

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 9 1979
DATE ENTERED	SEP 5 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET	Individual Property	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE	59
Name:	Rolfson House			Photo #59
Map number:	Map B #12, Map K			
Location:	Bozeman Road (Interstate 90) west of Livingston			
Owner and address:	Lawrence and Florence Taylor P.O. Box 798 Livingston, Montana 59047			
Construction date:	1900			
Style:	Vernacular			
Verbal Boundary description:	T 2S, R 8E, Section 13 square, down road			
Acreage:	less than one acre			
U.T.M. reference:	[1,2] [5,2,5,9,0] [5,0] [5,6] [2,8,0]			
Bibliography:	Oral interviews, Walter Nicholson, Al Olson, Mrs. Larry Taylor, May, 1979. <u>Livingston Enterprise</u> , March 24, 1900; July 18, 1903.			

Description:

The house is a tall, 1½-story stone structure with a lower, 1-story shed-roofed wooden, enclosed porch at the back. Its shingled roof has four gables: one in the front (south), one on the west side, and two on the back (north). Walls are constructed of large, squared, rough-faced, sandstone blocks, about 9" by 12" to 36", except below the front gable. There, the masonry is cruder and was perhaps redone to insert the window, which has a lintel from a railroad rail, unlike most of the others, which are topped by flat stone arches. Except under the front gable where concrete is used, foundations are mostly made of large, well-shaped, but rough-face blocks. The unshaped stones under the front half of the side gable indicate that this lower section may once have been a porch, now filled in. The masonry above, however, is as fine as that of the rest of the house. Window and door details are simple, some modernized. The front window in the possible former porch has an etched glass transom. Pieces of board are set into the stone wall at the attic floor level under the front gable.

Significance:

Martin Rolfson made his way from Wisconsin to the Livingston area in the last decade of the 19th century. Upon the death of his brother-in-law, Henry Weinsheimer, in 1899, he bought from the widow several sections of land about 4 miles west of present day Livingston. In 1900, the Livingston Enterprise reported that Rolfson was constructing a stone-cut residence that would be the "finest ranch house in Park County." Rolfson left his mark by scratching his name in concrete on a stone basement sill. A stonemason by trade, he found the local sandstone easily accessible and workable. The sandstone came from a quarry on the property just north of the house. Three years later, upon the death of his wife, Rolfson sold the property to several investors. He moved to town, continuing his trade, as evidenced by a

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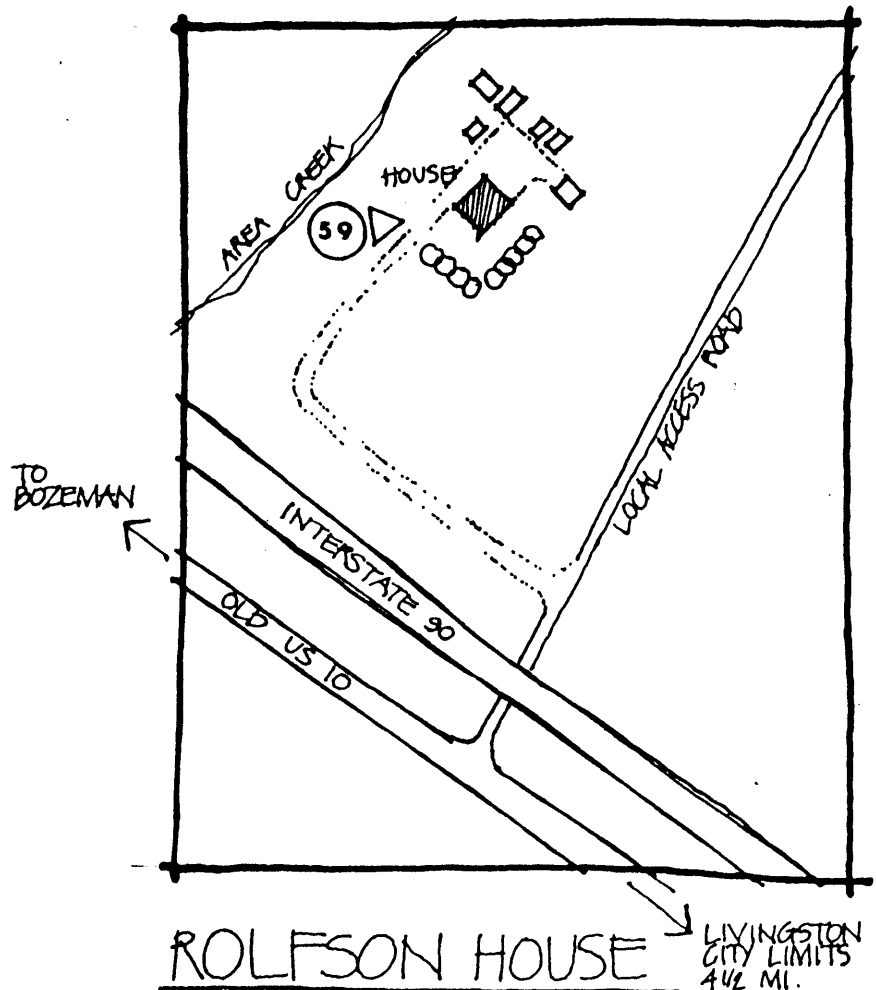
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number of stone residences, including his on South Yellowstone Street. Rolfson returned to his Wisconsin home in 1906. On the ranch, a two-level barn, one for cows and the other level for horses, has since collapsed, wood replacing the stone superstructure. A log cabin moved onto the site was, as early as 1896, a house for tenants north of the Rolfson place. Because these outbuildings have lost their integrity, only the stone residence is being nominated.

This structure meets the following National Register criteria:

- B. The number and quality of stone structures in the Livingston area attest to Rolfson's skill as a stonemason as well as his contribution to the community's development from a tent town to a prosperous settlement in less than twenty years.
- C. The structure exhibits distinctive masonry construction techniques using local sandstone.



ROLFSON HOUSE LIVINGSTON CITY LIMITS 4 1/2 MI.

No scale.

