

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91001939 Date Listed: 1/21/92

Jesse R. Green Homestead
Property Name

Gallatin MT
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

fn *Antoinette Rice*
Signature of the Keeper

1/23/92
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Classification: The Number of Resources is amended to read: 6 contributing buildings, 5 contributing sites, and 4 contributing structures.

This information was confirmed with Cher Juisto of the Montana State historic preservation office.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

1939

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Green, Jesse R., Homestead

other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 6 miles northeast of Trident

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: X

city/town: Trident

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Gallatin

code: 031

zip code: 59752

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings/structures

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>11</u>	_____ building(s)
	_____ sites
<u>4</u>	_____ structures
	_____ objects
<u>15</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Manella Sheff Signature of certifying official Dec 6. 1991 Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

____ Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date

____ State or Federal agency and bureau

___ See Continuation Sheet

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

✓ entered in the National Register Antonieta G. Lee _____
___ See Continuation Sheet

___ determined eligible for the National Register _____

___ determined not eligible for the National Register _____
___ See Continuation Sheet

___ removed from the National Register _____
___ See Continuation Sheet

___ other (explain): _____

for _____ Signature of Keeper

1/21/92 _____ Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic/single dwelling
Agricultural/subsistence

Current: Vacant/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Other: Vernacular

Materials: foundation: concrete
roof: shingle
walls: weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jesse R. Green Homestead is composed of eleven buildings and four structures used to house and support a typical turn-of-the-century Montana homestead. All retain an excellent level of integrity and contribute to the significance of this historic homestead.

The homestead buildings were designed and built by owner Jesse R. Green and his father John H. Green. It typifies the utilitarian vernacular style of that era's small farming operations.

The homestead is located in the Horseshoe Hills region of the Gallatin Valley. These hills are an inward draining basin environment composed of deeply cut ridges and draws. Stunted juniper and bull pine dot the hills and the crops are raised almost exclusively on the hilltops. The homestead sits at the bottom of a narrow coulee along a sandy wash that opens to the north. The ridges along either side narrow towards the south end of the complex. The main residence sits at the north end of the property with the outbuildings spread out behind it towards the south. The property is remote to this day. It is accessed by a two-track dirt road which is seasonally impassable.

Contributing Buildings

Main Residence: Green began construction of the main residence on December 2, 1914 and finished it the following year. It is the largest building in the complex and it stands at the north end of the property. It was originally a one-story frame house of rectangular massing with a wood shingled gable roof and central stovepipe. It sits on a concrete foundation and has a small cellar. The house is clad with horizontal clapboard siding and simple cornerboards, and features 1-over-1, double-hung windows with simple cornices. A wing was added onto the eastern side of the residence in 1916. The new addition's windows, siding, and roofing match the original. A brick chimney was part of the addition; front and back porches were also built at this time.

The main entrance to the residence is located on the north elevation. A hipped roof supported by turned wooden columns covers the wooden-decked front porch. There are two paneled wooden doors with upper windows that open onto the porch; one retains the original wooden, turned spindle screen. The central doorway to the original residence is now offset to the east. The main entrance shifted in 1916 with the addition of a doorway centered in the entire mass of the residence. The raised porch is accessed by a small set of steps. The residence's east elevation has a centered window on both the first and second stories.

On the west elevation, a single window is offset to the south. On the south elevation (rear) there is a window offset to the east. A shingled shed roof, built onto the residence with the additional support of a square column of two-by-fours, covers a wood decked back porch. To the west of the porch, a hinged wooden door provides access to the small cellar chute.

The original residence contained two rooms. The addition provided a large living room and an upstairs single attic room. The house is floored with fir and painted chipboard covers the interior walls. Three-inch beaded wainscoting around the walls and cupboards trims

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the kitchen area. The attic has a wooden floor and exposed rafters. The original roof, with shingles intact, forms the attic's western wall.

Pumphouse: A small pumphouse, with operational pump stands ten yards due south of the residence. It was built ca. 1912. It is a square building with a bowed, corrugated metal roof and clad with wide vertical tongue-and-groove sheathing. It has a wooden plank floor. The cast iron pump, made by the Red Jacket Manufacturing Company of Davenport, Iowa, is set on a wood plank footing on the west side of the pumphouse.

