

RAYNOLD'S PASS REST AREA, RESTROOM  
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287, about 30 feet from  
northeast corner of parking lot  
Cameron vicinity  
Madison County  
Montana

HAER MT-148-B  
*HAER MT-148-B*

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, REST ROOM      HAER No. MT-148-B

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Location:                      Raynold's Pass Rest Area, Restroom  
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287  
About 30 feet from the northeast corner of parking lot  
Cameron vicinity  
Madison County  
Montana

Quad:                              Squaw Creek, Montana (1988)

UTM:                                12/453192/4972259

Date of Construction:        1966

Present Owner:                Montana Department of Transportation  
Helena, Montana

Present Use:                    Rest area restroom building

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

The Helena, Montana-based architectural firm of Martin Crennen and N. Joseph "Joe" Campeau designed the restroom building in 1966 based on a design developed by Campeau and William Ostheimer for the Vandalia rest area on U.S. Highway 2 in 1962. Restroom facilities (or "comfort stations" as they were known at the time) have been central to all rest areas constructed by the Montana Department of Transportation since the 1950s. This standardized design restroom building was also used at least at three other rest areas, including at Roberts, Vandalia, and Bridger, Montana. MDT Road Plans Engineer Melvin R. Wickman described them as,

Inside the stout buildings are modern flush-type facilities and wash basins. A drinking fountain is attached to the outside of the building. The entire structure is engineered for low maintenance and a minimum of vandalism. All pipes are, gauges and machinery are shielded behind locked doors and fixtures inside the buildings are kept to a minimum.

Wickman also touted the automatic lights that turned on at dusk and off at dawn as well as the general cleanliness of the MDT's rest area facilities.<sup>1</sup>

## III. DESCRIPTION

The Modern-style restroom building is 36' in length and 12' in width and is oriented northwest-southeast along the tangent of the rest area's parking lot (MT-148-A). The building faces southwest toward the parking lot. The rectangular plan building is covered by a shed roof sheathed in asphalt shingles with corniced eaves and plywood with vertical battens on the roof-ends. The walls are comprised of vertical tongue-in-groove siding and the building rests on a concrete foundation. There are louvered vents on the northwest and southeast of the façade under the eaves which correspond to the male (northwest) and female (southeast) sections of the building. A concrete water fountain is centrally located on the façade; it is not historic age. Aluminum cases are attached to the façade and currently house tourism and other information. Two fluorescent lights attached to the underside of the overhanging eave provide lighting for the building during the nighttime hours. A utility room is accessed from the rear of the building. The 12' x 5' room is centrally located and provides access to the building's plumbing and also houses the custodial equipment. The door to the utility room is metal. The building has concrete sidewalks on the façade and elevations with an asphalt path leading to the door on the rear façade.

Entry is gained to the restroom facilities on the northwest and southeast sides of the building. Both have privacy walls sheltering the access points and the doors to both sections are metal with modern ADA hardware. An entry on the rear façade provides access to the building's utility room. The male side of the restroom facility includes a metal sink, urinal, and toilet. The toilet

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<sup>1</sup> M. R. Wickman, "Rest in Peace," *The Center Line*, vol. 9, no. 1 (March-April 1966), 17.

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is enclosed by a metal wall with a doorway opening to the northwest. The female side is comprised of a sink and two toilet stalls. The walls are also metal and the doors open to the southeast. The floors of both rooms are concrete. Both rooms also sport a hot-air hand dryer and a mirror. Neither facility is compliant under current ADA standards. The interiors of the restroom were remodeled in 1981, replacing the original 1966 fixtures.