

Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot, Center Shed  
Alongside the Burlington Northern Railroad  
near Burlington Avenue  
Cody vicinity  
Park County  
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-149-A

HABS  
WYO  
15-CODY.V,  
2A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
Rocky Mountain System Support Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

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# HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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**Location:** Alongside the Burlington Northern Railroad near Burlington Avenue  
Cody vicinity, Park County, Wyoming  
Cadastral grid: NE $\frac{1}{4}$ , SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , Section 30, Township 53N, Range 101W  
USGS Quadrangle: Cody, Wyoming (7 $\frac{1}{2}$  Minute Series, Provisional Edition, 1987)  
UTM Coordinates: 12.654200.4933700

**Significance:**

The Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot complex is historically important for its association with automobile transportation in Wyoming. The facility has functioned for more than sixty years as an intermediate stage between oil refining and gas consumption, denoting it as locally significant among the state's oil-related sites. Simply massed and detailed without any acknowledgment of architectural style, the Center Shed, like all of the site's structures, illustrates the stark utilitarianism of Wyoming's industrial construction.

**Description:**

The Center Shed is configured as a single-story building supported by an elevated timber platform (see page 4). Measuring 36'-0" by 24'-4", it is a wood-frame structure, with sawn 2x4 studs framing the walls and kingpost trusses supporting the roof. This roof is a moderately pitched front gable, sheathed with corrugated steel sheets. The exterior walls are similarly covered with corrugated steel, coated with aluminum paint and framed by plain corner boards. This sheathing extends below the floor structure to enclose the timber piers on the sides and rear. A "Standard Oil" sign is mounted above the doorway in the front (south) gable.

Fenestration is minimal, consisting of two one-over-one, double-hung windows symmetrically placed on the front and one window offset on the west side. Doorways are centered on the front and rear walls, each with a sliding wood-plank door. All window and door openings are framed with plain-board casings and slip sills. A full-width wood-plank platform extends along the building's front. The interior of the shed is a single undivided space. Like the building's exterior, it is strictly utilitarian: the walls and ceiling (such as they are) are the exposed studs and trusses and the wood plank floor is caked with a decades-old accumulation of industrial grime. The interior is unpainted; the exterior siding and trim have once been painted, but paint on the woodwork has experienced severe peeling.

The shed appears to have undergone essentially no alterations and only minor, nonstructural repairs. As indicated by the deteriorated paint on the exterior woodwork, it has suffered from years of deferred maintenance. The central structure in this small complex, this shed has the appearance of the depot's primary building, although in fact it, like the two other sheds, has been used for little more than storage.

The Center Shed is flanked on both sides by concrete pedestals for elevated fuel tanks (now removed). Three 10,000-gallon steel tanks were situated immediately east of the building, and one 14,000-gallon and two 10,000-gallon tanks were located west. Beyond these are two other frame sheds (HABS No. WY-149-B and WY-149-D), which are similar in scale and materials to the Center Shed. All three buildings are fronted on the south with elevated loading docks and are aligned along a side track of the Burlington Northern Railroad. The complex is strictly industrial in nature, without any trace of aesthetic landscaping or architectural site planning.

**History:**

According to county records, the Center Shed of the Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot was constructed in 1920. Flanked by two similar sheds that reportedly date from 1928, it is evidently the oldest extant structure at the Cody Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot. The building may have housed a small business office at some point, but its primary function was as a storage shed and loading platform for petroleum products in barrels, cases and cans. Located adjacent to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad (now the Burlington Northern), the depot originally received these bulk oil products in railroad cars. This changed to truck delivery in subsequent years. Delivery of gasoline and diesel fuel from the depot to retail filling stations in the area has always been by means of trucks.

The Center Shed has most recently been owned and operated by Cody businessman George Friesen. Friesen managed a wholesale fuel station in the Center Shed from 1976, under the Standard Oil Company (Amoco) banner, until 1991, when the Internal Revenue Service confiscated his assets. The building's lease then reverted to the railroad, which presently owns it. Today, the Center Shed stands vacant and essentially abandoned.

**(Note:** For a more extensive history of the Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot, the Cody Industrial Area and the Burlington Railroad, see HABS No. WY-149.)

