

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 PropertyHistoric name: Albright Historic DistrictOther names/site number: Limedale, Sluice Boxes State Park, 24CA0371 (Montana Central Railroad: Neihart Branch)

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 38 Evans Riceville RoadCity or town: Belt State: MT County: CascadeNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**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 X C X D**MT State Historic Preservation Officer****Signature of certifying official/Title:****Date****State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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

Signature of commenting official:**Date****Title :****State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

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: ☐
Public – Local ☐
Public – State ☒
Public – Federal ☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
District ☒
Site ☐
Structure ☐
Object ☐

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: 19th Century Industrial

OTHER: Vernacular

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundations: STONE, Limestone; CONCRETE

Walls: STONE, Limestone

Walls: WOOD (dimensional and timbers)

Walls: WOOD, Log

Roof: METAL, Steel; WOOD, shake; ASPHALT

Railroad Rails and Switch Blocks: METAL, Steel

Other: BRICK (chimneys and kilns)

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 Albright Historical District is located in the Little Belt Mountains within what is now the Sluice Boxes State Park, approximately 40 miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana. Established in 1976, the acreage is directly adjacent to Belt Creek in an area historically referred to as the Sluice Boxes Canyon, so named for the narrow limestone-rimmed valley where Belt Creek cascades over geological formations reminiscent of the sluice boxes used by early miners.¹ Cultural resources found within the Albright Historic District include vernacular architectural remnants of the town of Albright; associated limestone mining and kiln structures; railroad components that include loose rails, switching plates, and ore-moving railcars, and a variety of cultural materials scattered across the property's surface. Thirty-eight resources, all contributing, were documented and include 10 buildings, 16 structures, eight sites, and four objects. Documented indigenous cultural resources located nearby but outside the district indicate earlier occupants of the valley.

¹ Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 45. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Narrative Description

The Albright Historic District is located approximately 40 miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana, in the Sluice Boxes State Park. The district can be found on the southern end of the Riceville 7.5' quadrangle map (Map 1, Map 2, and Map 3). The park is defined by the waters of Belt Creek, winding its way through the valley from south to north beneath the stepped limestone cliffs and towering pines (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0119, Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0120, Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0121, Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0122, and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0123).

Established in 1976, Sluice Boxes State Park measures approximately 7.5 miles long, lying primarily north-south. The 178-acre Albright Historic District lies primarily in the southern end of the 1,378-acre state park area and directly adjacent to Belt Creek.² The area is historically referred to as the Sluice Boxes Canyon, so named for the narrow limestone-rimmed valley where Belt Creek cascades over geological formations reminiscent of the sluice boxes used by early miners.

Few completely intact architectural structures remain within the district, but the area is replete with a variety of distributed historical resources relating to the period of significance that includes residences, residence outbuildings, remnants of limestone mining and processing operations, and remnants of the railroad (Map 4, Map 5, Map 6, Map 7, and Map 8). The area further includes an unknown number of portable elements that also date to the period of significance and include powder cans (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0118), food cans, bedframes (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0117), loose timbers distributed through flooding events (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0116), a wheelbarrow (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0116) and other detritus (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0113 thru Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0115). Many of the architectural features retain remnants of electrical wiring, connectors, and occasional poles, but distributed power is no longer present in the valley. The extent of remaining similar associated elements is imprecisely known as heavy undergrowth (and overgrowth) blankets the district. The resource description below includes the visible resources recorded during survey of the district, the identifiable remaining remnants of a once-booming area defined as the town of Albright; additional resources, both structural and artifact-based, certainly exist but their identification proves impossible due to the under-and-overgrowth of the area.

The first structures appeared at Albright (also locally and historically known as Limedale), in the early 1890s as William Albright homesteaded a ranch nearby and began running sheep there.³ In 1891, the Belt Creek Railway (Montana Central Railway branch line) began operation through the canyon. By 1894, Mr. Albright began limestone mining at the site on Belt Creek and was

² Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 45. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

³ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *The Albright Ranch*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 473.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

developing his industrial processing site (Map 14).⁴ The mine was sold in 1911 to the Amalgamated Copper Company (Anaconda Copper Company) who then made some improvements to the mining and processing facility.⁵ After the mine ceased operation in 1944, some salvage occurred with buildings moved out of town; this continued after the rail line ceased operation in 1945, after 54 years of operation.⁶ Salvage efforts ended after the flood of 1953, which removed rail bed bridges and trestles.⁷ In 1997, locally raised Ester Brurud (Liebtrau) commented on the flood that:

“In 1953, the flood cleaned out all the bridges and everything. The new road eliminated everyone picnicking there. All the good spots I took my kids to are gone, you can't access them. My brothers used to ride horseback from here to over there to go to dances on Saturday night. They had really nice dances there and people would come from the other way to go.”⁸

Locally raised, Marilyn Enderson of Belt, Montana commented in 2024 that:

“The house up there was bad because of the mice. My brother Clayton Sweeney moved a barn out of there for Leo Clessner. He took the barn apart and moved it to Belt. It burned about 20 years ago. The train had stopped some years before, but the tracks were still there until the flood of 53. Other buildings were also moved. On the side before the bridge was a cave lived in by homesteaders. There were dances in a barn there in the 1920s”⁹

While it is not clear as to who occupied specific houses in Albright, deterioration of the living conditions occurred as employment possibilities in the valley disappeared. It is quite probable that many buildings and equipment were salvaged from the valley between 1944 and 1953.

Feature descriptions and designations included herein were originally created through a site investigation conducted by Preserve Montana in 2020 that focused on the documentation of cultural resources between Creek Crossings 11 and 12, the central location of the town of Albright.¹⁰ “A total of 55 resources were documented: 31 primary resources – buildings, structures and sites – along with auxiliary objects – 16 ore carts, 2 rail scatters, 4 rail switch plates, and timber scatters.” This nomination continues the use of their nomenclature and utilizes much of their foundational descriptive text. No noncontributing features were noted.

⁴ “A Prosperous Enterprise,” *Helena Evening Herald*, June 26, 1896, p. 3.

⁵ “Albright Quarries are Sold,” *Great Falls Leader*, February 23, 1911, p. 1.

⁶ “Days of Riotous Mining Town Relived with Closing of Neihart Branch Line,” *Great Falls Tribune*, November 3, 1945, p. 1.

⁷ Porter and Dorothy Fender, *The Albright Ranch*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 473.

⁸ Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, p. 16.

⁹ Personal telephone conversation between Tim Urbaniak and Marilyn Enderson, November 2, 2024.

¹⁰ Chere Jiusto, Mary Webb, Madeline Westrom, Dan Rhode, *Historic District Documentation: Albright, Montana*, Preserve Montana, Helena, MT, 2020, p. 2. On file at the Preserve Montana Office, 44th West 6th Avenue, Suite 110, Helena, MT 59601.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

The specific construction chronology of the resources presently remains unknown; however, indicators exist that inform as to their general sequence, primarily clustering them into three overall episodes within the period of significance; these include the earliest mining development by William Albright (1894-1911) after the arrival of the Montana Central Railway branch line; the middle period of corporate mining (1911-1930); and the late period of use that corresponds to sporadic independent mining and recreation (1930-1945).

Short Summary of Resources

Features associated with the railway, including the rail crossing piers, Feature AB-010; and the railroad bed, Feature AB-034, date to 1891, with the completion of the rail line. After the main rail line was abandoned, the rails and ties were removed, but rail and bed remnants related to the localized movement of limestone materials, associated components, and rail cars that were owned by the quarries for the local handling of materials remain.

Structures relating to the original installation of Albright's Generator House include Feature AB-027, associated Turbine House AB-028, and paired water pipes. The stone bridge pier Features AB-010, AB-021, and AB-026 also date to the earliest construction and originally installed circa 1894-1898.

Quarries that include Features AB-009, AB-032, and AB-033, date to the earliest years of extraction beginning in 1894, and continue to the terminal limestone mining in 1944. Kiln structures Features AB-020, AB-022, AB-023, and AB-030 along with associated lime piles and foundations also date to the earliest days of limestone extraction.

Log residences may have been among, if not the first, constructed by the earliest workers that had no place to stay. The log cabin remnant resources include AB-017, AB-018, and the three log cabin remnants at AB-029. These log building remains are assembled from smaller maneuverable logs and would have provided quick shelter from immediately available materials. The original use of the living/storage caves that contain Features AB-016 and AB-019, likely date to this early period, circa mid-late 1800s, and may have evolved from shelter to storage over time.

Residence Feature AB-011 is an interesting structure that may bridge periods 1-2 as the lower portion is constructed of small logs topped with a dimensional lumber upper level obviously added later (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0029). Construction dating to the middle period and vestiges of buildings used or built by the Amalgamated Copper Company Anaconda Copper Company are noticeably absent from the landscape suggesting an orchestrated removal of infrastructure and industrial resources by the Company as they withdrew.

Southernmost residence features AB-001 and AB-011, are partially constructed of railroad ties available at the time of the original railroad routing, or potentially date later as the sawmills at Logging Creek quite probably supplied the limestone operation with the rail ties necessary to route – and reroute – the smaller gage track used within the quarrying areas. Associated structures include outhouse Features AB-008, AB-012, and AB-013. Dimensional lumber from

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

the mills at nearby Logging Creek could also have been used in their construction. The structures have been modified at least three times and may have been among, if not the last structures occupied.

Associated loose timbers and dimensional lumber displaced along the banks of Belt Creek may date to the flood in 1953, after the end of the period of significance.

Contributing Resources

AB-001 (one contributing building)

Located at the southern end of the proposed district (Map 6), this feature is a 1½ story building constructed of recycled, alternating (similar to a box corner) 7" x 8" railroad ties resting on a low stone foundation (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0002). Standard dimensional lumber framing is also present. It perhaps was originally a barn, then used as a cook house (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0001). The building consists of one large room with a gambrel roof, and a shed addition on the west end (Sketch 01). Gambrel ends and the roof are covered with wood shingles, and a square brick chimney rises above the east end of the roof (Photos MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0003 and MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0004). The primary entrance holds a wood plank door with heavy metal strap hinges located on the south wall along with a horizontal window opening with an awning style wooden shutter supported by strap hinges across the top.

On the interior, the floor is poured concrete covered with 12" square linoleum floor tiles. Linoleum flooring became popular in the 1920s suggesting installation around that time.¹¹ A yellow enamel wood stove manufactured by the Round Oak Stove Company of Dowagiac, Michigan (in business from 1871 to 1947) stands near the middle of the floor.¹² The stove style is a "Round Oak Chief Steel Range," circa 1920.

Remnants of a wood cook stove appear in an area that retains built-in wood cabinets (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0005). A stairway along the east wall leads to an upper loft, an open space with loft door set in the east end wall surmounted with a diamond window (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0006). The gambrel roof framing is milled 2" x 4" wood boards (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0007).

Galvanized sheet metal clads the shed addition; the cladding displays the manufacturing mark of "USS/Copper Steel/ CARNEGIE-ILLINOIS STEEL CORPORATION." A single door opening filled with a wooden door with square upper lite leads into the shed addition. The exterior of the wooden door is clad with shiplap and the window covered over with a corrugated metal panel.¹³

¹¹ "A History of Vinyl," Floors to Your Home, August 26, 2016, p. 1. Viewed on 2-6-2025 at <https://floortoyourhome.com/resource-center/30-waterproof-plank/95/a-history-of-vinyl/>

¹² "Round Oak Stove History," Round Oak Stove parts web page, 2025. Viewed on 2-8-2025 at <https://www.roundoakman.com/tour>.

¹³ Chere Jiusto, Mary Webb, Madeline Westrom, Dan Rhode, *Site Form AB-001*, Preserve Montana, Helena, MT, 2020, p. 1. On file at the Preserve Montana Office, 44th West 6th Avenue, Suite 110, Helena, MT 59601.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

AB-002 (one contributing building)

Located at the southern end of the Albright Historic District stands a collapsing, one-story gable-roofed house (Sketch 02) built of recycled railroad ties, 7"-8" square and stacked nine ties high (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0009). The gable ends display shiplap cladding covered with wood shingles (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0010). The roof has completely collapsed as has the west side of the building (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0008). Roof rafters are notched 2" x 4"s, with one layer of shiplap sheathing formerly covered with wood shingles, though only a few now remain. The building is supported by a stacked-stone foundation (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0011).

The south side is the primary elevation and has a doorway into the east half. The wood door is covered with vertical shiplap on the exterior and horizontal shiplap on the interior. There is a window opening in both ends of the front, south wall, of the building, and in the east elevation. The openings hold windows in groupings of three, fitted with sliding 6-lite sash units. The window frames are still present though the muntins and glazing are gone. A log pole is attached at the center of the east wall, likely for electrical power.

The interior is divided into two rooms on the ground floor; a paneled wood door provides movement between the two rooms. Tie wall construction is visible on the interior, except for the north (rear) interior wall, which is covered with shiplap in the east room. Upstairs, the interior walls of the collapsed portion are lime-washed. The attic/loft space in the gable was closed off from the rest of the building with the floor lined with shiplap boards. The walls between the timbers and shiplap on the east wing is covered with corrugated cardboard.¹⁴

AB-003 (one contributing object)

A metal gate is all that remains of a fence line that once encircled a terrace surrounding AB-001 (Sketch 03). The gate is formed of metal pipe and filled in with animal wire (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0012). The gate hangs in an opening 9'9" wide, on a 5½" x 7" wood post (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0013).¹⁵

AB-004 (counted as one contributing structure)

AB-004 is the tipped remnant tower of a windmill that stood south and west of AB-001 and AB-002 (Sketch 03). The windmill retains portions of a wooden platform that likely supported a metal, multi-bladed rotor (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0014). A steel tower composed of three legs in a triangular formation supported the mechanics of this structure (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0015).

A nearby hand water pump manufactured by the Dempster Mills Manufacturing Company, suggests the windmill is a Dempster product. A manufacturing date reflects the Dempster Mills period of windmill production. For information on Dempster Mills Manufacturing Company

¹⁴ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-002*, 2020, p. 1.

¹⁵ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-003*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

history, see the NPS Homestead National Monument of America Dempster Mills collection, and *A Field Guide to American Windmills* by T. Lindsay Baker.¹⁶

AB-005 (one contributing site)

This feature is the foundational remains of a building that measures approximately 12' wide (Sketch 04). The north end of the feature is constructed from stone (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0016 and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0017) and the south end of concrete (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0018). The southern portion lies below grade, and the top of the walls are now covered by foliage.¹⁷ The foundation suggests the nonextant building had two rooms.

AB-006 (one contributing object)

A wooden gate hangs on a fencing enclosure that surrounds buildings AB-001, AB-002, AB-005, the nearby tipped windmill and a hand-pumped water well (AB-004) [Sketch 03]. The gate is made of cut wooden slats, rising to a peak at center. It hangs between two posts made of rail ties attached with metal strap hinges (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0019). The nonextant fence line is marked by wooden rail tie posts at the corners and across the front of the terrace that overlooks the creek.¹⁸

AB-007 (one contributing object)

This object is an iron hand pump for a water well that stands in the terrace approximately 100' from tipped windmill tower ABF-004 (Sketch 03). The pump is quite probably associated with the tower as no additional ground wells have been identified in the nominated area. The pump is a cylindrical pipe fitted with a metal pump handle (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0020). The cylinder is bulb-shaped midway up and bears the maker's mark: DEMPSTER/MILL/MFG CO and the number 21 (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0021).¹⁹

According to the NPS Homestead National Monument of America:

The Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company was founded in Beatrice, Nebraska in 1878 by Charles B. Dempster. Mr. Dempster began making equipment for farmers and homesteaders populating the west following the Civil War. Throughout the company's history they have made a variety of items including windmills, water pumps, cultivators, fertilizer spreaders, gasoline products, and recycling trailers. In the early 1900's, they even distributed items associated with water systems like kitchen sinks and bathtubs.

Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company provided water for farmers for over one hundred years. Dempster Mill Manufacturing Company is one of the longest

¹⁶ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-004*, 2020, p. 1.

¹⁷ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-005*, 2020, p. 1.

¹⁸ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-006*, 2020, p. 1.

¹⁹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-007*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

running wind-powered water pump manufacturer in the United States. The company produced windmills from 1885 until 2009.²⁰

AB-008 (one contributing building)

This building is a 5' x 5' two-seater outhouse with a classic design: center front doorway and shed roof draining to the back (Sketch 05). The outhouse is built of 2" x 4"s, clad with 1" x 9" boards (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0022). The roof is covered with wood shingles, and a wooden vent projects above the roofline at the rear. On the interior, there are two seating holes cut into the wooden bench, and covers for each hole rest on the back of the bench (not attached) [Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0024]. The floor is finished with shiplap boards. The structure retains elements of having been wired for an electric light (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0023).²¹

AB-009 (one contributing site)

AB-009 is an historic limestone quarry site located in the eastern side of Belt Creek Canyon. The quarry consists of a leveled quarrying area approximately 300' (north-south) by 100' (east-west) carved into the hillside with piles of limestone (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0025 and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0124). A length of steel rail is located on the site, otherwise no equipment or other mining artifacts remain in this quarrying area.²² This quarry is probably associated with the Williams lime operation, with Albright's main quarry located to the west across Belt Creek (Feature AB-032).

AB-010 (counted as one contributing structure)

AB-010 marks the northern end of the Albright Mining Historic District. The resource is a series of concrete bridge supports anchored in the creek, including two concrete cylindrical posts and two rectangular piers (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0026). Formerly, these piers supported a railroad bridge that crossed the creek; a structure associated with the Montana Central Railway (later the Great Northern Railway) Great Falls – Neihart branch line that once ran through this canyon to serve the mining activities and communities of the area. Removal of the rail line in 1946 and subsequent flooding events have left only the piers to represent the former bridge structure (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0027).²³

AB-011 (one contributing building)

This vernacular residence was originally a 1½ story log house with a later 1-story addition built of recycled railroad ties (Sketch 06 and Sketch 07). The original building has a front-facing gable; a cross-gable roof extends to cover the side addition (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0028). Wood shingles cover the roof, and the building stands on a stone foundation. The log walls consist of small diameter, square notched members, and the

²⁰ A Brief History of Dempster, Dempster Mill MFG Co Archives, National Park Service, Homestead National Historical Park, Nebraska, 2016. Viewed on December 27, 2024 at <https://www.nps.gov/home/dempster-archives.htm>.

²¹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-008*, 2020, p. 1.

²² Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-009*, 2020, p. 1.

²³ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-010*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

upper level constructed with 2" x 4" rafters clad on the exterior with red rolled asphalt roofing (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0029). While still standing, the house is beginning to collapse and the concrete chimney in the log portion of the house has fallen through the roof and now lies on the floor. The house is in a large relatively flat area in the floor of the valley (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0125).

The original interior portion is an open living space with a kitchen area at the rear and a wooden stairway in the rear corner leading to a sleeping room under the gable roof (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0030). Log walls are exposed and the flooring in this area appears to be fir tongue-in-groove. A doorway is centered in the east wall; it leads into the remnants of a collapsed room, with 2" x 4" framing and sided with ¾" x 6" wall boards. The original fenestration includes window openings in the south, east, and north walls. The rear opening above the kitchen sink is screened, others have lost their glazing. The original window opening in the west wall was converted to a doorway when the addition was made, resulting in an odd T-shaped doorway between the two parts of the building (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0031).

An enclosed shed-roofed porch spans much of the front of the addition, with a centered front entryway and a second doorway opening into the addition. The addition holds one open space, with a stairway in the front southwest corner leading into a basement crawlspace.²⁴

AB-012 (one contributing building)

This feature is a 4½' x 5' wood frame outbuilding with a central front doorway and shed roof draining to the rear (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0032). The building is clad with vertical wood boards, and the roof covered with wood sheathing, but no evidence remains of the original roofing material. Interior touches include a rear bench that runs the width of the building, a series of 1' wood shelves lining the rear wall above the bench, a half log shelf along one side, and wood flooring (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0033). A partial height wooden vent topped with wire mesh is centered outside the rear wall. The buildings design suggests an outhouse, but it lacks toilet holes. There is no foundation.²⁵

AB-013 (one contributing building)

A single-seater outhouse with many refinements is located a short distance from Feature AB-011 (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0119). The outhouse faces east and displays an off-center front doorway and shed roof with rafters draining to the rear. It stands on a concrete foundation with brick flooring on the interior and evidence of a brick apron outside the entrance (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0034). The outhouse is clad with Dutch-lap board siding and the roof covered with 1" sheathing and wood shingles; a round metal vent projects above the roofline. The interior walls are whitewashed and there is a single seat with wooden raise-able toilet cover (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0035). Electricity once extended to the outhouse; there is a mount for a fixture centered in the ceiling.²⁶

²⁴ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-011*, 2020, p. 1.

²⁵ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-012*, 2020, p. 1.

²⁶ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-013*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

AB-014 (one contributing structure)

Feature ABF-014 (Sketch 08) appears to be the remains of a submerged dock near the north edge of Belt Creek (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0036) near the south end of the district. The structure measures approximately 20' (parallel to the creek) x 10' (back to the bank) and is anchored around a big, naturally-occurring rock and constructed of cribbed logs stacked 4 logs high and joined with large bolts.²⁷

AB-015 (one contributing site)

This very deteriorated feature (Sketch 09) appears to be the remains of a timber-framed loading platform (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0037). It is evidenced by roughly 30 scattered large square timbers of 3½" to 7½" dimension and ranging from 10'6" to 12'6" in length. The timbers lie in proximity to the bank of Belt Creek and many align parallel to the waterway.²⁸

AB-016 (one contributing structure)

Located at the northern end of the district, this structure is a storage room constructed into a natural cave in the side wall of the Belt Creek Canyon. It is located behind the building recorded as AB-014 (Sketch 10). The original irregular cave opening measures approximately 13' wide x 14' high; it is fitted with a stone surround to allow the construction of a central doorway (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0038) that measures 3' wide x 6' high, spanned by a 7' stone lintel with a large transom above. A circular vent opening centers above the transom opening in the stone wall (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0039). The cave measures roughly 19' front to back (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0040).²⁹

AB-017 (one contributing building)

This feature consists of a collapsing log building that appears to have been built directly on the ground with no foundation. It lies toward the northern end of the district (Sketch 11). The unpeeled log walls display sawn and axe-cut ends with V-notched joints, with wood furrow chinking daubed with lime plaster (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0041). The now collapsed wood-framed gable roof was covered with wood sheathing and wood shingles, and finished on the exterior gable ends with vertical board-and-batten (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0042). The failing of the roof structure resulted in the collapse of a yellow-brick chimney stack and stove pipe. The unfinished interior exhibits chinking. Flooring material is not known.

Doorways appear on all four sides of the building, framed with 2" x 8½" boards. The northwest elevation appears to have functioned as the primary entrance; this doorway is offset to the west and houses a 30" wide wood door painted green with an upper window and two vertical panels below. The doorway in the southwest wall is covered with horizontal shiplap boards. Openings

²⁷ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-014*, 2020, p. 1.

²⁸ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-015*, 2020, p. 1.

²⁹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-016*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

in the northeast and southeast walls lack doors. The southeast wall also includes a central rear window opening; a large section of this wall is covered with vertical planking on the interior.³⁰

AB-018 (one contributing building)

Located at the northern end of the district is a 1½ story partially collapsed log cabin (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0043) with a front-facing gable roof (Sketch 12 and Sketch 13). The walls are constructed of logs that are 3½" - 6", separated with small spacer blocks, joined with xx-notching, and sealed with mortar chinking.

The primary façade faces north with an upper-level central window and two entry doors, one offset to the west, and the second left of-center (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0044). The window once housed a double-hung sash unit, and the door and window trim were painted. The north gable holds paired windows, each with double hung units; the south gable, though collapsed, appears to have also had this window pattern.

The interior was divided into one room that spanned the front portion and two rooms in the rear portion. The interior walls are framed with 2" x 4"s filled with mortar and covered with lath and plaster; the interior surfaces of the walls were plastered and then painted directly over the logs, some hewn to create a wall surface (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0045). Small log joists supported the floor with tongue-in-groove flooring affixed to the joists.

Each of the back rooms has one window opening that appears to have held one sash unit. The attic was supported by 2" x 4" ceiling joists and the attic floor covered with shiplap boards. No discernable access to the attic was noted. The roof above is sheathed with 1" boards and covered with corrugated metal.³¹

Of the extant residences in the district, this feature represents the most likely candidate to serve as the Albright residence. Clues that suggest such a possibility include its construction on the property owned by the Albrights, its siting a distance to the north away from industrial activity, its construction of smaller logs suggesting an earlier build, a size suitable to accommodate the Albright family, and a more finished interior of lathe and plaster.

AB-019 (one contributing structure)

This resource is a heavily-walled storage structure built into the hillside. It features a considerably reinforced wood door, suggesting use to store dynamite or other hazardous items (Sketch 14). The structure dug into the hillside displays a single façade facing south, built of limestone (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0046). The wall measures 22' across the base, 24" thick, spanned by a round stone arch at the top, and fitted with a small wood door at center. Constructed of heavy 3" timbers covered with horizontal and vertical shiplap, the door fits within the 32" wide and 42" high door opening. There is also a 15" x 15" window opening with a heavy metal mesh screen.

³⁰ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-017*, 2020, p. 1.

³¹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-018*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

The interior space is barrel-vaulted, and measures 11' long, 8'6" wide, and 82" tall (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0047). Storage bins appear along the east wall and shelves along the west wall. The north in-ground wall contains a smaller vaulted space approximately 14½" wide and 16½" tall that potentially represents an oven (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0048). A central metal pipe in the ceiling vents to the outside (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0049).³²

AB-020 (one contributing structure)

This feature (Sketch 15) is a deteriorated (and perhaps dismantled) base of a lime kiln located on a terrace overlooking the creek (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0050). The front walls remain intact to a height of roughly 28" but collapse as they approach the rear of the structure near the creek (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0051). The base is constructed of river stone and a few cut stones set with concrete mortar; a stone interior floor is overgrown with vegetation and brush though some evidence of a brick kiln exists. The concrete mortar lining one wall bears impressions of the brick maker's mark: "HOSFORD" (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0052).

The embossed bricks were manufactured by the Hosford Fire Brick Company located in Fields, Montana, approximately six miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana and 25 miles northwest of Albright, Montana. Clay for the bricks was obtained "in the upper half of the Kootenai formation at Fields," when early mineral exploration of the Belt area discovered that several geological types of clay could be found there. Some of the clay found use to make bricks for the construction of the Boston and Montana smelters in Great Falls. In addition to providing bricks for regional construction beginning in 1892, the clay was also manufactured into fire bricks, but the operation proved short-lived "owing to the high percentage of iron in the clay."³³ During this time, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company eventually developed its own clay resources for use at the Great Falls smelter.

A 25'6" long stone retaining wall runs parallel to the back of the kiln, below which the land slopes down to the riparian zone along the creek. To the south, a deposit of old ash and stone sluffs downslope.³⁴

AB-021 (one contributing structure)

This feature is the remnant of a very large monolithic stone and mortar structure (Sketch 16). It rises as a massive square-shaped pier, lacking doors or windows. Its function is unknown, although its position midpoint in the district at Dick's Gulch places it at the center of the heaviest industrial activity. The base measures 17'6" across the south side, with the walls above 15' square (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0054 and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0055). Much of the north (rear) and east walls have crumbled. An assortment of thick metal cables likely associated with this feature surround the structure. A

³² Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-019*, 2020, p. 1.

