

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Silver Bow County, MONTANA

BOUNDARY INCREASE APPROVAL

for Keeper Bruce Noble 1/13/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

DEC 12 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Section number 8 Page 6 Addendum to B.A. & P. Historic District (Durant)

Addendum to Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railroad Historic District

Historic Name: Durant
Location: T3N;R10W, section 12
Durant, Montana (030)
Silver Bow County (093)
Ownership: Private
Category: District

Physical Description:
Historic Function: Transportation: rail-related, hotel
Current Function: Vacant/not in use
Architectural Classification: Other: Western Rustic
Materials: Foundation: stone and wood
Walls: wood and log
Roof: tin
Number of contributing resources: 8
Number of noncontributing resources: 1

Durant, located at the east end of Silver Bow Canyon at the junction of Silver Bow Creek and German Gulch Creek, is a station on the main line of the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific, the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee Railroads. The buildings at Durant were primarily used by passengers that were switching lines from the Northern Pacific to the B.A. & P.

Two resources located in the Durant area have been listed in the National Register as part of the original Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District. The German Gulch Bridge (#B-20), a contributing resource located at mile post 13.68, was constructed in 1938 and is a simple, timber beam span bridge. The foundation of the second Durant Depot (#D-1), listed as a noncontributing resource, is a concrete foundation measuring 22'x 14'. This structure served as the foundation for the second depot building located at Durant, which was built to replace an earlier, 2-story depot. The second, 1-story Durant Depot was removed from the site during the early 1970's and is now located on the grounds of the World Museum of Mining in Butte.

Newly recorded resources included as part of this addendum to the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District nomination are the Durant Boarding House, several auxiliary buildings including the barn, residence cabin, large storage building, two small storage buildings, a collapsed cabin, root cellar and a single-family mobile home. A description of each building included in this addendum at Durant are as follows:

Durant Boarding House: ca. 1892 (contributing)

Constructed in the early 1890's by the George Kessler family, the Durant Boarding House provided overnight rooms and meals to passengers switching lines from the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 Addendum to B.A. & P. Historic District (Durant)

Northern Pacific to the B.A. & P. This two-story, 20' x 30', rectangular, log building has an attached 17' x 8' addition which served as a kitchen. The foundation is uncoursed native stone and the roof is metal. The original window and door openings remain, but the sash and doors have been removed. The building was constructed using lapped box corners. The floor plan is composed of one main room, an attached kitchen and six sleeping rooms. At the rear of the building, an outhouse and well still remain. The building also served as the residence of the George M. Kessler family.

Barn: ca. 1892 (contributing)

The two-story, 16' x 30', rectangular, log and wood frame, gable-roofed barn was constructed in the early 1890's and rests on a wood timber foundation. The lower floor consists of four individual livestock stalls and a circulation area with doors at the gable ends of the building. Three open windows provide adequate fresh air to the building. The second floor was used as a hay loft.

Residence Cabin: ca. 1900 (contributing)

This small cabin was constructed ca. 1900 and is the only intact single-family structure at Durant. The cabin is located north of the boarding house across German Gulch Creek. This 10' x 16', rectangular, log building has a wood sill foundation and a gable roof covered with rolled asphalt. The windows are 3/3 casements.

Large Storage Building: ca. 1900 (contributing)

The large storage building, constructed ca. 1900, measures 25' x 40'. This rectangular, wood timber and log building has a low pitched gable roof. The building rests on a wood timber foundation and has tin, steel and rolled asphalt siding. Few 3/3 fixed windows remain. Most fixed windows have been replaced with sliding windows. Half notches were used to secure the buildings corners.

Small Storage Building: ca. 1900 (contributing)

The small storage building was constructed in the early 1900's. This 6' x 9', rectangular, wood building has a shed roof with a wood foundation and no windows.

Small Storage Building: ca. 1900 (contributing)

The second small storage building, also constructed in the early 1900's, measures 6' x 10'. This rectangular, wood building has a shed roof with a wood timber foundation and no windows. The building is sided and roofed with wood, steel and asphalt.

