National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

code

30

For NPS use only received NOV 2 8 1984 date entered JAN 1 1 1985

code

013

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

1. Name

historic Fort Shaw Historic District and Cemetery

and/or common Old Fort Shaw

2. Location

street & number One mile NW of town of Fort Shaw n/a not for publication

city, town Fort Shaw

X vicinity of

county

Cascade

state Montana

street & number

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
district	_x_ public	occupied	agriculture	museum
building(s)	private	X_ unoccupied	commercial	park
structure	both	work in progress	<u>_X_</u> educational	private residence
X_ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	entertainment	religious
object	in process	yes: restricted	government	scientific
-	being considered	yes: restricted yes: unrestricted	industrial	transportation
	na		military	<u>x</u> other: cemetery

4. Owner of Property

name	Fort	Shaw	School	District	No.	6	and	Bureau	of	Reclamation	
											-

(see continuation sheet)

city, tow	vn Fort Sh	aw		n/a vicinity of		state	Montana	59443
5.	Locatio	on of	Legal	Description	on			
courtho	use, registry of	deeds, etc	Cascade	County Courthou	ISE		·····	
street &	number	Clerk	and Record	der's Office				
city, tov	vn	Great H	alls,			state	Montana	59401
6.	Repres	enta	tion in	Existing	Surveys			
title	none			has this pro	operty been determ	nined e	ligible?	yes <u>X_</u> no
date					federal	sta	ite co	unty local
deposite	ory for survey r	ecords						

city, town

state

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The military post of Fort Shaw is situated on the south bank of the Sun River, some 25 miles west of the confluence of the Sun and Missouri Rivers. The nominated property includes six buildings that were once part of the military post. Five of the six appear today much as they had during the post's military occupation from 1867-1890. In 1892, the property became an industrial arts school for Indian children until 1910. During the early part of the 20th Century when homestead settlers moved to the Sun River Valley in great numbers, many of the Fort's original buildings were systematically dismantled for reuse at various farmsteads. The Good Templer's Hall, Carpenter Shop, Sawmill, and Post Trader's buildings, were all removed from the site during this period. The Fort's large animal barn was relocated to Giff Fejield's ranch in the valley in 1916.

The following description of buildings at Fort Shaw is keyed by number to the site map.

Buildings #1 and #2: The Wash Houses for the officers are situated directly south of Officer's Row. These two sandstone buildings measure $10' \times 14'$ each and were once connected, along with the latrines, to an extensive underground sewage system. Much of the old sewer system is still visible today. The sandstone used in construction was quarried from Shaw Butte, located approximately three miles from the Fort. The base of each of these buildings is presently quite deteriorated. A small, shed roofed entry vestibule is still in place on building #2. Two windows are located on the north and south sides of each building. a corner, exterior chimney rises from the northwest corner of building #2 and the southwest corner of #1. Both buildings are now used for storage.

Building #3: The Officers' Quarters, as all the major buildings at the Fort, was constructed with adobe brick. The dimensions of the brick are $6^{n} \times 12^{n}$ and 4^{n} in thickness. The exterior walls of the building are 18" thick and the interior walls, also of adobe, are 12" thick. The adobe clay was taken from Adobe Creek, with wild grasses for extra strength. Most of the wood used in building construction at the Fort was cut, hauled, and processed at the Fort's sawmill by the soldiers. The windows are 6/6, double hung wooden sash, set in a symmetrical pattern. Two gable roofed dormers project from the wood shingled roof on the front facade. (These dormers do not appear on the 1877 rendering of this building by Lt. J.W. Jacobs.) The exterior adobe walls are sheathed with white, clapboard The interior of the Officer's Quarters was very well finished throughout, with siding. plastered walls and ceilings and well crafted door and window moldings. Separate entrances, both front and rear, are provided for the two sets of quarters in this building. The floorplan for each is the same: The hallway is 7' wide with a stairway to the second floor, the front room measures 15' x 15'; the backroom 13' x 15'; the small messroom 9' x 15'; and the kitchen and pantry 12' x 15'. A small, shed roofed addition is attached \checkmark to the east side of the building.

