

LOWER YELLOWSTONE PROJECT, GATE TENDER'S  
RESIDENCE  
Intake vicinity  
Dawson County  
Montana

HAER MT-141-D  
*HAER MT-141-D*

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
INTERMOUNTAIN REGIONAL OFFICE  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
Denver, CO 80228

## HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

### LOWER YELLOWSTONE PROJECT, GATE TENDER'S RESIDENCE

HAER No. MT-141-D

- Location: The Gate Tender's Residence is about four hundred and eighty feet west-northwest of the north end of the Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam  
USGS Quadrangle: Intake, MT (1991)  
Township 18 North, Range 56 East, Section 36  
Dawson County, Montana
- Dates of Construction: 1905–1910
- Engineer: U.S. Reclamation Service
- Present Owner: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
- Present Use: Irrigation, municipal water supply, recreation
- Significance: In 2000, the Gate Tender's Residence near Intake on the Lower Yellowstone Project, was determined to be part of a complex of sites directly related to the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project that constituted a National Register-eligible historic district significant for its association with the broad pattern of federal reclamation efforts in the early twentieth century and the agricultural development of the Lower Yellowstone Valley. With the attendant garage and privy, the house was noted to retain all aspects of integrity necessary to convey its historic importance as part of a small, isolated residential camp maintained for employees of the Lower Yellowstone Project. As such, it was determined to be a contributing element of this historic district.
- Historian: Jason Marmor, September 2010; Kathleen Corbett, February 2011
- Project Information: This documentation was produced in order to mitigate adverse effects to important elements of the historic Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project, as determined through consultations between Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, and the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of Montana in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (as amended), and the associated implementing regulations codified in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 800. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was developed between Reclamation, the Corps of Engineers, the Montana SHPO, and

the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project Board of Control. This MOA specified that Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation be made as a permanent record of the Lower Yellowstone Project complex as a whole (HAER No. MT-141), as well as for certain significant features subject to impacts from the federal undertaking:

HAER MT-141-A  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Lower Yellowstone Diversion Dam

HAER MT-141-B  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Headworks

HAER MT-141-C  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Cable System

HAER MT-141-D  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Gate Tender's Residence

HAER MT-141-E  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Garage

HAER MT-141-F  
Lower Yellowstone Project, Privy

The documentation was prepared in accordance with the National Parks Service's "Manual for Editing HABS/HAER Documentation" including the "Addendum" to that report which covers documentation requirements for HAER complexes. Large-format black-and-white photographs were processed and prepared in accordance with guidelines outlined in the National Park Service's "Photographic Specifications for HABS/HAER."

This documentation for the Lower Yellowstone Project, Gate Tender's Residence (MT-141-D) includes the following: 1) a written narrative describing the character-defining attributes; 2) five archival-quality, large-format photographs and negatives of the building, including three of the exterior and two of the interior; 3) an index to photographs.

## NARRATIVE

The Gate Tender's Residence (24DW447, F1) was constructed in 1905 as part of a field camp for Reclamation engineers, who took advantage of the site's high vantage point overlooking the Diversion Dam and Headworks to supervise the work of the contractors Reclamation had hired to construct the Lower Yellowstone Project. Initially, this building was used as an office for that camp, and a separate dormitory building and stable were in place. Following Reclamation's assumption of construction tasks at the site in 1909, the building became part of a much larger construction camp housing laborers. Facilities at this construction camp included bunk houses, wash houses, mess halls, a store, and a hospital, all of which were dismantled after 1912, at which time this building was converted from an office to a residential facility for Reclamation employees in charge of tending the Diversion Dam, Cable System, and Headworks.<sup>1</sup>

The house originally had a stone foundation, and a full-width open porch ran the length of the south side. Two brick chimneys were in place on the roof ridge. At some point prior to 1930, the house was extensively remodeled. A basement was excavated, and the porch was removed and another porch added to the east side of the house. A small shed-roofed addition was also constructed on the back of the house, on its west side. The heating system was likely reconfigured at that time, as the chimneys were removed.

As it stands at the time of the current documentation, the house is generally rectangular in plan, measuring 20'-0" north/south by 36'-0" east/west. It has a front gabled roof and rests on a poured concrete foundation; exterior walls are clad in horizontal beveled wood siding, which is finished with corner boards. The exterior was painted white, although the paint is deteriorating and peeling. The primary entrance is located on the porch on the east side of the house, and consists of a two-light glazed wood panel door. A window on this elevation appears to have been sided over. The porch is slightly raised, with a plank decking and a dropped hipped roof, with a solid railing that is faced in wood siding. Other fenestration includes two-over-two double-hung windows, a larger picture window on the south side of the house, and a secondary entrance on the south side (this door has been replaced with a non-historic hollow core door, which is protected by an aluminum screen door). The shed-roofed porch addition on the rear of the house has a single wood panel door, but no windows are in place, although one window on this elevation located next to the addition has been boarded over.

The roof of the building is covered in asphalt shingles. A metal strip with ball finials on each end sits on the roof ridge. The roof is of medium pitch, and gutters are in place on the sides of the roof.

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<sup>1</sup> Cynthia Kordecki et al, *Lower Yellowstone Project, 1996 and 1997 Cultural Resources Inventory, Dawson and Richland Counties, Montana, and McKenzie County, North Dakota* (University of North Dakota Department of Anthropology, Grand Forks, ND, and Renewable Technologies Inc., Butte, MT for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office, Billings, 2000), p. 5.79.

In general, the house is consistent with the unornamented, utilitarian buildings that were preferred by Reclamation for its on-site employee housing and work spaces as the agency undertook the building of projects like the Lower Yellowstone. The house's basic rectangular massing, two-over-two double-hung windows, wood panel doors, and wood plank porch are features that allow for immediate identification of its historic character. Although some alterations have taken place since the substantial historic-period remodel, these have generally left the historic integrity of the house intact.

In addition to the Gate Tender's Residence, two other structures associated with this site, the Garage (24DW447, F2) and the Privy (24DW447, F3), each supports the ability of the complex to convey its historic character as well. The Garage is a single-bay rectangular (12'-0" x 24'-0") building with a concrete slab foundation and a pair of swing-out doors on its front gable end. It has a roof of medium pitch with wood shingles and a metal stovepipe on the south slope of the roof. The Garage also features a Dutch door with an X-brace motif on the west end of the north side. This feature supports speculation that the garage was originally built as a stable, and may have been moved to the site prior to 1930.<sup>2</sup> Two unglazed window openings are shuttered. The Privy is a small, square (5'-0" x 4'-0") structure with a single concrete vault toilet inside. It may have had a gabled roof at one time, but a shed roof with wide boxed eaves has been added. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Kordecki, Cynthia, Mary McCormick, Carrie F. Jackson, and Jennifer Bales  
2000 *Lower Yellowstone Project, 1996 and 1997 Cultural Resources Inventory, Dawson and Richland Counties, Montana, and McKenzie County, North Dakota*. Prepared by the University of North Dakota Department of Anthropology, Grand Forks, ND, and Renewable Technologies Inc., Butte, MT. Report submitted to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Area Office, Billings, April 2000.

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., p. 5.76.