Cabin: ca. 1890 (contributing)

The cabin measures 12' x 18', and is a rectangular, gable roofed building that has largely collapsed. All that remains wholly intact is the roof structure. The building served as the first residence at the Durant location and was used as a summer home for George Kessler's wife, Caroline Kenninger Kessler (1848-1935), and Aunt Zena, born in German Gulch. The building is of wood frame construction

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 Addendum to B.A. & P. Historic District (Durant)

with wood shingles covering the roof.

Root Cellar: ca. 1890 (contributing)

The root cellar measures 12' x 18'. This rectangular ancillary has stone rubble wall construction, no roof or north wall. On three sides earth has been mounded to provide an earth sheltered building. This building served as a root cellar for the Kessler family and the Durant Boarding House.

Trailer: 1986 (noncontributing)

This single-family trailer is an intrusive building within the historic district.

Statement of Significance:

Period of Significance: 1890-1920
Level of Significance: Local
Areas of Significance: Transportation, Social History
Applicable Criteria: A

The buildings located at Durant are historically significant due to the important role this stop-over on the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway played in the local rail transportation network. The B.A. & P. was the only railroad that served Anaconda, Montana and connected that city with essentially only one other: Butte. Butte, on the other hand, was directly served by four transcontinental railroads: the Union Pacific, Northern Pacific, Great Northern, and Milwaukee Road. The Durant station gave passengers arriving at or departing from Anaconda the opportunity to transfer to a Northern Pacific train without having to travel the additional miles to Butte, where they also would need to make their way the several blocks between the B.A. & P and Northern Pacific depots. Passengers dropped off at Durant could wait inside the depot for a B.A. & P. train to Anaconda, or a Northern Pacific train to points distant. Those with overnight lay overs were accommodated at the Durant Boarding House, hosted by the George M. Kessler family.

George M. Kessler was a baker by trade and moved from Baden, Germany to New York City in 1877. The Kessler family arrived in Dillon in 1883 by train and made their way on to Butte, where George Kessler ran a boarding house and saloon on East Park Street with a man named Leimboch for a short time. Kessler's dream was to become rich by placer mining for gold, and moved his family 3/4 of a mile up German Gulch Creek to his diggings in the late 1880's. However, by this time the German Gulch placers were pretty well played out. By the early 1890's, the Kesslers had moved down to Durant and built their two-story, log, boarding house near the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway depot. For approximately twenty years the family lived in this boarding house, and provided meals and overnight accommodations for railroad travellers.

Although the original and replacement railroad depots at Durant have been removed

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 9 Addendum to B.A. & P. Historic District (Durant)

from the property, the Durant Boarding House and the collection of historic ancillary buildings serve to recall and illustrate the important function of this stop-over and transfer point on the B.A. & P. and Northern Pacific lines.

Bibliography:

- Butte Miner, 23 July 1922.
- Cheney, Roberta Carkeek, Names on the Face of Montana, Missoula, 1971.
- Interview with William Mullins by Paul Powers, May 5, 1988.
- Montana Standard, 30 August 1953.

Boundary Description:

The boundary of the area encompassing this addendum to the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District begins approximately 350 feet southeast of Bridge B20 and 10 feet southwest of the centerline of the B.A. & P. mainline (C27). From there, it follows a line perpendicular to the mainline 300 feet southwest to a point (C28). From there, it follows a line parallel to the mainline, across German Gulch Creek, 475 feet northwest to a point (C29). From there, it follows a line perpendicular to the mainline 300 feet northeast to a point (C30), the point of ending. The boundary for the Durant property creates a small bulge in the corridor listed in the National Register for the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District.

Boundary Justification:

All historic buildings associated with the operation of the Durant Boarding House are included within this boundary.

UTM References:	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C27	12	361140	5097300
C28	12	361240	5097220
C29	12	361200	5097170
C30	12	361100	5097250

Acreeage: Approximately 20 acres.