Building #4: The Commanding Officer's Quarters, was also constructed with adobe brick, sheathed with white clapboard siding. The original porch with wooden support columns is still in place. Two gable roofed dormers were apparently added to either side of the original dormer. The entrance door is centrally placed on the northern facade and is framed with two sidelights. The windows are 6/6 double hung wooden sash. Two of the original windows have been removed and replaced with 1/1 double hung metal sash windows. The interior floorplan featured a hallway, 7' in width, with stairway to the second story; two parlor rooms, each 15' x 15'; a kitchen and pantry, 12' x 15'; a small root cellar; a servant's room, 15' x 10'; and two garret rooms. The marble fireplace and hard wood

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of SignificanceC archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art art x_commerce x_communications	community plann conservation economics education engineering	ow hing landscape architectu law literature _X military music ement philosophy politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific dates	1867-1910	Builder/Architect	Colonel I.V.D. Reeves	13th U.S. Infantry

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fort Shaw was established in 1867 as a military post to protect travelers on the Mullan Military Wagon Road and settlers in the Sun River valley. Located on the south bank of the Sun River, Fort Shaw was situated in the geographical heart of the powerful Blackfeet nation. Through the valley ran the Mullan Road, a 425 mile military road which served as the major overland connector between the head of steamboat navigation on each side of the Continental Divide. The route carried an estimated 20,000 emigrants from Fort Benton on the Missouri River to Fort Walla Walla on the Columbia River and an even greater number of travellers during the return flow of migration occassioned by the Montana gold rush of the 1860's and 1870's. The establishment of Fort Shaw gave the white man his first permanent toe-hold in the Sun River Valley and played a vital role in the subsequent settlement of the region. The military protection provided by the Fort soldiers encouraged early agricultural settlement in an area that had been subjected to frequent skirmishes with Blackfeet Indians. Beyond the Fort's military importance, the presence of a large number of soldiers supported the development of commerce in the adjacent community of Sun River Crossing and provided a market for the agricultural commodities of the valley. During its 23 year military occupation, Fort Shaw was a social center for the area, staging numerous parties and theatrical events and housing one of the largest libraries in the Montana Territory. The nominated property includes most of the land area upon which the Fort was constructed as well as six of the original, still standing Fort buildings and the discontiguous site of the historic Fort cemetery.

Named for Colonel Robert G. Shaw, a veteran of the Civil War, Fort Shaw was designed by General Reeves in the 13th Infantry and constructed by military personnel. The building materials consisted of native elements found in the immediate vicinity: adobe clay, sandstone, field stone, and timber which was processed at the Fort's sawmill. The three exant adobe buildings at Fort Shaw represent a very rare surviving construction type in Montana.

In the mid 1870's, a telegraph line was run from Helena to Fort Benton via Fort Shaw. The line roughly paralleled the Mullan Road through the area and was erected and maintained by the soldiers. This was an extraordinarily important line of communication between the \checkmark burgeoning mining camp of Helena and the supply shipping center of Fort Benton.

The soldiers from Fort Shaw were extensively involved in campaigns against the Indians in the area. In 1877, General John Gibbon lead the 7th Infantry from Fort Shaw to join Generals Terry and Custer in the campaign against the Souix and Cheyenne. It was while Terry and Gibbon were attempting an encircling maneuver that Custer was wiped out on the Little Big Horn. Other military operations included the Piegan War (1869), the Baker Incident (1877), the Battle of Big Hole Basin (1877), and Wounded Knee (1890).

In 1891, Fort Shaw was abandoned as a military post and, in a switch of strategy, the government turned the buildings over for use as an Indian School. In 1910, the Indian School was closed and one for white children was opened in 1927.

7. Description

Condition		Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered
good _Xfair	unexposed	altereu

Check one _____ original site ____ moved date _

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

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9. Major Bibliographical References

