United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
Other names/site number: _____
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Mile Marker 150 on Montana 200
City or town: Mosby State: Montana County: Petroleum
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: x

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this _x_ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property _x_ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___national ___statewide _x_local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

_x_A ___B ___C ___D

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [x]

Public – Local [ ]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s) [ ]

District [ ]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [x]

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
		buildings
		sites
		structures
1		objects
1		Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LANDSCAPE: street furniture/object

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
LANDSCAPE: street furniture/object

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
OTHER: sign

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, CONCRETE, METAL/Steel

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Cat Creek Oil Field sign stands near the intersection of Highway 200 and Cat Creek Road in the east-central portion of Petroleum County. Cat Creek and its associated oil fields, the reason for the existence of the sign, sits just over 4 miles to the north. The town of Mosby, Montana and the Mussellshell River are five miles to the east, and the confluence of the Missouri and Mussellshell rivers occurs about 25 miles to the northeast. The county seat of Winnett lies 17 miles to the west. The area is comprised of eroded badlands and Ponderosa Pine breaks terrain.

Continental Oil Company commissioned Clint Martindale to construct the Cat Creek Oil Field sign in 1946 to commemorate the Cat Creek oil booms of the 1920s and 1940s and attract visitors from Highway 200 to the Cat Creek oil development 4.25 miles to the north. The sign measures 7 ft. 8 inches long, 5 ft. 9 inches tall, and 2 ft. 2 inches wide, and is topped with a 7 ft. 8 inch long steel arrow that points north indicating the direction from Highway 200 to Cat Creek and the once booming oil fields.

Narrative Description

Constructed by Clint Martindale in 1946, a major and distinguishing component of the concrete sign is the river cobbles used in its construction. Easily viewed from the nearby highway, the sign stands just northeast of the northwest-southeast running road that provides access to Cat

Creek. The sign stands 5 ft. 9 inches tall, measures 7 ft. 8 inches long, and in a nod to its permanence, measures 2 ft. 2 inches wide. With the exception of a steel inset, the entire sign sports river cobbles including the concrete base. A 7 ft. 8 inch long iron arrow mounted on two oil field drill bits and pointing east surmounts the sign.

Cut sheet metal in the design of the Continental Oil Company's triangular logo comprises the inset center placard and the arrow perched on the top of the sign is made of steel. Found within the cut sheet metal portion of the sign occur one of the occupational hazards of the sign serving its role in a remote area, namely bullet holes.

In 1951, to accommodate highway work, the two-ton sign was moved 20 feet from its original location, still remaining north of Highway 200. Repainting of the sign's center placard occurred between 1975 and 1976 reflecting a change in controlling interest of the Cat Creek oil fields.

Integrity

The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign possesses all seven aspects of integrity. The design, materials, and workmanship remain fully intact, easily conveying the effort and thought toward the construction of the sign. To state the surrounding area remains rural is an understatement; other than a power line paralleling the highway, historic dirt roads and two-tracks, no development has occurred near the sign providing exceptional integrity of setting, feeling, and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

[x] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[ ] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

[ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes

[x] B. Removed from its original location

[ ] C. A birthplace or grave

[ ] D. A cemetery

[ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

[ ] F. A commemorative property

[ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

Category: INDUSTRY

Period of Significance
1946 – 1969

Significant Dates
1946, 1951

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder
Martindale, Clint

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Cat Creek Oil Field sign is eligible for listing in the National Register at a local level of significance under Criterion A. The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign is historically significant as a rare surviving example of an object that visually represents and proudly advertised central Montana's commercial oil boom. The majority of the buildings and structures constructed at Cat Creek, four miles to the north, during the initial boom between 1920 through 1925 and secondary boom in the 1940s retain poor integrity. The sign stands isolated near a rural highway, one of the few reminders in the area of the once booming oil industry's presence in central Montana during the infancy of commercial oil development. The year of the sign's construction, 1946, represents the effective end of Continental Oil Company's exclusive control of Cat Creek drilling operations, as it was at this time that the Farmer's Union Central Exchange, otherwise known as Cenex, established a drilling presence at Cat Creek. The sign stands as a testament to the role Continental played in shaping Cat Creek and the surrounding communities as oil production centers within Montana. While Continental expanded its national production wells significantly after 1930, the company's involvement at Cat Creek spurred its development of new drilling technologies, including deep testing and well rejuvenation. The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign continues to display excellent physical integrity and historic significance and to serve in its original capacity. Though the lettering on the sign is faded, its stout construction ensures it endures to point passersby in the correct direction of Cat Creek, likely long after what little remains of the oil fields passes completely into history.

