

RAYNOLD'S PASS REST AREA, WOODEN BENCH  
Milepost 15.8, along tangent of U.S. Highway 287, approximately 17  
feet southeast of historical marker  
Cameron vicinity  
Madison County  
Montana

HAER MT-148-E  
*HAER MT-148-E*

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, Wooden Bench  
Milepost 15.8, tangent to U.S. Highway 287  
approximately 17 feet southeast of historical marker  
Cameron vicinity  
Madison County  
Montana

Quad: Squaw Creek, Montana (1988)

UTM: 12/453168/4972243

Date of Construction: 1966

Present Owner: Montana Department of Transportation  
Helena, Montana

Present Use: Wooden bench

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

## **HISTORY**

The American Association of State Highway Officials publication *A Policy on Safety Rest Areas for the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways* states the desirability of installing benches at roadside rest areas. The provision for wooden benches adjacent to the parking lot was devised by landscape designer William Schweyen sometime after his employment by the MDT in October 1962.<sup>1</sup>

## **DESCRIPTION**

The wooden bench is original to the rest area. It is 6' x 2' and has a wood back. The bench is 18" in height and the back of the bench is 3' 1" in height. The frame of the bench is also wood. It faces southwest toward the parking area. It is situated about seven feet from the parking lot and 17 feet southeast of the historical marker (MT-148-H).

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