³³ Cassius A. Fisher, *Clays in the Kootenai Formation Near Belt*, Montana, Clays in Montana, US Geological Survey, Bulletin No. 340, 1908, p. 423; "New Mining Companies," *The Colliery Engineer*, P. 63, October 1892.

³⁴ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-020*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

steel rail wrapped with steel cable is embedded in the structure (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0055 and (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0056). Wooden timbers are also embedded in the feature.³⁵

AB-022 (one contributing structure)

This very deteriorated stone-walled structure is likely a lime kiln that rises upslope from a possible old road grade near the creek (Sketch 17). The remaining walls demark the most intact corner displaying an interior measurement of roughly 7' high (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0058). An 11' opening occurs within the east wall. The north side exhibits another 4'6" section of wall; the corner of a wooden bin still remains (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0059). Surrounding and adjacent to the structure are deposits of lime waste tailings sluffing down the hillside toward a stone wall that appears to have been the rear of the structure (Photos MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0058, MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0059, and MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0060).³⁶

AB-023 (one contributing structure)

A small brick beehive kiln/oven positioned on a square, coursed limestone base (Sketch 18) stands just south of AB-019, the heavily walled storage structure. A firebox projects to either side of the structure at its base, which measures 12'6" between the two firebox openings. The square base walls surround a cylindrical kiln on the interior, measuring 6'6" across the outside diameter (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0061). The kiln interior is lined with an 18"-thick wall of HOSFORD firebrick (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0063). Wooden posts anchor the corners, and metal tie rods connect to the posts to reinforce the base. The top courses and top sections of the kiln are no longer extant (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0062).³⁷

AB-024 (one contributing structure)

This small collapsed wooden structure appears to be constructed of recycled bridge decking (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0064). There are two collapsed wall sections lying on the ground to the south: one section is constructed with 4" x 4" framing, vertical board walls, and a 32" window in the upper wall; the other section has vertical studs and 10" wide horizontal boards (Sketch 19). The foundation measures 35' long and 10' deep, with a central doorway opening in the west wall. The 16' southern half of the foundation consists of concrete and the 16' northern half consists of large foundation stones. There are 12' heavy square timbers resting on the foundation: three timbers high on the east (rear), one timber high on the west and four timbers remaining on the south wall (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0065). The north end no longer stands.³⁸

³⁵ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-021*, 2020, p. 1.

³⁶ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-022*, 2020, p. 1.

³⁷ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-023*, 2020, p. 1.

³⁸ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-024*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

AB-025 (one contributing structure)

A wood-framed chicken coop built with 6" x 6" corner posts and 2" x 6" and 4" x 4" vertical supports stand west of AB-024, the small collapsed wooden structure. The coop sports a shed roof, higher at front and sloping toward the rear (Sketch 20 and Sketch 21). There is a door on the north elevation and two large windows on the west (front) (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0066). These windows were likely screened or possibly shuttered; no sills exist to support window sashes. The roof is covered with two layers of wood, both running horizontally across the coop. There are remnants of composite asphalt sheeting between the layers, potentially used as roofing (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0067). The coop walls are covered with horizontal shiplap with vertical 1" boards on top. Both the interior and exterior were either painted or limewashed.

The back wall has a line of separate framed chicken nest boxes beneath a 34" high platform. Each chicken box is covered with chicken wire, each with a hinged door. In addition, a metal vent pipe is set into the south wall.³⁹

AB-026 (one contributing structure)

AB-026 (Sketch 22) is a large stone pier constructed of cut and coursed limestone, overgrown with tall grasses, mullein, and juniper bushes (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0068). The pier is built into the hillside above the creek and has 24" thick walls; outside dimensions measure 27' wide by 9' deep (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0069). There are two openings in the north wall that resemble windows, one spanned by a large limestone lintel. On the last 6' of its south end, the pier drops down three courses lower in height than the rest of the structure.

Adjacent to the pier and likely associated is a 26' stone retaining wall that extends to the north. It is unclear what the historical function of this feature may have been.⁴⁰

AB-027, 028 (two contributing buildings) and **AB-035** (one contributing structure)

These three interlinked hydro-power features described in more detail below include a shed-roofed power house, Feature AB-027; a gable-roofed turbine house, Feature AB-028 (Sketch 23 and Sketch 24); and Feature AB-035, a steel pipe flume system, controlled by a concrete headwall. These structures served as primary resources in a system that harnessed the power of Belt Creek by channeling water through the pair of steel pipes laid in a diversion flume along the creek (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0072). The pipes originate at a concrete dam with a head gate to control flow (Sketch 24) (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0073). Water flowed through the base of the turbine house spanning the flume, outfitted with turbines that turned a belt drive connecting the works to the powerhouse.⁴¹ The structures are on the east side of Belt Creek just downstream of where Dicks Gulch enters (Map 7).

³⁹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-025*, 2020, p. 1.

⁴⁰ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-026*, 2020, p. 1.

⁴¹ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-027 & 28*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

AB-027: The powerhouse building is 9'4" high at front and constructed of cut, coursed limestone walls (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0070). The east half of the south wall is composed of brick, with a doorway partially infilled at a later date. There is a storage shed at the southeast corner, with 6" x 6" timber posts supporting a shed roof, sided and roofed with corrugated metal (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0071). The rear, east wall has double doors in the north half finished with vertical shiplap; the walls are similarly sheathed with vertical shiplap. The old Montana Central Railway grade runs north-south on the east side alongside the raceway and this structure.

AB-028

AB-028, the turbine house building, is square in shape and covered with a gable roof (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0071). The structure is constructed with heavy framing, including an 11' long 10" x 10" timber that supports the structure above the water flume. The framing includes 4" x 4" timbers, with walls enclosed with 1" boards; the roof is sheathed with two layers of shiplap boards. The heavy framing of the structure supports large metal gears, wheels, and the belt shaft that extends from an upper level to the powerhouse. The belt shaft was supported on three horizontal 10" x 10" timbers resting on 8" x 8" timber posts.

AB-029 (counted as one contributing site)

AB-029 consists of the very deteriorated remains of three buildings: two log and one wood (Sketch 25). Log building 1 featured saddle-notched corners; only a few logs now remain in the northeast corner (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0075). Log building 2 displayed V-notched corners; only a small part of the northwest corner now remains (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0075). The remnants of Building 3 consist of a pile of wood (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0076). Surrounding these building remains are various scraps of sheet metal. Situated south of Dick's Gulch, this site may have served as a residential area for mine workers, but further investigation is required to verify the possibility.⁴²

AB-030 (one contributing structure)

AB-030 consists of a pair of massive lime kilns, built together and measuring 29' E-W x 22'3" N-S (Sketch 26). The kilns are built against the hillside that slopes down to the Belt Creek floodplain and remain in relatively stable condition (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0077 and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0078). The structure consists of paired vertical shaft kilns, formed of common red brick with fire boxes lined with firebrick (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0079). Each firebox has a round-arched opening with an iron metal surround bolted to the brick, lined on the interior with firebrick, and a metal grate at the bottom with an air chamber below for a draft (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0080). Each firebox is reinforced with three vertical iron I-beams along each side, and 6" x 6" wooden posts at each of the upper (south) brick corners. The two kilns stand on a base of cut limestone and a towering cylindrical chimney flue of riveted iron lined with fire brick surmounts each kiln (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0081). Each chimney rises to a conical upper section fitted with dampers to control the air draw.

⁴² Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-029*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

The kilns were loaded and fired on the upper grade of the sloped site and accessed from the south for these functions. At the lower grade of the slope, the limestone base was separated into two loading bays below each kiln, each housed with a metal funnel at the lower terminus of the kiln to direct the lime into ore cars (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0082). Heavy iron strapping supports the brick structure above the loading bay openings.

East of the base, the hillside is retained by a 9' 6" high cribbed wooden wall. Below the kilns, a stone retaining wall, 2' thick and 48' long, spans the site between the kilns and Belt Creek.⁴³

AB-031 (one contributing structure)

This feature is a deteriorated stone and brick structure built against the hillside that slopes down to Belt Creek (Sketch 27). The primary elevation faces west toward the creek, with a doorway offset to the south (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0084). The north portion of the front, (west) wall, the north wall, and the rear wall (east) are built of roughly coursed large blocks of limestone, while the south wall is constructed of common red brick (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0083). A stout limestone lintel is located atop the west end of the south wall, and a limestone chimney rises from a fireplace at the base in the southeast corner of the structure. It appears a wood framed roof once covered the structure at one time.⁴⁴ The function of the structure is not clear, but it may have been an office due to its small size and lack of windows.

AB-032 (one contributing site)

This quarry site is located on the west side of Belt Creek, on the north side of Dick's Gulch (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0133). This approximately 5-acre quarry is quite possibly William Albright's major source of limestone as it is accessible by bridge across Belt Creek and located at the site of his powerplant and crusher (Map 7 and Map 14) (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0133). Overgrowth has overtaken the lower portions of this quarry, but the vertical cliff scars remain (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0121).

AB-033 (one contributing site)

Located at the northwestern corner of the nominated area (Map 8), this quarry site bears the scars of mining along and below the remaining cliff. At the base of this location, the remnants of several ore cars are scattered. This may have been a smaller independent lime producer, as there were multiple present in the Belt Creek Valley, including one at Logging Creek and one near Camp Don Bosco (Map 12). This approximately 2-acre quarry may have been part of Albright's operation, or may have been under another operator. (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0026).

AB-034 Montana Central Railroad: Great Falls-Neihart Branch Railroad Spur Grade (one contributing structure)

A few small segments of the Montana Central Railway (later the Great Northern Railway) grade remain intact within the Albright Historic District boundary. The approximately one-mile stretch

⁴³ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-030*, 2020, p. 1.

⁴⁴ Preserve Montana, *Site Form AB-031*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

of rail bed is located on the east side of Belt Creek through the nominated area, running north-south, entering the NR boundary at the southern end, and exiting to the north (Map 17 and Map 27). Today's hiking trail primarily follows the railroad bed, although in some locations, washouts have occurred and slight detours abound as new vegetation reroutes the trail in spots. Where the bed is visible, it is approximately 8' wide, and elevated above the waters of Belt Creek from 12' to 50'.

AB-035 (counted as one contributing structure)

These hydro-power components consist of a pair of steel pipes laid north-south in a diversion flume along Belt Creek (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0072). The pipes originate at a concrete dam with a head gate to control flow (Sketch 24) (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0073). The water then flowed into the base of the turbine house, Feature AB-028. This concrete and steel assemblage served as a primary resource in a system that harnessed the power of Belt Creek by channeling water through Features AB-027 and AB-028. The structures are on the east side of Belt Creek just downstream of where Dicks Gulch enters (Map 7).

Ore Cars (counted as one contributing object)

Resources OC-01 through OC-16 consist of approximately 16 ore cars of varying condition scattered along the historic railroad grade that once connected the Albright Historic District with the Anaconda smelter and community of Great Falls. Distributed primarily in the central to southern end of the district, the condition of the carts ranges from wheels and steel frames, to fully intact cars with wooden carts and steel doors atop their wheel base (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0085 thru Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0105).⁴⁵

In 1913, the railroad lodged complaints about their cars being damaged during loading of limestone at the Albright quarries. J. H. Klepinger of the Albright Mine suggested revising the feeder chute by adding two bends to slow down the ore before it reached the ore cars: "We realize, of course, that the use of steel cars, as suggested by us some time ago, would avoid this difficulty; but I believe we are hardly justified in requesting them to furnish this type of car altogether."⁴⁶ Such a quote suggests the inadequacy of carts constructed from wood was readily apparent early on.

While 16 ore cars (or fragments of ore cars) are documented at this time, it is probable additional remnants remain scattered across the property hidden by vegetation. Additional ore cars have also been reported directly north of the district northern boundary, but these features are not included as they fall outside of the defined Albright Historic District.

⁴⁵ Preserve Montana, *Site Form Ore Carts 001-016*, 2020, p. 1.

⁴⁶ Letter from J. H. Klepinger of the Albright Mine to J. W. Hall, representative of the railroad at Albright regarding the rail cars, January 2nd, 1913. Letter copy on file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT. p. 1-2.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Localized Rail Components (counted as two contributing sites)

Smithsonian site number 24CA0371 encompasses the railroad route that follows Belt Creek through the canyon.⁴⁷ While the Montana Central Railway (later the Great Northern Railway) did pass directly through Albright/Limedale, the rail components referenced herein are of a lighter gage and associated with the local movement of materials in and around Albright. The railroad-related resources tend to be concentrated in two area, noted on the attached maps as RR-01 and RR-02; these two areas contain steel railroad rails of varying lengths and shapes, scattered along the east side of the rail grade (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0107 and Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0112). Rails bear an embossed maker's mark: "Illinois Steel Co. Joliet Works 180" (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0106).

The Joliet Works were located in Joliet, Illinois, and began manufacturing in the 1870s, reorganizing as the Joliet Iron and Steel Company in 1873. In 1889, they merged with the Illinois Steel Company, the Midwest's largest steel manufacturer at the time. Eventually they integrated into the Federal Steel Company and finally into U. S. Steel, the nation's largest steel maker.⁴⁸ The plant ceased production in the 1970s.

Associated with the rails are the markers of RP-03 thru RP-06, which reference "frog" sections of railroad switch plates. These four frogs are of varying designs, the central element in a railroad track switch, for changing engines and cars from one section of track to another.⁴⁹ The frogs in the Albright Mining Historic District are scattered along the historic rail grade that runs north-south through the core of the district, but are primarily found in the southern end (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0108 thru Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0111).⁵⁰

Please see Resource Coordinate information, Section 10 below, for resource number, name, and locational information.

Integrity

The Albright Historic District displays fair overall integrity as a representative of the railroad and mining industries in Montana during the period of significance (1894-1945). When developed, mining towns and the mines they supported were not intended to last—generally, once the subsurface wealth disappeared, so too did the workers and those living in the town. Buildings were often moved to other locations and materials salvaged or scavenged. Although many of the site's buildings and structures have collapsed, are in ruins, or have disappeared altogether, much

⁴⁷ 24CA0371 Montana Cultural Resource Inventory System Form, Patrick Rennie, March 12, 2008, p. 1, on file at the Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

⁴⁸ Joseph DeRose, Carolyn Brown, Gray Fitzsimons, and Margaret Mulrooney, *Joliet Iron and Steel Company, Joliet Works*, Historic American Engineering Record, HAER Ill 99-JOL 6, 1986-1987, p. 3.

⁴⁹ *Railway Frog*, AGICO Group, 2024. Viewed on December 28, 2024 at <https://www.rail-fastener.com/railway-frog.html>.

⁵⁰ Preserve Montana, *Site Form RR Rails 001-002*, 2020, p. 1.; Preserve Montana, *Site Form RR Switch Plates 003-006*, 2020, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

of the original historic character of the district remains. In addition, no intrusive elements have been introduced to the district.

The property retains excellent integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The district obviously lies in its original location and the mining-related resources retain their historic geologic context per the location selected for their use. The immediate setting of the district and the surrounding landscape are virtually unchanged from when the town was occupied and mining occurred, albeit, vegetation in and around the district has returned, restoring the forested environment in which this mining activity originated. The significant number of buildings, structures, and artifacts that remain that share the common mining and town history allow strong integrity of feeling and association. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship has been compromised due to a number of factors that include scavenging, removal of buildings, structures, and machinery to other locations, and of course, mother nature. Heavy snow loads have taken their toll on many of the extant structural resources. While the extant architectural and structural components have certainly decayed since their original construction and use, many still allow the presentation of their vernacular architecture that reflects the time and location. Although few stand complete, the resources together retain a degree of architectural integrity, as a variety of examples of how local materials, particularly lumber and stone, were used in a remote location. In the case of the resources at the Albright Historic District, the sum is truly greater than the parts.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

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.)

- ☒ 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
- ☐ 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

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
TRANSPORTATION: Railroad-related

Period of Significance

1894-1945

Significant Dates

1894
1911
1944
1945

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown

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.)

Located parallel to Belt Creek, approximately 40 miles southeast of Great Falls, Montana, and within the Sluice Boxes State Park, lie the remains of the town and limestone mining operations of Albright, oftentimes referred to interchangeably as Limedale. The property is significant under Criterion A at a local level of significance for its association with mining history and tourism in the Belt Creek Valley, specifically, within the defined borders of the Albright Historic District. Mining within the Belt Creek Valley began farther south, near Monarch but migrated north with

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

the introduction of a Montana Central Railway (later Great Northern Railway) railroad spur. The lure of riches came in many forms, and in the case of Albright, it presented itself in the extraction of limestone from the steep walls of the valley to feed the Boston and Montana Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining Company smelters in Great Falls. As the population of Albright and the surrounding area grew and word got out of the area's beauty and cooler summer temperatures, it became a legitimate tourist destination, one that drew a plethora of sportsmen to test their fishing skills in Belt Creek.

Under Criterion C, the architectural resources that remain represent a variety of resources dominated by mining and residential resources that include residential building sites, some standing residential and associated outbuilding features, railroad-related resources, and industrial limestone mining resources reflective of the time. Constructed primarily of wood and stone materials native to the area, the resources display vernacular construction applicable to the period of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The resources reflect the basic needs of occupants and workers with little additional flourish. Several mining-related resources remain that reflect engineering principles of the period used to extract the limestone from the surrounding cliffs. For the most part, the resources were never intended to be permanent, and many were rebuilt time after time when the waters of Belt Creek overflowed its banks.

Criterion D often focuses on subsurface investigations. Resources and artifacts scattered across the Albright Historic District suggest the property's ability to address a number of specific research issues that could also be extrapolated to other similar properties. Formal archaeological testing has yet to occur, but the number of surface cultural resources identified strongly indicate fertile ground for industrial archaeology studies relating to both workers and residents. In addition, little is formally documented regarding the extent of the mining quarries or their supporting infrastructure in the canyon beyond Albright. Many loose industrial archaeology period artifacts remain unidentified, and no identified artifacts have been investigated regarding possible association with any of Albright's occupants.

It is further known that the general location of the Albright Historic District lays within a cultural landscape previously utilized by the First Peoples for thousands of years evidenced by nearby documented cultural resources. Although these early sites would predate the period of significance for the Albright Historic District, further investigation of the area north of the district could potentially lead to a boundary increase if features are identified that date to the period of significance or potentially to another nomination focused on precontact groups.

Although the Montana Central Railway spur was laid through the valley in 1891, including the area that later became Albright, the establishment of Albright didn't occur until a few years later, with the result that while the railroad grade and railroad resources are considered contributing resources to the Albright Historic District, the period of significance doesn't begin with their appearance but instead begins in 1894, when William Albright commenced his mining operation and made use of the rail branch for limestone transport; the beginning of William Albright's mining in the area also marks the town's founding.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

The end of the period of significance is 1945, reflecting the when the last train moved through the valley bringing a virtual halt to the camping and fishing tourism that operated concurrently with much of the mining activity. The cessation of rail travel through Albright and the Belt Creek Valley only postponed the closure of the last limestone mine in town by a year.

Significant dates include 1894, marking the opening of William Albright's limestone mine and the beginning of the town of Albright. The year 1911 denotes the sale of Albright's mine to Amalgamated Cooper Company (later Anaconda Copper Company). Nineteen forty-four represents the final closure of the last operating mine in Albright, and 1945, corresponds to the year the Great Northern Railway ceased rail transport through the Belt Creek Valley bringing a virtual stoppage to the outdoor tourist trade.

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

The story of Albright has its beginnings in the early Montana gold rush days, not because mining activity occurred at Albright at the start, but because the search for gold led to the pursuit of other metals including copper, silver, and lead. Mining and timber activities took place upstream from what would become Albright at least a decade prior to the beginning of the period of significance and these early activities are directly related to the eventual establishment of Albright and its immediate southern neighbor, Limesdale—the majority of maps and newspaper references mention the area as “Albright.”⁵¹ These activities also directly link to the industrial development that occurred at the time in Great Falls, Montana, and intertwined specifically with the smelter and the concrete used at the dams, in addition to common household and construction uses for lime. The gold, silver, and lead mineral deposits near the town of Logging Creek and further upstream in the Monarch-Neihart area spurred expansion in the upper Belt Creek Valley that attracted early immigrants, pre-railroad mining, and eventually led to the willingness of the railroad to develop the new railroad spur in 1891 that passed through the future location of Albright. Logging Creek lies within walking distance, no more than two miles, from the limestone works at Albright. An early lime kiln was built adjacent to where a bridge stands there today, corresponding to the beginning of Albright's limestone extraction operation in 1894, or potentially slightly earlier. Logging Creek boasted sawmills, workers, and residents, and an accessible road several years before the railroad arrived. The development of Logging Creek, Monarch, and Neihart, their association with Albright, and the often-overlooked aspect of tourism to the area via the “fish train” historically bind them together; Albright's history cannot be discussed without that of the nearby towns, including Logging Creek.

Three Montanans stand out in the story of Albright, the first two, William H. Albright and his wife Villa Clara Albright, cattle ranchers, sheep ranchers, and miners. William and his wife Villa

⁵¹ The town of Albright and its immediate neighbor to the south, Limesdale, share a common history. The name “Limesdale” assumed a lesser role in terms of a locational reference with nearly all maps and most newspaper articles referring to the area as “Albright.”

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

came to acquire properties from his first ranch near today's Rosebud, Montana, to the area southeast of Great Falls, Montana. Villa is listed as the deed holder on many of their shared properties and was actually the deed holder at the site of the limestone extraction of Albright.

The third is Col. John (Jack) E. Williams, who arrived in the Belt Creek area at Logging Creek a few years prior to the Albrights. The origin of "Col." has not yet been established, but is potentially related to Civil War service. Like the Albrights, Williams was a citizen of action, always involved in a new project, new enterprise, or often – some sort of dispute. Williams's lime operation was literally across the "street" at Albright, to the south of William Albright's limestone extraction processing. Their interaction was often contentious, a situation that continued when the mine sold to the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company.

The story of the town of Albright is one of boom-and-bust, replete with an interweaving of mineral extraction, immigration, railroading, regional development, and the stories of the people that made it happen. Albright's remote location, difficulty of access, and specific mining function eventually led to its decline. Today, the building stock that once stood during Albright's peak is greatly diminished; however, resources that remain greet visitors to the remote park, welcoming them to a slice of history in the Belt Creek Valley.

Early Mining History and Logging Creek

Since 1862, people rushed to exploit mineral resources of what was to become Montana with immigrants swarming into the western part of the state primarily in search of gold, but as the bust-and-boom strikes that included Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena faded, explorers searched the northwest for additional metals to mine. In October of 1871, Buck Barker and Patrick Hughes explored the Dry Fork of Belt Creek on a hunting expedition where they found not only game, but a rich deposit of silver and lead at what would become Neihart.⁵² By 1881, mines had been established in the area of Neihart and more than 100 men worked in the area. Initially, ore was transported to Fort Benton by wagon or pack train to be shipped down the Missouri to smelters as far away as Wales, England.⁵³

A few miles northwest of Monarch, on the southern side of Tiger Butte, stockmen and prospectors moved in as early as the 1880s to take advantage of open range and mineral resources.⁵⁴ In addition, people began harvesting timber and establishing mills to support construction and mining, and the area and associated stream soon became known as Logging Creek, a few miles south of Albright.⁵⁵ Logging Creek, also known as Morris and Campsite, was settled in 1889 with a post office and a station on the rail line (Map 13 and Map 26)

⁵² Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 5. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

⁵³ Nels Thoreson, interview by Sasha Lewis, June 20, 1997.

⁵⁴ Carol Martinell, Barbara Mittal, Sylvia Mundt, Lois Nelson, "Tiger Butte Recollections, A Project of the Tiger Butte Extension Homemakers," 1990, p. 7. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

⁵⁵ "Logging Creek," Montana State Gazetteer, R. L. Polk & Co., Circa 1890, p. 216. Accessed at The State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

approximately two miles south of what became known as Albright (Map 26). Gold and silver miners present in the area in 1888, found new strikes along 10 miles of the creek.⁵⁶ F.M. Woodward operated a sawmill there by that date and probably sold construction material to the community through the area timber brokers and at Albright.

The volume of available lumber resource in the area in 1891 is substantiated by a Notice of Application to Cut Timber, filed by S.M. Dodd:

In accordance with the provisions of the rules and regulations governing the use of timber on the public domain, promulgated by circular, approved by the secretary of the interior, May 5, 1891, notice is hereby given that the undersigned S. M. Dodd, whose post office address is Logging Creek, Montana, will, at the expiration of twenty-one days from the first publication of this notice, will make written application to the honorable secretary of interior for authority to cut and remove all the pine and fir timber suitable for saw logs, umber or cordwood from the following described, Unsurveyed government lands, to wit:

Beginning north of the mouth of Logging Creek at bridge No. 219, where the Montana Central railroad crosses Belt creek; thence in a westerly direction up Logging creek, a distance of about four miles to a point one mile north of Logging creek; thence in a southerly direction a distance of two miles to a point one mile south of Logging creek; thence in an easterly direction a distance of four miles to a point on Belt creek about one south of the mouth of Logging creek; thence down Belt creek in a northerly direction a distance of about two miles to the place of beginning, it being the intention to cut said timber from a tract of land extending one mile on either side of said Logging creek and four miles westward from the mouth thereof, being in the form of a square two by four miles, containing about 5,120 acres of land, all said lands being Unsurveyed government lands, mountainous, unfit for agriculture or grazing, situate, lying and being within the county of Cascade, state of Montana, and being non-mineral except as to limestone. It is estimated that there is sufficient pine timber thereon to make about 500,000 feet of lumber and enough fir timber to make about 500,000 feet of lumber, besides the inestimable amount of cordwood that may be made from such part of said timber as may be unfit for lumber. Said timber is wanted for the purpose of manufacturing lumber and cordwood for sale in the market.
First publication Aug. 16. S.M. Dodd.⁵⁷

“Well-known rancher,” and owner of a “mansion” located at the mouth of Logging creek, Samuel Dodd, failed to lock up the timber resources, with the result he turned his attentions to opening a limestone mine and kiln “at or near the mouth of Logging creek,” where in 1892, a

⁵⁶ “Barker and Neihart Districts,” *The Castle News*, May 4, 1888, p. A3.

⁵⁷ “Notice of Application to Cut Timber, S. M. Dodd,” *The Independent Record*, Tuesday, September 15, 1891, p. 2.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

dispute over wages for three employees made the news. The workers settled the issue favorably.⁵⁸

By 1878, smelters had been constructed in Butte, Montana, to process ores containing the variety of metals extracted at those locations.⁵⁹ Regional smelter construction continued in 1884 as copper baron Marcus Daly constructed a large smelter in Anaconda, Montana, but it would be the Great Falls smelter built by Paris Gibson called upon to process the ore brought from the mines at Monarch, Neihart, Wolf Creek and the Barker District. Metal and mineral resources mined in the Belt Creek area included gold, silver, galena, lead, coal, clay, limestone, mica, and gypsum. Constructed by the Boston and Montana Consolidated Copper and Silver Mining Company in 1888, the smelter and refinery in Great Falls, Montana began operation.⁶⁰ The success of the smelter in Great Falls and the functional relationship between it and the limestone operations at Albright depended on a combination of the factors of a) the availability of ore to process, b) access to water, used for processing operations and the generation of power, c) the availability of nearby coal deposits to fire the smelters, d) access to a railroad system, and lastly – d) the availability of lime needed as flux in the smelter furnaces. It was the need of this flux that instigated W. H. Albright to open a limestone mine.

