

RAYNOLD'S PASS REST AREA, PARKING LOT
Milepost 15.8, along tangent of U.S. Highway 287
Cameron vicinity
Madison County
Montana

HAER MT-148-A
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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
RAYNOLD'S PASS REST AREA, PARKING LOT HAER No. MT-148-A

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: Raynold's Pass Rest Area, Parking Lot
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287
Cameron vicinity
Madison County
Montana

Quad: Squaw Creek, Montana (1988)

UTM: 12/453143/4972226

Date of Construction: 1966

Present Owner: Montana Department of Transportation
Helena, Montana

Present Use: Rest area parking lot

Significance: The Raynold's Pass Rest Area is significant for its association with the Montana Department of Transportation's (MDT) development of roadside rest areas during the 1960s. The department developed a standard design for rest areas, including landscaping, and this site is representative of that standard design. The MDT located many rest areas at scenic areas in Montana to encourage users to stop and spend time at them. The Raynold's Pass Rest Area is representative of the type of rest area established along the state's two-lane highways. While many of the features located at the site are not historic, they still reflect the MDT's philosophy for this type of facility in the late twentieth century.

Historian: Jon Axline, Montana Department of Transportation
July 2014

II. HISTORY

In 1961, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) adopted guidelines developed by the American Association of State Highway Officials (AASHO) in regards to the design and construction of rest areas associated with highway rest areas. This parking lot meets those AASHO standards and was modified by the MDT to fit within the parameters of this location along the Madison River in southwestern Montana. The parking lot is associated with the original construction of the Raynold's Pass Rest Area in 1966 and is the focal point for the buildings, structures, and objects on the rest area grounds.¹

III. DESCRIPTION

The parking lot is roughly oval-shaped with a raised concrete island at the northwest end of the feature. The lot is oriented northwest to southeast and is accessed from U.S. Highway 287 and a U.S. Forest Service road from the southeast through a straight 320' long driveway. The parking lot is approximately 200' x 400' and is surfaced with asphalt and striped for twelve automobiles and eight recreational vehicles and/or semi-trucks. It is encircled by a 6" high concrete curb. The parking area is partially enclosed by a two-rail fence on the north and east sides between the restroom and other structures on the site. The fence does not prevent access to the Madison River on the west side of the parking lot. The raised concrete island is teardrop shaped with the point facing southeast. It is 80' across and 140' in length; it is raised about 6", encircled by a concrete curb, and landscaped with native grasses.

¹ Montana State Highway Commission Meeting Minutes, book 16, p. 169 (23 July 1962); Committee on Planning and Design Policies, *A Policy on Safety Rest Areas for the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways* (Washington DC: American Association of State Highway Officials, 30 April 1958), 8, 9, 12, 31.