

RAYNOLD'S PASS REST AREA, PICNIC TABLE SHELTER 2
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287, approximately 50 feet
south of parking lot
Cameron vicinity
Madison County
Montana

HAER MT-148-D
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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

I. INTRODUCTION

Location: Raynold's Pass Rest Area, R Picnic Table Shelter 2
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287
approximately 50 feet southeast of parking lot
Cameron vicinity
Madison County
Montana

Quad: Squaw Creek, Montana (1988)

UTM: 12/453214/4972188

Date of Construction: 1966

Present Owner: Montana Department of Transportation
Helena, Montana

Present Use: Picnic table shelter

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 provision for picnic shelters are Montana Department of Transportation rest areas was specified in the 1958 American Association of State Highway Officials' *A Policy on Safety Rest Areas for the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways*. Ironically, however, the MDT had been building roadside picnic areas with picnic tables and shelters since 1934. It is not known who devised the basic MDT rest area picnic shelter, but its location within the rest area was determined by landscape designer William Schweyen sometime after his employment by the MDT in October 1962.¹

III. DESCRIPTION

Picnic Table Shelter 1 is an 11' x 15' concrete pad covered by a flat roof supported by six 8" x 8" wood beams. The roof is 7' 8" above the concrete pad. The shelter is of open post and beam construction and the roof is sheathed in corrugated metal. The roof joists are exposed. The concrete pad is oriented north to south and is located approximately 50' southeast of the parking lot (MT-148-A). The shelter currently covers two non-historic picnic tables.

¹ 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), 14-15; Roadside Rest Areas to be Accelerated," *The Center Line*, vol. 5, no. 9 (October 1962), 7-8.