The First Town of Albright and Its Namesake

The story related to the name of the town of Albright, Montana, actually began approximately two miles west of present-day Rosebud, Montana, on the north side of the Yellowstone River (Map 9, Map 10, and Map 11). Born in Madison County, Illinois on May 3, 1855, William H. Albright eventually took to western adventure.⁶¹ He traveled through New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado in 1879, as he came to Montana in 1880 from Texas with a group that brought 1,800 head of cattle to the area in what is now Rosebud County.⁶² Beginning the cattle drive in May and ending in September, W. H. Albright settled in Montana, establishing a 112 acre homestead and the town of Albright on the north side of the Yellowstone River, across from where the Rosebud Creek enters from the south. Albright also ran a ferry there (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0147), had an interest in a store, and established a Post

⁵⁸ "Skin-um Tim," *Meagher County News*, Saturday, October 1, 1892, p. 4.

⁵⁹ "The Mining History of Butte and Anaconda," Discover Mining History with the Mining History Association, Butte, Montana, 2011. Viewed on 12-30-2024 at <https://www.mininghistoryassociation.org/ButteHistory.htm>.

⁶⁰ "The Silver Smelter: Barely a Memory," The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Viewed on 12-30-2024 at <https://www.greatfallshistorymuseum.org/blog/the-silver-smelter-barely-a-memory>. Reference in this nomination to the smelter(s) in Great Falls alternates between Boston and Montana Smelter, Boston & Montana Smelter, B. and M. Smelter, B. & M. Smelter, with the department within the Anaconda Company technically referenced as, Anaconda Copper Mining Company Boston & Montana Reduction Department.

⁶¹ "Personal History and Reminiscences," Chapter XXXIII, *History of Montana 1739-1885*, Warner Beers & Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1885, p. 1035. Viewed on 12-30-2024 at https://www.google.com/books/edition/History_of_Montana_1739_1885/IB1PAAAAYAAI?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22history+of+montana%22+albright&pg=PA1035&printsec=frontcover.

⁶² "W.H. Albright Dies; Pioneer of This Area," *Great Falls Tribune*, January 17, 1934.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

Office, where he became the first Postmaster.⁶³ When the railroad reached the present town of Rosebud on the south side of the Yellowstone in 1882, the town of Rosebud was established and the Post Office was moved there, with Albright serving as Postmaster.⁶⁴ He acted as postmaster from October 28, 1884 to July 3, 1892.⁶⁵ The town that bore the original Albright appellation soon faded, but W. H. Albright retained his ranch in the area as he and his wife Villa would later obtain property adjacent to and near Belt Creek, southwest of Great Falls, Montana (Map 19 and Map 20).⁶⁶

William H. Albright, Col. John (Jack) E. Williams, and the Birth of the Mining Town of Albright

In many respects, the story of Albright is often the story of its two main supporters, John (Jack) E. Williams and the town's namesake, William H. Albright (and his wife Villa). Within the Belt Creek Valley, the lives and concerns of William H. Albright and Col. John (Jack) E. Williams continued to intertwine for over 20 years, beginning when the railroad first appeared and ending in 1911, when the Albrights sold their mine.

Construction of the Montana Central Railway (later the Great Northern Railway) branch into the Belt Creek Valley in 1891, expanded opportunities of mineral mining that included the extraction of limestone and its processing into lime. The Belt Creek area had already experienced a mining phase with silver exploration at locations that included Monarch. By 1890, silver had boomed and busted with the result that the nearby mining communities of "Neihart, Clendennin, Gold Run, Meagher City, Monarch, and Hughesville were nearly abandoned."⁶⁷ The appearance of James Hill's railroad to the north generated renewed interest in mining promising a better way to move ore, and in 1891, a spur was completed from the north, south down the Belt Creek Valley to Neihart and Barker (Map 18). The new rail spur spanning from Armington to Neihart required 40 trestles to crisscross Belt Creek. As the railroad was built through the narrow Belt Creek Valley, the availability of unlimited quantities of limestone evident by the cliffs towering above inspired Albright to expand its mining focus and open a limestone mine to produce flux for the smelter in Great Falls.

⁶³ Dave Lloyd, *History of Early Rosebud*, Self-published, 1977, p. 12, 15, 19.

⁶⁴ Dave Lloyd, *History of Early Rosebud*, Self-published, p. 15.

⁶⁵ Dennis J. Lutz, M.D., *Montana Post Offices*, Montana Post Offices & Postmasters, Montana Chapter No. 1, National Association of Postmasters of the United States, p. 5. Accessed at the Great Falls History Museum, Great Falls, Montana.

⁶⁶ Note that William H. Albright is not to be confused with William E. Albright, who was present in nearby Granite County during the same period. Also born in Missouri, but four years later than William H., William E. came to Montana when he was 23 and settled in the "Flint" Valley of Granite County. The two share life parallels in addition to their common time in Montana; both men engaged in ranching, both men had mining interests, and both men held a public office twice – for William H. Albright, it was the office of postmaster; for William E. Albright, it was the Office of County Assessor. Helen Fitzgerald Sanders, *A History of Montana*, Volume II, The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1913, p. 1198. Accessed on 12-30-2024 at https://www.google.com/books/edition/A_History_of_Montana/OT84AQAAAMAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=%22history+of+montana%22+albright&pg=PA1196-IA6&printsec=frontcover

⁶⁷ Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 7. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Limestone mining differs from metals mining firstly in that limestone is a sedimentary rock primarily made up of calcium carbonate (calcite) or of calcium and magnesium (dolomite), heated to change its chemical composition into lime. Limestone is “commonly composed of tiny fossils, shell fragments and other fossilized debris.”⁶⁸ Raw limestone may be used as building material in either a grouted or dry-stacked configuration, and both methods were employed at Albright. The limestone was primarily excavated to allow its conversion into lime, a chemical substance derived from limestone through a high-temperature process called calcination, which removes the carbon dioxide, leaving behind calcium oxide.⁶⁹ This process occurs through the use of a kiln. The resulting lime can be used for a variety of uses that include flux, a concrete additive, as a primary binder and plaster (into the early 1900s), to neutralize soils, and as an additive to be sprinkled into common outhouses to reduce smell and bugs.⁷⁰ Noting its use for the later purpose an announcement in 1898 in the *Great Falls Tribune* noted, “Another car load of fresh lime will arrive today from Limesdale for Sam Wilber. Spread lime in your alleys and cesspools if you wish to prevent diphtheria.”⁷¹

In 1889, W. H. Albright traveled to Great Falls and worked for a time in a silver smelter. He managed to save some money to purchase property, eventually expanding his ownership to approximately 14,000 acres of land in the Monarch district.⁷² W. H. had irons in many fires; he became more directly involved in extraction, opening his limestone mine along Belt Creek in 1893 or 1894, spurred on by the potential to move his stone via the railroad. Not content with mining only, he also added a sheep operation to his resume.

Col. J. E. Williams came to the Albright/Limesdale/Lumber Creek area around the time when the railroad arrived, similar in time to Albright’s arrival. Like Albright, Williams focused on metals claims. Williams served under Grant during the Civil War and “always had a good story up his sleeve,”⁷³ Williams came to operate a well-known lime kiln he built into a lucrative business filling the needs of those not accommodated by Albright’s larger operation. His business thrived until stucco came into general use, thereby eliminating a source of his income.

Williams potentially enters the regional historical record as “John E. Williams” in 1885 at Butte. It is not known exactly when, how, or why “Col.” became attached to his name, but it did not appear during his time in Butte where he was involved in a dispute, a pattern that followed him his entire life:

⁶⁸ “Limestone: Characteristics, Uses and Problem,” U. S. General Services Administration, 2024. Accessed on 12-30-2024 at [https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/historic-preservation/historic-preservation-policy-tools/preservation-tools-resources/technical-procedures/limestone-characteristics-uses-and-problem#:~:text=Introduction,calcium%20and%20magnesium%20\(dolomite\).](https://www.gsa.gov/real-estate/historic-preservation/historic-preservation-policy-tools/preservation-tools-resources/technical-procedures/limestone-characteristics-uses-and-problem#:~:text=Introduction,calcium%20and%20magnesium%20(dolomite).)

⁶⁹ “How Lime is Made,” National Lime Association, 2024, Accessed on 12-30-2024 at <https://www.lime.org/lime-basics/how-lime-is-made/>.

⁷⁰ “History of the Old Outhouse,” Capper’s Farmer, 2021, Accessed on 12-30-2024 at <https://www.cappersfarmer.com/humor-and-nostalgia/old-outhouse-history-zm0z17suzsgre/>.

⁷¹ “Spray of the Falls,” *Great Falls Tribune*, May 31, 1898, p. 3.

⁷² “W.H. Albright Dies; Pioneer of This Area,” *Great Falls Tribune*, January 17, 1934, p. 7.

⁷³ “Reminiscences of an Old-Timer,” W.V. Talbott, *Belt Valley Times*, November 12, 1936, p. 1.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

The case of William Terry, charged with grand larceny, came up before Judge Lippincott yesterday, and occupied the greater portion of the afternoon. Terry was arrested on complaint of John E. Williams, who claimed that the defendant abstracted from his pockets the sum of \$60, in three \$20 gold pieces. Williams at the time he lost the money was on a protracted spree, from the effects of which he had hardly recovered at the time of trial. During the hearing of the case Williams had to be ejected by the Sheriff for disorderly and insolent conduct. The evidence against Terry was purely circumstantial, and mainly brought forward by the prosecuting witness. The Judge reserved his decision until 10 o'clock this morning.⁷⁴

By 1886, Williams moved to Centerville, several miles southeast of Great Falls. In February of that year, a fire broke out around midnight that consumed a total of five buildings, including the residence of "John E. Williams."

...the fire was found to have originated in William Thomas' American house... the house was flanked on the south by a neat residence building... Beyond this was a vacant space of about fifty feet and then a building owned by Richard James and occupied by him and the Centerville Mining Journal. North of the American was C. C. Boe's two-story building, occupied as a dry goods store and residence; next adjoining was a frame and log building..., and beyond that a small structure belonging to John E. Williams... To save the American house or Boe's building was impossible. Stout hands therefore laid hold upon the Williams building, razed it to the ground and dragged the wreck out of the path of the flames.⁷⁵

Williams received \$600 for his property through insurance.⁷⁶ In early 1888, John E. Williams, along with hundreds of his neighbors, were published as being delinquent in their property taxes. Williams was listed as being \$5.28 delinquent on his three houses in Centerville.⁷⁷

By the end of February, 1889, John E. Williams had obtained property at the southern end of the Belt Creek Valley and was exploring for minerals.

We had the pleasure of a visit from John E. Williams of Clendeniu, Tuesday.⁷⁸
Mr. Williams is a rustler from Rustlerville.⁷⁹ At his mine, the T. W., he has 150

⁷⁴ "Criminal Proceedings Yesterday," *The Butte Miner*, Saturday, May 9, 1885, p. 4.

⁷⁵ "Centerville Suffers," *The Daily Town Talk*, Butte City, Montana Territory, Saturday, February 13, 1886, p. 1.

⁷⁶ "Another Big Blaze," *The Butte Miner*, Saturday, February 13, 1886, p. 4.

⁷⁷ "Delinquent Tax List," *The Butte Mining Journal*, Wednesday, February 8, 1888, p. 4.

⁷⁸ Note that Clendeniu or Clendenin, is located in West Virginia. This is potentially relevant to William's use of "Col.," although no sources have been located that place him in the Civil War.

⁷⁹ "Rustler from Rustlerville" was a slang term for a supposed tough person. The phrase also occurs at the end of the third verse of the poem "The 'Irish' Gold and Blue," as "They're rustlers all from Rustlerville, the Irish

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

tons of first-class dry ores, ranging all the way from 25 to 785 ounces silver to the ton, and plenty of it. He has a shaft on the vein fifty-five feet, the vein running Northeast and Southwest, the contact vein between porcelain and lime, and averaging four feet in width.⁸⁰

Williams remained in the area and continued his mineral exploration. The February 1889 edition of the *Great Falls Leader* reported:

Mr. John E. Williams came over yesterday to ask the *Leader* corps-editorial to rejoice with him in that he had found his lost "porcelain" mine. It was stowed away in a fissure of porphyry and lime. But for our pronounced prohibition (?) proclivities we should have taken a toddy straight.⁸¹

Despite William's hope in his new discovery, in May of 1889, he accompanied a shipment of his ore to Kansas City, Kansas, where it was tested for content. The results were not promising:

John E. Williams of Barker returned from his trip with a car-load of ore to the Kansas City Consolidated Smelting and Refining Company. He says "them fellers down there are too sharp." It is currently reported that Jack got badly done for there; that they got away with his ores for a song and the poor fellow had to borrow money with which to get back. He has had a full dose of Kansas ore sampling and purchasing. His wild-goose chase has resulted as we predicted and the *Leader*, tho' not specially happy over Jack's misfortune, is vindicated and right, as usual.⁸²

Continuing to pursue mining, in October of 1889, Williams joined John Sutherland, Ernest A. Ringwald, Julius Horst, Geo. B. Lockhart, and L. U. Colbath in the formation of the Carbonate Mining Company of Cascade County. The incorporators offered \$1,000,000 in capital stock at \$5 shares.⁸³

In March of 1890, Williams was busy with his mines on Pilgrim Creek, several miles south of the Albright Historic District, where he reported "work progressing and the prospects good."⁸⁴ His mining interests continued into late 1891 where he served as a trustee for the Idyl Gold and Silver Mining Company along with H. Ringwald, E. A. Ringwald, and Peter Harrison; with T. E.

Gold and Blue."; A. Blumyngtun Soarhedde, "The "Irish" Gold and Blue," *The Notre Dame Scholastic*, Volume XXXIX, No. 33, June 9, 1906, p. 1.

⁸⁰ "In from Barker," *The Great Falls Leader*, Wednesday, February 20, 1889, p. 1.

⁸¹ "Mr. John E. Williams," *The Great Falls Leader*, Thursday, February 21, 1889, p. 2.; Porphyry is "a rock consisting of feldspar crystals embedded in a compact dark red or purple groundmass. "Porphyry," Merriam-Webster online dictionary, Accessed on 2-9-2025 at <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/porphyry>.

⁸² "City and County News," *The Great Falls Leader*, Tuesday, May 28, 1889, p. 1.

⁸³ "City and State," *The Montana Record-Herald*, Monday, October 7, 1889, p. 5.

⁸⁴ "City and County News," *The Great Falls Leader*, Tuesday, March 18, 1890, p 4.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Collings, President. It was reported that its capital stock amounted to \$1,500,000, with debts totaling \$5,727.32.⁸⁵

William's metals mining interests were not going smoothly as in early March of 1892, a notice appeared.⁸⁶

To John E. Williams or whom it may concern. You are hereby notified that the undersigned, your co-owner in the Excelsior and Woodstock quartz lode mining claims has in accordance with section 2324 of the revised statutes of the United States expended in labor and improvements upon the said Excelsior and Woodstock quartz lode mining claims situated in the Carbonate [unorganized] mining district Meagher county, state of Montana, the sum of one hundred dollars on each claim for the purpose of holding and representing said claims according to law for the year ending December 31, 1891 and unless you contribute or cause to be contributed your portion of said expenditure amounting to the sum of eighty-three dollars and thirty-three cents together with interest and the cost of this publication within ninety days after the complete service of this notice by publication upon you, all your right, title and interest in and to the above described quartz lode mining claims will become the property of the undersigned your co-owner who has performed the work and made the required expenditure thereon. 11-23 William R. Getz

A second notice was published in April. In November of 1894, a notice appeared that "J. G. Jones quitclaims to John E. Williams mining property near Logging Creek."⁸⁷ With property title in hand, Williams was positioned to begin his lime operation.

During Albright's nascent period, growing pains around the area displayed themselves via the railroad, including the train jumping the tracks, three miles below Logging Creek in March of 1893. In the episode, a refrigerated car loaded with beer left the track when its front "truck" twisted, was run across a bridge, damaged ties, and derailed four freight cars. The passengers had to make their way past the debris and load on a boxcar for the ride back to town. The accident closed the track for a day. Three cars were totally wrecked.

Some Italian laborers that were sent to help clear away the wreck made away with several kegs of beer from the debris and cached them in the brush nearby. When the roadmaster ordered them to bring the property back they demurred and claimed that they intended to "celebrate St. Partick's Day," but they brought it back.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ "The Corporations File Their Annual Statements as Required by Law," *The Great Falls Leader*, Monday, September 21, 1891, p. 5.

⁸⁶ "Notice to Co-Owner," *The Neihart Herald*, Friday, March 4, 1892, p. 4.

⁸⁷ "County Records," *Great Falls Weekly Leader*, Thursday, November 22, 1894, p. 8.

⁸⁸ "Beer in a Wreck: Three Cars Jump the Track on the Neihart Branch," *The Independent Record*, Sunday, March 19, 1893, p. 1.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Other railroad-related mishaps included a \$20,000 damage lawsuit for an accident along the spur. The lawsuit filed on May 25, 1893, by Neihart dentist Edward W. Humphrey, invoked the dentist standing on the platform of the smoking car as the train traveled resulting in his right hand being crushed by the brake wheel.⁸⁹ Only a year later, on January 11, 1894, a non-injurious episode occurred when the regularly scheduled Neihart train left Great Falls and headed south, but was forced to turn back after approximately 20 miles due to a “big cut being packed full of snow.” The train made a second attempt beginning at eight o’clock a.m.⁹⁰

While William Albright’s mining catered to the large smelters in Great Falls, Williams focused his business, Cascade Lime Works, on supplying lime for smaller applications other than for use as flux. He prolifically advertised his lime through the local print media and maintained a public profile. During this period, newspapers often featured passing information about personal travels, stays in town, business dealings, and visits with relatives, and Col. J. E. Williams figured prominently. Such an instance appeared in an 1896 *Belt Valley Times* note: J. E. Williams, “the well-known lime dealer of the new town of Limedale, (Logging Creek),” was preparing to open a store on his property. At the time he has approximately 50 men working at his site.⁹¹

The town’s limestone extraction and lime refining expanded to include industrial structures that included rail sidings, kilns, and water diversion assemblies. Albright’s establishment as a rail stop and post office in 1898, resulted in the construction of a commissary, dormitories, residences, tarpaper shacks, and ancillary buildings.⁹² As the number of limestone extraction facilities increased in the valley, a connected, but separate community of indistinct boundaries known as Limedale (Map 28) evolved to the south. Components from both “communities” are included in this nomination as the definition of where each settlement started and ended is unclear. Articles and references shed little light regarding the exact nature of the relationship between Albright and Limedale, but documentation suggests two names may reference the same place. Further suggesting the town and local shared two names, is a 1906 directory for Albright that noted “Anderson John A, mngr Limedale Creamery Co.,” insinuating the interchangeable names of the town.⁹³ The possibility, however, does remain that an actual physical location of Limedale was slightly south of Albright, positioned on property owned by a J. E. Williams. Further discussion will reveal that W. H. Albright and J. E. Williams became rivals in the narrow valley and the name preference may have indicated differences of affiliation in the camps. As Albright grew primarily to the south along Belt Creek, the community of Logging Creek to the south grew north, resulting in the post office of Albright located less than two miles north of its southern neighbor.

⁸⁹ “Spray of the Falls: Friday Daily,” *Great Falls Weekly Tribune*, May 26, 1893, p. 7.

⁹⁰ “Local Railway Time Table,” *Great Falls Tribune*, January 11, 1894, p. 3.

⁹¹ “Current Notes,” *Belt Valley Times*, July 2, 1896, p. A5.

⁹² Carol Martinell, Barbara Mittal, Sylvia Mundt, Lois Nelson, “Tiger Butte Recollections,” A Project of the Tiger Butte Extension Homemakers, 1990, p. 213. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

⁹³ Cascade County Business Directory, 1906-1907, p. 332. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

An article from 1896 describes W.H. Albright's operation:

There are not a great many people who know what a growing and prosperous business has been located in the canyon near Logging Creek during the past year or two, the proportions to which it has grown and the development which the camp has made within the last year.

A Tribune reporter visited the camp a few days ago and learned some interesting facts relating to the development of one of Cascade County's hitherto neglected resources. It is just about three years ago that William Albright came to Logging Creek and with a force of a couple of men started in the business of quarrying lime rock for shipment to the silver smelter, where it was used for fluxing. It was a small beginning, but Mr. Albright had the right stuff in him and, by hard work and close attention to business, he gradually increased his custom and his plant till today he has 25 men on the payroll, and is shipping 15 cars of lime rock a week. Eleven of these to the copper smelter and four to the silver smelter. Mr. Albright has now three quarries in active operation and a water power and plant which cost a good many thousand dollars. A few weeks ago, he received a car load of rails and will commence at once the laying of track, which will enable him to open up a new quarry at right angles with the one he is now working for the copper smelter lime rock. As soon as the new sidetrack facilities are provided, which will be very shortly, Mr. Albright expects to increase his shipments, and his force of men will be raised to about 40, making quite a handsome payroll in that part of the county.

He has put in a splendid dam on Belt Creek which easily supplies him with 60 horse power. The new power was available for the first time a couple of weeks ago, and operates a rock crusher and other machinery. In the near future Mr. Albright proposes to use it to run his compressed air drills and operate his tram car system. Quite a thriving camp is already built up around the new works and it is probable that in the near future a post office will be established there. It is proposed to call the new camp Limesdale. Mr. Albright's new camp in the canyon is a striking example of what enterprise, energy and good business ability can do in building up a country and developing its resources, and at the same time bringing in handsome financial reward to its hustling and energetic founder.⁹⁴

The year 1896 was good for William Albright as he married Villa Clara Schlagg, 22 years his junior, in Great Falls, Montana. Villa Clara was born in Germany in 1877 and came to America to become a citizen, which she achieved in 1901.⁹⁵ Over the years, she and William had at least five sons and two daughters. In addition to the efforts of William, Villa filed mineral claims of her own in the Belt Creek Valley.

⁹⁴ "A Prosperous Enterprise," *Helena Evening Herald*, Friday, June 26, 1896, p. 3.

⁹⁵ "Spray of the Falls," *Great Falls Tribune*, Friday, November 15, 1901, p. 6.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

The Albright holdings include the Albright, Last Chance, and Valley View claims on the western end of the grouping and the Mayflower, Roosevelt No. 2, Big Horn, Humbolt, and Iron King claims on the northeastern end. The claims were located in 1901 by Villa C. Albright.⁹⁶

Not all newspaper reports focused only on the mining in the Albright area. News also appeared around the area's fishing opportunities. And as almost expected, one of the two main protagonists of the earliest fishing-related story found mention. In 1897, an article noted Col. Williams caught a prize trout. The publicity contributed not only to Jack William's profile but also to the Sluice Box area becoming renowned for good fishing.⁹⁷

Since the snow storm and hard freezing, the weather is clear and very hot, causing the trout to come up from the Sluice Boxes at a low stage of water.

Jack Williams caught the biggest trout recorded for the year out of Belt creek, above the Sluice-Boxes, yesterday. In size it overshadowed anything ever seen here. Its length was 22 inches; depth, 6 inches; circumference, 15 ¼ inches; weight, 5 pounds and 6 ounces.

Fishing is good now, if we could keep the dynamiters out.

William's popularity following the prize fish caused the circulation of a petition for the County Commissioners to name him as the Limesdale Game Warden. "Col. Williams is an enthusiastic sportsman, believing in upholding the game law – and besides, he caught the largest trout ever taken from a Cascade County stream."⁹⁸ In 1899, he repeated the feat, landing "the largest fish of the season, weighing at least seven pounds. The colonel is always lucky."⁹⁹

Regarding the mining of the area, and the "dynamiter," the above article mentioned:

Albright has been making needed changes on the old rock breaker, causing light shipments of limestone, but will be running in full force by the middle of next week.

Excepting Belt and Sand Coulee, Limesdale is the largest shipping point on the Neihart branch. Limestone for fluxing is shipped to the smelts, amounting to from 400 to 700 tons per week. Being the main shipping point for limestone, Limesdale

⁹⁶ Robertson, Almon F. Mines and Mineral Deposits (Except Fuels) Cascade County, Montana, report, February 1951; Washington D.C.. (<https://digital.library.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metadc67055/>; accessed January 2, 2025), University of North Texas Libraries, UNT Digital Library, <https://digital.library.unt.edu/>; crediting UNT Libraries Government Documents Department. P. 70.

⁹⁷ "The Prize Trout," *Great Falls Tribune*, September 19, 1897, p. 1.

⁹⁸ "Spray of the Falls," *Great Falls Tribune*, December 25, 1897, p. 5.

⁹⁹ "Albright," *Great Falls Tribune*, August 27, 1899, p. 3.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

moves quietly and serenely. The McKinley wave glanced off the striking miners of the east and landed in Limedale.¹⁰⁰

Although fishing was William's passion, the creek didn't pay him much respect. In May of 1898, Belt Creek witnessed one of its occasional floods:

Reports from the towns on the Belt and other creeks emptying into the canyon are to the effect that the streams are still high and threatening. J. E. Williams, the lineman of Limedale, who was in the city this morning, stated that last year he placed his house at what he thought was a level far above the high-water mark, but the water had risen to within six inches of the floor, while the horses in the stable lower down were up to their bellies in water yesterday morning when he went out to feed them. He says that the siding to the limestone quarry of William Albright has been washed out and that the railway company has a gang of men at work strengthening the roadbed along the creek near the confluence with Logging Creek.¹⁰¹

By 1898, Albright received a rail depot and post office. A proposal to call the new camp Limedale may have been proposed, but the name Albright won. Limedale continued as a locational reference though throughout the years of limestone mining. In 1898, William H. Albright became the postmaster.¹⁰² It was his second time as a postmaster, and his second as the postmaster of a town of named Albright, the first time occurring in the now defunct town near Rosebud, Montana.

In early March of 1899, limestone mining operations were in full swing up and down the valley:

¹⁰⁰ "The McKinley wave" was an act that became popular during the presidency of William McKinley. President McKinley, 25th President elected in 1897 and assassinated in 1901, was Ohio's governor prior to his presidency. During his governorship, he, and wife Ida Saxton McKinley, lived in a hotel across the street from the Statehouse. Every day, he would cross the street, enter the building, turn, and stop to wave to Ida, who remained there in poor health. He would also pause at 3:00 each afternoon, open a window in his office and wave a handkerchief to his wife, and wait for her to wave back. It became popular for Columbus residents to gather in the morning, witness, and cheer the event. A monument has been erected to commemorate the location. "Statehouse receives donation of McKinley artifacts," *The Canton Repository*, Canton, Ohio, 2024, Accessed on 1-1-2025 at <https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/local/2019/10/14/statehouse-receives-donation-mckinley-artifacts/2537617007/>; "William McKinley, 25th President of the United States, (1843-1901)," Gilded Age Politics Gallery, UCLA, 2024, Accessed on 1-1-2024 at https://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/history/taughj/classes/gildedage/private/gilded_age_politics/history/bio_mckinley.html.