Smokehouse: The smokehouse, constructed ca. 1913, stands approximately twenty-five yards due east of the pumphouse. It is a square mass with a corrugated tin shed roof and is horizontally sheathed with wide, tongue-and-groove siding.

Bunkhouse: The bunkhouse, built in 1912, was the Green family home before the main residence was built, and stands a few feet due south of the smokehouse. It sits on a concrete foundation and has a wooden floor. Cornerboards and simple wooden frames trim this building and it is horizontally sheathed with wide tongue-and-groove siding. The bunkhouse has a wood shingled gable roof; a stovepipe protrudes from the south plane of the roof. A vertically paneled wooden door, located on the west side and offset to the north, covers the single entrance to the bunkhouse. The east and west sides have no openings. The building's south side has a single fixed six-pane window offset slightly to the east. Pencil inscriptions on the south and west interior walls indicate weather conditions and some general farm business on various dates during the early part of the century.

Outhouse: The wood-shingled gable-roofed outhouse, built ca. 1912, lays on its side between the residence and the smokehouse. It is a two-holer clad with vertical tongue-and-groove siding; the central entrance is on the east side.

Chicken Coops: The chicken coops, constructed ca. 1912, stand a few yards east of the smokehouse/bunkhouse complex. They are linked in a long rectangular one-story mass and are covered by a wood shingled shed roof. The two coops are separated at center by an open run. The openings are on the west side and are covered with chicken wire. Large, hopper-style, wooden shutters, cover the chicken wire openings. Doors, offset at either end of the coops, are clad with vertical wooden planks and secured with wooden hinges. A tiny coop, for setting hens and baby chicks, was originally located next to the larger coops. Today it sits behind the barn.

Chip House: The small, square chip house, built ca. 1912, stands approximately ten yards south of the bunkhouse. Sheathed with vertical tongue-and-groove siding and covered by a wooden shingle, gable roof, the chip house has a central plank door with the bottom cut off and a wooden floor. Gable ends are finished with board-and-batten.

Hay Shed: Moving south, the collapsed hay shed is located roughly at the center of the homestead complex. It too was erected ca. 1912. It is framed with poles and is horizontally clad with 1" by 6" tongue-and-groove siding. Originally open to the east, the hay shed had a flat, offset gable roof with an overhang at the opening. It had a metal roof and a dirt floor.

Garage: The garage, added in 1925, abuts the hay shed on the west. Partially collapsed, it originally had a gently sloped shed roof with wooden sliding doors. The garage is framed with poles, has a dirt floor, and was covered by a metal roof. It is sheathed with 1" by 6" horizontal tongue-and-groove siding. There is some interior shelving along the east wall and a central window opening in the south side. The window is broken out.

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Workshop: The workshop, constructed ca. 1912, stands about fifty yards to the west of the garage across a narrow gully. It is framed with poles, clad with 1" by 6" horizontal siding and covered by a metal shed roof (now gone). The east side entrance is offset to the north. There is a small square forge vent in the west wall and a six-pane fixed window located in the center of the south wall. The workshop has an earthen floor. The interior contains workbenches along the north and east sides with plank tops and framed with logs. A cement forge platform with pole legs stands in the southwest corner. Cast iron machine parts, gears, assorted tool components, and latter day beer cans are strewn about the interior. An old broken binder, its parts scattered and rusting, lies just outside and to the south of the workshop.

Barn: The pole-framed, one-story barn stands near the southern end of the homestead complex. Built ca. 1912, it is covered with the remnants of a corrugated tin shed roof and sheathed with 1" by 6" horizontal tongue-and-groove siding. The north side entrance is offset to the west and at one time had a sliding wooden door. The door now lies in the barn. Inside, there are two double stalls with space for four horses. There is a grain bin across the south side which was accessed through a wooden hopper door on the southeast corner.

Contributing Structures

Mangers: Two pole and wood mangers with oat boxes in each corner stand just north of the barn. They were assembled and put to use ca. 1912.

Corrals: A large, circular corral stands just south of the barn and marks the southern end of the homestead complex. It is constructed with 8' high log posts and pole rails. Two additional corrals, no longer in place, were located north and east of the barn. They were erected ca. 1912-1914.

Cook Car: The movable cook car, built ca. 1913, presently sits approximately 100 yards southwest of the main residence on the west side of the two-track road. It is a small rectangular structure with a shallow gabled, shingle roof. It is horizontally clad with wide tongue-and-groove siding. It has one window opening and door. It sits on wheels for mobility.

