

Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot, West Valve House
Alongside the Burlington Northern Railroad
near Burlington Avenue
Cody vicinity
Park County
Wyoming

HABS No. WY-149-C

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15-CODY.V,
2C-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot, West Valve House

HABS No. WY-149-C

Location: Alongside the Burlington Northern Railroad near Burlington Avenue
Cody vicinity, Park County, Wyoming
Cadastral grid: NE¼, SE¼, Section 30, Township 53N, Range 101W
USGS Quadrangle: Cody, Wyoming (7½ Minute Series, Provisional Edition, 1987)
UTM Coordinates: 12.654195.4933695



Significance: is a contributing structure in the Standard Oil Company Bulk Depot, the West Valve House is historically significant for its association with local transportation. Simply massed and detailed, it, like all of the site's structures, illustrates Wyoming's industrial construction.

Description: Measuring 6'-0" by 8'-0", the West Valve House is a single-story, single-room, metal shed building mounted on a concrete slab foundation. The walls and front-gabled roof consist of painted, standing-seam steel plates, which function both as sheathing and structure. A single-leaf doorway with uncased jambs and a paneled metal door is centered on the front (south) wall; there are no windows. The shed appears to have undergone essentially no alterations and only minor, nonstructural repairs. As indicated by the deteriorated exterior paint, it has suffered from years of deferred maintenance.

History: Built around 1940, the West Valve House is situated immediately adjacent to the Center Shed (1920, HABS No. WY-149-A), near the middle of the bulk oil depot. This small shed houses a series of pipes and valves, which were used historically to regulate the flow of fuel from the nearby elevated storage tanks. Like the Center Shed, this valve house has most recently been owned and operated by Cody businessman George Friesen. Friesen managed a wholesale fuel station here 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 West Valve House stands 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.)

Sources: Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad. "Cody, Park County, Wyoming." Map of railroad right-of-way produced by Office of Assistant Chief Engineer, CB&Q Railroad, Lincoln, Nebraska, 25 March 1929 and updated periodically.

Friesen, George. Oral interview with Clayton Fraser, 19 May 1997.

Park County Assessor. "Property Records: Parcel No. 11-007606." Located at Park County Courthouse, Cody, Wyoming.

Webb, Cynthia D., and Weathermon, Rick L. "A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory for the Bureau of Reclamation, Project 1425-5-SQ-6A-00550: Cody Industrial Park." Report for Bureau of Reclamation by Pochteca Archaeology, January 1996.

Architect: Clayton B. Fraser
Fraserdesign
Loveland Colorado

June 1997