¹⁰¹ "Creeks on a Rampage: Both the Belt and the Dry Fork at Monarch are Higher Than at Any Time Since the Flood of Six Years Ago," *The Anaconda Standard*, May 21, 1898, p.11. This siding is likely that referred to as B. & M. Siding in documents from the time.

¹⁰² Carol Martinell, Barbara Mittal, Sylvia Mundt, Lois Nelson, "Tiger Butte Recollections, A Project of the Tiger Butte Extension Homemakers," 1990, p. 213. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Name of Property

Limedale has started an early spring boom. Albright is loading daily 225 tons of limestone for the Boston and Montana smelter, running a day and night shift; 225 tons make 45 cars per week. W. H. Albright has his work well in hand, having blasted several thousand tons of limestone last fall, ready for a rush; he has now a capacity of 1,800 tons per week, with a slight increase of force.

The rock breaker is run by water power, also his compressor to generate air for deep drilling is run by the same power. The whole is the best and most economical limestone plant in the United States. Mr. Albright has perfected his arrangements in a thorough manner for strength, convenience, and durability, and can be doubled in capacity on short notice. His dam on Belt Creek will stand the flood of ages; nothing but a glacier can scoop it out. The power is a Leffel turbine of 65 horse power. The limestone is of the best quality for fluxing purpose and unlimited quantity.

The Cascade lime works, across the road from Albright, will start up the latter part of the month.

Limedale can boast that it has no drones in its busy hive, no corner grocery, saloon, blacksmith shop or hotel, and has run for six years without a lawyer, doctor, preacher, or a gambler within its sacred precincts, and its inhabitants have enjoyed peace, health, happiness, and prosperity. No diphtheria, smallpox, measles, or any other affliction; no mosquitoes, fleas, giggers, rattle snakes, tarantulas, centipedes, or any kind of conversation water, to disturb the minds of its industrious inhabitants.

Jack Williams has a new residence, a credit to the new burg. Jack is going to farm some this year, has taken up a homestead.

Mr. Albright has bought the Frank Whittaker ranch and contemplates farming this year, and going into the stock business.

Several parties have taken up homes in this vicinity lately, and when they are not improving their claims can find work at Limedale, at the lime works or at Albright's.¹⁰³

In May of 1899, Albright employed "about 35 men."¹⁰⁴ By June:

...a full complement of men are employed, 45 30-ton cars being the present output, which, should occasion require, could be doubled on short notice. No better rock for fluxing can be found in Montana.

¹⁰³ "Limedale," *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, March 12, 1899, p. 1.

¹⁰⁴ "Limedale," *Great Falls Tribune*, May 10, 1899, p. 2.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Over at the lime works everything is running full blast and Superintendent Conn informs us that enough orders are ahead to keep the kiln hot until 1900. The quality of lime turned out is second to none in America.

A Lime Kiln club has been organized with a charter membership of 20. The object of the club is to refrain from telling snake, fish, and other kind of stories. Gust Benson is Bro. Gardner of the club.

Mr. Harlander informs us that the ground will soon be broken for the chapel, enough money, etc., being insured in that direction. Special thanks are due Colonel Williams and Mr. Albright for liberal donation of lime and rock.”¹⁰⁵

Albright’s earlier connection with the smelter in Great Falls likely resulted in him serving as an important source supplying lime for use as flux in the smelting and refining processes. He was not the only limestone operator in the area, however, to do so.

In July of 1899, J. E. Williams’s quarrying days appeared over: “For Sale. Cascade Lime Works. Everything in good order and complete. In first class shape. Sell cheap for cash. Big bargain. Address, J. E. Williams, Albright, Montana.”¹⁰⁶ Despite the sale announcement, the mine did not sell at that time as Williams continued work around his operation in August as noted by his, “...narrow escape from serious injury by a premature blast, his wrist being badly lacerated. He came to the city Tuesday for treatment.”¹⁰⁷ His time in Albright wasn’t completely consumed with his business battles with Albright himself. In November 1899, he married Mrs. Eliza L. Sawyer, a resident of the town: “The lady of his choice holds a high place in the esteem of all who know her, and they are numerous.”¹⁰⁸

August of 1899 found Albright a busy place with people arriving from Great Falls to relax in the cool canyon. Although the Albright area and surrounding drainages offered a venue to escape the heat of the summer, industry continued with a number of improvements to both the railway and the addition of new kilns:

It is rumored that much improvement will be made at Limesdale this year, lengthening the siding to 40 cars, on the west siding, and to 30 cars, or 32, on the east siding, and a new rock breaker on the east side, opposite the old one.

It has been decided that fluxing rock is better and cheaper at Limesdale than at any other point in Montana. When the work in contemplation is completed, it will require a daily freight train. The large quantity of fluxing rock required at the copper smelter has, on several occasions, required an extra train to Limesdale. Albright has a large force of men preparing for the increased output of rock.

¹⁰⁵ “Limesdale,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Thursday, June 8, 1899, p. 2.

¹⁰⁶ “For Sale,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Saturday, July 22, 1899, p. 3.

¹⁰⁷ “Cullings,” *Great Falls News*, Thursday, August 24, 1899, p. 5.

¹⁰⁸ “Williams-Sawyer,” *Great Falls News*, November 2, 1899, p. 5.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

The Cascade Lime works are now running at full capacity, with a month's orders ahead. The lime produced at these works proves to be the best and purest in the state, and is becoming very popular. Two new kilns may be built this fall. A new lime-house, with six-cars capacity, will be completed by the first of September, and several other improvements are in contemplation.

Limedale is strictly a Christian town. Everybody attends to his own business and everybody works, so they have no time for mischief making.¹⁰⁹

Enjoying the limelight, Cascade Lime Works owner Col. John (Jack) E. Williams often found his name in print including when the community celebrated the completion of the "Limedale-Davistown wagon bridge" in September of 1899:

Home folks and the countryside people in general turned out to lend their presence and help celebrate. Col. Williams of this town acted as marshal of the day, while Capt. Scovel of Davistown officiated as master of ceremonies. After a parade of the principal streets the procession brought up at the bridge, foot of Limestone Avenue and dispersed, after which they were addressed by the Hon. A. C. Benson, who, in closing, spoke in part as follows:

"Live thunder may leap along these mountain crags and rumble and tumble through this scenic canyon. The wild winds may whistle and shriek over our bench land ranches and shake the firm nerve and brave soul of the homesteader. Nature may growl and roll its awful burden on the winds and sheets of livid lightning spit these limestone cliffs. Earthquakes may rock old Tiger Butte to its base and the earth may reel and stagger like a drunken shoemaker, but this bridge will hold its base.... Fellow citizens, I now declare this bridge open."

There was a fine display of fireworks in the old town that night and the celebration wound up with a grand ball at the Indian reservation.¹¹⁰

The same issue of the newspaper reported less celebratory news, also associated with Williams:

Fire on Monday night caused a \$300 loss to the Cascade Lime works. No insurance. Had it not been for the timely discovery of the blaze by Dr. Von Dietrichs, who was returning from a visit to a patient and gave the alarm, the entire plant, as well as a dozen buildings in close proximity to the works on Lime Kiln hill, would have gone up in smoke... Supt. Conn of the Cascade Lime Works

¹⁰⁹ "Limedale," *Great Falls Tribune*, Thursday, August 10, 1899, p. 2. This siding would be that referred to as B. & M. Siding in documents from the time.

¹¹⁰ "Limedale," *Great Falls Tribune*, Thursday, September 7, 1899, p. 2; The location is not in proximity to any "Indian Reservation," but the reference is probably in reference to a local entertainment establishment.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

informs us that everything will be running apple pie order again by the middle of next week.¹¹¹

In early 1900, William and Vella Albright continued to expand their non-mining land holdings near their Rosebud property and in the Belt Creek Area. Although William had arrived in Montana trailing cattle from Texas, his attention was focused on both sheep and his mining pursuits in the Belt Creek Valley as he purchased a sizeable ranch there:

Mr. Albright of Limesdale has acquired, mostly by purchase, a tract of land containing nearly a thousand acres, extending from Frank Whittaker's to Nelson Boulder's. Fred Whittaker has taken the lease of the school section, which in addition to his own ranches, makes him a pretty fine tract. It is safe to affirm that stock in the future here have to be run on acquired land, as there is very little of the public domain left.¹¹²

Only a few months after his land purchase, in April of 1900, Albright entered into an ambitious "Articles of Incorporation of the Copper King Mining and Development Company of Great Falls, Montana" as a major investor. Albright paid \$10,374.90 to purchase 103,749 shares of the two million offered at ten cents each:

...to carry on mining, manufacturing, chemical, mechanical, and mercantile business; the mining, milling, reducing, refining and treating of ores and miners; to acquire, buy, sell, convey, lease, improve, mine, work, and develop mines and mineral lands containing gold, silver, copper, lead, tin, cinnabar, iron, coal and all metals and minerals of any description whatsoever; to contract, own, operate, buy, sell, lease and use smelting, reduction and refining works and mills for the treatment and reduction of ores and minerals; to purchase, hold, develop, improve, lease, use, sell, convey or otherwise dispose of water power and the sites thereof, and lands necessary or useful therefor, for the industries and habitations arising or growing or to arise or grow up in connection with or about the same; to construct and operate canals, ditches, flumes, dams and other means for utilizing water for mining, irrigation, power, transportation and other useful purposes; to purchase, hold, lay out, plat, develop, lease, sell, deal in or otherwise use or dispose of townsites and towns, or the lots, blocks or subdivisions thereof, or own, construct, operate, buy or sell, roads, tramways and other means of conveyance and transportation; to buy, sell exchange and deal in all kinds of merchandise, personal property and real estate; to carry on a portion of its business and operations, if necessary or desirable, outside of the state of Montana; to carry on any other business or do any other thing in connection with the objects

¹¹¹ "Limesdale," *Great Falls Tribune*, Thursday, September 7, 1899, p. 2.

¹¹² "Correspondence: Monarch," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, February 8, 1900, p. A1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

and purposes above mentioned that may be necessary or proper to successfully accomplish or promote such objects.¹¹³

Albright joined four of the original 14 original investors as a director, along with Talcott M. Tyler and William H. Tyler of Logging Creek and Cochrane J. Beal and Rogers A. Berry.

Rampant mining in the area around Albright during this period followed the same undisciplined format found across Montana. The premise of making one's fortune, left little room for responsible mining. The good sense to fish Belt Creek was questionable after a mining spill from further upstream occurred between May and June of 1900, affected the condition of the creek. Reporting of the spill and its effect to the creek brought some attention to the issue of mining pollution, but the citizenry quickly righted the ship in terms of their views on mining:

We learn from those who have been trying their luck on Belt River recently, that the fishing is very poor, and they state as a reason that the slum from the concentrator at Neihart is driving the fish out of the river. This is bad news for the fishermen, who have been in the habit of making an annual tour to the grand scenery of the Sluice Box canyon, as this place has been famous in the past for its fine fishing, but we believe the residents of the county will take the right view of the matter, as the concentrator is of more benefit to the county at large than the fish.

Besides there are plenty of fine trout streams left and the angler need have no fear but that he can obtain plenty of sport as long as there are no saw mills, concentrators, or stamp mills on such streams as the Highwood, Little Belt, Tenderfoot, Davis, Otter, and Arrow creeks. Hundreds of others of less note could also be named whose waters are teeming with trout, and we can well spare one.

The people of Monarch are complaining also that the concentrator has spoiled their drinking water, but Editor Abbott pertinently remarks that there are worse things than concentrator slum in Belt River.¹¹⁴

It is not known what the "worse things" in Belt Creek were, per the author of the article. One possibility could be the lack of public sanitation facilities. Outhouses among the settlement were common to the era; however, none were available where people fished and picnicked along the river, and the rocky valley likely never hosted any septic drain fields. Similarly, the author may have been referring to the upstream mining communities using Belt Creek to carry away their dump waste, recalling that two years earlier, in May of 1898, a report from Neihart stated:

¹¹³ "Articles of Incorporation of the Copper King Mining and Development Company," April 17, 1900. Copies photographed in 2024 at the Great Falls On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT., pp. 1-3.

¹¹⁴ "No Fishing in Belt Creek This Season," *Belt Valley Times*, June 23, 1900, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

The managers of the Florence mine are taking advantage of the rise in Belt Creek to get rid of the dump. They have a force of men shoveling the dirt into the creek to be carried away by the high water.¹¹⁵

The creek found multiple uses by the mines. In addition to dispersing tailings, it also served to float logs on occasion. F.M. Woodward owned Woodward's sawmill at Logging Creek in the early 1900s. The sawmill would use the occasional high water of Belt Creek to float logs through the sluice boxes down to a sawmill between Albright and Riceville, a few miles north of Albright. Once processed, the lumber was transported by rail to Great Falls. Not everything worked to perfection, however. Log jams often occurred, leaving cut logs in the creek, an event that could yield a positive outcome for the locals: "Geo W. Goodman dragged out of one old jam or drift enough logs to build a large two-story barn which is still withstanding the ravages of time."¹¹⁶

Tabulations of mining productivity throughout the state occurred on a regular basis. A June 1900 report on the Montana value of the "product of the stone of the quarries of the state last year" reported \$78,382, per Montana Geological Survey Director Fred D. Smith.¹¹⁷ The value of Lime produced was listed as 95,987 bushels worth \$21,897.00. Raw limestone fell under the category of "Stone, building, ornamental, fluxes" for a value of \$78,382.00.

Lime – statistics obtained for the production of this important economic product of 1898 were not sufficiently complete to warrant a publication. For 1899 the figures are much more complete, but lack much as yet of approaching the correct figure. By this is meant that many important kilns have been overlooked in the census, but it is to be hoped that at the end of this year a complete list of the kilns of the state may be prepared and the output of all included in the returns.

In 1898 six kilns reported a total of 56,075 bushels of lime valued at \$12,568, averaging 22.4 cents per bushel. The prices ranged from 18 cents for the largest output to 75 cents for the smallest.

In 1899 seven firms report an output of 95,987 bushels (80 pounds) valued at \$21,897, averaging 22.6 cents per bushel. During the year the prices ranged from 50 cents for the output of the smallest kiln to 20 cents for that of the largest.

The principal localities in which good limestone for quicklime is found are on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains, near Elliston, and in Cascade County on the Neihart branch of the Great Northern Railroad. Some of the largest producers are the the Cascade Lime works at Albright, Cascade County, output 21,800 bushels.... In general, it may be said that most of the lime used in Montana is

¹¹⁵ "Neihart News," *The Anaconda Standard*, Saturday, May 21, 1898, p. 11. Water ecology at the time was still a work in progress.

¹¹⁶ "Reminiscences of an Old-Timer," W.V. Talbott, *Belt Valley Times*, November 12, 1936, p. 1.

¹¹⁷ "Montana Building Stone," *Great Falls Tribune*, June 27, 1900, p. 7.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

burned in the state, as the product of the kilns is a very pure lime... Most of the lime burned is used directly in the building trades, and for this reason the output of the kilns is an excellent indicator of the building industry. In this respect, the lime burned indicates an entirely different condition of this industry than does the brick, the output of which is noted elsewhere. While brick indicates a half in the building, lime indicates great activity. The principal lime producers nearly doubled their 1898 output in 1899, and none reported a diminished output.¹¹⁸

Fire and lime production seemed to go hand-in-hand. Less than a year after a fire broke out at the Cascade Lime Works in Albright/Limedale, a blaze once again visited the operation:

There was a fire about 3 p.m. Wednesday at the old kiln of the Cascade Lime Works, at Limedale. It started from a hot poker that the Limeburner dropped in some chips, in his haste to finish drawing, and had a great start before he discovered it. The lime house and the big trestle and some wood were burned, and then, by the exertions of the lime crew and a few gentlemen from Albright, the flames were extinguished. Jack Williams was pretty well scorched about the head, but not seriously.¹¹⁹

The works are running at full capacity again and all orders will be filled as promised.

William Albright's limestone operation continued to fulfill the contract "for furnishing flux stone...to the Boston and Montana smelter." In August of 1901, "the quarries are running full blast and the smelter is taking all the stone that can be gotten out," productivity that continued into the fall of the year. Business was so good, Albright stated he would increase both his labor and clerical force in the near future.¹²⁰

In October of 1901, Albright expanded his mining holdings near the Albright area as he purchased 80 acres in Section 13 and about 80 acres in Section 24, Township 16 North, Range 6 East from Frank C. Whittaker and his wife, for a price of \$700. From them, he also bought the Mineral Paint Mining claim for \$200. At the same time, he bought "for a nominal consideration," the Cascade Lime Works No. 3 mining claim from Augusta E. Grote.¹²¹

In early 1902, Albright joined Frank Whittaker in the sale of their "iron mines" that included claims at "Last Chance, Iron King, Bessie, Valley View, Rosy and Albright, all situated in the Iron Creek mining district, in this county about 2 miles west of Monarch."¹²² Said to represent "either President James J. Hill of the Great Northern or the United Steel corporation," a Col. Oliver P. Chisholm of Bozeman, Montana had supposedly "deposited in the Cascade bank" of

¹¹⁸ "Montana Building Stone," *Great Falls Tribune*, June 27, 1900, p. 7.

¹¹⁹ "Fire at Limedale," *Great Falls Tribune*, Friday, August 31, 1900, p. 1.

¹²⁰ "Will Increase Force," *Great Falls Tribune*, Monday, August 5, 1901, p. 5.

¹²¹ "Current Notes of the Town and Vicinity," *Belt Valley Times*, October 17, 1901, p. A5.

¹²² "Iron Mines are Bonded," *Great Falls Tribune*, January 16, 1902, p. 8.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Great Falls drafts on New York for a very “large sum” of money. The money amounting to \$30,000 for Albright and \$10,000 for Whittaker was to be paid on or before the 1st day of next January. The sale did not include Albright’s limestone interests.

High water resulting from flooding was not the only environmental issue that plagued the Albright area. High winds played havoc with infrastructure evidenced by an August 1902 storm that blew through the Belt Creek Valley so fiercely that “Col. J. E. Williams yesterday received word that the storm at Limesdale blew down and tore to pieces the smoke stack at the plant of the Cascade lime works. The stack was 60 feet high, 20 inches in diameter, of iron, and when it fell it went to pieces.”¹²³

Adding another layer to the already bellicose relationship between Albright and Williams, in September of 1902, only a month after the toppling of the smoke stack, Williams “of Limesdale” received word and publicity that lime produced by his kilns won the first prize in its category at the 1902 Cascade County Fair, held in Great Falls,” an honor that likely rankled Albright.¹²⁴

Corroborating just how dangerous mining was, in December of 1902, John Anderson, a worker at William’s Cascade Lime Co., experienced a powder explosion:

Anderson was injured by the premature discharge of a blast of a keg and half of black powder, in an eight-foot hole, which threw out about 20 tons of rock, many pieces striking Anderson.

He does not know just what did happen, but he evidently was thrown about 30-feet by the explosion and fell among many small, broken rocks, lighting on his face, which is badly scratched. Two of his ribs were broken and he was bruised in many places. It is remarkable that he was not killed, as the rock was very solid and the blast went off with great force.

Jack Williams, proprietor of the lime works, when notified of the accident, went to Limesdale, and found the injured man at work. He would not admit that he was badly hurt, but his employer insisted on his coming to the city for treatment.¹²⁵

Using space in the newspaper to veer from the reporting of the potentially lethal accident, Williams did a 180 degree turn to note, “Belt Creek is so clear that the trout can see a fisherman’s shadow away round a bend.”¹²⁶

As the communities up and down Belt Creek and near Albright continued to grow, additional services that catered to the greater good found voice. In 1903, an “Orphans’ Home” was proposed at Logging Creek by Mrs. Lulu M. St. Clair, who was:

¹²³ “Ruin is Widespread,” *Great Falls Tribune*, August 10, 1902, p. 5.

¹²⁴ “Premiums are Paid Out,” *The Great Falls Leader*, September 29, 1902, p. 8.

¹²⁵ “Blown up by Powder,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, October 5, 1902, p. 8.

¹²⁶ “Blown up by Powder,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, October 5, 1902, p. 8.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

about 56 years of age, and in her time has undoubtedly been a very bright woman. She has apparently declined, however, as years have settled upon her, and from her conversation it would seem that her mind is not totally clear, and that she labors under hallucinations.

Amongst the topics covered during the interview, when asked if she had a place to take care of the children, she replied:

Oh, yes, I have a lovely place of my own at Logging Creek, besides 1,000 acres which belonged to my father...I never get lonely, I have the fish to take care of. There are 1,000 trout that come to be fed every day. I feed them bread crumbs and oatmeal. Why, they come up to me just like children, and when I want a mess of trout, all I have to do is to drop a pail into the water and they drop into it. I never have to use a hook.¹²⁷

By June of 1903, Albright shipped 400 tons of limestone to the Boston & Montana Smelter each day through the efforts of 45 men, and the Cascade limeworks prepared to start for the season “immediately after the festivities of the dedication of our brand new courthouse, the pride of Cascade County” in Great Falls. The county employee relocation to the new Cascade County Courthouse took place on Friday, June 26, 1903.¹²⁸ During this time, Charley Rice purchased the “Famous Sylvan retreat” of S. M. Dodd, one of the early pioneers of Logging Creek.¹²⁹

The Workers

The workers at the quarries of Albright were from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, evidenced by the names of those that applied to work there (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0146). Beginning with entry “1”, “Steve Hudak,” the ledger has 792 individual entries; however, the associated years of employment is unclear as the “Applications for Employment, Book 3, Albright Quarries” provides little detail. The handwriting associated with the entries is the same suggesting an unbroken block of time the names were added to the ledger.¹³⁰

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a significant wave of immigrants from Eastern Europe came to the United States, driven by economic hardship, political instability, and religious persecution, particularly countries that included Poland, Russia, Ukraine, and Austria-Hungary. Drawn to Montana by the promise of economic opportunity in the state's copper mining industry centered around Butte, Anaconda, and the smelter at Great Falls, jobs could be found for unskilled laborers. Montana, with its escalating industries and available homestead land, attracted a portion of these immigrants, including those who settled in the Great Falls area seeking to own property and build a better life. The city's smelter and railroad yards provided employment opportunities, while the surrounding agricultural land attracted farmers.

¹²⁷ “To Start Orphans’ Home Out at Logging Creek,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Tuesday, January 13, 1903, p. 8.

¹²⁸ “To Remove to New Courthouse,” *The Anaconda Standard*, Saturday, June 27, 1903, p. 3.

¹²⁹ “Limedale,” *Great Falls Tribune*, June 26, 1903, p. 2.

¹³⁰ “Applications for Employment, Book 3, Albright Quarries,” Ledger of unknown quarry owner, Unknown Date, p. 1. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Many immigrants worked in low-paying, dangerous jobs, often in the mines or smelters, but they persevered, building strong communities and establishing churches, schools, and social organizations. The legacy of those that arrived in Great Falls continue to shape the character of that town today. Although most of the towns that dotted the Belt Creek area, such as Albright, no longer remain, the people that lived and worked in those small towns also had the same hopes and dreams, sharing the community spirit, as the people of Great Falls.

One such worker was Vinko Vlastelich, a Croatian citizen and employee of William Albright in the town of Albright. Vlastelich had the misfortune of being robbed in Great Falls on his way back to his home country.

Vinko Vlastelich, a Croatian employed by William Albright in his quarries and mines at Albright station, left the city last Saturday morning bound for his old home in Croatia, but when he departed from the city, he left behind him the choicest part of his wearing apparel, so that when he appears before his old friends in Croatia he will be minus his most elaborate trappings.

His missing clothes, which were stolen from him the night previous to his departure, are still in the city in the possession of the officers, and so is Joe Rossi, an Italian, in whose room was found the stolen stuff and who is now under arrest for the theft.

When Vlastelich arrived in the city he brought with him a trunk full of clothing, but while here he purchased a number of articles of wearing apparel which he packed into a large telescope and left in the Prag saloon on Central Avenue, thinking that they would be safe there until train time. During the night the telescope was removed from the saloon and when the Croatian prepared to leave for the train he discovered his loss.

Police recovered the stolen property at Rossi's apartment and at a second-hand store where he had sold the rest.¹³¹

Albright Continues to Grow and Prosper

By 1904, Albright grew to the extent that a new railroad turntable was installed in July of that year, "thus saving a trip of seven or eight miles which the locomotives on the rock trains have been in the habit of making for the last ten or twelve years."¹³²

The year 1904 also proved true the adage, "the enemy of my enemy is my friend." July witnessed Albright and Williams aligning in a common cause regarding a land dispute involving Williams' holdings, but potentially affecting many such similar landowners in Montana.

¹³¹ "Stole a Croatian Traveler's Clothing," *The Great Falls Leader*, August 17, 1903, p. 2.

¹³² "Local Briefs," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, July 28, 1904, p. A5.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Williams' original mining claims had been deemed procedurally invalid, but at a Land Office hearing, the decision was reversed:

...decision effecting a mineral claim at Limedale spur, just beyond Albright, has been rendered that will probably have a very important bearing on other miner claims in that vicinity and eventually give the claimants patents to valuable lime-rock lands over whose right to title they have long been in dispute with the government.

The decision in question is on the mineral claims of John E. Williams, who operates lime kilns near Albright, these claims being Placer Cascade lime works No. 3 and Cascade lime works No. 4. On December 3, 1903, these claims were held for cancellation by the general land commissioner on the ground that they failed to conform as early as practicable with the United States system of public land surveys. This decision has now been recalled and Williams' mining entries are approved for patenting.

Williams located these claims December 10, 1891, and January 5, 1893. There are 46,44 (sic) acres altogether, and the locations were made before the land had been surveyed. In 1895 Williams caused surveys to be made and had it confirmed. In 1896 a government survey was made. Williams first had a controversy with the Great Northern Railway company, which alleged that the land was non-mineral in character. He won out in this contest. Later when the land was held for cancellation, he made a motion for a consideration of this action and the decision just received is on this motion.

Unique Questions Raised. The contention of the general land office was that Williams' claims were irregular in that they did not conform with the government subdivisions. The question raised was unique, and if the issues were enforced, it would undoubtedly affect the majority of the mining claims of the state. Mr. Williams represented that he had dug a quarry and built four lime kilns and spent \$3,600 in developing the property, besides building a \$600 house; that he had spent eight years in improving the claims, and they could be more advantageously worked in their present form, than if made to conform to the subdivision of the legal survey; that a cancellation of his entry meant his financial ruin.

Department Considers Things. The reasons given by the general land commissioner in recalling his former decision, are found in the following: "In view of the fact that the locations of entryman were made long prior to the survey of the township and to the decisions of the department requiring placer claims to be conformed to the legal subdivisions; that application for survey was made and the order therefor issued and survey executed in the field shortly after the Miller decisions, and that same was immediately followed by application for patent and final entry; of the fact that the claims are bounded in part by patented placer surveys, and of the good faith of entryman as shown by his possession and

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

expenditure of a considerable sum of money in improving the claims, all of which facts constitute strong equities, the decision holding the entry for cancellation is recalled and the mining entry approved for patenting.”