	<u> </u>	1020			
War Department, Surge			1075		
War Department, Surge Quartermaster General					
War Department, Geogr			- 18/1		
(See Continuation She		- 1072			
10. Geograph					
Acreage of nominated property	27.88 Acres				
Quadrangle name Fairfield	·····		Qı	adrangle sca	le <u>1:62,500</u>
UTM References *UTM Refe	rences are not av	vailable for	this quadr	angle	
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Verbal boundary description T20N, R2W	n and justification	(see cont	inuation sh	eet)	
Fort: S ¹ ₂ SE ¹ ₄ Section	2,N ¹ 2 NE ¹ 4 Section continuation she	11 Cemeter eet.	'y: SW½ NW½]	NW¼ Sectio	n 11
List all states and counties	for properties overl	apping state o	or county boun	daries	
state n/a	code	county			code
state	code	county			code
11. Form Prej	pared By				
	<u>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , </u>	······			
name/title Richard L. T	horoughman				
organization Sun River V	alley Historical	Society	date May	5, 1979	
street & number Box 54			telephone	406-264-5	681
city or town Fort Si	haw		state Monta	ana 59	443
12. State Hist	toric Prese	ervatio	n Office	er Cert	tification
The evaluated significance of th	is property within the s	tate is:			
national	X_ state	local			
As the designated State Historic 665), I hereby nominate this pro according to the criteria and pro	c Preservation Officer for perty for inclusion in the	e National Regi	ster and certify t		
State Historic Preservation Offic	cer signature	marcelle	Sharpy		
title		SHPO	/ 0	date)	- 19 - 84-
For NPS use only	ioperty le included in th	e National Regi	atof a.S. 1947 1920-1946 - 18 1921-1946 - 1816	date	//-E5-5-5
Keeper of the National Regi	ster				
Attest: Chief of Registration	The sector of th			date	
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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet	Item number 4	Page 1
Property Ownership	í I	
Fort Shaw Historic District:		
Fort Shaw School District #6 Fort Shaw, Montana 59443		
Fort Shaw Cemetery		
Bureau of Reclamation		
c/o Dr. Ward Weakly	1	
Senior Archaeologist		
P.O. Box 25007 DFC		

P.O. Box 25007 DFC Denver, CO 80225

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flooring was shipped from St. Louis, Missouri via Fort Benton, Montana in 1867.

Building #5: The Bakery Building measures 20' x 60' and is of uncoursed, cut stone construction. A number of the original door and window openings have been filled in with rubble stone. The building was later used as a stable and barn and a forge was located here during the military days at the Fort. The remains of the corrals, which were once located to the south and east of this building, were last visible during the 1950's. The foundation is in good condition and a new wooden shingle roof was put on in the 1960's. Damage done to the east wall by vandals was also repaired at this time. The building is currently used for storage.

Building #6: Originally, a portion of the Post Hospital was two stories high. The building measured 82' x 30', with a wing extending to the west that measured 55' x 30'. The building contained wards, an office, dispensary, kitchen, steward's room, and a morgue. The second story was used for storage. The main ward had a capacity of 16 beds with the main hall being 8' wide. The hospital was not built in accordance with regulation plans, but it was well suited to the climate of the area. The walls were of adobe brick with the exterior sheathed with clapboard siding. The interior walls were plastered.

For over fifty years, the Post Hospital has housed the Fort Shaw Public School. The outward appearance of the building has changed considerably over the years. The second story of the building was removed shortly after the Fort was abandoned. The exterior walls were then covered with stucco. The west wing was removed during the 1920's. Since this building has always been in use, it has been well maintained and the general floorplan of the interior is basically the same as it was during the military days. On the north and east facades of the building, an addition was constructed in the early 1970's to connect this building with a new structure (#7) which houses additional classrooms.

Building #7: The Classroom Building was constructed in 1974 and intrudes upon the northwestern corner of the original parade grounds of the early military post. This building is a one story, sloping gable roofed structure with vertical wood siding.

Building #8: Teacher's Residence, constructed during the 1950's is also an intrusion within the Fort Shaw complex. This is a one story, wood frame building with a gable roof.

Foundation remains found in the original locations of three additional officer's quarters, the Board Quarters, the Guard Home, the Stables, the Ice House, the Teamster's Quarters, the Fort Storehouse, and the Company Kitchen.

The nominated property of Fort Shaw includes almost the entire original Fort complex. The parcel of land to the west, where the Good Templer's Hall, the Carpenter Shop, and the Sawmill were once located, is not included in this nomination due to the objection of the owner of the property to the National Register listing. The terrace in the area of the old sawmill has eroded in the Sun River and no remains of the mill nor the other two buildings are presently evident on the ground. Located within the boundaries of the nominated property is the highest concentration of historic buildings, foundations, and artifactural remains. It is very likely that future historic archaeological work at this site will reveal other foundations and cultural materials dating back to the Fort's early NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB No. 1024-0018

existence. Although the new classroom building of the Fort Shaw School District has intruded upon the visual integrity of the parade ground, the land surrounding the original Fort structures appears to have remained relatively undisturbed.

