

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

JUL 18 1979

DATE ENTERED

SEP 26 1979

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

Miles City Water Works Building and Pumping Plant Park

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Pumping Plant Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Miles City

VICINITY OF Miles City

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Montana

30

Custer

017

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

__YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER: Art

Center

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Miles City

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Miles City

VICINITY OF

Montana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Custer County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Miles City

Montana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Miles City Water Works Building houses the original plant for the water system that supplied the town of Miles City for the years 1911 to 1974. The building and its contents have changed very little since the initial construction in 1911. The building is situated alone on an elevated site, overlooking a circular drive and park area in front, and the Yellowstone River in back.

The original water works building is an approximately 54'X35' rectangle. It has a main floor, an attic level and concrete filter basins, which form the foundation or lower level of the building.

The building is constructed of fire resistant materials -- red brick and reinforced concrete. The hip roof also has asbestos shingles and tile hip and ridge rolls.

The building is approached in front by 17 steps, a total rise of 10 feet, to a small landing. Steps and landing have a heavy iron railing. The central front door is a 4'X8' solid oak door with a 32"X60" glass insert and brass hardware and kickplates. The door is flanked by 5½'X3' sash windows with eight 14½" square panes. There are two identical windows at equal intervals on either side of the front landing. Each side of the building has three similar windows, evenly spaced, while the back has two of the same windows equa-distant from the central back door. The hip roof has two dormer windows -- one over the front entrance and one over the central back door.

Decorative elements on the exterior consist of masonry window sills and trim above the windows and doors. Extruded brick flanks the windows, while diagonal brick is used with the masonry trim over the windows and doors. Braces under the eaves have a decorative shape.

The interior of the building contains most of the original equipment installed when the plant was built in 1911. The filter basins and the regulation consoles, which are marble-topped oak cabinets with brass controls, were developed by the Greer Filter Mfg. and are the original installation. The pumps, gauges, chemical dispensers, and other equipment involved in the water purification and pumping process are all intact. Light fixtures and other miscellaneous equipment appear to be the original installation.

Additions to the original building are as follows:

- 1) A lean-to porch across approximately onethird of the back of the building.
- 2) A rock enclosure attached to the remainder of the back of the building.
- 3) A similar rock structure in front of and below the building.

The building is approached by a circular paved drive and overlooks a park area with concrete tables and benches. The Custer County Art and Heritage Center gallery and workshops are located in the former water tanks to the right of the building, while the City of Miles City uses the corresponding tanks to the left for storage. The site contains many large cottonwoods and overlooks the Yellowstone River to the rear of the building.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1911 BUILDER/ARCHITECT W. D. Levell, contractor, G.C. Pruet, City Engineer with consulting engineers Burns and McConnell, Kansas City.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Miles City Water Works Building contains a municipal water system installed in 1911. Most of the original equipment remains intact within the building. The site of the Water Works Building, including the Pumping Plant Park, was a part of the original Tongue River Cantonement. This led to the establishment of Miles City itself.

In 1876, following the Custer Battle, the Tongue River Cantonement was established. Under the command of Col. Nelson Miles, troops from the Tongue River Cantonement had a major part in subduing the "hostiles". By the end of 1877 the conquest of the Sioux and Northern Cheyennes was complete.

In 1876, the town of Miles City sprang up two miles east of the Cantonement. The military had stipulated that this distance be kept between civilian and military establishments. When the permanent Fort Keogh was built, some miles upriver from the Tongue River Cantonement, the town of Miles City moved a corresponding distance, establishing its western boundary at the Tongue River. By the fall of 1878, Miles City was in business at its new location.

Incorporated in 1887, the town of Miles City grew with the military presence, buffalo trade, railroads, and horse and wool markets contributing to its expansion. Various water systems were tried. Originally, wells within the city supplied water. Then the Tongue River was tapped as a water supply to augment the well water. When all of this proved inadequate, in 1909 a resolution was adopted by the City Council to secure funds for the enlargement and improvement of the water supply and securing of an additional water plant for Miles City. On April 6, 1910 a bond issue was passed to finance this. An Act of Congress, approved March 11, 1911, was necessary to give consent for the City of Miles City to locate, construct, maintain and operate a pumping station with accessory equipment upon the property of the United States at Fort Keogh, taking water from the Yellowstone River.