Affects Others. “This decision takes a considerable load off my mind,” said Mr. Williams, who was in the city today, “as this controversy has lasted for several years. It affects, as well, the entries of William Albright, Frank Klepetko and others in the vicinity, whose patents, if they were asked for, would have been withheld for the same reason that mine was. You see if I had had to conform with the legal subdivisions, I would have had to take up the land in 10-acre lots sufficient to cover my present claims and would have had to pay for something like seventy acres more than I wanted.”¹³³

Albright and Williams continued their adjacent operations into April of 1904, publicly hailed for contributing to prosperity in the region:

Among the minor industries of Cascade County... is the production of lime and limestone... one will be surprised at the value a year's total output of these comparatively small plants will foot up. The above picture (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0136) is a view of the lime-burning plant of the Boston & Montana Co., and the quarry and crushing plant of Wm. H. Albright. It is located in the canyon of the Belt twenty miles from this place and just above the famous “Sluice Box Canyon.” The lime burning plant of the Boston & Montana company is in nearly constant operation the year round and employs six or eight men. It produces a first-class quality of lime. The Cascade Lime Co. also has an equally large plant a few hundred yards below the B & M. Co's plant. Col. Jack Williams is the manager of the latter and states that their lime is being used exclusively in nearly every northern Montana town.

The product of the quarry and crushing plant, owned, and operated by Mr. Albright is used exclusively by the B. & M. smelters at Great Falls and from three hundred to five hundred tons of limestone are crushed and shipped daily to the smelters, where it is used in fluxing the ores. Mr. Albright has been engaged in the business here for the last fourteen years and from a small beginning with crude machinery, employing a half-dozen men, he has built up a profitable business, has a splendidly equipped plant operated by water power with a steam engine and boiler in reserve, two powerful rock crushers, an air compressor and power drills, and gives employment to from twenty to forty men during the whole year. The works are located directly on the line of the Neihart branch of the Montana central, and as may be seen by a glance at the illustration the scenic attractions of the neighborhood are such that it is a favorite route for the summer

¹³³ “Department Renders an Important Ruling on a Mineral Entry,” *The Great Falls Leader*, Saturday, July 23, 1904, p. 2.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

tourist. The fishing is excellent during the season and campers are numerous along the stream.”¹³⁴

With the legal issues behind them, Albright began exploring new mining opportunities, and to that end he brought in Professor O. C. Mortson in late 1905 to conduct a preliminary survey for a new limestone crushing plant. The Professor stuffed his pockets full of mica specimens from the newly discovered mica deposits located by him and Chas. Martin:

“To C. A. Martin of Monarch and myself belong the honor of making the first discovery of tin in Montana,” said Prof. O. C. Mortson yesterday.

“We have two men working daily. We have been running from the hanging wall and have now 12 feet of mica and the foot wall is not yet reached. We are down now from 15 to 16 feet on the vein, and outside of the talc salvage, which is four inches thick, there comes three to four inches of stannite, tantalate of iron, cerium, and niobium.”¹³⁵

The *Belt Valley Times* continued:

These prospects, which are located about seven miles from Neihart, also carry tin ore, according to the Professor’s statement, and he claims it is the only deposit known between the Black Hills and the Pacific coast. Specimens of the ore have been sent to Philadelphia for assay, and it is the hope of the owners that something big will result. Specimens of the mica show a very fine article of this mineral and the sheets can easily be taken out in sizes large enough for commercial use. Mica of good quality in sheets four inches square and larger bring something like \$4 per pound on the market, and the many friends of these gentlemen trust they will be the means of opening up a new industry for our country.¹³⁶

In January of 1906, both Albright and Williams continued to expand their operations to handle “greatly increased output of the works,” which required an upgrade to the rail handling system.

The Albright works having determined to increase greatly their output of fluxing rock for the Boston & Montana smelters, they will require all the trackage now at Albright and more, and the Cascade company will therefore have new spur tracks built to its works. A kiln with a daily capacity of 200 barrels will be erected, and other improvements will be made. The company has 46 acres of patented land,

¹³⁴ “Photo,” *Belt Valley Times*, April 7, 1904, p. 5.

¹³⁵ “Tin Ore Near Neihart,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Monday, November 27, 1905, p 8.

¹³⁶ “Possibly a New Industry to be Developed,” *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, December 7, 1905, p. A4.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

carrying a very great quantity of limestone of the highest grade, and it is the purpose to establish a first-class plant.”¹³⁷

As a result of the expansion, Williams appeared before the Board of County Commissioners in July of 1906 to request permission to “cross the Monarch Canyon to Limedale road with a 2-foot track for lime cars.” The request was granted and Williams was authorized to cross the road, “the track to be placed in a manner satisfactory to the board, said track to be about 600 feet from the terminus of said road.”¹³⁸

By September of 1906, in addition to limestone quarrying, the community of Albright supported the Limedale Creamery Co., a barber, a general store, a laundry, a blacksmith, two pastors, (one Greek Catholic and the other a Methodist), a music teacher, a surveyor, railroad office, dentist, carpenter, timber contractors, a veterinarian, and a livery service.¹³⁹ The dearth of maps found to date of the town’s platting has resulted in few, if any, of the specific locations for these services or structure locations.

Albright, Williams, and the “Battle of the Blind Pig”¹⁴⁰

The first mention of a liquor establishment within the Albright area of Belt Creek comes in June of 1900 as it is announced that “George Edman is the proprietor of a saloon at Limedale.”¹⁴¹ No other mention of liquor in the area emerges until 1906, when changing laws required that alcohol establishments petition for a license as “The county commissioners yesterday granted a retail liquor dealer’s license to J. E. Williams, a petition with the requisite number of freeholders’ signatures having been received. Mr. Williams will open a saloon at Limedale.”¹⁴²

Albright was against having a saloon near his mine as he felt it would disrupt operations; this petition proved yet another bone of contention between Albright and Williams. In February of 1907, Albright and Williams both appeared before the County Commissioners to present their positions:

William H. Albright appeared before the board of county commissioners Saturday afternoon and asked that township 16 north, range 6 east, at present within the confines of the Neihart Judicial district, be declared a separate judicial district. He stated that his request was made to prevent the existence of saloons near his workings at Albright. At present it is possible for persons to get sufficient signers to a petition for a saloon at Albright by circulating the petition at Neihart, whereas

¹³⁷ “More Lime,” *Great Falls Tribune*, January 5, 1906. Clipping photographed in 2024 at the Great Falls Museum and History Center, Great Falls, Montana.

¹³⁸ “Minutes of Proceedings of Board of County Commissioners of Cascade County, Montana, Friday, June 15, 1906” *Great Falls Tribune*, Monday, July 16, 1906, p. 2.

¹³⁹ Cascade County Business Directory, 1906-1907, p. 332. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.; “Albright as It Might Be,” *Great Falls Tribune*, September 23, 1906, p. 2.

¹⁴⁰ A “blind pig” is an establishment where liquor is sold, but has no license.

¹⁴¹ “Some Additional Locals,” *Belt Valley Times*, June 7, 1900, p. A8.

¹⁴² “Spray of the Falls,” *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, September 16, 1906, p. 6.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

the residents of Albright did not want a saloon located there. The matter was referred to the county attorney, who was requested to make a report of his opinion on the matter to the board.

The other side of the case was heard by the board today when J. E. Williams, who conducts a saloon at Limedale, near Albright, entered a protest against the proposed change in judicial township boundaries. Mr. Williams said that he was endeavoring to make a living off a little 40-acre tract and that it would be impossible for him to do so without the revenue he derived from his saloon, which he was conducting in an orderly manner. He intimated that Mr. Albright's petition was simply entered as a roundabout way of driving him out of business so that the latter could get his (William's) land at his own price.

It is improbable that the board will take any action on the proposition. The members are of the opinion that the matter would have to be submitted to a vote of the township. In which case the Neihart people would surely vote against the segregation of the Albright township.¹⁴³

The saloon still operated at Limedale when it was robbed in May of 1908 by burglars. Noted as a "resort," the Deputy Sheriff arrested three laborers "for the alleged burglary of the saloon of J. E. Williams at Limedale, near Albright., Friday night."¹⁴⁴ The men were arrested on the complaint of Mr. Williams, who identified them as suspects. The three were together in Great Falls when arrested. Three days later, the court changed their charges from "burglary" to "malicious mischief." All three men plead guilty and paid a \$5 fine each.¹⁴⁵

Extremes in weather were capable of disrupting production activities in the Belt Creek Canyon, but the winter of 1906-1907 was particularly pleasant:

William H. Albright, proprietor of the stone quarries at Albright station, believes that his place is the warmest point in Cascade County. During all of the recent cold weather the lowest temperature reported at Albright was 18 degrees below zero and four days ago, when it was reported 18 below zero here, it was 6 degrees above zero at Albright. The men in the quarries have not lost a day's work on account of cold weather.

The peculiar climatic conditions at that point are attributed to the box canyon of the sluice boxes, which prevents the cold winds from reaching Mr. Albright's place, they passing over. The snow on the east side of Belt Creek at Albright is

¹⁴³ "Albright Petitions, Williams Protests: Matter Concerns the Conducting of a Saloon by the Latter at Limedale," *The Great Falls Leader*, February 18, 1907, p. 3.

¹⁴⁴ "Saloon was Burglarized: Limedale Resort Was Broken into and Booze Stolen - Thieves Arrested Here," *Great Falls Tribune*, May 24, 1908, p. 9.

¹⁴⁵ "Limedale Men Pay Fines in Court," *The Great Falls Leader*, May 25, 1908, p. 4.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

said to have never reached a greater depth than five inches this winter, and there is plenty of good grass for stock. Cattle and horses are rolling fat.

In early 1907, Albright's surveyor (with a former interest in mica), Professor Mortson, elaborated on 29 claims held by "Mr. Albright and his associates."¹⁴⁶ The veins were said to include "some large veins of copper and gold bearing ore about eight miles up on Pilgrim Creek in the vicinity of the properties of the Home Mining Co., several miles to the south and outside of Albright.

"These claims are situated west of the Home Mining company's claims on the other ridge," said the professor, "and I have always claimed that the main leads were right there. The leads are of tremendous size and inside of 600 feet there are three veins, one of 25 feet, one of 35 feet, and one of 65 feet on the face. They have tapped the lead at a depth of 400 feet and for a distance of 65 feet the assays show 34 ½ to 4 per cent copper and from \$7.50 to \$9 in gold per ton."¹⁴⁷

The 1906-1907 Gazetteer and Business Directory notes Logging Creek as a "flag station" on the railroad line, but failed to acknowledge any orphanage suggesting that the well-intentioned plans of developing such a facility never found fruition. The Gazetteer also reported the post office at Albright.¹⁴⁸ The Gazetteer noted two annotations for Albright:

"A P.O., the station name is Logging Creek, on the M. C. Ry. And on Belt Creek, first settled in 1886, 46 miles s.e. of Great Falls, the county seat, and 20 n.w. of Neihart, the banking point. Telephone Service. Exp. G. N. Mail, daily. Albright W. H., gen store."

In addition to "A discontinued p.o. on the Yellowstone River, 3 miles from Rosebud, the railroad and banking point on the N. P. Ry, Mail, to Rosebud."¹⁴⁹

In June of 1908, the weather played havoc with the town as melting snow resulted in flooding, including the location where the Albright house sat: "All is not bright at Albright just now. Water flows in at the front windows of the Albright residence, and flows out at the back door. The family has fled to the hills."¹⁵⁰ William Albright estimated that it "will take four thousand dollars to repair the damage done his property by the recent flood."¹⁵¹ Albright's mining operation also suffered damage during the flood and a shutdown occurred that extended through September. "The quarries of the B & M are closed down temporarily and a strange and awful stillness reign. Operations will probably be resumed about October 1st." A bright spot at the

¹⁴⁶ "Ore Discoveries on Pilgrim Creek," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, February 14, 1907, p. A4.

¹⁴⁷ "Ore Discoveries on Pilgrim Creek," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, February 14, 1907, p. A4.

¹⁴⁸ "Logging Creek," Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and Montana Gazetteer and Business Directory 1906-1907, R. L. Polk & Co., 1907, p. 951.

¹⁴⁹ "Albright," Montana State Gazetteer, R. L. Polk & Co., 1907, p. 573-575.

¹⁵⁰ "Our Neighbors, Upper Belt," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, June 18, 1908, p. A1.

¹⁵¹ "Neighbors," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, July 9, 1908, p. A1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Albright place on Belt Creek was that "There are quite a few apples on Mr. Albright's apple trees. Belt Creek will rival sunny Washington yet."¹⁵²

The flood of 1908 did not affect all businesses in the Albright area. The Idlewild Poultry Ranch located near the town advertised, one of the few advertisements not related to mining limestone or lime, Orpington eggs, "14 for \$3.00 or 30 for \$5.00. Seven live chicks from each setting or will replace eggs at half-price."¹⁵³ This business may be associated with Feature AB-025.

Considering that Albright and Williams, literally next-door business neighbors, were involved in the social/business conflict about the presence of alcohol, it seems inevitable they would compete with each other politically. Both Republicans, in September of 1908 at the Cascade County Republican Convention, "... J. E. Williams of Limesdale, W. H. Albright of Albright..." joined "a number of others" on the slate of candidates for the legislative ticket.¹⁵⁴ Albright had been favored to receive a nomination, but fate had other plans.

It is something of a record breaker in Cascade County to do all the business of a county convention of one of the dominant parties inside of four hours, but the "master minds" of the local republican party had things so well in hand, and the inferior minds who acknowledge the right of the superiors to rule were in such an obedient mood, that there was little to it except a ratification of the thoroughly prepared plans. True there was one slip, and only one, in the carrying through of the prearranged slate. That was in the case of the legislative ticket. J. W. Cummings of Sand Coulee slipped in unawares. It was intended that the legislative ticket should be Seidler, Gray, Harbordt, McAnnelly and Albright; but J. W. Cummings was pushed by his friends so hard that he came in second in the race, and Wm. Albright was left out of it."¹⁵⁵

Albright took his loss in stride and by October was traveling around the state, visiting Helena and the quarries at Anaconda, declaring that "we live and learn."¹⁵⁶ Issues with train safety reared its head again in early December of that year (1908). A train heading to Great Falls from Albright suffered:

Quite a serious wreck occurred between this place and Riceville Monday afternoon when four loaded cars of the rock train jumped the track. The grade at this point is heavy and the heavy train was unable to stop until it had run about

¹⁵² "Albright," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, September 3, 1908, p. A1.

¹⁵³ "Orpingtons (advertisement)," *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, Thursday, July 9, 1908, p. 3.

¹⁵⁴ "Political Dope Along the Line: Who's Who in the Matter of Candidates for Nomination Upon the Republican County Ticket - No Lack of Good Timber," *The Great Falls Leader*, Tuesday, September 29, 1908, p. 5.

¹⁵⁵ "Republicans Name a County Ticket," *Great Falls Tribune*, October 1, 1908, p. 5.

¹⁵⁶ "Albright," *Belt Valley Times*, Thursday, October 1, 1908, p. 1.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

200 yards, cutting every tie in two as it ran. Tuesday's down going passenger did not pass here till 1:30 Wednesday morning¹⁵⁷

Trains weren't the only danger around town either. Just days after the train crash, Williams was robbed at Albright/Limedale in an apparent burglary:

Upon a warrant from the court of Justice Race the arrest at B & M. Siding of Peter Korisch, an employee of the Albright quarries, has been made by Deputy Sheriff Dennis on a charge of grand larceny.

The arrest was made at the instance of J. E. Williams, the lime manufacturer, who claimed that his room at Limedale was entered a few nights ago and a gun, a check, and some cash, to the value of \$54 were stolen.

The check was afterwards cashed by Korisch and resulted in a complaint being filed against him. Rusick (sic) [Korisch, misidentified] was brought to the city and released in \$100 cash bail to appear for trial next Tuesday.

Korisch claims that he obtained the check from another party in the course of a game of cards. He alleges that he won some money from this other party and he turned over the stolen check in payment.¹⁵⁸

Defended by local attorney W. F. O'Leary, Peter Korisch had the charges dismissed on January 20, 1909 "for lack of sufficient evidence in the case."¹⁵⁹

Mr. Albright's brief foray into politics may have contributed to the passing of a law that required a population of over 300 people before a community could operate a saloon. This caused new grief for Williams in April of 1909, as local citizen and likely Albright ally, Charles T. Rice, filed a complaint about William's saloon, citing the new law.

The first arrest to be made in Cascade County under the provisions of any of the laws enacted by the last legislature was made this morning at B. & M. Siding by Deputy Sheriff Kommers. This officer placed under arrest John Anderson upon a charge of selling liquor without a license. The case was brought under that law which prohibits the conducting of a club with a bar in connection in any town or village with a population under 300.

It is alleged that Anderson has been operating a saloon at Limedale under the name of the Limedale club. He was brought to the city this afternoon and taken before Justice Safford in whose court the complaint had been filed. He entered a

¹⁵⁷ "Albright," *Belt Valley Times*, December 5, 1908, p. 8.

¹⁵⁸ "Arrest of an Albright Man," *The Great Falls Leader*, January 16, 1909, p. 4.; In this article, the suspect is referred to as "Peter Rusick," but in later articles the name is corrected to "Peter Korisch."

¹⁵⁹ "Discharged," *Great Falls Tribune*, January 20, 1909, p. 4.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

plea of not guilty and informed the court that he was not running the saloon but that he was in the employ of J. E. Williams, and was being paid by the day for his services.

His bail was fixed at \$50 which he was able to produce and his case will come up for trial at some later date.¹⁶⁰

J. E. Williams was then arrested on the charge and appeared for trial on April 28, 1909, where he was found guilty and fined \$56.40. Charges against John Anderson were dropped as he was simply in the employ of Williams. William's attorney, J. A. McDonough, stated, "his client had made application to the county treasurer for a license to sell liquor, but that the license had been refused." He further stated that action would be taken to test the new law requiring a population of 300, but there was an additional complication:

A law was passed some years ago, making it illegal for the establishment or operation of a saloon within five miles of quarries and other similar workings in country districts where large numbers of men are employed. As Williams' place is close to the Albright quarries a saloon cannot be conducted there under the provisions of the law, and it is therefore sought by Williams to maintain a club there with a bar in connection.

Williams and William Albright, who operates the quarries at the siding that bears his name, have had considerable trouble in the past over the club and saloon matter.¹⁶¹

The tables soon turned as William's opportunity arrived to aggravate Albright and his wife Villa C. On January 1, 1910, he sued them for mining trespass on property Williams allegedly owned:

John E. Williams of Limesdale, near Albright, yesterday commenced action in the district court, through his attorneys, Freman & Thelen, to recover \$5,000 from William Albright and Villa C. Albright, owners of the big stone quarries at Albright, for damages alleged to have been sustained by plaintiff as the result of the defendants quarrying 50,000 tons of lime rock from property owned by Williams.

It is set forth in the complaint that the plaintiff is the owner of a certain piece of property known as Cascade Works No. 3 placer claim, which is patented and is located in sections 10 and 15-16-6 east.

It is alleged that the defendants, in the years 1908 and 1909, without the consent of the plaintiff and against his will, went on to the premises described and excavated, quarried, and removed not less than 50,000 tons of lime rock and

¹⁶⁰ "Prosecution Under New Law," *The Great Falls Leader*, April 8, 1909, p. 4.

¹⁶¹ "The Law Will Be Tested," *Great Falls Tribune*, Wednesday, April 28, 1909, p. 8.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

stone, worth a reasonable value of \$5,000. Plaintiff asks judgment for this amount and the costs of the case.¹⁶²

By this time, William Albright had experienced quite enough of the limestone business and in February of 1911, he and Villa sold the operation in Belt Creek to the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company for \$100,000, a huge sum at the time. Regardless of the property sale, the Albrights retained the water and gypsum rights, while also retaining sheep ranching property east of Belt Creek and the ranch near Rosebud, Montana:

The Albright limestone quarries at Albright, on Belt Creek in the Sluice-Box canyon, have been purchased from William Albright, the owner, and a resident of Great Falls, by the Amalgamated Copper Mining company for \$100,000. Negotiations for this deal have been pending for the past three months and the sale was finally consummated today when the deeds were filed with County Clerk and Recorder Lee Dennis. The tract of land purchased is 1,500 acres. Fifty thousand dollars was paid down by the mining company. The remainder of the sale price will be paid in royalties during the next four years. The Amalgamated Copper Mining company will take charge of the quarries on May 1.

This transaction is the largest single sale of mining property made in the county for years. The quarries have been operated by Mr. Albright for the past 21 years and most of his product has been shipped to the Boston & Montana smelter in this city for use in fluxing. The quarries were operated on a small scale to start with, but in the past few years six train loads per week has not been an uncommon shipment to the smelter, and at present the quarries are sending 600 tons of limestone daily to Great Falls.

During the last five or six years 70 men have been constantly employed at the quarries, which comprise two camps and two workings. Two water power equipment of 50-horsepower each have been installed on the property by Mr. Albright to furnish compressed air to the upper and lower levels. Boarding houses have been erected at each camp. For the present Mr. Albright will remain in charge of the quarry, and it is said that the working force will be increased to 100 men.

However, Mr. Albright does not intend to reside in Great Falls permanently in the future. By this sale he disposes of the largest part of his holdings in the vicinity of Albright, although still control of several water power sites, a large area of gypsum fields near Riceville and eight iron ore claims in the Thunder Mountain district. When he closes his connection with the quarry Mr. Albright will move to

¹⁶² "A Suit Over Limestone," *Great Falls Tribune*, Saturday, January 1, 1910, p. 9.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

the Yellowstone valley, where he has large ranch interests, and will make his home there. At present the Albrights reside at 1207 Fifth Avenue North.¹⁶³

Leading up to the sale in 1911, the Albrights maintained a house in Great Falls, a residence at the Belt Creek ranch, and the ranch near Rosebud, Montana. There was also a residence at Albright, but it occasionally flooded and would have been easier to school the children elsewhere. It remains unknown which building was the Albright residence, but it is probable it would have stood north of the dam and machinery at Dick's Gulch. Although the Albrights sold to Amalgamated, William Albright appears to have stayed on the payroll as a manager.¹⁶⁴

It was announced on March 3, 1911, that the civil suit of John E. Williams vs. William H. Albright was scheduled for the court of Judge H. H. Ewing on March 24, 1911.¹⁶⁵ Coincidentally, on Monday, March 13, 1911, the jury selections for Judge Ewing's term were posted and included William Albright.¹⁶⁶

In late March, 1911, Williams received a setback in the case when:

The plaintiff in the case of John E. Williams against William Albright has been granted 20 days in which to amend the complaint by Judge Leslie and the case has been continued at the cost of the plaintiff. The case went to trial before Judge Leslie on Saturday, a jury being secured from the venire of department No. 2, but after a jury had been impaneled, the plaintiff moved to continue the case, and the motion was granted. Attorney J. N. Thelen represents the plaintiff, and Attorney Sam Stephenson the defendant.¹⁶⁷

The resolution of the civil case remains unclear, the matter may have been dropped, or it is possible that Villa Albright may have purchased the property in question to settle the legal matter with Williams, as her land holdings include a purchase of "T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, June 29, 1911." While the majority of the references state that the \$100,000 sale of the limestone plant belonging to W. H. Albright occurred, the property was actually owned by, and the sale thereof occurred by Villa Clara Albright:

Villa Clara Albright to Anaconda Copper Mining Company, land in township 16 north, range 6 east and township 18 north, range 7 east, etc., \$100,000.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶³ "Albright Gets \$100,000 For Limestone Quarries from Amalgamated Copper Company," *Great Falls Tribune*, Thursday, February 23, 1911, p. 1.; "The Great Falls Leader," Thursday, February 23, 1911, p.8.

¹⁶⁴ "Heavy Fine for Williams," *Great Falls Tribune*, Wednesday, October 18, 1911, p. 9.

¹⁶⁵ "Calendar is Fixed," *The Great Falls Leader*, Friday, March 3, 1911, p. 8.

¹⁶⁶ "Court to Convene," *The Great Falls Leader*, Monday, March 13, 1911, p. 8.

¹⁶⁷ "Case is Continued," *The Great Falls Leader*, Tuesday, March 28, 1911, p. 3.

¹⁶⁸ "Farm Lands to the Fore," *The Great Falls Leader*, Saturday, March 11, 1911, p. 2.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

In October of 1911, Williams also attempted to also sell his property and lime smelter to the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company. Communiques from Williams to Amalgamated reflect William's intent to belittle Albright's property:

Mr. James O'Grady
October 20, 1910

Dear sir: -

If Mr. A. E. Wheeler will buy 5 or 6 acres, adjoining ground I sold Albright, enough good limestone on it to run the B. & M Smelter for 20 years at 1,000 tons per day, I believe twice that much A.l. lime.

Will sell it cheap with more water power to run larger crushers than the 2 300-ton crushers Albright for years has been running, and the dam and flume will not cost $\frac{1}{4}$ of what Albright's did. The works can be installed in less than 90 days after the Ry. Track has been put in.

I will sell for less than 1/100 part of it is worth to you or the Amalgamated.

Respty. Yours,
J. E. Williams¹⁶⁹

Williams' attorney received a response from A. E. Wheeler, who took a few jabs at William's himself. Wheeler's letter dated October 28th, 1911, indicated he not only was disinterested in William's property, but his displeasure with the issue of the alcohol establishment:¹⁷⁰

Mr. B. B. Thayer,
#42 Broadway, New York City.

Dear sir: -

I am in receipt this morning of your letter of October 25th, with enclosure of letter from J. E. Williams, in regard to his land holdings at B. & M. Siding, (Albright).

I enclose herewith a print on which Mr. Williams holdings are shown, together with that portion of our holdings surrounding him. His land is very close to our principal workings, Boarding House, etc., but is of no value to us as a quarry, as we have an ample supply of rock on our own ground.¹⁷¹ His ground covers the

¹⁶⁹ Letter from J. E. Williams to James O'Grady regarding a potential property sale, October 20, 1911. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁷⁰ Letter from A. E. Wheeler to Mr. Williams rejecting a potential property sale, October 28, 1911. Copy of 2-page letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁷¹ No copy of the "print" has yet been located.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

larger portion of the level ground in that immediate vicinity, and would be quite a convenience to us, but is not at all absolutely necessary.

Mr. Williams always gave Mr. Albright considerable trouble and has given us some trouble since we took over the property, by conducting a "blind pig" on his premises, which, particularly around payday interferes seriously with the work of the men at the quarry on account of intoxication. We have taken legal steps in an attempt to put a stop to this.

Mr. Williams has from time to time during the last two years asked us whether or not we wanted to buy his property. We have requested him to come and see us but he has never done so until about ten days ago when we made a definite appointment with him and I met him at Mr. Cooper's office. After some preliminary talk and a request several times for him to make a price, he finally said \$15,000.00. I told him it would not be any use for us to discuss the matter any further as we would not pay any such price because the property was not worth it and we did not care particularly to own it. He came down in his price by successive steps until he made a price of \$8,000.00, and finally just as he was leaving the room, he said he would sell for \$6,000.00. I had, in the meantime, offered him \$1,000.00, but did not at any time make him any other offer.

The property is not of any particular value to us as a limestone supply, because as stated before, we have ample supply. It would be a convenience to us to own his place on account of its being more level than our own property for any possible building purposes, and further, to be rid of the liquor nuisance to which I have referred.

If the Company felt so disposed, it might possibly be worth \$2,000.00, although, I believe, \$1,000 or \$1,500.00 is as much as it is worth.

I return herewith Mr. Williams' original letter.