The Fort Shaw Cemetery is located approximately one mile to the west of the Fort complex.

The Fort Shaw Military Cemetery was plotted during the summer of 1867, by the 13th United States Infantry and for the next twenty-four years it was under the direction of the various Army units stationed at Fort Shaw. In 1891, the Army decommissioned Fort Shaw as an active military post. The following year, 1892, when the Fort was taken over by the Fort Shaw Indian Industrial School the cemetery continued in use it until the school was closed in 1910. During the time that the Army used the site there were some 122 burials made in the cemetery, including both military personnel and their dependents and a number of civilians. In 1894, the government contracted with a firm for the removal and reburial of about 75 of the military graves from Fort Shaw to the cemetary at the Custer National Battlefield. During the time that the cemetery was used by the Indian School, there were approximately 39 burials. The original military section of the cemetery was reused and, in some cases, new graves actually overlapped existing graves. During the area.

When the Fort Shaw Irrigation Project was under construction, the Bureau of Reclamation re-surveyed the cemetery and laid out a total of 2,000 plots in the 7.5 acres and made plans to build roads, etc. For unknown reasons, a number of the planned roads and walkways were designed to go over the tops of existing graves. Fortunately, these construction plans were never carried out.

After 1922, the cemetery gradually fell into a state of disrepair. In that year, the Bureau turned it over to the town of Fort Shaw, but since that community has never incorporated it has never had legal jurisdiction over the site. In 1938, the Sun River cemetery was placed on the County tax rolls and this spelled the end of the Fort Shaw Cemetery as an active site. Al-though a few burials occured at the Fort Shaw Cemetery during the years that followed, the site \checkmark was not well maintained. The last burial was made in the cemetery in 1950.

In November 1982, Dick Thoroughman and Herb Sharpe, both of Fort Shaw, decided to research and to rehabilitate the cemetery. They located copies of all of the Army and Indian School records and a map of the original Army plotting. Some 100 grave sites have been accounted for to date and about 75 of the interred have been identified.

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NPS Form 10-900-a

The potential historic archaeological value of the Fort Shaw site has not yet been fully assessed. No professional, systematic subsurface testing has yet occurred, although the site has been quite extensively pot hunted for a number of years. Due to the early date of the Fort's occupation and the later use of the site as an Indian School for Blackfeet children, the site would appear to possess the potential to yield information important to an understanding of the white/Indian relations during the later part of the 19th Century and the acculturation process the Blackfeet children experienced while the site was used as an industrial arts training center.

The Fort Shaw Cemetery, located approximately one mile to the west of the Fort complex, is associated with both the military post period of the Fort's history as well as the period of later use of the Fort as a non-reservation Indian School. Of the 122 military burials that occurred at Fort Shaw, the remains of 75 of these soldiers were later removed to the Custer Battlefield National Cemetary near Hardin, Montana. A 1908 map of the cemetery shows that between 1892 and 1908, at least ³⁹ Indian children who had died while attending the Fort Shaw industrial arts school were interred at the Fort cemetary. Grave locations are now being plotted by the Fort Shaw Historical Society and new wooden markers will be erected where markers are extremely deteriorated or missing.

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Day Records, Ft. Shaw, Montana Territory - 1867-1891. History of the 25th Inf. & History of the 7th Inf. and 54th Mass. Volunteers

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Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Verbal Bounary Description

The nominated Fort property is located in the $S_{2}^{1}SE_{4}^{1}$ fo Section 2 and the $N_{2}^{1}NE_{4}^{1}$ of Section 11, Township 20North; Range 2 West. The bank of the Sun River forms the northern boundary. The southern boundary is marked by the access road to the site and the southern property fenceline. From the southeast corner, where the fenceline intersects the access road, the boundary runs 1000' to the north, then 820 feet along the bank of the Sun River to the west, then 860' to the south, and finally 888' to the east and the point of beginning.

The Fort Shaw Cemetery is located in the SW%NW%NWP of Section 11, Township 20 North; Range 2 West. From the NW corner of the section, the northwest corner of the nominated property is located 1001' to the south. The cemetery land is a rectangle, measuring 1000' east-west and 750' north-south.

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Fort Shaw Historic District: Longitude: $111^{\circ}-49'-13"$ Latitude: $47^{\circ}-30'-36"$

Fort Shaw Cemetery: Longitude: 111⁰-50'-06" Latitude: 47⁰-30'-25"