The beginning date of the period of significance reflects the original construction date of the sign with the ending date of 1969 reflecting the year that Continental Oil Company sold their

controlling interests in the Cat Creek Oil Field to Farmer's Union Central Exchange. The significant date of 1951 represents the year the sign was moved 20 feet from its original location.

The property meets Criteria Consideration B: moved properties. The relocation of the sign, a mere 20 feet, occurred as a result of highway work five years after its construction and during its period of significance. Because the move entailed a very short distance and left the sign on the same side of the highway where it originally stood, it retains virtually identical integrity of setting. In addition, no harm occurred to the sign when moved, with the result that integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association also remain completely intact.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Cat Creek Oil

Initial oil development at Cat Creek began in 1919, when Frank Frantz, ex-governor of Oklahoma Territory, created his own oil company and explored the possibility of oil development around the Cat Creek region. Oil production began on February 19, 1920, when oil poured out of a discovery well near Mosby Dome. Locals and Frantz company investors attempted to keep their discovery hidden, often through transmitting coded telegraph messages like "pine trees grow tall here come ye men of war," which translated to mean "bring a number of men to work a large producing well," back to Frantz headquarters in Oklahoma.[1] Despite the attempt at secrecy, however, by February 25, the news of oil discovery around Cat Creek spread, and the *Winnett Times* ran a front-page headline, "Frantz Well in With Big Production."[2]

When news spread of the well's discovery, a stampede of activity headed toward Cat Creek, reminiscent of an old time gold rush. By December, multiple companies developed producing wells around Cat Creek, including Montana-based homesteaders-turned oil producers. For example, the Mid-Northern and 56 Petroleum Companies, both local production companies, sported multiple producing wells in Cat Creek. In 1920, Frantz West Camp, as Cat Creek was originally dubbed, consisted of a mess hall, office, bunkhouse, and scattered tarpaper shack dwellings. The only building that survives this original period of construction is the Cat Creek community hall, which experienced a collapse around 2005.

Several other communities around Cat Creek also benefitted economically from oil discoveries, including nearby Winnett, Grass Range, Roundup, and Lewistown. Winnett residents attribute the Cat Creek oil boom as the reason many homesteading families remained in central Montana, given the difficult farming and ranching conditions during the drought of 1919. Within one year of discovery, over 200 businesses sprouted in Winnett thanks to a massive influx of out-of-town oil employees: some temporarily housed in tents, lending to the Cat Creek boom's reputation as a new version of gold rushes of the nineteenth century.

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[1] *Pages of Time: A History of Petroleum County*, Petroleum County Community Library (Lewistown, Montana: News-Argus Printing, 1990), 142.

[2] "Frantz Well in With Big Production," *Winnett Times*, February 25, 1920.

Influence of the Cat Creek Oil Boom

The discovery and production of oil at Cat Creek spurred development of oil-related industries beyond the local confines of the area. The Cat Creek oil booms of the 1920s and 1940s represented turning points in technological development and industrial growth in central Montana. The booms fostered homesteading lessors and oil producers alike to rely upon emerging oil-producing technologies. Construction of Montana's first oil refinery occurred near Lewistown by B.D. Hole, from Thermopolis, Wyoming, in the early 1920s in direct response to the Cat Creek boom. Although short-lived, the refinery set a precedent for such development in direct relation to commercial oil production within Montana.

New drilling techniques also emerged as a result of primary and secondary oil production in Cat Creek during the 1920s and 1940s, respectively. Immediate pipeline construction did not follow initial oil discovery in all Cat Creek wells. Local homesteaders, including May Anderson Vontver, author of Great Plains literature and brief Cat Creek resident, reported that early drilled oil poured directly into an open coulee within the fields: "there was no place to store the oil so it was dammed up in a coulee and given away to ranchers and farmers for a sheep and cow dip until they began using it in their cars."[3]

Production companies used cable drills during early oil development at Cat Creek, although by the mid 1930s, they were replaced with rotary drills. Rotary drills saved drilling time and proved approximately 25 times faster than cable drills. Mass development and use of rotary drilling technologies contributed to the second Cat Creek oil boom in the 1940s, during which time the sign was constructed.