Very truly yours,
A.E. Wheeler
Superintendent

Wheeler's response makes clear the new company frowned upon alcohol sales in the valley and their support for William Albright; the response and obvious aversion to William's alcohol venture apparently did little to curb William's spirit business as in October of 1911, he was once again arrested for selling liquor without a license.

One hundred dollars was the amount of the fine assessed J. E. Williams, of Albright, yesterday in the court of Justice Safford after he had entered a plea of guilty to a charge of selling liquor without a license. Not having anticipated such

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

a heavy fine Williams was not prepared to settle on that basis and he was given five days in which to do so.

The case was brought up in court upon a complaint filed by counsel for the Anaconda Copper Mining company, which owns and operates the lime rock quarries at Albright near where Williams' place is located. W. H. Albright, manager of the quarries, has been having trouble with Williams for several years over the sale of liquors at the quarries.

Williams was in possession of a government license which, however, did not authorize him to sell liquor in quantities of less than a quart. It appears that he has sold liquor in smaller quantities which necessitates the holding of a state license which he did not have and the plea of guilty followed.¹⁷²

Being charged and subsequently fined did little to quell William's alcohol-related activities, evidenced by a memo from J. H. Hall, Superintendent quarries and Postmaster:¹⁷³

B. & M. Siding, Nov. 25, 1911.

Mr. James O'Grady,
Great Falls, Mont.

Dear Sir: -

A few days ago, I wrote to Messrs. Cooper and Stephenson, attorneys at law, G. F., in answer to a letter of inquiry from them about the conduct of Jack Williams since his arrest and fine for selling liquor.

I told them of Williams selling liquor right along ever since that time.

Today Williams received another consignment of liquor. One from Bick Butts of Great Falls, billed as soda. Another from John Gray, a liquor man of Armington, billed beer and consigned to Louis Lafamm, Williams having an order to receive it and sign for it. It was all taken down to Williams's place.

There is only one way to clean out this dirty place, and that is to go after him. This thing should not be permitted right under our observation and to our detriment.

Proof can be had from men here if subpoenaed.

¹⁷² "Heavy Fine for Williams," *Great Falls Tribune*, Wednesday, October 18, 1911, p. 9.

¹⁷³ "Albright," *Cascade County Directory*, p. 551. Copy photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024; Letter from J. H. Hall to Mr. James O'Grady regarding Williams's continued sales of alcohol, November 25, 1911. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Very truly yours,
J. H. Hall

Adios William and John

In early 1912, Col. John (Jack) E. Williams disappears from the historical record until a final mention on June 11, 1914, when "Jack Williams, a pioneer resident of Limesdale, is reported quite ill at St. Peter's hospital in Helena;" his passing presumably occurred soon after.¹⁷⁴ Eight years later, his wife Eliza L. Williams passed away at her home in Index, near Everett, Washington on Sunday, February 19, 1922. She was survived by one son, Harold Williams.¹⁷⁵ The "Battle of the Blind Pig" between William Albright and Col. Williams ended. It is interesting to note that no alcohol is permitted today in the Sluice Boxes State Park.

William Albright retained properties in the Great Falls area, and often returned to his ranch near Rosebud, Montana, where he and wife Villa raised their children. William and Villa exited the mining business and turned their efforts to raising sheep. In November of 1920, he consigned about 2,000 head from the Rosebud ranch:¹⁷⁶

On the Chicago market last week our firm handled a consignment of lambs brought in to market by W. H. Albright, Rosebud, Montana. These lambs were well bred, but thin and were sold to go back to the country for further finish at \$13.00 per cwt. He was highly pleased with the price.

In speaking of the shipment Mr. Albright said the lambs were of his own raising, sired by Rambouillet rams and out of Delain Merino ewes. He raises about 2,000 head each season. Mr. Albright's stock carries medium-fine wool which is made possible by the cross he uses in breeding. His offerings, taking ewes, lambs, etc., sheared on an average of ten lbs. per head this season. He has some very high-class buck lambs for sale and anyone interested can get full particulars by addressing him at Rosebud, Montana.

Always independent, Albright grew his hair long toward the end of his sheep ranching career, letting it grow down below his shoulders. He continued to ranch at both Rosebud and Albright. When asked about his long locks, he snapped, "What was good enough for Yesus Christ in hair is good enough for me – huh?"¹⁷⁷ In 1929, Albright, "the owner of one of the largest sheep ranches in the state," moved to open a gypsum mine near Armington, 15 miles north on Belt Creek, on "1,000 acres of land with a 20-foot vein of rich gypsum."¹⁷⁸ It is unknown if Albright

¹⁷⁴ "Locals: City and Vicinity," *The Great Falls Leader*, Thursday, June 11, 1914, p. 6.

¹⁷⁵ "Obituary," *The Daily Herald*, Monday, February 20, 1922, p. 9.

¹⁷⁶ "Albright's Montana Lambs Sell to Feeders," Clay, Robinson & Company, Live Stock Commission, Volume 30, Number 41, Thursday, November 4, 1920.

¹⁷⁷ "Boathouse Pete Says," Ed Cooney, *Great Falls Leader*, Monday, December 17, 1928, p. 1.

¹⁷⁸ "Gypsum Mine in Prospect at Armington," *Great Falls Tribune*, Friday, March 29, 1929, p. 13.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

and Villa moved their sheep operation to the Armington area or if the mining knack lured the two to the new location.

The record shows that both William and Villa owned land throughout the Belt Creek area, and that Villa held more deeds than William. Villa held the deeds to the properties in Section 10 the location of the town of Albright and the limestone operation:

Land Patentees and Grantees in Ranges 5 and 6 East of Townships 16, 17, 18, and South Half of 19 North in Cascade County

Albright, Villa Clara

T17N, R6E, Sec. 14, 25, Sept. 12 1903
T17N, R6E, Sec. 26, Nov. 9, 1903
T17N, R6E, Sec. 25, 26, Dec. 11, 1903
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, 15, May 3, 1904
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, June 30, 1904
T16N, R6E, Sec. 24, Dec. 1, 1904
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, 11, 13, Feb. 20, 1905
T17N, R6E, Sec. 24, May 12, 1905
T16N, R6E, Sec. 1, 2, Dec. 5, 1907
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, Aug. 4, 1910
T17N, R6E, Sec. 26, Aug. 20, 1908
T17N, R6E, Sec. 34, Oct. 6, 1910
T17N, R6E, Sec. 35, Oct. 6, 1910
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, June 29, 1911
T16N, R6E, Sec. 10, May 28, 1914

Albright, William H.

T17N, R6E, Sec. 34, March 17, 1900
T16N, R6E, Sec. 2, 11, Feb. 17, 1901
T16N, R6E, Sec. 1, 2, May 11, 1906
T17N, R6E, Sec. 14, Aug. 29, 1907
T17N, R6E, Sec. 13, 14, 24, Dec. 5, 1907
T16N, R6E, Sec. 25, 26, 35, June 10, 1909
T16N, R6E, Sec. 28, Oct. 24, 1934¹⁷⁹

For the final three years of his life, beginning in 1931, William Albright returned to spend time in Great Falls, purchasing his last property there in October of 1934; in January of that year in Great Falls, however, he passed away after being in "failing health for some time."¹⁸⁰ His widow, his son, William Jr., and his daughter, Alice June Albright, remained on the ranch at

¹⁷⁹ Carol Martinell, Barbara Mittal, Sylvia Mundt, Lois Nelson, "Tiger Butte Recollections, A Project of the Tiger Butte Extension Homemakers," 1990, p. 214. Accessed at The History Museum & Research Center, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁸⁰ "W.H. Albright, Old-Timer of Vicinity, Dies," *Great Falls Daily Leader*, January 17, 1934, p. 3.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Rosebud for a time. Eventually, all of their five children, including their two daughters Lillian Peacock (Helena, Montana) and Alice Shadoan (Livingston, Montana); and their four sons W.H. Albright (Helena, Montana), Theodore Albright (Helena, Montana), Henry Albright (Bishop, California), and Frank Albright all moved away from the properties at Rosebud and Great Falls.

Following the passing of William, Villa sold the Deep Canyon Ranch east of Belt Creek to Charlie and Sue Bovey of Virginia City prominence in 1937.¹⁸¹ In 1942, Villa moved to Helena, returning to the location where she lived when she first met William. Villa passed away in 1963 at the age of 85.¹⁸² Today, the Far West Fishing Access, approximately three miles west of today's present location of Rosebud, Montana, represents approximately where the first town of Albright once stood.

William Albright remains arguably the only Montana character to have founded two towns that bore his name, serving for a time as postmaster of each.

The Anaconda Copper Mining Company

In addition to changes happening at the limestone quarry at Albright, April of 1912 brought news that telephone lines would soon extend up the valley to connect the Albright area to Belt. According to representatives of the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company, the "line will extend to the Boston and Montana quarries at Albright, and possibly up into the Michigan settlement near Monarch. At least 15 or 20 phones will be added to the Belt exchange by the building of this line."¹⁸³

Although the Amalgamated Copper Mining Company served as the initial contact for William and Villa Albright's quarry and mining operation sale in 1911, within a year, by 1912, the name associated with the operation was the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.¹⁸⁴ Regardless of name, the transfer ensured that operations would change from the time William Albright supervised the business. Having taken possession of the property, the new company initiated a detailed inventory, thereby recording the equipment and technologies used at the site:

Anaconda Copper Mining Company Boston & Montana Reduction Department
April 22nd, 1912

Dear Sir: -

From information gathered while at Albright Rock Quarry, I find at Quarry No. 1 there is installed one 26" Leffel Samson Turbine Water Wheel, working under 14 ft. head; 26" wheel under 14 ft. head wheel wide open will deliver 71 H.P. This

¹⁸¹ Chere Jiusto and Christine Brown, "Albright Ranch Barns," *The Barns of Montana*, Montana Historical Society Press, 2011, p. 176.

¹⁸² "Death Takes Mother of Alice Shadoan," *Livingston Enterprise*, Wednesday, April 3, 1963, p. 6.

¹⁸³ "To Build Rural Telephone Line," *Belt Valley Times*, April 18, 1912.

¹⁸⁴ The Amalgamated Copper Mining Company served as a holding company (as part of Anaconda Copper). Amalgamated completely dissolved in 1915 to slip completely under the Anaconda Company banner.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

power is used to drive two 14" x 20" crushers and one 8" x 12" air compressor. The 8" x 12" air compressor was wrecked some time ago. Now there is being installed one 10" x 10" air compressor; this compressor is larger and not to require any more power than the 8" x 12", it must run slower; the pulley on main shaft to drive the compressor is 26" x 10" x 2 15/16 put in place, so the new, or 10" x 10" air compressor will run less number of revolutions per minute but will deliver the same amount of air. The governor on water wheel is in bad order, this has been shipped to the B & M. for repairs.

There is located at this quarry one 35 H.P. Locomotive Boiler on wheels. One 2 cylinder (taking steam on one end of cylinder only), steam engine about 30 or 35 H.P., this boiler and engine have not been used for the past sixteen years.

At quarry No. 4 there is installed one 26" Leffel Samson Turbine Water Wheel, developing about 70 H.P., driving a two-stage air compressor. This wheel and air compressor is new and in good condition.

There is an air receiver 2'-6" x 6' at No. 1 quarry and one about 3' x 8' at quarry No. 4.

Yours respectfully,
Peter E. Hill¹⁸⁵

In August of 1912, the Boston & Montana smelter in Great Falls shut down for work to double its capacity and would not restart until April 10, 1913.¹⁸⁶ During that time, the quarries at Albright also shut down.¹⁸⁷

As moving rock at the quarry would resume at a demanding pace, complaints came in during early 1913 from the railroad company regarding the heavy use the ore cars received. Apparently, the limestone rock tumbled down feeder chutes into the cars with such speed and force they broke the wood plank sides and bottoms. Initially discarding the suggestion for cars with metal sides, Assistant Superintendent J. H. Klepinger believed the solution was "to rebuild the chute so that it will contain a couple of sharp bends, so as to break the force of the rock."¹⁸⁸ It is notable that in the distribution of ore cars dispersed throughout the Albright Historic District, ore cars feature both wooden sides and bottoms including OC-03, OC-13, and OC-14; of lighter gage steel-lined ore cars that include OC-02, OC-05, and OC-06; and ore cars of heavy steel construction that include OC-08, OC-09, OC-10, and OC-11.

¹⁸⁵ Letter from Peter Hill to Mr. A. E. Wheeler with an equipment inventory at the quarries, April 22, 1912. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁸⁶ "He Praises City of Great Falls," *Great Falls Tribune*, Saturday, March 01, 1913, p. 7.

¹⁸⁷ "Great Falls," *Mining and Engineering World*, April 10, 1913, p. 703.

¹⁸⁸ Letter from J. H. Klepinger to Mr. J. M. Hall regarding a potential flume fix to counter the reported damage, January 2, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

In June of 1913, the quarries at Albright were subjected to another flood event that barreled through the valley. In a letter to his boss A. E. Wheeler in Great Falls, Superintendent at the Albright mines J. H. Hall wrote:

The water in Belt Creek is still very high, but has gone down some since the evening of the 12th. Office, dining room and kitchen floors have been flooded for two days but the water is now below that. Have had hard time to feed the men but unless the water comes up again from the heavy rains, I do not expect much more trouble. The compressor at the lower quarry is part under water and cannot be used until the water goes down, here a number one quarry.¹⁸⁹

In August of 1913, the issue of alcohol near the mining area again reared its head as a complaint and request for dismissal was lodged from Mr. Hall to Mr. P. C. Allen, Superintendent of the Great Northern Railway Company, Great Falls, regarding the drunkenness of their railroad agent in Albright:

Our Railroad Agent here is badly under the influence of liquor all the time. I have spoken to him about it but that seems to be of no use and as he is not one of my men. I do not know just what to do about it, but will not have him around here in that condition as the influence among the men is very bad and I will not have it. Please advise me what course I may pursue.¹⁹⁰

Only two months later, alcohol once again rose to surface regarding its effect on production at Albright in October. Again, addressing a complaint to Mr. P. C. Allen, J. H. Hall protests:

The Railroad Agent here refuses to hand in the empty car numbers each evening so that I can make up a message to Mr. Lux advising him of the car situation as requested. He is very disagreeable and goes so far as to be mean, giving as his reason when asked about it, that he does not like the place and that this Company has nothing to do with him anyway.

A. E. Wheeler added his contention that:

We are paying one half of this Agent's salary in accordance with some correspondence regarding an agreement, the last letter of which was to Mr. C. O. Jenks and dated June 21, 1911, in which we notified you we would accept your bill for one half of his monthly salary.

If it is consistent with your method of handling agents, will you kindly notify this man that we are paying a portion of his salary and that he is to take instructions

¹⁸⁹ Letter from J. H. Hall to A. E. Wheeler regarding flood damage to the quarries at Albright, June 14, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁹⁰ Letter from A. E. Wheeler to Mr. P. C. Allen regarding the drunken Railroad Agent at the quarries at Albright, August 12, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

from our Foreman and furnish him with all information for which he may ask. If there is any question in his mind about the propriety of any instructions he may receive from our Foreman, he can take it up with his superior of the Railway Company. If this is not consistent with your business, will you kindly let me know what you would propose to do in the matter. If he will not satisfactorily handle the business of the station we will have to ask for his removal.¹⁹¹

Like any business, the Anaconda Copper Mining Company sought to elevate their profit. Limestone mining, almost by definition, was a dangerous business and required a lot of powder for blasting. In September of 1913, Assistant Superintendent J. H. Klepinger of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company Boston & Montana Reduction Department prepared a three-year summary for the years 1911, 1912, and 1913, to evaluate how much “blast furnace rock” had been produced, how much “ballast & concrete” rock had been produced, and the cost of “powder, caps, & fuse.” Submitted to A. E. Wheeler, the summary showed that for the three years of operation under the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, beginning in May of 1911 and finishing in August of 1913, 401,748 tons of blast furnace rock and 10,966 tons ballast and concrete rock were produced. During that period, \$17,625.19 was spent for the purchase of powder, caps, and fuse, for a cost equal to \$0.04270 per ton. It was further calculated that the labor cost related to blasting for the period between July of 1912 and June of 1913 was \$7,230.81, a cost of \$.036912 per ton. The labor cost included the expense of hand-carrying powder to quarries 1, 2, and five. The report had been prepared in response to a request by M. Goodale:

...who wished to have this information in order to form some judgement as to the advisability of breaking down the rock by “coyoteing,” which method involves the driving of tunnels near the base of the cliff, in which tunnels the powder is placed.

The item of “Laborers” in the tabulation for “Cost to Blast” covers the expense of carrying the powder to the top of the cliff. The total for this item is proportioned among the different quarries, depending on the amount of powder used in each. Mr. Hall advises that a day’s work for a man in carrying powder to the top of the cliff is 400 lbs. These latter figures would indicate that not much could be saved by installing some mechanical means for handling the powder.¹⁹²

In addition to the back-breaking work of extracting and processing limestone, the constant handling of explosives would have certainly contributed to the difficulty of the job. If each man carried 400 lbs. a day, it could be assumed that between 20 to 40 trips a day were needed. At 20

¹⁹¹ Letter from A. E. Wheeler with comments from J. H. Hall to Mr. P. C. Allen regarding the uncooperative Railroad Agent at the quarries at Albright, October 27, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁹² Letter and report from J. H. Klepinger and A. E. Wheeler regarding blasting expenses at the quarries at Albright between beginning in May of 1911 and finishing in August of 1913, September 25, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

lbs. per load, it would require 20 loads; at 40 lbs. per load, 10 trips would be needed, but at 100 lbs. per load, only 4 trips would be needed. The communication does not reveal what is considered a reasonable load-per-trip.

Late October of 1913 brought a new opportunity for the limestone operation at Belt Creek in the form of the possibility to furnish "lime rock" construction materials for the proposed new dam by the Great Falls Power Company at Great Falls.¹⁹³ To accommodate the possible contract to supply the stone, an outlay of potentially \$8,000.00 to \$10,000.00 had been proposed for potential upgrades at Albright. A. E. Wheeler responded in a letter dated October 30, 1913, that following a more detailed review, the expense will likely be closer to \$25,000.00 as a variety of improvements would need to be made. Wheeler provides a detailed nuts-and-bolts plan for the future of the mine:

The living accommodations and sanitary conditions at the quarry are not what they should be. However, if we were to continue operating only for our own supplies, we would do nothing about any changes at present, at least not until next spring, when we feel that we should do something for the proper housing of the men. Otherwise, we would wait until we could determine our ultimate requirements of lime rock before making any extensive changes.

Another uncertain quantity is the number of men to be provided for. The Power Company is proposing to handle the rock by power shovels, probably electric, which is undoubtedly the economical way to do it. This will reduce the number of men per ton of rock, but we do not know how much. It will probably be necessary to be in a position to provide for men enough for quarrying a very large quantity of rock per day. Mr. Scotten tells us that he will have a probably maximum capacity for putting in about 2,000 cubic yards of concrete per day at times, which is about 2,500 tons of lime rock, and he will undoubtedly want to run as hard as possible. We have been planning an average of about 800 tons per day for them in addition to our own requirements, which are just now about 600 tons per day. We ought probably to have a capacity for quite long periods of more than this, to provide for times of perhaps a month at a time when the Power Company would be using rock rapidly.

In view of the probable requirements in the next fourteen months or so, and before we had any idea it would cost so much money, we planned to build a bunk house, which would provide for forty-eight men using single bunks, and which could house ninety-six men using double bunks during the heavy work. We knew that if we quarried by hand the heavy tonnage we look forward to, it would require more than the ninety-six men, but we expected to take care of the extra men in our present buildings. Thus, we would have, after completing the Power

¹⁹³ Letter from A. E. Wheeler to Mr. B. B. Thayer regarding expenses for potential improvements at the quarries at Albright, October 30, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Company's work, a bunk house which would comfortably accommodate forty-eight men. The estimated cost of this bunk house, exclusive of furnishing, is \$6,700.00.

Next, we proposed to build a building containing the kitchen, mess, private mess for the foreman, clerks, store-keeper, etc., store, post office, and office. The estimated cost of this building is \$9,000.00.

Then we proposed a Foreman's Cottage, with two guest rooms which are for the use of company officials when there on business. The estimate cost is \$4,000.00.

The present living quarters for the foreman, store-keeper, and clerk, the guest rooms, the mess room, the kitchen, store, etc., are all in an old building in poor repair, and which is often flooded in the spring, as it was last spring.

The estimated cost of the bunk house, mess house, and foreman's cottage, without furnishings, that is, without bunks, etc., is therefore about \$20,000.00, and they are all very simple frame construction. With the expenditure of this amount in such a class of buildings. We would need fire protection, which would be a tank set on the hill near the building site. They have no such water supply now. This water supply, and the fitting up of the bunk and mess houses, we feel will bring the required expenditure up to \$25,000.00.

We cannot house more men than we need for quarrying our own rock, and therefore would be obliged to build something when undertaking the Power Company's work. If you do not approve of the building of the large bunk house we have spoken of, we might build temporary quarters such as the Power Company has built at the Great Falls. These buildings, however, would never be of much value to us in the future.

I have outlined above what I believe to be the least possible building and expenditure that we can get along with. It should, however, be borne in mind that we now have more or less difficulty when there is plenty of work to be had in the country, in getting all the men we want, and particularly in keeping good men, largely on account of the accommodations.¹⁹⁴

A blueprint with an elevation and section view of the proposed bunk house (Sketch 28), and a blueprint of the proposed floor plan of the foreman's cottage (Sketch 29) planned as part of the Albright improvement survive.

¹⁹⁴ Letter from A. E. Wheeler to Mr. B. B. Thayer regarding expenses for potential improvements at the quarries at Albright, October 30, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

The discussion regarding the mine's future continued to the end of the year. On December 13, 1913, Wheeler again wrote to C. F. Kelly regarding construction and accommodation plans:

Since my letter of October 18th, we have changed the agreement between the two companies so as to secure this supply with less construction expense to both the Power Company and ourselves.

The agreement now is that the Power Company is to build the two temporary bunkhouses and a temporary mess room, and make necessary changes in the present kitchen and men's room to accommodate the men who will be employed in the operating of the quarries. They are also to install a complete steam driven compressor plant to furnish additional air for drilling purposes and other necessary uses. This compressor plant is to be operated at the expense of the Power Company. This is because of the fact that we would not install or operate such a plant for our own use. All of the above to become the property of this Company. The Power Company is also to bear the expense of any special work which is necessary in the cleaning up or developing of the quarries preparatory to more extensive operations, and they are to furnish at their expense necessary small equipment, such as air drills, rail, cars, various small tools, etc., all of these latter to become the property of this Company.

The Power Company is to pay us five cents per ton of every ton of rock which they take, settlements to be made of course monthly.¹⁹⁵

Construction of new facilities (Sketch 28 and Sketch 29) were underway at Albright in late December of 1913, and a train car containing "tables, benches, lockers, etc." for the project was due to arrive from Great Falls. A letter from Klepinger to J. H. Hall notes:

We are arranging to provide oil lamps for all the new buildings, but, in case they do not reach you in time, it may be necessary to change the lamps from the old to the new dining room. A stove is being provided for the wash room and also a water heater for the kitchen. In case you need benches or tables in addition to those which we are sending, can you not use some from the old dining room at the lower houses? It is my recollection that there are quite a number stored in one of the buildings there. We should like to see all of this work closed up before the first of the new year, if possible.

The improvements made by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company to the Albright facility proved beneficial as material from the Albright quarries did find their way for use in the

¹⁹⁵ Letter from A. E. Wheeler to Mr. C. F. Kelly regarding expenses for potential improvements at the quarries at Albright, December 13, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

construction of the Ryan Dam, built from 1913-1915, at Great Falls.¹⁹⁶ Continual operation of the mines to provide material to the smelter at Black Eagle, located on the north side of the Missouri River at Great Falls, began in 1913, but shipments to the nearby Volta Dam for construction use were added in November of 1913. Combined, the sites, produced a total freight revenue from January of 1913 to March of 1914 of \$97,444.20 for the 15 months, with an average income of \$6,496.20 per month. By April of 1914, an average of approximately 16,000 tons per month were shipped during the noted period for a total of 244,815 tons.¹⁹⁷

Operations in the Belt Valley were not immune from the influences of the outside world. In the spring of 1914, the union arrived at the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, the *Great Falls Mill and Smeltermen's Union, Number 16 of the Western Federation of Miners*. Payroll attachment for the \$0.50 monthly union dues at Albright totaled 43 workers paying regular dues, 19 paying their \$5.00 initiation fee, and additional dues from two others. Sixty-four workers were reportedly counted, though a hand-written tally on a typed sheet of paper counts only 44 paying a total of \$76.00.¹⁹⁸

While mining chugged right along, Albright and the surrounding area continued to be a beacon for those wishing to enjoy the outdoors. Tourism to the beautiful valley, often associated with fishing, propelled an increase in rail service to three times a week between Great Falls and Monarch, south of Albright. One of the first to utilize the expanded service was "Ed S. Bovard, Great Northern messenger on the run from Armington to Neihart has returned to Neihart to make his first trip on the new tri-weekly service."¹⁹⁹

Already running at an increased capacity, the Albright mines elevated their production once again as the advent of World War I escalated the need for lime flux at the Great Falls smelter. The War effort bolstered demands for copper used for shell casings, radiators for vehicles, electrical components, and components for aircraft and ships. The increased demand for copper meant a corresponding increase for limestone flux; controlling both the flux source and the smelter contributed to efficiency.

Production numbers from Albright in 1916, 1917, and 1918 recorded quantities of 1,690 tons for "Crushed stone for road metal," 10,103 tons for "Concrete (paving building, etc.)," and 64,069 for "Furnace flux" for a value of \$26,748.07 in 1916. Values reported for 1917 were 5,324 tons for "Road metal, 331 tons for "Concrete," and 8,685 tons for "Furnace flux" for a value of

¹⁹⁶ "The Place of Great Falls," National Park Service, 2024. Accessed on 1-3-2024 at <https://www.nps.gov/places/the-falls-of-great-falls.htm>.

¹⁹⁷ "Freight Revenue on Limerock Shipments from Albright," Business correspondence regarding rail shipments from Albright, April 1914. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Noted on the edge of the copy is that it is "Reproduced from collections of the Montana Historical Society Archives."

¹⁹⁸ "Union Dues Due at Albright," Business correspondence from A. E. Stocker regarding union members and dues owed, March 31, 1914, Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

¹⁹⁹ "City and Vicinity," *The Great Falls Leader*, November 30, 1915, p. 6.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

\$9,978.30. The year 1918 records only 486 tons for “Road metal,” but an increase to 40,839 tons for the smelter, bringing the amount earned back up to \$23,608.51.²⁰⁰

In 1918, additional improvements at the limestone quarries at Albright were proposed by Peter E. Hill to Mr. James O’Grady for a “crushing plant to crush limerock to be used for concrete work, road material, blast furnace, reverberatory furnace and zinc plant.”²⁰¹ The proposal included a conveyor “of a size to handle 100 tons per hour,” a limerock storage bin “to hold the amount crushed in one day – say 400 tons,” and two rotary screens, “4 ft. in diameter and 16’ long, should take care of 400 or 500 tons of crushed rock.” The proposed bin would be 16’ wide, 40’ long, and 20’ high and have three compartments, “one small compartment for fine and two compartments for large size rock.” The Conveyor was projected to cost \$2,550.00, the limerock bin \$2,770.00, the rotary screens \$2,500.00, the crusher \$7,530.00, and an additional power line for \$7,500.00 for a total of \$22,850.00. None of these features has been identified in Sluice Boxes State Park, though it is unknown if the crushing addition was ever built.