A barbed wire fence with railroad tie fenceposts, built ca. 1940, segregates the homestead's living quarters and smokehouse from the rest of the farm. Three wooden board gates provide access to and from this area.

Although the buildings and structures are in various states of disrepair, the property possesses all aspects of its original integrity. There has been little renovation, thus the historic design, original materials, and workmanship remain relatively unaltered. All the original structures, except for the original granary (which was moved to the new headquarters complex), remain where they were originally constructed.

The remote locale has experienced little human impact through the years; the countryside looks just as it did during the historic period. Farming still goes on in the Horseshoe Hills and the emphasis on hilltop dry farming techniques remains. The Green family built a new farm headquarters complex in 1976. To drive from this modern day spread, with its air conditioned residence and radar dish, to the old homestead, with its privy and manual water pump, is to travel backwards in time. An historic contemporary would easily recognize this property as it exists today. The homestead provides a strong feeling for the historic period; its association with that era is revealed through its unaltered character.

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The homestead properties of the Horseshoe Hills may be considered as a rural historic district in the future. However, the research and documentation necessary to evaluate them in that context go far beyond the scope of this nomination. For now, the Green Homestead provides an accurate, tangible example of a significant period in Montana's past.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: **Locally, Statewide**

Applicable National Register Criteria: **A**

Areas of Significance: **Agriculture, Exploration**

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): **n/a**

Period(s) of Significance: **1912-1930**

Significant Person(s): **n/a**

Significant Dates: **1912, 1914, 1922, 1930**

Cultural Affiliation: **n/a**

Architect/Builder: **Green, Jesse R. and Green, John H.**

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Jesse R. Green Homestead, nestled in the Horseshoe Hills of the Gallatin Valley, is representative of thousands of farming operations throughout Montana that came and went during the first three decades of the twentieth century. Claimed at the height of Montana's homesteading boom and abandoned two decades later, the history of this small farm, its associations with settlement of the Gallatin Valley, and the experiences of the family who tried to make a living here, reflect the patterns which indelibly shaped the history of early 20th century Montana. Thus the Jesse R. Green Homestead is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A, in a local and statewide context.

In 1862, Congress passed the Homestead Act to facilitate the settlement and development of America's western regions. Homesteaders were entitled to 160 acres of land (later, 320 acres under the Enlarged Homestead Act) if they successfully developed their tracts according to government specifications. These acts, along with considerable private promotion by land developers and the railroads, expedited the immigration of settlers to Montana and the West. In Montana, the major influx of homesteaders occurred during the early decades of the 1900s with the arrival of the Milwaukee Road (1906), promotion by the Great Northern Railroad's James Hill (1909), and the passage of the Enlarged Homestead Act (1909). Moreover, the homesteader's impact was especially felt in Montana. The state's total final homestead entry of 150,000 far outstripped the rest of the nation. The population of Montana's Gallatin County, a major destination for homesteaders, soared from 6,246 in 1890 to 15,864 in 1920. Homesteaders, and the businesses that grew up to support them, helped account for this jump in population.

The patterns of settlement in the climatically diverse Gallatin Valley reflected the national trend. The first homesteaders laid claim to lands blessed with fertile soils and abundant rainfall. In areas where precipitation was marginal, the easily irrigable bottomlands were snatched up by land hungry immigrants.¹ Records at Bozeman, in the eastern end of the valley, show an average annual precipitation of 18.14 inches.² It was here, as well as in the bottomlands adjacent to the valley's rivers and streams, that the initial homesteaders made their claims. By the turn of the century, much of the remaining available acreage consisted of non-irrigable semi-arid uplands. The Jesse R. Green Homestead, located in the Horseshoe Hills at the northwestern end of the valley, consisted of such acreage. Records in nearby Three Forks indicate an average annual precipitation of 12.11 inches.³

At this time, agriculturists studied the idea of dry farming in earnest and many touted this method as a means to make the semi-arid farmlands flourish.⁴ The eastern portions of Montana contained thousands of acres of this marginal land. With the advent of the gospel of dry farming, many hopeful farmers flocked to land offices to stake their claims.