Continental Oil Company

Although small locally based oil companies dotted sites of Cat Creek production from 1920 to 1923, in 1924, Continental Oil Company purchased oil holdings in Cat Creek. After consolidating local holdings and buying out most small production companies and two of the larger firms, Mid Northern and 56, in Cat Creek during the early 1930s, 1938 witnessed Continental's buy out of one of the last surviving Montana-owned Cat Creek production companies, Homestake Oil Company. Soon after, Continental Oil Company focused its sights within Cat Creek upon refining its drilling technologies and crude production. Although Cat Creek Oil Field produced very high quality crude oil, the latter half of the 1920s and 1930s saw a decline in Cat Creek production because high gravity crude became increasingly scarce.[4]

The development of the Cat Creek oil fields entailed more than just extraction of the resource. Cat Creek oil development marked a key example of company town development for oil industry and proved vital to the maturity of contemporary petroleum giants Conoco, formerly Continental Oil Company, and Cenex, formerly Farmer's Union Central Exchange.

[3] May Anderson Vontver, transcript of interview for the Historical Memoirs Project, 1971-1973, by Ester Murray (The Montana Historical Society Research Center and Archive, Helena, Montana).

[4] *Pages of Time: A History of Petroleum County*, Petroleum County Community Library (Lewistown, Montana: News-Argus Printing, 1990).

In 1930, Dan Moran became president of Continental Oil Company, and he actively sought to clean up the roughneck reputation of Continental's oil camps at Cat Creek. Continental began weekly inspections of camp drilling and living sites, and the company's signature green and white paint peppered the community. Although many of the area ranchers and farmers often assumed dual work roles, employed by Continental while still working their land, complaints about the oil company still occurred. To help quell these criticisms, Continental regularly sponsored social events. These social events drew the local population together and fostered a tighter sense of community and pride. Social clubs for men and women were organized to prevent oil workers from unsavory temptations such as drinking and roughhousing. The interdependence of the local community and Continental was articulated by the son of Cat Creek homesteader Bill Ihde, Continental Oil Company employee Ray Ihde: "even the ranchers worked on the oil fields."[5] Ihde remembers his father's reports of community dances and events at Cat Creek, hosted by Continental. Ihde recounts that Continental continued to sponsor community dances and picnics throughout the 1940s, as well, solidifying its reputation as a company town involved in all aspects of Cat Creek area residents and roughnecks' lives. Keeping the town abreast of modern conveniences, Continental Oil Company established Cat Creek's first telephone line to Winnett.[6]

By the 1920s, the oil boom became transformative in terms of how people viewed and identified themselves. With many of the local population working early on for the smaller oil companies, and later Continental Oil, Cat Creek and surrounding communities, including Winnett and Mosby, began to define themselves through the lens of oil rather than agriculture and ranching. In 1971, May Vontver recalled from her days as a Cat Creek schoolteacher in the early 1920s, that local children playfully developed a lexicon reflective of oil's controlling hold over the minds of local residents. She reports that children often played a game called "going fishing;" however, she quickly learned that "fishing" did not refer to fish at all but, rather, meant when one had to "fish" for lost tools in drill wells, as many children learned from homesteaders-turned-roughneck fathers working in the Cat Creek fields. Vontver also recounts how children demanded to be "pumped" rather than "pushed" on swings at recess. Vontver's memoirs reflect the dramatic social impact that the Cat Creek boom had upon homesteading residents of central Montana. Her memoirs note the importance the 1920 oil boom had upon the creation of Petroleum County, which split from Fergus County in 1925 in a messy political clash.[7]

In the 1930s, Continental Oil Company razed most of the tarpaper shacks built hastily by an influx of non-local oil roughnecks during the early 1920s. Continental replaced the shacks with finished frame houses painted in its signature company colors green and white as a comprehensive effort to "make-over" the town. Continental also sponsored the arrival of electricity to Cat Creek, although not until 1950. As Continental grew, it played an integral and

[5] Interview with Ray Ihde (Continental Oil Company oil worker. Helped construct Cat Creek sign), July 6, 2014.

[6] Ibid.

[7] May Anderson Vontver transcript.

increasing role in bringing new trucking and tank companies to Cat Creek to transport oil from production sites to refineries in Lewistown and Billings.