In late 1918, a major flu outbreak roiled the town of Albright. The illness swept through the community as George Hale Brabrooke, superintendent at the mine in Albright at the time, informed a reporter on the 30th of November that:

Out of a population of about 200, fully three-quarters have suffered from the malady in a severe form. Mr. Brabrooke, who is just recovering himself says that of his crew all but two men are down at once, and the deaths in the camp reached 13 in 12 days. While conditions are better at this time, there is still much of the disease prevalent. Conditions in the camp were not good for the care of patients and medicine, food, and hospital accommodations were primitive and not of the best.

Almost everyone in the camp who did not die are immune unless the epidemic should start up again, and it is thought that the worst is over. In spite of these troubles, the Cascade mine has been kept unwatered and in running condition, although the losses to the operation during the time will reach \$10,000. The mine is looking well and as soon as sufficient help can be reassembled the work on the mill, which was suspended during the epidemic, will be resumed.²⁰²

²⁰⁰ “Production of Limestone in 1916,” Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, 1916; “Production of Limestone in 1917,” Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, 1917; “Production of Limestone and Dolomite in 1918,” Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey, 1918; Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Noted on the edge of the copy is that it is “Reproduced from collections of the Montana Historical Society Archives.”

²⁰¹ “Correspondence and calculations from Peter E. Hill to James O’Grady for a crushing plant addition at Albright,” Anaconda Copper Mining Company, February 7, 1918. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Noted on the edge of the copy is that it is “Reproduced from collections of the Montana Historical Society Archives.”

²⁰² “Conditions at Neihart Still are Very Serious,” *The Anaconda Standard*, November 30, 1918, p. 5.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

Stability of the mining in the Albright area resulted in families, including children, living in town, not just those who worked in there. Betty (Nebel) Cunningham spent her childhood years growing up in Albright:

Since we were isolated, we made our own fun. Milton and father hunted and fished, girls had a neat playhouse, swings, dolls, no roller skates, or bicycles because our yard was rocks. Lots of company in summer, lots of snow play in winter. Our mail arrived on the train in a canvas bag. It would be thrown off as the train passed, I believe they stopped going down to pick up the outgoing mail.²⁰³

By 1919, the workforce at Albright significantly declined, and employment became sporadic. A “Census of Mines and Quarries, 1919,” reported the workforce generally numbered 10 total workers “employed directly by Operator,” with none “under 16 years.” The workers are documented as having worked 198 days during the year at 8 hours per shift for a weekly total of 48 and \$11,070.73 had been paid out in wages. The “confidential” report continued that \$607.00 in taxes had been paid to the State of Montana, \$2,144.00 had been spent during the year on “materials, supplies, and power.” The value of the products produced at the Albright site amounted to \$13,822.68.²⁰⁴

The limestone mining at Albright peaked by 1920 and production was sporadic through the decade. In 1928, the population and industry declined to a level where the post office closed. As fewer people were in the valley, and potentially none on a year-round basis, buildings and infrastructure inevitably began to deteriorate. The exact number of people that lived at Albright during any particular year is lost to time. Census figures for 1900, 1910, 1920, and 1930 reflect counts by county and location, but the location of Albright is not specifically noted, the closest area count being the Belt District in general. The population of Cascade County jumped from 8,755 in 1890 to 25,777 in 1900, to 28,833 in 1910, and to 38,836 in 1920.²⁰⁵

A significant population decrease occurred by the 1920s; the “Census of Mines and Quarries, 1929” reported workers were only present at Albright for five months, two workers in April, two in May, three in June, five in July and five in August. Wages paid included \$2,163.75 to “Managers, Superintendents, and other responsible Admirative Employees and \$2,476.87 paid for “wage earners” for a total expenditure of \$4,640.67. Production at the quarry slowed substantially from previous years, especially considering that an income of \$3,771.63 for the production of 4,362 tons was posted.²⁰⁶

²⁰³ Sasha Lewis, letter from Betty Cunningham, July 1997 “Chronology of Albright Quarries from 1911 to 1945,” *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 18. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

²⁰⁴ “Census of Mines and Quarries, 1919: January 1 to December 31, 1919,” Inventory form for the Albright location, December 31, 1919. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

²⁰⁵ “Area and Population of Counties: 1870 to 1920,” Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920, 1921, p. 5

²⁰⁶ “Census of Mines and Quarries, 1929: January 1 to December 31, 1929,” Inventory form for the Albright location, December 31, 1929. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

In 1934, the limestone works at Albright were leased to Matt Antonich Sr., who continued its operation for about 10 years.²⁰⁷

Despite the decrease in production, R. Kennard of the quarry sent a memo that employees Mr. Cathrall and Mr. Barker of the Dupont Company would be visiting the mine at Albright on Saturday May 13th of 1939 to witness a "shoot." A tunnel "30 feet back from face and branches 30 feet to the right and 27 feet to the left with three loading pockets in the cross tunnel" had been excavated to receive the explosives. The memo states "they are loading one pound to the yard and anticipate obtaining about 6,000 yards(?) of good rock."²⁰⁸ At the end of December 1939, the plant at Albright was notified that "7 or 8 cars of rock" were needed for use at the U. & I. Sugar Company at Chinook, Montana. Ever responsive, the loaded cars were sent within a week.²⁰⁹

Alas, by 1943, nearly all of the metals mines in the Neihart Canyon ended production. In 1944, while operated by Matt Antonich Sr., the limestone mine at Albright closed for good and the valley was quiet except for the sound of an occasional train.

Albright Quarries Facts, Operation, Production, Shipment From 1911 to 1945

<u>Year</u>	<u>Figures for Year</u>
May 1911	Amalgamated Copper/Anaconda Copper Mining Company began quarrying at Albright after purchase
May 1911- Aug. 1913	401,748 tons blasted furnace rock 10,966 tons ballast and concrete work \$17,625.19 cost of powder caps and fuse \$0.04270/ton to break down limestone
Oct. 1913	\$0.36/ton to crush limestone
1914	Mine idle for half of November and all of December
1915	16,000 tons of stone crushed 95,000 tons of stone quarried

²⁰⁷ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *The Albright Ranch*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 473.

²⁰⁸ "Memorandum," Memo from R. Kennard to R. B. Caples regarding an upcoming blast, Anaconda Copper Mining Company, May 6, 1939. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Noted on the edge of the copy is that it is "Reproduced from collections of the Montana Historical Society Archives."

²⁰⁹ Letter from Matt Antonich regarding the need for cars of limestone at the U. & I. Sugar Company, December 30, 1939. Photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024. Noted on the edge of the copy is that it is "Reproduced from collections of the Montana Historical Society Archives."

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Name of Property

- 1916 Rock crushed to 3" size, material to be run-of-quarry rock
Crush 100 tons a day
1,690 tons road material for \$364.75
10,103 tons concrete for \$3845.65
6,409 tons furnace flux for \$22,532.00
- 1917 New crushing plant being discussed at quarries with crushing capacity of 100 tons per day
5,324 tons road material for \$2847.71
331 tons concrete for \$199.19
8,685 tons furnace flux for \$6,751.00
- 1918 2,486 tons road material for \$464.75
40,839 tons to smelter for \$23,143.76
- 1919 Census of Mines at Albright Limestone Quarries
Capital invested in area - \$100,000
Mineral acres owned - 811
On typical day - 2 superintendents/managers
2 clerks, 10 laborers
Employ from 5-14 Jan. to Aug. and none Sept.-Dec.
Operate 198 days for 6 days a week for 8 hours a day
Total cost of materials, etc. for year - \$2,144.00
Value of products - Limestone \$11,500.00
Lime \$2,087.00
One waterwheel
- 1920 Production cost higher due to new development work
- 1922 No limestone shipped to Great Falls smelter for fluxing
- 1923 No limestone quarries only loading waste for road repairs
- 1928 Post Office closed²¹⁰
- 1928-1929 No lime produced
- 1929 Census - Underground mining at Albright Limestone Quarries
Operated 153 days during year
One manager and 5 laborers
Closed Jan to March and Sep to Dec
Other months had 2-5 workers

²¹⁰ Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 40. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Total cost of supplies - \$718.38

Total value of products - \$3771.63 and one water wheel

1931 Maximum day's production – 150 tons

1932 Matt Antonich, Sr. leases the quarry²¹¹

Quarry open 73 days

3,990 tons of limestone removed

Used 140 pounds of dynamite

Worked 553 man-shifts

1934 532 shipments by railway to sugar refineries and roads

1935-1938 These production years similar to those of 1939-1941

1939 8,861 tons to sugar for \$12,406.00

225 tons to concrete for \$113.00

1940 9,982 Tons to sugar for \$14,897.00

1941 U & I Sugar asked for 1,200 tons before March 1

9,931 tons to sugar for \$14,897 for entire year

1942 4,760 tons to sugar for \$7,385.00

1943 4,531 tons to sugar for \$7,250.00

1944 471 tons to sugar for \$750.00

1945 Mine idle for entire year²¹²

Fish Train and Tourism

In addition to limestone mining, the rail spur to Neihart that went right through Albright was known as the "Fish Train" as it often transported residents of Great Falls to the excellent picnicking and fishing found in the Sluice Boxes Area.

In 1900, Montana had no closed season for trout. Fishing with a hook and line was legal any time of the year, but seins, snares, and dynamite were prohibited, though stories about the use of

²¹¹ Sasha Lewis, "Chronology of Albright Quarries from 1911 to 1945," *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 37. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

²¹² Sasha Lewis, "Chronology of Albright Quarries from 1911 to 1945," *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, pp. 30-32. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

dynamite began around 1894, perhaps associated with early mining in the area. Many accounts from the time tell of fishermen totaling catches 100 to 285 trout, with none weighing under three-quarters of a pound. Soon after 1900, a fishing season was established.

To assist the already well stocked creeks in the Albright and Belt Creek area, in 1900, Eastern brook trout were planted into Logging Creek, which empties into Belt Creek about three miles south of Albright Historic District, and the State Fish Hatchery planted rainbow, eastern, and Loch Levin in both Belt Creek and Little Belt Creek in 1917.²¹³

Taking advantage of the wonderful fishing opportunities afforded by Belt Creek and its associated feeder streams, the “fish train” was established in June of 1902, when train traffic in the Belt Creek Valley became sufficient to warrant changes in rail service. While the daily train ran for several years, tourism continued to bring more and more people into the valley for recreation and a new hotel opened at Logging Creek “for accommodation of pleasure seekers who will take advantage of a service.” The fish train originated in Great Falls and ran through the Belt Creek Valley including the Albright area:²¹⁴

The train will leave for Neihart each morning, except Sunday at 7:30, arriving at Neihart about 11 a. m. and returning to arrive in Great Falls at 4:15. The same crew will take the train through for the round trip each day.

The train will not run as a mixed train as was supposed but will go out of Great Falls and return as a straight passenger train, carrying one baggage car, a smoker, and a day coach. The train will run as a passenger to Monarch, and at that place will become a mixed train, taking up the freight at that point and running into Neihart as a mixed train. Returning the Neihart, Albright, Barker, and other freight cars will be taken on and pulled to Armington, where they will be dropped and the train come on to Great Falls as a passenger.

The popularity of visiting the Belt Creek Valley was well articulated by an article in the July 23, 1904, *Great Falls Leader* that noted, “The Saturday fish train or the Neihart branch pulled out at 1 o’clock today loaded to the hat racks with people bound for an outing along Belt creek, at Logging Creek, Armington, Monarch, Neihart or elsewhere.”²¹⁵ Tourism in the Sluice Boxes area continued to be popular into the summer of July 1909 with the “fish train” continuing to transport people into the Belt Creek area. People regularly camped along the creek, or the less adventurous could stay at a hotel at Logging Creek. Accolades of the fish train and scenery filled the pages of local newspapers:

One of the most beautiful resorts for the Great Falls campers is in the canyon through which the Belt River flows, in the Little Belt mountains. The scenery is

²¹³ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *Fishing and Hunting are Favorite Sports of Early Residents*, Belt Valley History, pp. 142-143.

²¹⁴ “Will Not Run Mixed Train,” *Great Falls Leader*, June 4, 1902, p. 5.

²¹⁵ “Fish Train Loaded to the Hat Racks,” *The Great Falls Leader*, July 23, 1904, p. 5.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

magnificent and the place is easily accessible owing to the train which runs several times a week to Neihart.

As the road goes higher and higher into the mountains the rugged beauty of the scenery increases. Perhaps the most wonderful sight is that of the sluice boxes. The Belt Creek, sparkling mountain stream, dashes and tumbles along between steep walls of sheer rock, looking as if its path had been cared by a master hand. From the train one can look deep down into the gorges and see the water far below. And again, this same little river, so angry when shut in its narrow bed, ripples merrily along in some sunny place or lies deep and mysterious in a pool under a huge overhanging rock. The mountains rising on either side are covered with a green cloak of fragrant pines and here and there are great piles of rock like the runs of giant castles.

As the train slowly puffs its way along its mountain road, one can see through the trees the glimmer of tents or at the little station one may be besieged by laughing sun-burned crowds of merry-makers in big straw hats and khaki suits.

The fishing in the Belt Creek and its tributaries is excellent and the "fish train" going up on Saturday and returning Monday is generally crowded. And even if once and a while an angler who has "really never had such luck before," should return with only one or two small specimens of trout, he will feel consoled for the fact by the memory of the delightful hour spent in the bracing mountain air.²¹⁶

In November of 1911, quarry Superintendent A. E. Wheeler responded favorably to a letter from the office of Montana State Game & Fish, who were contacted for advice regarding potential repairs in Albright:

Your Deputy warden, Mr. S. Cushman, called on me today, after having made an inspection of the premises at Albright, and recommends that two fishways be put in as early in the spring as possible, one at the upper dam to replace the fishway now in place, the other at the lower dam as first mentioned by you. Mr. Cushman recommends these be made of concrete, and states that your office will furnish proper plans and specifications for them. We would be glad to receive these specifications, and if it appears best then to put in concrete instead of wood ways, we will be glad to do so.²¹⁷

²¹⁶ "Many People Enjoying Outing In Mountains," *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, July 25, 1909, p. 4.

²¹⁷ Letter from Superintendent A. E. Wheeler to State Game & Fish regarding fishways at Albright, November 9, 1911. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

In June of 1913, the fishways that allowed the easy passage of fish washed out at Albright when the valley flooded and again had to be repaired.²¹⁸ The wonderment of “The Annual Miracle in the Belt Valley” once again called to summer tourists eager to visit the Sluice Boxes area.²¹⁹

The famous Sluice Box canyon lies at the portal of the Belt Valley and has become a favorite summer camping ground for hundreds each season. Accessible by rail, by wagon road, and by trail, more and more each year seek the cool shade of its massive limestone cliffs to spend a few days of an ideal summer outing. Many permanent camps are established and many families spend the entire summer amid the shady groves of its natural parks.

Another attraction is the excellent fishing afforded by the many streams that find their sources in the mountain country surrounding the valley. These streams are stocked annually from the state and government hatcheries and in consequence are never disappointing to the expert angler. Different sportsmen have their favorite streams, of course, but take it all around Belt Creek from its source to the city of Belt, and even further, is probably the best of them all. Generally free from brush and supporting several varieties of the gamiest trout it offers opportunity for skillful casting not excelled in Montana. Two to three-pound trout are not rare and include the native black-spotted, cut-throat, dolly varden, and steelhead varieties, together with the imported Loch Levin or eastern brook trout.

To keep the Belt Creek fishery active, in May of 1916, it was announced that “Two hundred thousand native trout fry will come to Great Falls Monday in the state fish commission’s car for distribution between Armington and Neihart, W. D. Delphy, deputy state game warden has heard from Warden J. L. DeHart.”²²⁰

Contaminants from the surrounding mining activity played havoc with the streams at times. In early April of 1919, “running of tailings into the stream by the Cascade silver mine and mill at Neihart” resulted in County Attorney H. G. Bennet notifying the mine company, through George Hale Brabrook, manager at the mine, that “immediate action must be taken to save the creek from pollution.”

“Samples of water of Belt Creek have been submitted to the state board of health, and I am advised by Dr. Cogswell of the State Board of Health that the stream is being polluted, and you are hereby directed to take immediate steps for discontinuing the discharge of such polluting matter into said stream unless methods are taken to render the same harmless.”²²¹

²¹⁸ Letter from J. H. Hall to A. E. Wheeler regarding flood damage to the fishways at Albright, June 14, 1913. Copy of letter photographed at the State Parks Office, Great Falls, Montana, 2024.

²¹⁹ “The Annual Miracle in the Belt Valley,” *Belt Valley Times*, July 14, 1914, p. 8.

²²⁰ “Trout Fry Coming,” *The Great Falls Leader*, May 6, 1916, p. 5.

²²¹ “Bennet Takes a Hand in Affair,” *The Great Falls Leader*, April 8, 1919, p. 5.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

It turned out the discharge of tailings was not the cause of the fish kill. The end of May 1919, revealed:

A.W. Brazee, garage man of Monarch, has explained to The Leader about the presence of dead fish in Belt Creek, supposedly killed by the tailings from the Mill at Neihart, recently reported here.

“It is true that dead fish were found in Belt reek, down around Riceville, that is not all,” he says. “There were dead fish by the dozen in Pilgrim Creek about the same time. The fact is that some one dynamited the fish in Pilgrim Creek and, as a result, the impression went out that the tailings were killing them.”

“We are hopeful that the fish train will be run into Monarch again this year. We know no reason why it should not be run, for fishing is as good as ever before. I saw a boy with a 17-inch trout this morning, as a sample of the possible catches.”²²²

Unfortunately, fishing was compromised by mining upstream from the Sluice Boxes. In the early 1920s, the stream became uninhabitable to fish due to tailings runoff from the mills and mines in Silver Dyke, Neihart, and Hughesville. The trout in Belt Creek were being affected and “became soft, offcolor, and apparently starved. The water was thick with slum and the creek bed was covered with yellow mud.” It was not until the mines stopped operating that Belt Creek cleared; by 1932 vegetation returned and the fishing improved.²²³

In late April of 1919, it was announced that the route through Belt Canyon from Monarch to Riceville, just north of Albright, would be a great place to establish the recently proposed “Y-G Bee-line” highway to connect Yellowstone and Glacier parks by a direct route to promote tourism. To that end, a delegation used railroad “speeders” to explore the valley.²²⁴

A party of good roads workers and county officials, who motored to Riceville from Great Falls went from that station to Monarch by train and returned thru the canyon on speeders. The party was composed of President Grant Call and Secretary R. S. Skinner, of the commercial club; W. H. George, chairman of the club’s good roads committee; County Commissioners B. C. Johnston and J. R. Bennett; County Surveyor R. G. Day; W. B. Willey, forest supervisor of the Jefferson Forest and U. S. Marshall, representing the Road Department of the Federal Bureau of Forestry.

²²² “Dead Trout Due to “Shooting” Pilgrim,” *The Great Falls Leader*, May 31, 1919, p. 8.

²²³ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *Fishing and Hunting are Favorite Sports of Early Residents*, Belt Valley History, pp. 142-143.

²²⁴ “Feasibility of Canyon Highway is Discovered,” *Great Falls Daily Tribune*, May 29, 1919, p. 12.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

The informational article appeared in a full page of *The Great Falls Leader* with the headline “Fishing Good in Belt Creek and in Monarch Streams.” Much of the page was dedicated to the recreational opportunities in the area. At the time, it was being considered to route the proposed “Y. G. Bee-line” through the Belt Creek Canyon, past Albright and past the Sluice Boxes. The Yellowstone-to-Glacier direct route eventually was routed further east through Neihart, Monarch, Armington, then Belt before continuing on through Great Falls.²²⁵

Tourism continued in the area throughout the summer of 1930, south of Albright at the community of Logging Creek, the Lions Club summer camp, a recreational resort, continued to entertain guests. The resort entertained several youth groups through the summers. Nearby, Campsite, a guest ranch, offered extensive services for visiting tourists. At Campsite, “facilities include a large ranch house, 16 cabins, post office and store, dance hall and saddle and pack horse service.”²²⁶

The cessation of mining in 1944, significantly reduced the rail spur traffic through the Belt Creek Valley. Tourism was further dampened by World War II, and the Great Northern Railway had little reason to continue the line. In late November 1944, they presented an application to the Interstate Commerce Commission at their meeting in Great Falls for authority to abandon the line from Armington, north of Albright, to Monarch, south of the town. It was reported that “ranchers, mining men and others were to testify at the commission hearing” regarding the proposal:

Frederick G. Hamley, counsel for the Montana Board of Railroad Commissioners, objected against abandonment of the line on grounds that decreased traffic is due mainly to war conditions. He added that the mines would probably reopen when labor and materials are available. Also protesting abandonment were attorneys for the railroad brotherhoods.

Hamley said abandonment of the line would make a “ghost town” of Neihart.”²²⁷

Today, the town of Neihart to the south survives, but Albright fulfilled Hamley’s predication as a “ghost town.” On July 20, 1945, it was announced:

The Armington-Neihart branch of the Great Northern Railroad will be discontinued Aug. 4 after more than 50 years of operation, it was announced today.

²²⁵ “Feasibility of Canyon Highway is Discovered,” *Great Falls Daily Tribune*, May 29, 1919, p. 12; “Essex Tour of Leader Series Corrects Misimpression That Mill Tailings Killed Trout,” *The Great Falls Leader*, May 31, 1919, p. 8.

²²⁶ “Logging Creek is Popular Outing Area; Two Highways,” *Great Falls Tribune*, June 22, 1930, p. 14.

²²⁷ “Railroad Seeks to Abandon Line,” *The Billings Gazette*, May 5, 1945, p. 6.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Abandonment if the line comes within a few years after the several large mining companies in the area discontinued operations resulting a marked decline in valuation on the basis of assessment records, railroad officials pointed out.²²⁸

On Saturday, November 2, 1945, the last train run over the Neihart Branch Line took place. For the trip up and back from Great Falls, the cars were packed with past riders, and stories of their trips through the Sluice Boxes canyon over the years filled the passenger cars:

Some were natives of the town set down in the Belt mountains, some were children of pioneers, and others were still residents.

And so, at Great Falls the last sentimentalists followed the last crew off the train, straggling, quaint remnant of adventure, thanking Tom Kleiv, conductor, for the ride. Smiling wearily at Homer Bain, brakeman, as he helped them from the dusty coach, waving goodbye.²²⁹

Thomas Kleiv, son of the conductor on the Belt Mountain Branch later remarked:

As a child, I made several trips to Neihart with my dad, and the highlight to the trip was the Sluice Boxes. Often the train would stop at a good fishing hole. Fishermen would detrain, and be picked upon the return trip from Neihart. Logging Creek and Albright areas had many summer cabins and the railroad was the best way getting to and from. During the summer months, the train made daily stops. Logging Creek had a store and post office.²³⁰

Esther Brurud (Libetrau) was born on the Albright Ranch in 1916 during a period (1914-1921) when her dad Ed Libetrau managed Albright's sheep ranch. Ed had worked at the ACM Smelter in Great Falls as "foreman at the electrolytic plant," but left the position to work for William Albright. During her childhood in the area, she had many recollections about living, picnicking, and playing in the area from the Sluice Boxes to the community of Logging Creek, where dances were popular. In 1953, a devastating flood swept down Belt Creek, removing rail bed, bridges, and trestles.²³¹ Accessing the narrow canyon area of Albright and the Sluice Boxes could only be accessed on foot from that time forward.

In 1953, the flood cleaned out all the bridges and everything. The new road [State Highway 89] eliminated everyone picnicking there. All the good spots I took my kids to are gone, you can't access them. My brothers used to ride horseback from

²²⁸ "Rail Line Discontinued," *The Havre Daily News*, July 20, 1945, p. 6.

²²⁹ "Days of Riotous Mining Town Relived with Closing of Neihart Branch Line," *Great Falls Tribune*, November 3, 1945, p. 1.

²³⁰ Marshall Farley, interview by Sasha Lewis, August 4, 1997, Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 45. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

²³¹ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *The Albright Ranch*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 473.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

here to over there to go to dances on Saturday night. They had really nice dances there and people would come from the other way to go.²³²

Becoming a State Park

Following the abandonment of the railroad, the state of Montana used a federal statute to claim the bed:

“It stated that they should revert back to the states, to the highway departments for the uses of public access or highway right of ways. So, the state of Montana got that right of way from the Great Northern Railroad.”²³³

Beginning in 1971, to consolidate an area to provide public access, the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks leased the right-of-way from Riceville, north of Albright, to the Logging Creek Bridge, south of Albright, for 25 years. Through a quitclaim deed, they also obtained lands from the Anaconda Copper Mining Company. Following the successful pursuit of 13 different land action suits, 1,378 acres have been acquired in the 7.5-mile-long canyon.

Limited private parcels are still held in the canyon, but public access through the canyon is allowed and hiking through the canyon is a popular activity. Horses, bicycles, electric bicycles, motorized vehicles, and alcohol are not permitted in the park. Overnight camping permits are available.

Public access is available from the Logging Creek bridge in the south to the main entrance of the park at Riceville, which also includes a parking area, restroom, and information kiosk. An additional parking area and valley access trail are located on the west side of the park along the Evans Riceville Road.

One of the best views of the park valley can be obtained at the northern end by parking at a roadside pullout, elevated above the valley floor, located along the two-lane highway Montana State 89 (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0145).

Criteria Summary

In the depths of what is now the Sluice Boxes State Park canyon of Belt Creek, acoustics come alive between the vertical limestone cliffs. Standing remnants of an old chicken coop imply the early crowing of a rooster, the sharp noise reverberating to announce the new day. The sounds of hard rock mining with occasional explosions and train traffic could have been heard for miles, echoing up and down the vertical walls, a clanging, banging, whistle-tootin' cacophony of industrial noises. Everyone knew when the train came through. Everyone would have also

²³² Esther Brurud, interview by Sasha Lewis, June 19, 1997, Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 18. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

²³³ Nels Thoreson, retired FWP supervisor, interview by Sasha Lewis, June 20, 1997, Sasha Lewis, *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 45. On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

known when the quarry and related material handling fell silent. In 1944, the mines ceased operation and a year later, in 1945, the train made its last trip through the canyon and the valley had fewer echoes. In the early 1950s, a particularly heavy flood swept the canyon, destroying and removing structures. Then the valley grew hushed as nature moved back in as the dominant landscape influence—the cycle of mining in the west.

Since that flood, few travelers pass this way. A decent trail runs north-south through the Sluice Boxes State Park and there are access points at both ends; following the trail leads one downstream. Some kayakers and raft floaters brave the creek, but it is reported to be “interesting.” Black bears frequent the valley and during chokecherry season their presence is evident.

Standing at various locations in the Albright Historic District conveys a presence of history. Ore cars lounge in the trees, left where last used. Rails and rail components are scattered among the cars. Stone foundations host vines and dense underbrush. A twin-chimneyed kiln stands firm beside the trail, a faint foot-skid trail leading down for the curious to inspect it closer.

The district’s encompassing remnants of the ghost town and associated quarries of Albright, Montana, is significant under Criterion A through its association with mining and tourism in the Belt Creek Valley between 1891-1953.