X See Continuation Sheet

¹Karzmizski, Kenneth W. and Brownell, Joan Louise, Gallatin Valley Homestead Survey, Vol. 1, p. ix.

²U.S.D.A., Gallatin County Situation Statement: 1972, p. 3.

³Ibid.

⁴Hargreaves, Mary Wilma M., Dry Farming in the Northern Great Plains: 1900-1925, p. 16

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Sadly, turn-of-the-century dry farming techniques could not overcome the lack of two all-important elements of cultivation: climate and demand. Both of these factors were generally promising during the twentieth century's first two decades.⁵ In fact, uncommonly generous precipitation and the ready markets of those years seemed to validate the claims of dry farming advocates. Consequently, more peripheral lands went under the plow and helped account for the largest expansion of cultivated acreage in the United States after the turn of the century.⁶ Montana was representative of this increase. In 1900 Montana had 11,844,454 acres in farms. Though the peak and gradual decline for farm acreage in the years between 1910-19 most likely occurred ca. 1917, the 1920 census still shows a colossal increase to 35,070,656 acres. Tragically, drought and falling grain prices combined to frustrate the efforts of the American farmer. By 1925, Montana's total land in farms decreased to 32,735,723 acres.

By expanding their cultivated acreage and investing in modern mechanized equipment, some dry farmers were able to expand their profit margins and make a go of it during the 1920s. Still, the lack of adequate rainfall in the dry years haunted the dry farmer again in the late 1920s. Again, dry farm districts suffered major catastrophes. The advent of soil conservation programs and the development of hardy drought resistant crops in the late 1930s afforded the dry farmers a measure of confidence that their crops would prosper. By 1950, Montana's wheat production rose to a remarkable 93,958,000 bushels.⁷

Still, the successful evolution of farming techniques came too late for many a Montana dry farmer. The experiences of the Jesse R. Green family in the Horseshoe Hills area of the Gallatin Valley are symbolic of the tragedy and triumph of the typical Montana dry farm homesteader.

Jesse Green was born April 18, 1890 on his parents' homestead near Central Park, Montana. After graduating from high school and spending some time in college, he decided to try his hand at homesteading. The year was 1910 and people were grabbing homestead properties all over the drier regions of the Gallatin Valley. Green sought out his homestead on the back of a horse. In the spring of 1911, Green and his father found a vacant quarter section of land in the Horseshoe Hills. Due to the federal government's desire to dispose of all remaining free lands, Green was able to acquire a total of 320 acres of rough pastureland. He and his father built a permanent cabin and residence, and Green began farming in the summer of 1912.

The Horseshoe Hills, a dry, rugged basin environment composed of Madison limestone, allowed only hilltop cultivation. There were small homesteads scattered throughout the area, but by 1922 most all of them were abandoned. Green was one of the last to leave.

In 1915, Jesse R. Green married Olga Ellington of Trenton, Missouri. They reared three children: Mary (Mrs. John Riley), Ralph, and Kenneth. The Greens lived on the homestead and farmed full time until 1922. They grew durum wheat and rye grass during those years and plowed the fields with teams of horses. Green figured he drove his teams 2,000 miles a year for thirteen years, far enough to have circled the globe twice! The old homestead was and still is in a remote area of the Horseshoe Hills. Consequently, mail and medical services were rare. During dire emergencies a doctor would be summoned and would arrive via horse and buggy. There was a small schoolhouse nearby in Harbison and another in the town of Clarkston. Clarkston, built along the banks of the Missouri River, served much of

⁵ibid.

⁶ibid., p. 19.

⁷ibid., p.22.

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this rural area during the homestead boom. Today, a few dilapidated structures and some trees are all that remain of the settlement.

As was the case for farmers throughout the Great Plains, drought and soft grain markets forced Green to find other means to support his family. In 1922, he moved his family to Bozeman and returned to college, earning a degree in industrial chemistry in 1926. Green continued to farm his homestead during the summers until 1930. By this time another drought and the Great Depression compelled Green to quit farming and sell his horses. Times were so bad he could sell only one team for five dollars; the others he simply turned loose in the hills. Green went on to earn a Master's degree in chemistry. He worked for the Agricultural Experiment Station while in school. In 1937 he went to work for the Anaconda Company, retiring in 1958.