In the 1940s, a subsequent mini-boom occurred at Cat Creek, fostered by competition between two of the national petroleum giants of the time, Continental Oil Company, and Farmer's Union Central Exchange. In 1946, the Farmer's Union Central Exchange bought a discovery well at Cat Creek from Shrock's, a local production company. Farmer's Union soon established itself as Continental's primary competitor in Cat Creek. Both Continental and Farmer's Union increasingly sought to mechanize their wells to maximize oil production with a resultant decreasing need for oil workers. Continental Oil Company continued to develop new technologies including a new method of water-flooding wells to harvest oil from deep reservoirs. In 1959, Continental's deep water-injection program increased West Dome field output at Cat Creek from 11,913 barrels in July 1959 to 15,695 barrels in July 1960.[8]

Farmer's Union adopted the Continental method of harvesting deep-well oil insuring its success in Cat Creek. However, even technological developments could not stem the tide of oil depletion at Cat Creek: by 1988, four men handled all field production at Cat Creek.[9]

In 1969, Continental breathed its last breath in Cat Creek as Farmer's Union bought Continental's Cat Creek holdings. In 1994, Lloyd Carrell, descendent of a Cat Creek homesteader and longtime Cenex employee, purchased all of the Cat Creek Cenex holdings. The Carrell Oil Company is the primary operator of Cat Creek production wells today.

The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign

In 1946, Continental Oil Company commissioned employee Clint Martindale to construct the Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. While Martindale constructed the sign in part to commemorate the oil boom that began in 1920 at Cat Creek, the sign also was designed and built to serve the utilitarian function of drawing locals, including oil workers, and visitors alike from Highway 200 toward the oil fields, located 4.4 miles north of the sign on Cat Creek Road. The size, easily visible to a car traveling highway speeds, and durability of the object was meant to promote not only the location of Continental's oil field, but also to represent the oil company's importance in the area, and its future role in that extraction, from Cat Creek.

Martindale built the sign from river cobbles taken from the oil fields' major drainage site, the Mussellshell River, six miles east of the sign location, near Mosby, Montana. Martindale enlisted the help of local Continental Oil employees to transport rocks from the river by truck to Winnett, Montana, where he constructed the sign. Martindale assembled 12 inch concrete pieces from a block mold together and, before completely dried, pressed river cobble upon the blocks' faces. The blocks were individually cemented together in the sign's concrete base. The sign's concrete base façade is also covered with river cobble. Martindale constructed two comparable signs to that at Cat Creek in the 1940s at other sites of Continental Oil Company development,

[8] *Pages of Time: A History of Petroleum County*, Petroleum County Community Library (Lewistown, Montana: News-Argus Printing, 1990), 147.

[9] Ibid.

including at Thermopolis, Wyoming, and the Big Muddy oil field east of Casper, Wyoming.[10] The sign near Thermopolis stands near the intersection of Highway 20/789 and Gebo Oil Field Road; it is unknown if the sign near Casper is extant.

Martindale had the sign's metal arrow transported to Winnett, Montana, where he painted it white. He mounted the arrow atop the main sign using two oil field drill bits. Martindale cut sheet metal to create the metal placard at the center of the sign, shaped in Continental Oil Company's triangular logo. Martindale based the centerpiece of the sign, shaped in the Continental Oil Company logo, upon the old Marland Oil Company logo, with a signature red triangle superimposed with a rectangular company nameplate; Continental Oil Company merged with Marland Oil Company in 1929, and the triangular logo was originally borrowed from YMCA's beloved logo. The triangle is derived from the Scottish emblem for hospitality: the three corners symbolize courtesy, quality, and service.[11] Martindale also painted the sign's proximity to Cat Creek, 4 miles, on the sign's center placard. Until the mid-1970s, the metal placard on the sign continued to advertise the Continental Oil Company name.

