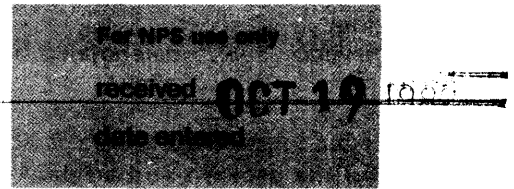


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Name

historic Fort Peck Theatre

and/or common Fort Peck Summer Theatre

2. Location

street & number Missouri Ave. N/A not for publication

city, town Fort Peck N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Montana code 030 county Valley code 105

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<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:

4. Owner of Property

name United States Army, Corps of Engineers

street & number

city, town Fort Peck N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. United States Army Corps of Engineers

street & number

city, town Fort Peck state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Cultural Resource Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 14, 1979 federal state county local

depository for survey records United States Army Corps of Engineers

city, town Omaha state Nebraska

7. Description

Condition excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Architecturally, the Fort Peck Theatre is single story wood frame Swiss Chalet style building, with arts and crafts ornamentation. Located within the townsite of Fort Peck which was constructed as part of the Fort Peck Dam WPA Project, the building has neither adjacent nor out-buildings. The paved street running in front of the building provides the major access to the townsite. The doors, sash, storm sash, screens and shutters were painted in blue, green, red, or maroon with the main exterior stained brown. The building measures 145 feet in length and 74 feet in width. Centered on the principle facade is a steep-roofed, false dormer with a miniature balcony that overlooks an extended lower balcony. Flanking stairways leading from the second level balcony to the ground. Chevron-patterned painted wood siding, bracketed eaves, and jig-sawed verge boards and balusters complete the exterior decorative treatment.

Major interior spaces include a stage, 1209-seat auditorium, lounge, foyer, lobby, project room, manager's office, and four dressing rooms. The original stage featured a proscenium arch with an orchestra pit. The stage has now been extended over the orchestra pit to create a Shakespearian style stage. The interior design elements continue the rustic Swiss Chalet motif with exposed roof trussing system, wood framing, chevron patterns, and false cantilevered balconies supported by heavy bracketing and sporting steep shingled false roofs.

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 November 1934 **Builder/Architect** Eugene Frank Gilstrap/C.F. Haglin Co.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Fort Peck dam is the largest earthfilled hydraulic dam in the world and represents a major and important commitment on the part of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers during the 1930s to develop water management capabilities along the Missouri River. As the largest public works project in Montana, the Fort Peck dam presently provides electrical power to at least five states and is an integral part of the downstream navigational system. In the course of this monumental undertaking, it was necessary for the Army Corps to virtually create a new town in order to house the dam workers and to provide social and recreational amenities for the residents in this remote area of Montana. The town of Fort Peck housed 10,000 people at one time, creating the need for a theater. The Fort Peck Theater, originally built in 1934 as a motion picture house is significant due to its association with the construction of the Fort Peck Dam and townsite and as a fine example of Swiss chalet styling. "In its elaborate decorative appointments, which include jig sawed trim, stylized signage, handcrafted lighting fixtures, and weather vanes, the Fort Peck theater reveals itself as an outstanding example of the labor intensive, New Deal, arts-and-crafts tradition that sponsored the creation of other such nationally significant architecture as the Timberline Lodge on Mount Hood, Oregon."¹ The Fort Peck Theater has retained complete architectural integrity with the exception of minor modifications performed on the stage.

The public facilities constructed to service the dam workers and their families as well as the visiting government personnel at Fort Peck represent the most architecturally congruent grouping of Swiss chalet style rustic buildings built as a part of the WPA program in the State of Montana. In addition to the Fort Peck Theatre, a compatibly designed hotel, schoolhouse, recreation hall, administration building, hospital, and garage and fire station were also constructed at Fort Peck during the mid-thirties. (Each of these structures was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places 10/8/81.) The Theatre building is outstanding within this unique collection of Swiss chalet style buildings. The careful attention to detail, from the cut-out balustrades, false balconies, champhered beams, hand-crafted lighting fixtures, herringbone siding pattern, decorative vergeboard, and interior rustic finish, lends the Theatre a whimsical quality that is most unusual in WPA construction and unsurpassed in Montana.

¹Weir, Jean Burwell, "Timberline Lodge" A WPA Experiment in Architecture and Crafts," Dissertation abstracts Internation 38, May, 1978, 6363A.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- (1) McDonald & Mack Partnership, for U.S. Army, Omaha District Corps of Engineers.
"Cultural Resource Survey; government townsite study." September 14, 1979.
Minneapolis, MN, the Author.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 1.2

Quadrangle name Fort Peck

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	3	3	9	1	8	5	0	5	3	1	7	9	3	5
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