While on the farm, Green constructed additional outbuildings for storage, livestock, hired help, and equipment repair. He also brought up a gasoline pump for the water well. The original residence became a bunkhouse after Green built a new residence prior to his marriage. In 1916 he built a sizable addition onto the main residence including a front and back porch. Between 1930 and 1951 the farm was rented out. The tenants had little success there during those years. In 1951 Green's son Ralph returned to farm the land in the summers. In 1976, Ralph and his family moved to the hills permanently and built a new home. The old homestead remained little changed during this time. The residence and almost all the outbuildings remain where they were originally constructed, providing a very accurate portrayal of the property as it appeared during the historic period. Only the granary has been moved to the new farm headquarters and it is the only structure from the old homestead that is still in use today. Telephone service did not reach the homestead until 1957. In 1968, an army surplus generator was brought up to provide electricity. In 1975, power lines built by the Montana Power Company finally extended into the Horseshoe Hills and the Green Homestead.

Today, the Green family continues to farm in the Horseshoe Hills. At various times they have 2,000 acres under cultivation. Their spread encompasses several of the homesteads that were abandoned early in the century. Horses no longer pull outdated disc drills. Modern tractors, towing efficient deep furrow drills, now till the soil. The tillable hilltops are sown with drought resistant strains of winter wheat, red wheat and barley. The fields now yield 35-40 bushels of grain as opposed to the 15-18 bushels raised in the early years. Nevertheless, little rain falls in that harsh region. The farms of the Horseshoe Hills still stand in stark contrast to the well-watered spreads along the streamsides and the verdant eastern portions of the Gallatin Valley.

In a state-wide framework, the history of the Green homestead is reflective of the homestead boom-and-bust phenomena that occurred in Montana during the early decades of this century. The opening of homestead lands, and the public and private promotion that fueled "homestead fever," set a pattern for the number and types of people that settled these lands. Furthermore, many of Montana's homesteads were in dry regions and subject to the controversies surrounding the dry farm experiments of that era.

Today, the Jesse R. Green Homestead stands in mute testimony to these facts. Its lack of modern improvements and renovation give those who visit a sense of the time and place of an important, if bygone, era. It is representative of a crucial period of settlement and development in Montana's history and a tribute to the people who helped make that history.

9. References

- Hargreaves, Mary Wilma M., **Dry Farming in the Northern Great Plains, 1900-1925.** Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1957.
- Karzmizski, Kenneth W. and Brownell, Joan Louise, **Gallatin Valley Homestead Survey.** Museum of the Rockies, Montana State University 1983.
- Three Forks Area Historical Society, **Headwaters Heritage History,** 1983.
- U.S.D.A., **Gallatin County Situation Statement: 1972,** U.S.D.A, 1972.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, **Fifteenth Census of the United States, 1930 Volume 1, Population Number and Distribution of Inhabitants.**
_____, Agricultural Volume II part 3, Western States.
- Reilly, Mrs. John, **Personal Interview** with Ron Stoolman, 6-23-91.
- Green, Robert, **Personal Interview** with Ron Stoolman, 6-23-91.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 13 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	12	471290	5092380
B	12	471310	5092060
C	12	471520	5091970
D	12	471490	5092400

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Jesse R. Green Homestead is located in the $W\frac{1}{2}$ $SW\frac{1}{4}$, $NW\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 28; in the $E\frac{1}{2}$, $SE\frac{1}{4}$, $NE\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, T3N, R3E. Heading south from unimproved road, follow the 4440' contour line around draw and continue due west back to road. These boundaries are delineated on the enclosed USGS topographic map.

Boundary Justification:

The property sits in a narrow draw bounded by steep ridges. Its location makes use of natural features to provide shelter from the elements and a convenient place to access croplands. These boundaries follow the natural contours which encompass the complex of historic buildings comprising the heart of the Jesse R. Green Homestead.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Ron Stoolman

Organization: State Historic Preservation Office

Street & Number: 1952 S. 13th St. W.