In 1951, Continental Oil Company employees, including Ray Ihde, at Cat Creek moved the two-ton sign 20 feet north of Highway 200 to accommodate highway expansion. The small team "didn't have the right equipment to move it," according to Ihde, and used a pulley machine to separately hoist the upright portion of the sign and its concrete base from its original to new location.[12]

Former Fergus County sheep rancher and Continental Oil Company Exploration Production Department employee Melvin Eike repainted the sign's center placard between 1975 and 1976 to reflect the Cat Creek oil fields' controlling interest change in 1969 from Continental Oil Company to Farmer's Union Central Exchange, or Cenex. Eike reports that within one half hour of repainting the placard, it was removed by a representative of the Montana Highway Department because the official interpreted it as an example of commercial advertising along a state highway. Eike ignored the warning and replaced the sign's metal placard on its east-facing side.[13]

In 1996, Steven Aaberg and Stephen Davenport prepared a cultural resources inventory of Cat Creek and surrounding areas for a proposed land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management in Lewistown and Carrell Oil Company. The report recommended Cat Creek's

[10] "Cat Creek Oil Field Report," *Winnett Times*, January 11, 1945.

[11] "Our History: 1909-1929," ConocoPhillips, 2014, http://www.conocophillips.com/who-we-are/our-legacy/history/Pages/1909-1929.aspx .

[12] Interview with Ray Ihde.

[13] Eike, Melvin. (Descendent of Cat Creek homesteaders and Continental Oil Company Oil Worker) June 30, 2014; Former Cat Creek oil workers and area homesteader descendants Lloyd Carrell, Melvin Eike, and Ray Ihde report that Clint Martindale constructed comparable signs to one at Cat Creek around the Wyoming communities of Thermopolis, Frannie, and Casper to similarly note Continental Oil Company oil holdings. Lloyd Carrell owns all current Cat Creek oil production wells. Eike and Ihde report that Martindale's other signs were likely constructed out of local quarry or river rock and concrete, much like the Continental sign.

listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a culturally significant example of early oil development in Montana. The report specifically notes the historic sign's presence within its narrative of access section.[14] At least one of the structures within Cat Creek has partially caved in since the resource inventory was prepared in 1996. Because other sites of initial state oil production are preserved, and given the community of Cat Creek's rapid deterioration, protecting the Cat Creek Oil Field sign as a surviving object from early Cat Creek development is critical.

Architect/Builder

Clint Martindale was a longtime resident of the Cat Creek area and Continental Oil Company employee. Born in Beemer, Nebraska in 1889, he homesteaded near Valentine, Montana in June of 1920. In 1923, Martindale and his wife, Bessie, moved to Cat Creek. Martindale worked as a maintenance man for Continental as well as in various "odd job" capacities, including as a "mechanic, carpenter, and mason," according to Ray Ihde. In addition to Clint working for Continental, Bessie also worked for the company, operating the Cat Creek cookhouse for nineteen years. In 1945, Clint and Bessie left the Cat Creek community after 22 years and relocated to continue work for Continental in Thermopolis, Wyoming. In Thermopolis, Martindale worked as district maintenance supervisor beginning in 1945. Clint returned to Cat Creek the following year to construct the Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. During his time in Thermopolis, Clint reportedly constructed a similar sign from local quarry rock comparable to the one at Cat Creek. Martindale passed away in 1948.[15]

Conclusion

Though constructed after the initial boom, the Cat Creek Oil Field sign served as another example of the locals' pride in where they worked and lived. The sign celebrated the importance of oil to the area. Instead of the earlier wooden signs, which faded, required more maintenance, and displayed the effects of the harsh central Montana environment, the new cobble sign, robust and virtually impermeable to the elements, spoke of the positive future of the oil fields. The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign is a rare surviving reminder of a key period of oil development at Cat Creek during the 1940s as well as physical symbol of Continental Oil Company's presence in central Montana. The construction of the sign in 1946 reinforced the permanence and robustness of the Continental Oil Company at the time in the area; the sturdiness of the sign reflected the positive outlook of the company and was at least partially spurred by Continental's desire to ensure a visible presence around Cat Creek following the arrival of the Farmer's Union Central Exchange.

The Cat Creek Oil Field sign stands as one of the few remaining reminders of the transformative

[14] Stephen A. Aaberg and Steven Davenport, 1996 Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Carrell Oil Company-Lewistown Bureau of Land Management Proposed Land Exchange, (Petroleum County, Montana), consultants report prepared by ACRCS, Lewistown, Montana.