The pump station, put into service Dec. 2, 1911, was lauded as "...this new system which has no equal of its sort in the state, and no superior in the West..."¹ W. D. Levell, a contractor from Minneapolis, had charge of the construction work on the station, while the entire system was the work of City Engineer G.C. Pruet with consulting engineers Burns and McConnell of Kansas City. This appears to be the earliest installation of its type on the lower Yellowstone.

The Miles City Water Works Building today contains most of the equipment installed in 1911. The exterior of the building is virtually unchanged. The pumping plant was in operation until 1974, when a new water plant was built. The original building has remained empty for the last four years, with the pumps, filter basins and other equipment installed in 1911 intact. The filter

(continued on attached sheet)

1. J. D. Scanlan, Editor, Miles City Daily Star, Miles City, Mt.; Independent Printing Company, Sat., Aug. 12, 1911, #70.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maurice Frink with Casey Barthelness, Photographer on an Army Mule, Norman Oklahoma: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965.
 Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, Montana, A History of Two Centuries, Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1976.
 J.D. Scanlan, Editor, The Independent, Miles City, Mt.: Independent Printing Company, 1909-1910.
 (continued on attached sheet)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Miles City

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:2400

UTM REFERENCES

A 13 433270 51391320

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Located on the Yellowstone River, upriver from its junction with the Tongue River. The building is the approximate center of a five acre park area, bounded on one side by the Yellowstone River, and the other side by the Pumping Plant Road.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Kathy Doeden, Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Custer County Art and Heritage Center

DATE

April 5, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Box 1297

TELEPHONE

406-232-1407 or 406-232-4866

CITY OR TOWN

Miles City

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

[Handwritten Signature] 6/13/79

TITLE

DATE

FDR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Handwritten Signature]
 WILLIAM H. BRIDHAM

DATE 9.26.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: *[Handwritten Signature]*
 W. Ray Luce

DATE 9/25/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET one

ITEM NUMBER 8

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regulatory consoles, installed by the Greer Filter Mfg. in 1911 are standing idle in the central valve chamber, which controlled the filter basins and pumps. The chemical dispensers appear to have halted in the midst of their functions, a partially filled sack of chemical still lodged in one of the hoppers. The upper and lower pump chambers contain an impressive array of pumps and motors, most of them the original installation. This is a good example of turn-of-the-century water technology, frozen in time.

In 1974, after the new plant was in operation, the Custer County Art and Heritage Center, a nonprofit corporation, leased the Water Works Building and the tanks to the east of it from the City of Miles City. The concrete tanks have been recycled into a spacious gallery, office and workshop area. The Water Works Building, itself, has not been touched. Projected plans for the building include use of the attic space as an artist residence, using some of the area in the building for workshop space. There is also the possibility of a permanent art collection, which could be housed in part of the building. Most of the equipment remaining in the building, such as the gauges mounted on marble-topped oak cabinets, and other technical equipment, could be preserved within the building as a public display.

The building and the surrounding park area has a great deal of local symbolic interest. The park has been a popular picnic spot over the years, and has also served as a site for Shakespeare in the Park and for some of the activities of the Montana Institute of the Arts convention held in Miles City in 1978. The building, in its imposing location overlooking the picturesque park and the Yellowstone River, serves as an ideal reminder of the water technology of the early 20th century, and of the historic events occurring on this site which lead to the establishment and growth of Miles City.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE one

J. D. Scanlan, editor, Miles City Daily Star, Miles City, Mt.: Independent Printing Company, 1910 - 1911.

City of Miles City, City Council Minutes, available at the Miles City City Hall, 1909 - 1911.

A. Buchanan, Seeing Miles City; the Johnnie Wise letters after three years in Montana, second edition, revised, Chicago, Illinois: Blakely Printing Company, 1915.

Clare Smith, "Miles City Cowboy Country", Montana Magazine of the Northern Rockies, vol. 6 #4, Fall 1976, Helena, Mt.: Montana Magazine.

Paul Husted, editor, The Miles City Star reproduction of the illustrated and historical edition of the Yellowstone Journal, Thursday, Sept. 27, 1900, Miles City, Mt.: The Miles City Star, July 4, 1976.