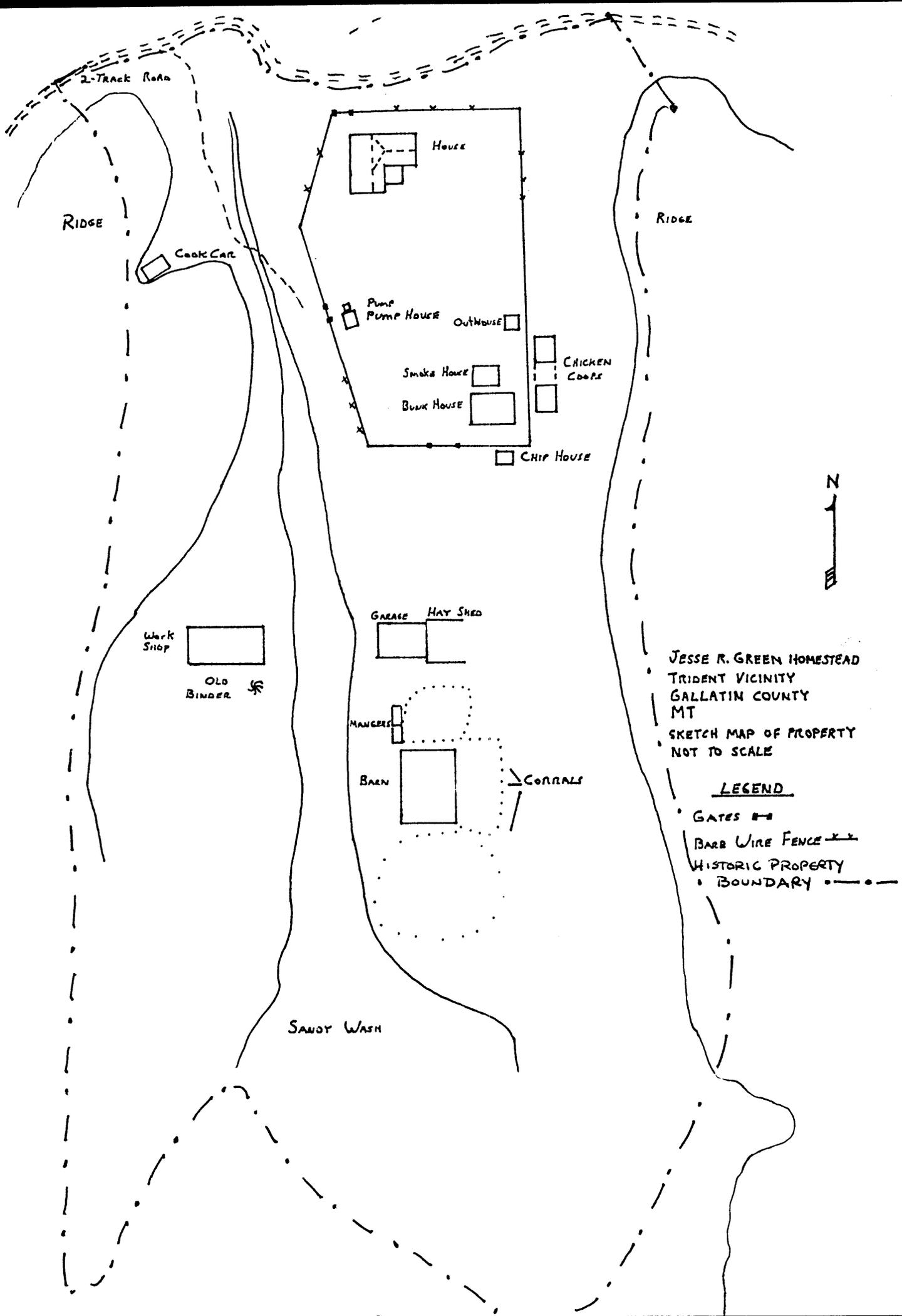
City or Town: Missoula

State: MT

Zip: 59801

Date: August 1991

Telephone: 444-7715



2-Track Road

RIDGE

Cook Car

House

Pump
Pump House

OUTHOUSE

Smoke House

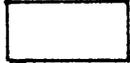
Bulk House

CHICKEN
COOPS

CHIP HOUSE

RIDGE

Work
Shop



OLD
BINDER

GREASE

HAY SHED

MANGERS

BARN



CORRALS

JESSE R. GREEN HOMESTEAD
TRIDENT VICINITY
GALLATIN COUNTY
MT
SKETCH MAP OF PROPERTY
NOT TO SCALE

LEGEND

- GATES —
- BARB WIRE FENCE — x —
- HISTORIC PROPERTY
- BOUNDARY — • —

SANDY WASH