[15] Bureau of Land Management. "Patent Details: Martindale, Clint." General Land Office Records. http://www.glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=758796&docClass=SER&sid=0quubc1a.wcw#patentDetailsTabIndex=0 (accessed November 18, 2014); *Pages of Time: A History of Petroleum County*, Petroleum County Community Library (Lewistown, Montana: News-Argus Printing, 1990), 181; Interview with Ray Ihde, July 6, 2014.

effect the discovery of oil bore on the rural agricultural populations of central Montana. An area that struggled under the mantel of agriculture assumed a new identity under oil allowing the struggling farmers and ranchers to remain in the area they loved.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aaberg, Stephen A. and Davenport, Steven. Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Carrell Oil Company-Lewistown Bureau of Land Management Proposed Land Exchange, Petroleum County, Montana. Consultants report prepared by ACRCS, Lewistown, Montana, 1996.

Brumley, John. A Cultural Resources Inventory of McCone Electric Cooperative's Proposed Winnett to Mosby Transmission Line Rebuild. Consultants report prepared by Ethos Consultants, Inc. for McCone Electric Cooperative, Havre, Montana, 2006.

McManus, A. and Miller, P. Cultural Resources Survey of Mid-Rivers Telephone Cooperative's Winnett Exchange Buried Cable Project, Garfield and Petroleum County, Montana. Consultants report prepared by Quality Services, Rapid City, South Dakota, 2004.

Petroleum County Community Library, *Pages of Time: A History of Petroleum County*. Lewistown, Montana: News-Argus Printing, 1990.

Vontver, May Anderson. Transcript of Interview for the Historical Memoirs Project, 1971-1973, by Ester Murray. The Montana Historical Society Research Center and Archive, Helena, Montana.

Interviews, conducted by Amy B. Dixon

Bevis, Burt. Personal communication with Amy Dixon, May 5, 2014.

Carrell, Lloyd. Personal communication with Amy Dixon, June 6, 2014.

Eike, Melvin. Personal communication with Amy Dixon, June 30, 2014.

Ihde, Ray. Personal communication with Amy Dixon, July 6, 2014.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
____ previously listed in the National Register
____previously determined eligible by the National Register
____designated a National Historic Landmark
____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #_____
____recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:
_x__ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State agency
____ Federal agency
____ Local government
____ University
____ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 47.008007

Longitude: -108.00947886655095

Or
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

[ ] NAD 1927 or [x] NAD 1983

1. Zone: 12 Easting: 727315 Northing: 5210395

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The sign is located in S02, T14N, R29E, within SE of NW quarter. Please see topographic map for exact location.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Cat Creek Oil Field Sign occupies approximately 0.05 acres east of the Cat Creek Road and Highway 200 juncture. It is on the northeast side of the road adjacent to the intersection. It is approximately 20 meters perpendicular to Highway 200 and approximately 70 meters perpendicular to Cat Creek Road.

The sign is owned by Orval and Jolene Shaw, at PO Box 5242, Mosby, Montana, 59058. Their deed on the land is from July 23, 1990, according to the Montana State Library's Base Map Service Center Montana Cadastral Mapping Project.

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11. Form Prepared By:

