

PH0672785

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

MAR 22 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAR 8 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Fort Keogh \*\*

AND/OR COMMON

U. S. Range Livestock Experiment Station

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Box 790 - Approximately 2.5 miles SW-Miles City

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Miles City

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

STATE

Montana

CODE

30

COUNTY

Custer

CODE

017

**2 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

U. S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service, Western Region

STREET & NUMBER

2850 Telegraph Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Berkeley,

STATE

California

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

U.S.D.A., Agricultural Research Service, General Services Division

STREET & NUMBER

Federal Center Building

CITY, TOWN

Hyattsville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Montana State Inventory

DATE

September 1968

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Recreation & Parks Division, Montana Department of Fish & Game

CITY, TOWN

Helena

STATE

Montana

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Keogh, as originally designed and constructed, was an unusual post being one of the few diamond shaped posts. It was built with no stockade. The commandant's house was at the west point of the diamond, and the officers' quarters were formed on both sides. It was well constructed though the area lacked the beauty of some of the Montana posts.

The original site included six large barracks buildings for infantry and cavalry, quarters for the Commanding Officer and accommodations for 26 officers and their families, plus a bakery, granary, storehouse, guardhouse, hospital, stables, and corral. The officers' quarters were fine examples of homes, and the enlisted barracks were better than the men were used to. The post also had a library and a billiard hall. The fort, as originally constructed, comprised sixty major buildings in 1877.

The only buildings remaining, of significant value historically, are two former officers' quarters. These structures appear to have had no major alterations over the years. Some interior fixtures were removed for use in a like building which was moved and restored at the museum site in Miles City, Montana.

Present condition of the buildings is rather poor. Exterior wood surfaces are weathered with rotting prevalent. Roofs of wood shingles are no longer effective. Foundations were originally inadequate and rotting or settling at ground surface has occurred. Thus, floors are not level and other interior walls and ceilings are badly cracked with falling plaster.

Buildings involved are carried on U. S. Department of Agriculture, ARS inventory as numbers 2AB, 5AB.

With the exception of Buildings 2AB and 5AB, all of the original sixty buildings have been destroyed. These buildings were destroyed over the years as they deteriorated and became useless and/or dangerous. Buildings contained in the original diamond-shaped fort area were those used as living quarters for officers and enlisted men and buildings such as the hospital, bakery, storehouse, library, and billiard hall.

No archeological work has been done on the building sites.

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1877 to 1908

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On July 22, 1876, Congress approved construction of Fort Keogh near what is now Miles City Montana. Fort Keogh was one of two such forts authorized by Congress for construction in Montana to protect settlers and emigrants from Indian attack. Construction materials were hauled up the Yellowstone River by steamboat and construction started in 1877 and continued through 1878.

The fort served the purpose for which it was intended and the soldiers of the fort were used to put down Indian uprisings including the final defeat of Chief Joseph and the Nez Perce Indians in 1877. This was the last major Indian War in Montana.

The fort stood as a symbol of the government's determination to eliminate the Indian menace. Hundreds of Indians, including scouts, warriors and their families, trailed into Keogh and surrendered. The Indians were taught agriculture by George Youkam, an Illinois farm boy, who was an army recruit. The Indians raised an enormous garden at Keogh in 1877, harvesting 1,000 bushels of potatoes, 1,000 melons, 1,000 heads of cabbage and 4,000 summer squash.

Fort Keogh was, for a time, Montana's largest fort. In 1878, some 36 officers and 754 enlisted men were stationed there. The fort served until 1900, at which time it became a remount station. The location was ideal with Miles City, one of the horse centers of the world.

Milestown sprang up next to Tongue River Barracks and the small settlement stayed when the post moved a mile away. The town was named for Colonel Miles, the Post Commander. Milestown later became Miles City and grew to be one of the legendary cowboy towns of the West. Miles City is now a cattle and horse center of great importance.

After 1908, Fort Keogh was converted to a livestock experimental station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and remains so at this time.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Military Posts of Montana. Michael J. Roury, 1970. The Old Army Press, 2202 Victoria, Bellevue, Nebraska 68005, P. 55-62

Billings Gazette, May 11, 1963.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 10 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	13	431860	5136640	B	13	432100	5136500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	13	431850	5136310	D	13	431660	5136500
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The precise size and location of the fort site are not known. Over the years the demolition of the buildings and disturbance of the land surface by farming have erased all reference points. The location has been established as accurately as possible and the size is believed to have been approximately 10 acres. No records or maps exist in the Department of Agriculture covering the original fort. We have been advised that records and maps do exist in the National Archives, Washington, D. C.