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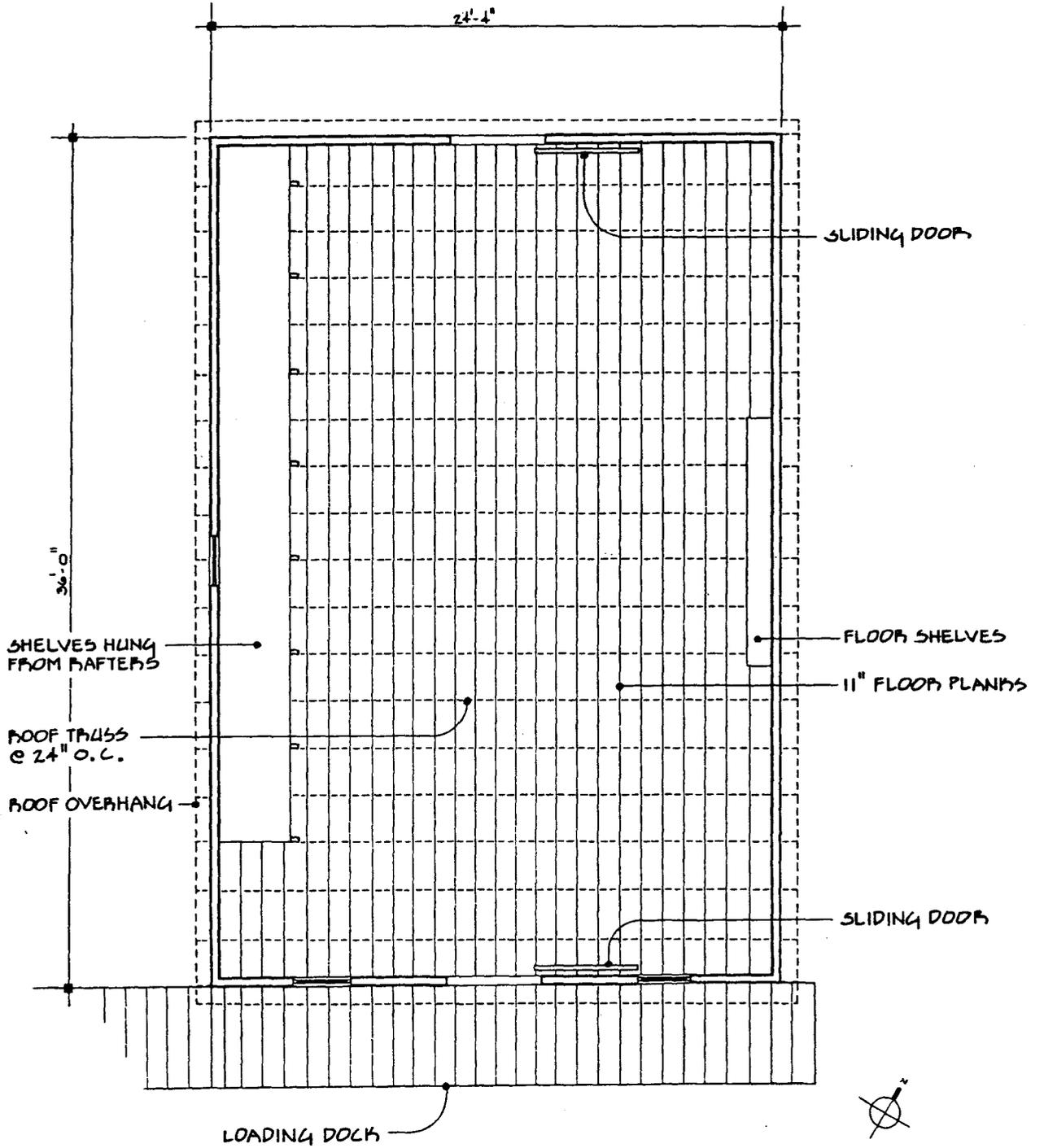
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**Architect:** Clayton B. Fraser  
Fraserdesign  
Loveland Colorado

**June 1997**

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- ▨ Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot,
- ▨ Center Shed
- HABS No. WY-149-A
- page 4



FLOOR PLAN Not to scale