

STATE:

Montana

CODE

25

COUNTY:

Madison

CODE

057

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:

U. S. Geological Survey, Beaverhead Rock, Montana, Quadrangle

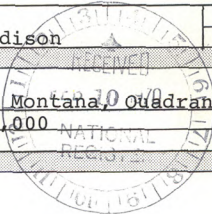
SCALE: 7.5 minute series (Topographic) 1:24,000

DATE: 1962

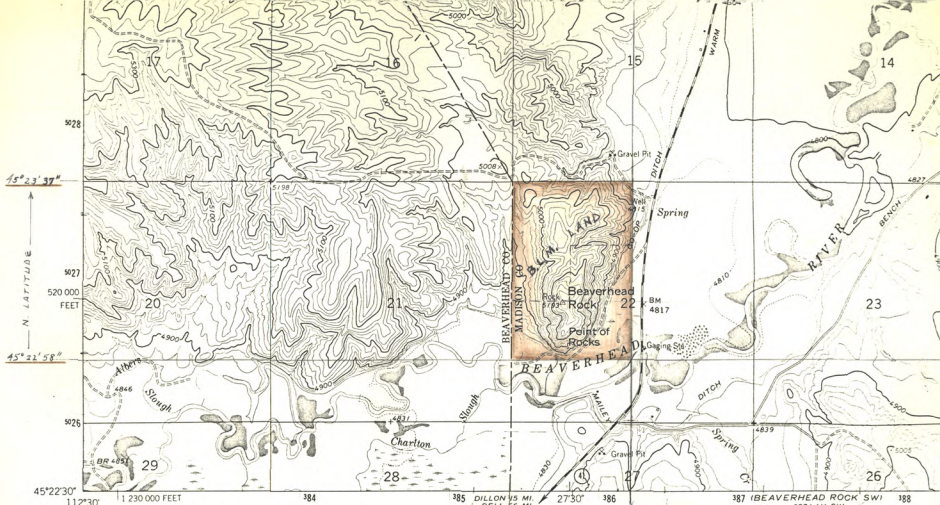
4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required. \*
2. North arrow. \*
3. Latitude and longitude reference. \*







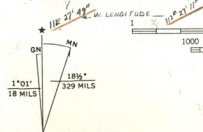
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Montana coordinate system, south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 12, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



SCALE 1:24000

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10 FOOT CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

U. S. G. S.

BEAVERHEAD ROCK QUADRANGLE, MONTANA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES

1962

BEAVERHEAD ROCK

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER 25, COLORADO OR BY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE

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