T26N, R41E, Section 17 Fifteen feet east of NW corner of building is point of beginning; go N for 60' along ROW of Missouri Ave.; W for 155' to ROW of Yellowstone Ave.; follow ROW of Yellowstone Ave S for 195'; turn east for 155'; N to point of beginning.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mr. Jack W. Nickels Jr. & Ms. Mary Moore (785-2167)

organization Fort Peck Fine Arts Council

date June 26, 1982

street & number Box 473

telephone (406)228-9391

city or town Glasgow

state Montana 59230

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Marvella Shufly

title Deputy SHPO

date 5-6-83

For NPS use only

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

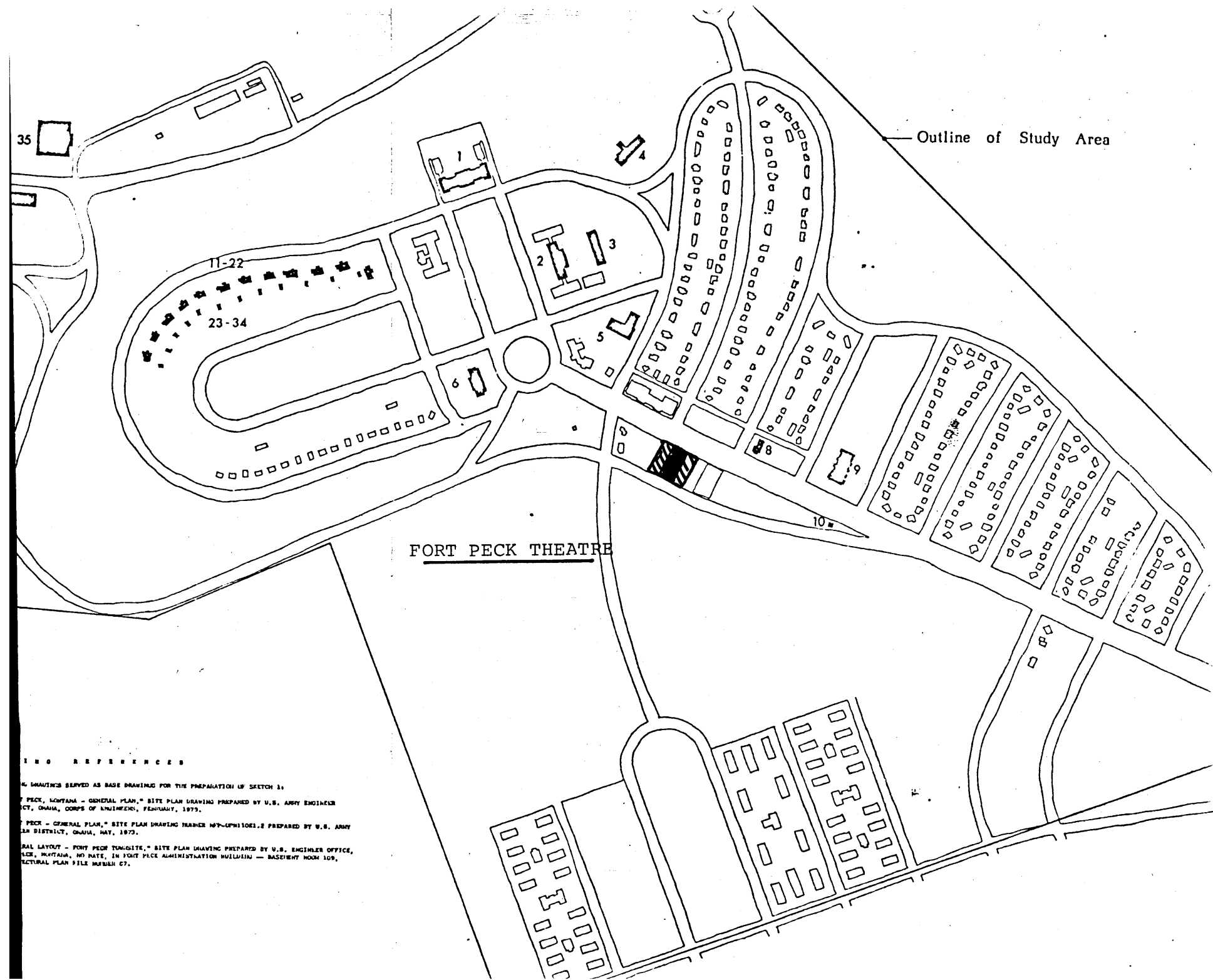
John / Linda McClelland
Keeper of the National Register

date 6/27/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



Outline of Study Area

FORT PECK THEATRE

REFERENCES

1. DRAWINGS SERVED AS BASE DRAWING FOR THE PREPARATION OF SKETCH 1.

2. PECK, MONTANA - GENERAL PLAN, * SITE PLAN DRAWING PREPARED BY U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, OMAHA, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FEBRUARY, 1973.

3. PECK - GENERAL PLAN, * SITE PLAN DRAWING FRAMES M7-CPW101.2 PREPARED BY U.S. ARMY DISTRICT, OMAHA, MAY, 1973.

4. GENERAL LAYOUT - FORT PECK TOWNSITE, * SITE PLAN DRAWING PREPARED BY U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE, SICK, MONTANA, NO DATE, IN FORT PECK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING - BASEMENT ROOM 109, STRUCTURAL PLAN FILE NUMBER C7.