Addendum Prepared By: Paul Powers, Community Historic Preservation Officer,
Butte-Silver Bow Historic Preservation Office,
Courthouse, Butte, Montana, 59701. (723-8262 ext. 216)

Date: May, 1988

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

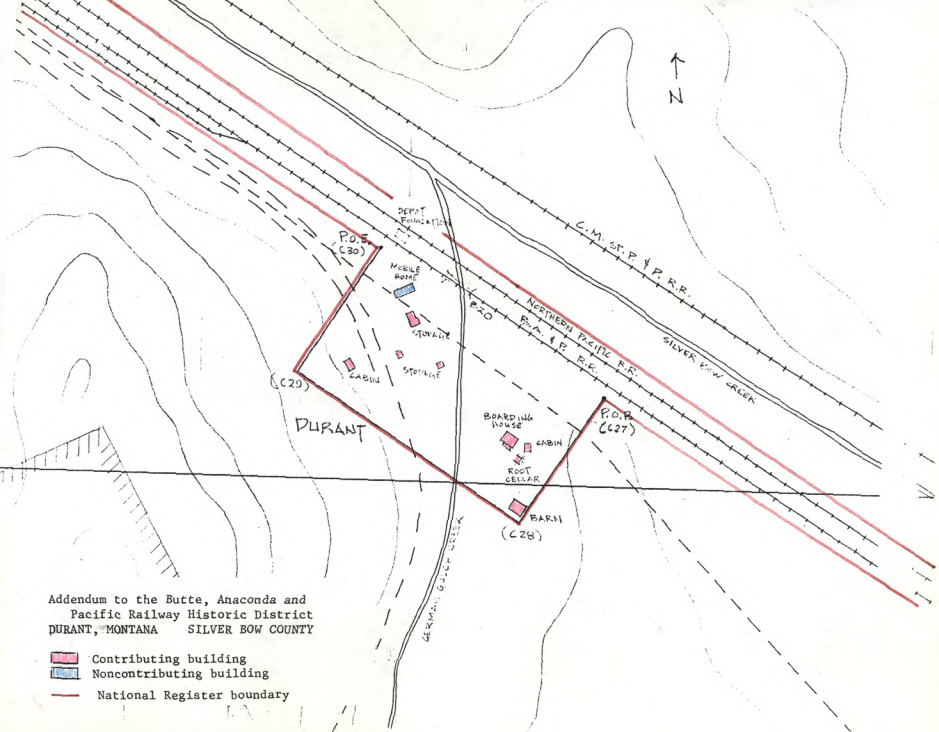
Section number 8 Page 10 Addendum to B.A. & P. Historic District (Durant)

**Addendum to the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railroad Historic District
Listing of Buildings in Durant**

<u>Inv.#</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Materials</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Photo #</u>
D2	Durant Boarding House	Durant	ca.1892	2 story log	cont.	29,30,31
D3	Barn	Durant	ca.1890	2 story log and frame	cont.	32,33
D4	Residence Cabin	Durant	ca.1900	1 story wood frame	cont.	34,37
D5	Large Storage Building	Durant	ca.1900	1 story log	cont.	35,37
D6	Small Storage Building	Durant	ca.1900	1 story wood frame	cont.	36,37
D7	Small Storage Building	Durant	ca.1900	1 story wood frame	cont.	37
D8	Cabin	Durant	ca.1890	1 story wood frame	cont.	38
D9	Root Cellar	Durant	ca.1890	Uncoursed native stone	cont.	39
D10	Mobile Home	Durant	1986	Frame with metal siding	noncont.	no photo

Total number of contributing and noncontributing properties within the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific Railway Historic District, including the Durant properties:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
Buildings	57	8
Structures	34	21
Sites	2	0
TOTALS	95	29



Addendum to the Butte, Anaconda and
 Pacific Railway Historic District
 DURANT, MONTANA SILVER BOW COUNTY

- Contributing building
- Noncontributing building
- National Register boundary