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

O. F. Pahnish, Location Leader & J. W. Ash, Realty Officer

ORGANIZATION

U. S. Range Livestock Station / USDA, ARS, WR, Administrative Office

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

Box 790 / 2850 Telegraph Avenue

TELEPHONE

406-232-4970  
8-449-3761

MILE CITY

/ Berkeley

STATE

Montana / California

# 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

*Ron Holliday*

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Charles J. Givens*

TITLE

*Acting Director of Recreation*

DATE

*7/8/77*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*W. M. [Signature]*

DATE

*3.8.78*

ATTEST:

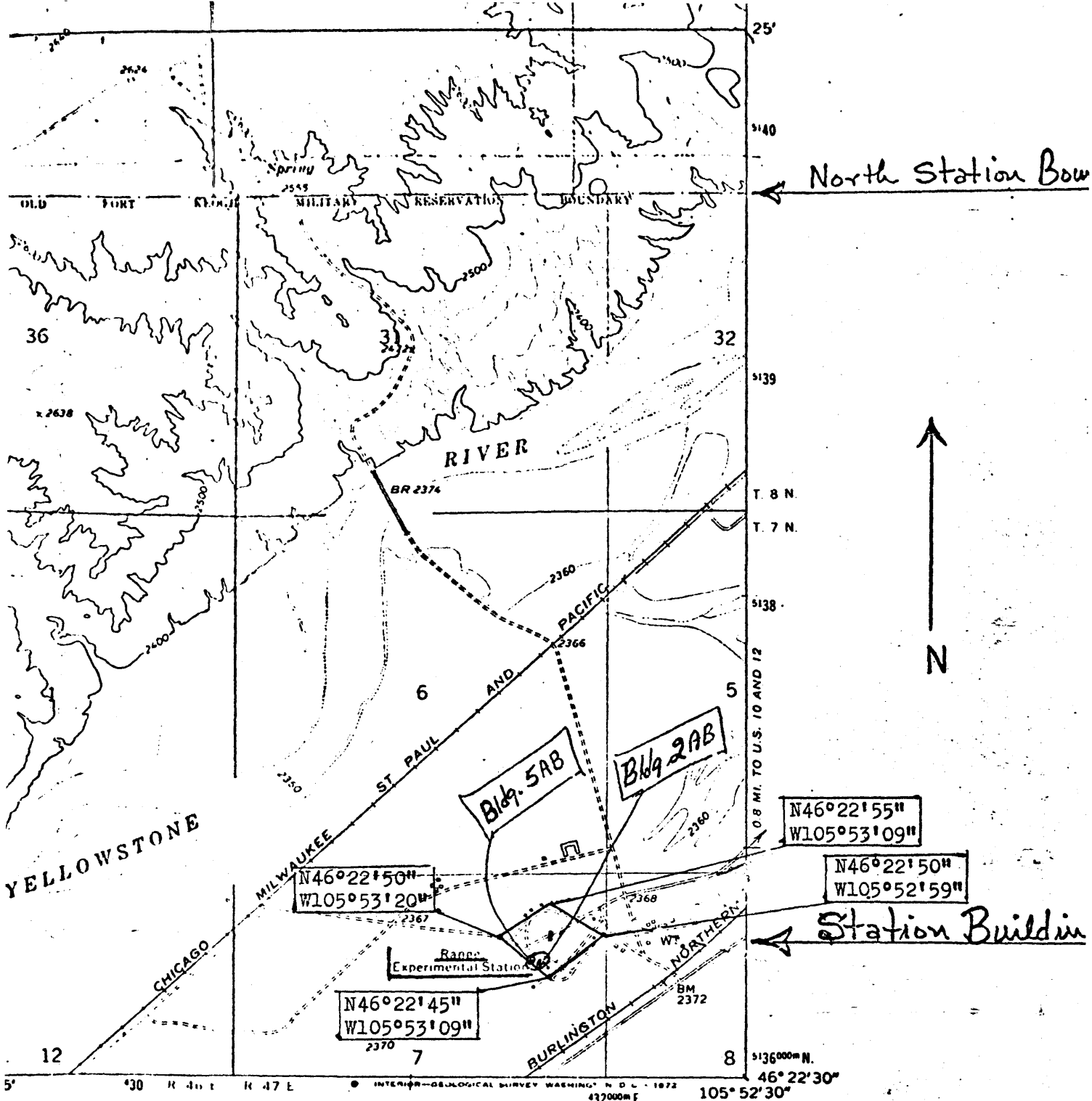
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*Charles J. Givens*

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

*3.7.78*



MILE

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface  Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface   
 Unimproved road, fair or dry weather

○ State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

**BIG HILL, MONT.**  
 N4622.5-W10552.5/7.5

1968

AMS 4876 IV NW-SERIES V894

0242

(PADDY FAY CREEK)  
 5876 IV SE