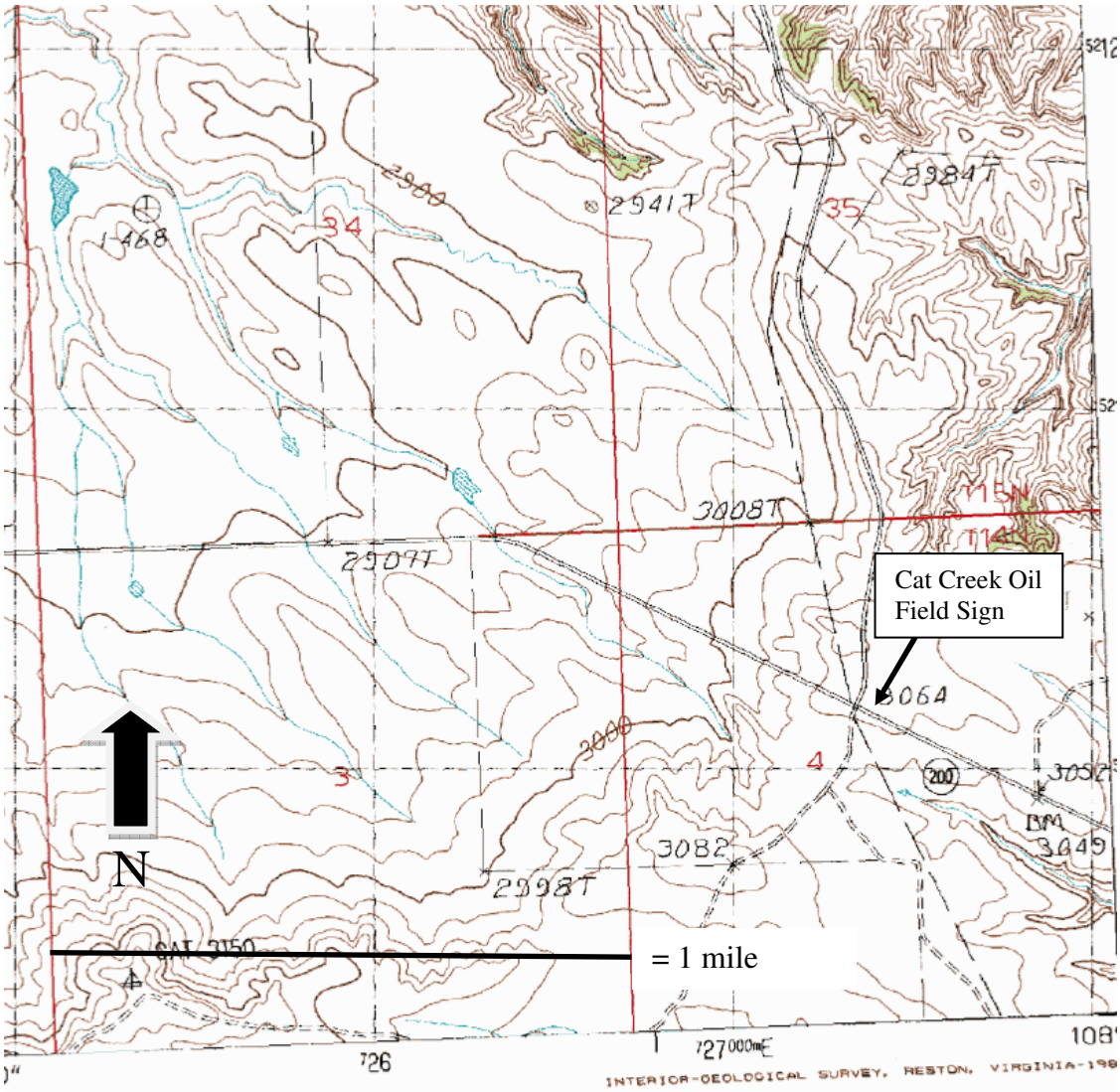
name/title: Amy B. Dixon
organization:
street & number: 104 G Paisley Ct
city or town: Bozeman, state: Montana zip code: 59715
e-mail: amy.dixon@msu.montana.edu
telephone: 406-672-2429
date: July 11, 2014

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)



Location of Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Found on the Cat Creek, MT (Provisional Edition, 1986) 7.5' Topographic Map. T14N R29E, within SE of NW quarter Section 2.

Aerial view of location of the Cat Creek Oil Field Sign

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photograph Log

Name: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State: Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer: Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph: March 18, 2013
Location of original negative: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Overview. View to the northwest.
Photograph: MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0001

Name: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State: Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer: Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph: March 18, 2013
Location of original negative: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Overview. View to the northwest.
Photograph: MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0002

Name: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State: Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer: Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph: March 18, 2013
Location of original negative: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Overview. View to the northwest.
Photograph: MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0003

Name:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State:	Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer:	Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph:	March 18, 2013
Location of original negative:	Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Close-up of arrow mount. View to the southeast.
Photograph:	MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0004

Name:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State:	Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer:	Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph:	March 18, 2013
Location of original negative:	Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Overview. View to the northwest.
Photograph:	MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0001

Name: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State: Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer: Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph: March 18, 2013
Location of original negative: Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera: Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Close-up of interior. View to the northwest.
Photograph: MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0002

Name:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State:	Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer:	Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph:	March 18, 2013
Location of original negative:	Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Close-up of arrow mount. View to the northwest.
Photograph:	MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0003

Name:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign
County and State:	Petroleum County, Montana
Photographer:	Zane Fulbright
Date of Photograph:	March 18, 2013
Location of original negative:	Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Helena, Montana.
Description and view of camera:	Cat Creek Oil Field Sign. Close-up of arrow mount. View to the southeast.
Photograph:	MT_PetroleumCounty_CatCreekOilFieldSign_0004