The district contains enduring vernacular architectural structures that represent residential building sites, remnants of the railroad line, and vestiges of industrial limestone mining operations relating to the period of significance qualifying it as eligible under Criterion C. These constructs embody the type, period, and methods of construction and period-engineering techniques used to create the primary mining infrastructure and associated businesses and residences in remote Montana areas during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The district is further eligible under Criterion D as little is formally documented regarding the extent of the mining quarries, the exact number of mines that operated there, the supporting infrastructure in the canyon, and the exact locations of residences, businesses, and their associations to people in the town. While limited GPS mapping occurred in preparation for this nomination, most building locations and orientations related to specific activities remain unknown. Building or structural resources as well as less concentrated artifacts remain unidentified; further pedestrian inventory that could include cutting back vegetation, the use of ground penetrating radar, remote sensing, or other similar technologies could yield important information regarding features in the district. Such identification could provide information related to specific individuals and families of the Albright Historic District. The cultural resources within the canyon and Albright itself provide fertile ground for industrial archaeology studies. Archaeological investigations as the National Register-listed ghost town of Garnet “yielded important materials associated with the occupation of the town. These investigations

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

indicate further subsurface exploration will continue to provide information relating to the activities of the people who once lived in Garnet.”²³⁴

Researching and discovering more detailed maps of Albright and Limesdale will greatly contribute to identifying locations of business, residences, and mining-related infrastructure associated with specific people and occupants. Additional investigations would yield a better understanding of the construction sequences not only in the Albright Historic District, but in the valley. Such investigations would assist in relocating yet-to-be identified resources.

Although no formal archaeological testing has occurred within the Albright Historic District, the number of resources, including scattered artifacts, strongly suggest subsurface investigations could yield a plethora of information related to the day-to-day activities of the workers and occupants of the town. Identification of materials and their gender association in conjunction with discovering a town plat map could bring clarity of individual structures and associations to specific individuals. Similarly, the identification and analysis of cultural materials in lieu of receiving a plan map of the town would be the only recourse to more accurately identify the locations of individual's specific residences or associated buildings—such as the home of William and Villa Albright. Artifacts could easily shed light on the differences between the common workers and the more affluent owners in addition to aiding the identification of specific locals where the residents lived.

It is further known that the general location of the nominated area lays within a cultural landscape previously utilized by the First Peoples for thousands of years as evidenced by nearby documented sites. While no documented pre-mining cultural sites have been observed within the nomination border, little effort has occurred to identify if they exist.²³⁵ A further investigation of

²³⁴ Jerry Clark, Terri Wolfgram, Maria Craig, and Allan Mathews, *Garnet Historic District*, Listed August 12, 2010, NR # 10000547.

²³⁵ In 1978-1979 Stephen Aaberg, with Jack Fisher assisting in 1979, conducted an archaeological survey of the State Park. The survey revealed many rock shelters with intact deposits and some with pictographs. Excavation yielded “basalt flakes, chert, chalcedony, and a few bone fragments.” “A chalcedony flake and a variety of bone” was found at Site 24CA0138, Dick's Gulch Cave, on the north side of the creek, within ¼ mile of the Albright Historic District's western boundary and close to the most heavily industrially impacted area at the junction of Dick's and Belt Creeks. Other precontact evidence was found in the Camp Don Bosco Pictograph Site, near the north end of the Sluice Box State Park. Approximately ¼ mile northeast of the Albright Historic District in Section 10 of T16N and R6E (Map 3), is the Stinking Cave Pictographs, Site 24CA0108, a rockshelter overhang. Steve Aaberg, Site 24CA0108 mylar pictograph tracing, 1978, at the State Parks Office in, Great Falls, Montana; Steve Aaberg, 24CA0108 Site Form, June 16, 1978, on file at the Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT; Steve Aaberg, 24CA0138 Site Form, May 24, 1979, on file at the Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT. These photographs were traced during the 1978-1979 field work (Photo MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0144).

This type of rock art found within the Belt Canyon thus far are of “geometric figures and abstract designs,” as described by Dr. Mavis and Dr. John Greer, rock art researchers well published on the topic.²³⁵ Figures within the classification are “a class of figures unrecognizable as objects in the natural world. Abstract designs are non-naturalistic and cannot be recognized as human, animal, plant, or an item of material culture.” While dating of this type of red ochre pictographs proves elusive, they are considered to date to approximately

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Name of Property

the area north of the district could potentially lead to a boundary expansion based on both indigenous and historical resources. Admittedly, areas of heavy industrial and quarrying activities would easily obscure past precontact use. One research question that could address multiple time periods would entail an examination of the caves and rock shelters within the district area; does evidence exist that any of these caves or rock shelters were modified or used during the Albright Historic District's period of significance for occupation by miners or those living in the Albright area at the time and/or does other evidence suggest earlier use by Native populations?

To date, no industrial archaeology projects have occurred in the district, save the documentation investigation by Preserve Montana in 2020 that focused on the documentation of cultural resources between Creek Crossings 11 and 12—"A total of 55 resources were documented: 31 primary resources – buildings, structures and sites – along with auxiliary objects - 16 ore carts, 2 rail scatters, 4 rail switch plates, timber and rail scatters."²³⁶ This nomination continues the use of Preserve Montana's nomenclature and utilizes much of their foundational descriptive text and images. In addition, the full body of items relating to the industrial processes that took place in the park have not yet been documented. Continuing the investigation of resources and artifacts within the Albright Historic District and greater valley area would contribute to further understanding of activities that took place there.

3,000 years ago, with continuance into the contact era. Mavis Greer and John Greer, "Central Montana Rock Art," *Archaeology in Montana*, Volume 37, Number 2, 1996, p. 51.

²³⁶ Chere Jiusto, Mary Webb, Madeline Westrom, and Dan Rhode, *Historic District Documentation: Albright, Montana*, 2020. Report and data on file with Preserve Montana, 44 West 6th Avenue, Suite 110, Helena, MT 59601.

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Name of Property

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County and State

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Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

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Name of Property

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Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

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Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

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Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

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Name of Property

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County and State

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Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

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Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

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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:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☒ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other

Name of repository: Preserve Montana, Helena, Montana; The History Museum
Research Center, Great Falls, Montana

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 205 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

District Boundary:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161° | Longitude: -110.955780° |
| 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419° | Longitude: -110.948357° |
| 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901° | Longitude: -110.959630° |
| 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927° | Longitude: -110.952976° |
| 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799° | Longitude: -110.953963° |
| 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237° | Longitude: -110.949320° |

Resource Coordinates:

Bld = Building Ob = Object Str = Structure Site = Site

AB-001	Barn	47.148338	-110.950643	Southern End of District	Bld
AB-002	Residence	47.148350	-110.951057	Southern End of District	Bld
AB-003	Gate	47.148183	-110.950952	Southern End of District	Ob
AB-004	Windmill	47.148272	-110.951046	Southern End of District	Str
AB-005	Stone Foundation	47.148314	-110.951282	Southern End of District	Site
AB-006	Gate	47.148370	-110.951130	Southern End of District	Ob
AB-007	Water Handpump	47.148209	-110.951670	Southern End of District	Ob
AB-008	Outhouse	47.148262	-110.950904	Southern End of District	Bld
AB-009	Stone Quarry	47.156299	-110.955093	Central at Dicks Gulch	Site
AB-010	Bridge Piers	47.16182	-110.953333	Northern End of District	Str
AB-011	Residence	47.14861	-110.952700	Southern End of District	Bld

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

AB-012	Shed	47.148408	-110.951972	Southern End of District	Bld
AB-013	Outhouse	47.148356	-110.952024	Southern End of District	Bld
AB-014	Dock	47.147973	-110.952754	Southern End of District	Str
AB-015	Platform	47.148220	-110.953344	Southern End of District	Site
AB-016	Storage Cave	47.159529	-110.953619	Northern End of District	Str
AB-017	Cabin	47.159576	-110.953332	Northern End of District	Bld
AB-018	Cabin	47.159645	-110.953314	Northern End of District	Bld
AB-019	Storage Cellar	47.157570	-110.955676	Northern End of District	Str
AB-020	Lime Kiln	47.15705	-110.955960	Northern End of District	Str
AB-021	Stone Pier	47.1553314	-110.955178	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-022	Stone Structure	47.155657	-110.956675	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-023	Kiln/Foundation	47.156645	-110.955355	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-024	Wood Struct.	47.156379	-110.954925	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-025	Chicken Coop	47.157357	-110.954845	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-026	Stone Pier	47.152762	-110.953810	Southern End of District	Str
AB-027	Powerhouse	47.155858	-110.955634	Central at Dicks Gulch	Bld
AB-028	Turbine House	47.155858	-110.955634	Central at Dicks Gulch	Bld
AB-029	Collapsed Structures	47.153038	-110.953806	Southern End of District	Site
AB-030	Pair of Lime Kilns	47.155782	-110.955164	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str
AB-031	Stone and Brick Str.	47.151920	-110.953695	Southern End of District	Str
AB-032	Quarry	47.155964	-110.957655	Central at Dicks Gulch	Site
AB-033	Quarry	47.160909	-110.953154	North End of District	Site
AB-034	Railroad Grade	47.161387	-110.951996	North End of District	Str
AB-035	Water Intake	47.155858	-110.955634	Central at Dicks Gulch	Str

Ore Carts

OC-01	47.151070	-110.953924	All considered objects
OC-02	47.151083	-110.953889	
OC-03	47.151503	-110.953705	
OC-04	47.151690	-110.953693	
OC-05	47.151697	-110.953723	
OC-06	47.151705	-110.953837	

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Name of Property

OC-07	47.151732	-110.953814AB-032
OC-08	47.151724	-110.953746
OC-09	47.151731	-110.953760
OC-10	47.151759	-110.953768
OC-11	47.151784	-110.953813
OC-12	47.152648	-110.953370
OC-13	47.152701	-110.953380
OC-14	47.152722	-110.953390
OC-15	47.148193	-110.950905
OC-16	47.156779	-110.955233

Railroad Rails

RRT-01	47.151205	-110.953778	All considered sites
RRT-02	47.151245	-110.953832	

Railroad Switch Plates

RTP-03	47.150983	-110.953841	All considered sites
RTP-04	47.151333	-110.953775	
RTP-05	47.151418	-110.953738	
RTP-06	47.151583	-110.953666	

Maps 6, 7, 8 below show resource locations.

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

The Albright District nomination boundary is defined as a somewhat rectangular polygon, with the long axis generally oriented north-south (approximately 4,700 ft.) between crossings 10 and 12, with a sharp bend occurring at Dicks Gulch. The apex of the bend is one-third of the way from the northern end, pointing to the west. East-west, the polygon varies from approximately 1,500 ft.-1,700 ft. wide and encompasses Belt Creek, the valley floor, and portions of the vertical cliff quarries. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320 (Ref. Map 2 thru Map 8). See attached maps Section 9 - end, pages 104-110; reference to these maps confirm the boundary.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The polygon encompasses all resources defined in this nomination and is generally duplicative of the area suggested by the Preserve Montana 2020 survey, with a slight expansion to include additional western and northern quarry areas. The boundary is fully within the border of Sluice Boxes State Park, and encompasses the general valley area of Albright and Limesdale, the quarry areas, and associated activities.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Timothy Urbaniak, PhD
organization: TRU Technologies LLC
street & number: 503 Calhoun Lane
city or town: Billings state: Mt zip code: 59101
e-mail turbaniak@bresnan.net
telephone: 406-259-6595
date: 12-30-2024

Completion of this nomination could not have been accomplished without the support, images, and files from the historic review of the Albright area accomplished by the Preserve Montana group in the summer of 2020. A significant amount of this nomination is directly based on their material.

name/title: Chere Jiusto, Mary Webb, Madeline Westrom and Dan Rhode.
organization: Preserve Montana
street & number: 44 West 6th Avenue, Suite 110
city or town: Helena state: Mt zip code: 59601
e-mail info@preservemontana.org
telephone: 406-457-2822
date: 2020

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.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

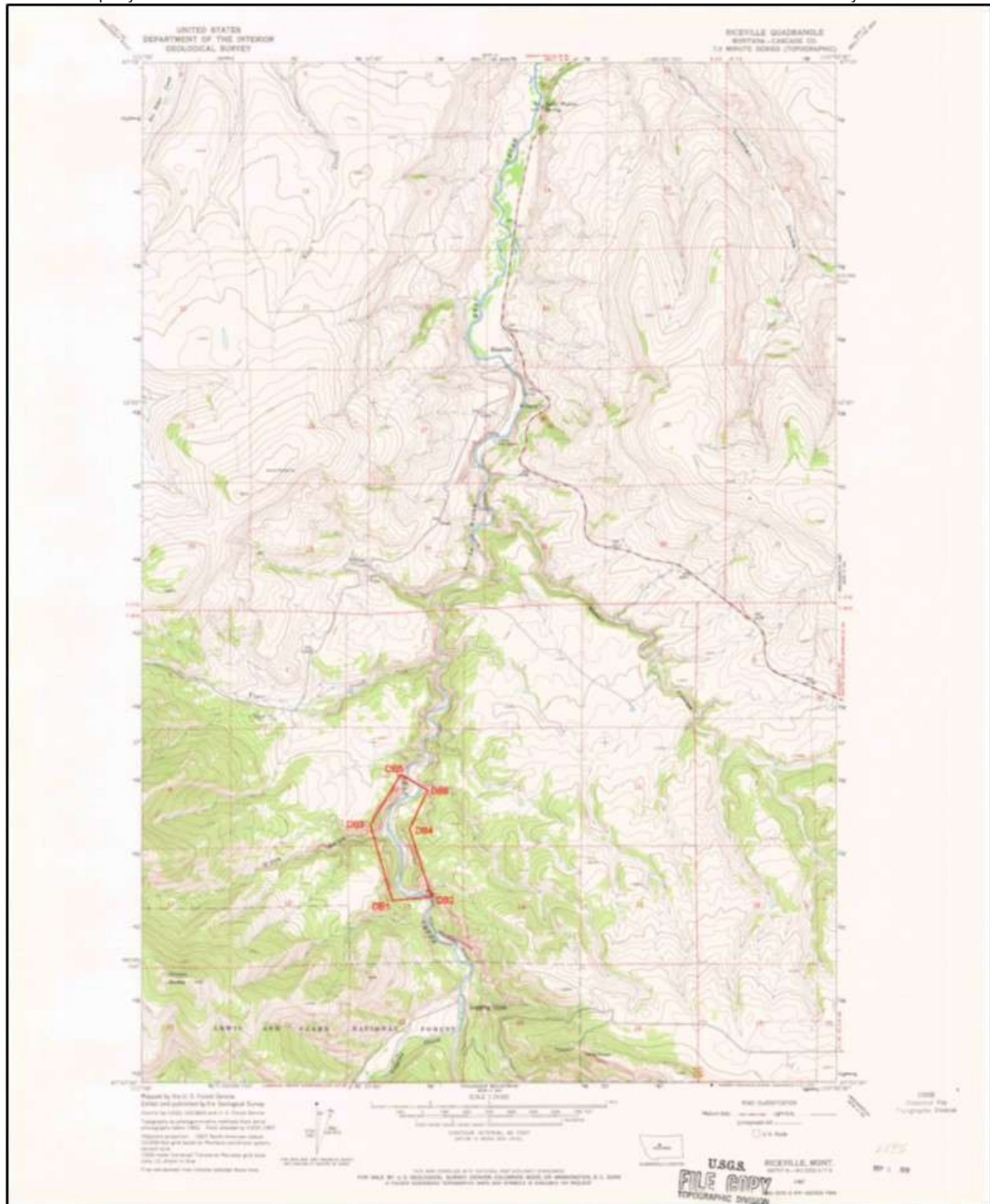


Map 1. General Location Map: Albright, Montana. The smaller arrow points to the first town of Albright, the larger arrow to the second.

Source: https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/montana_map.htm.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



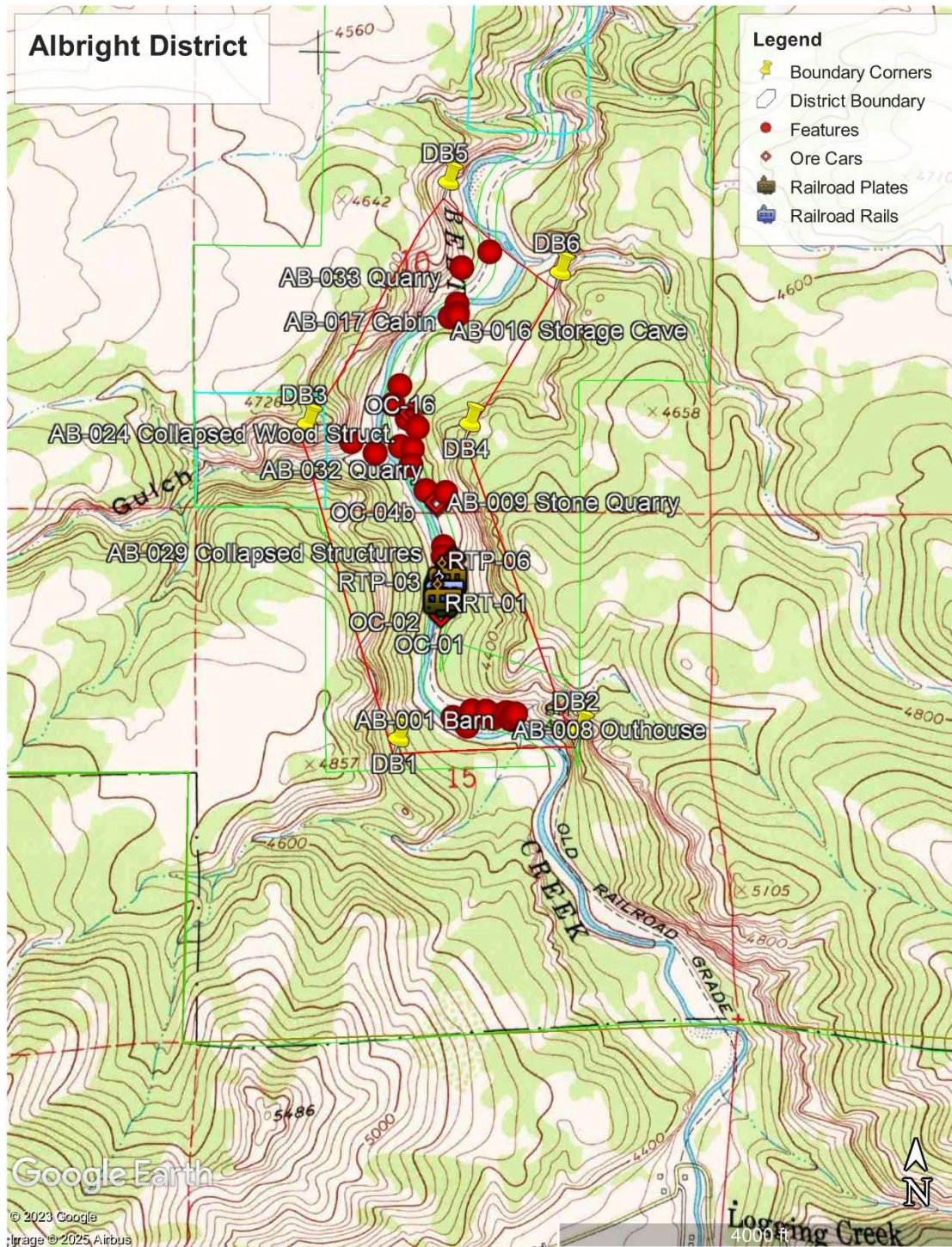
Map 2. Location Map: Albright Historic District outlined in red on the Riceville 1:24,000 quadrangle. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

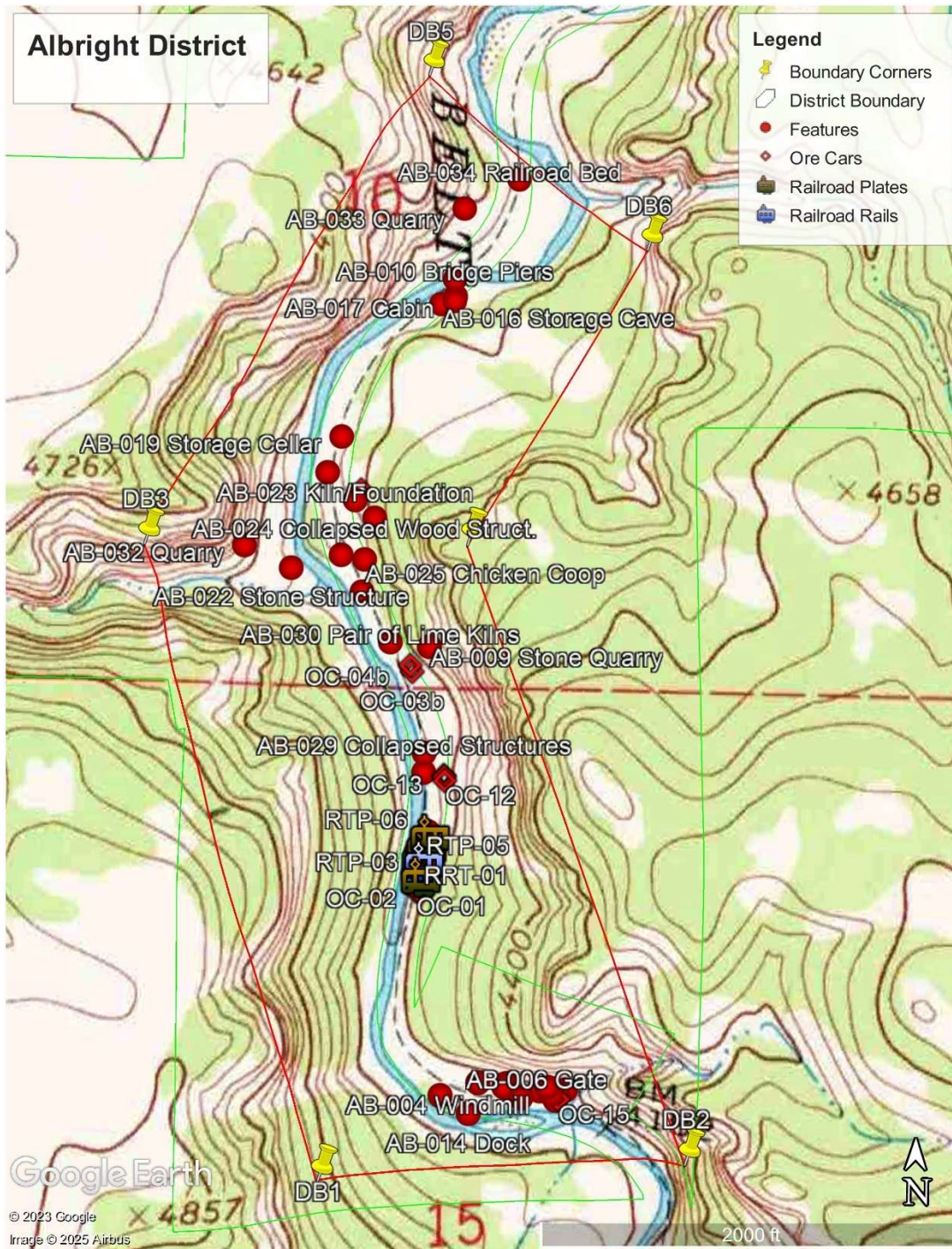
County and State



Map 3. Location Map: Albright Historic District outlined in red on a Riceville 1:24,000 quadrangle excerpt. Blocks outlined in blue denote areas with known indigenous cultural materials. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



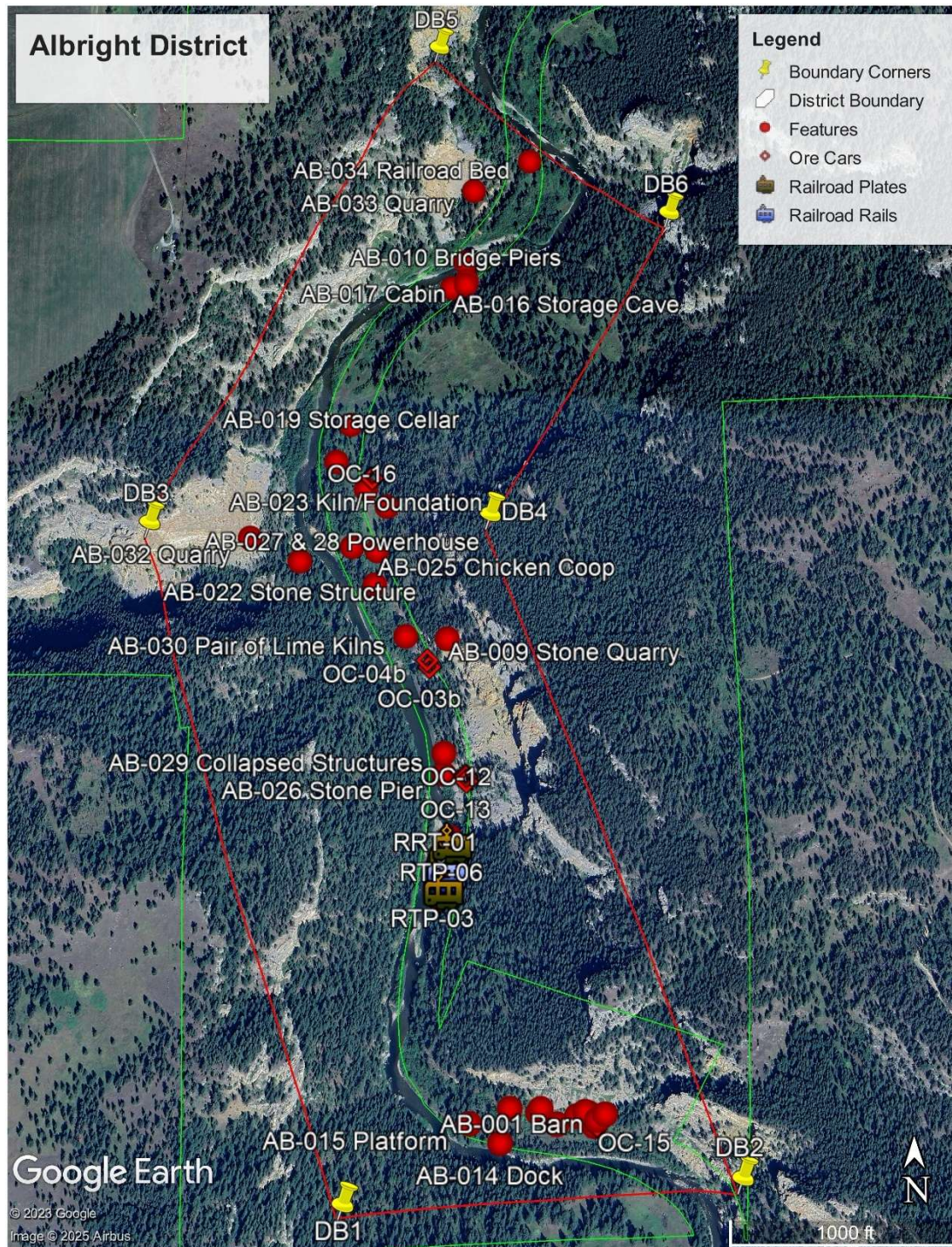
Map 4. Albright Historic District Map: Albright, Montana, outlined in red with feature locations. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



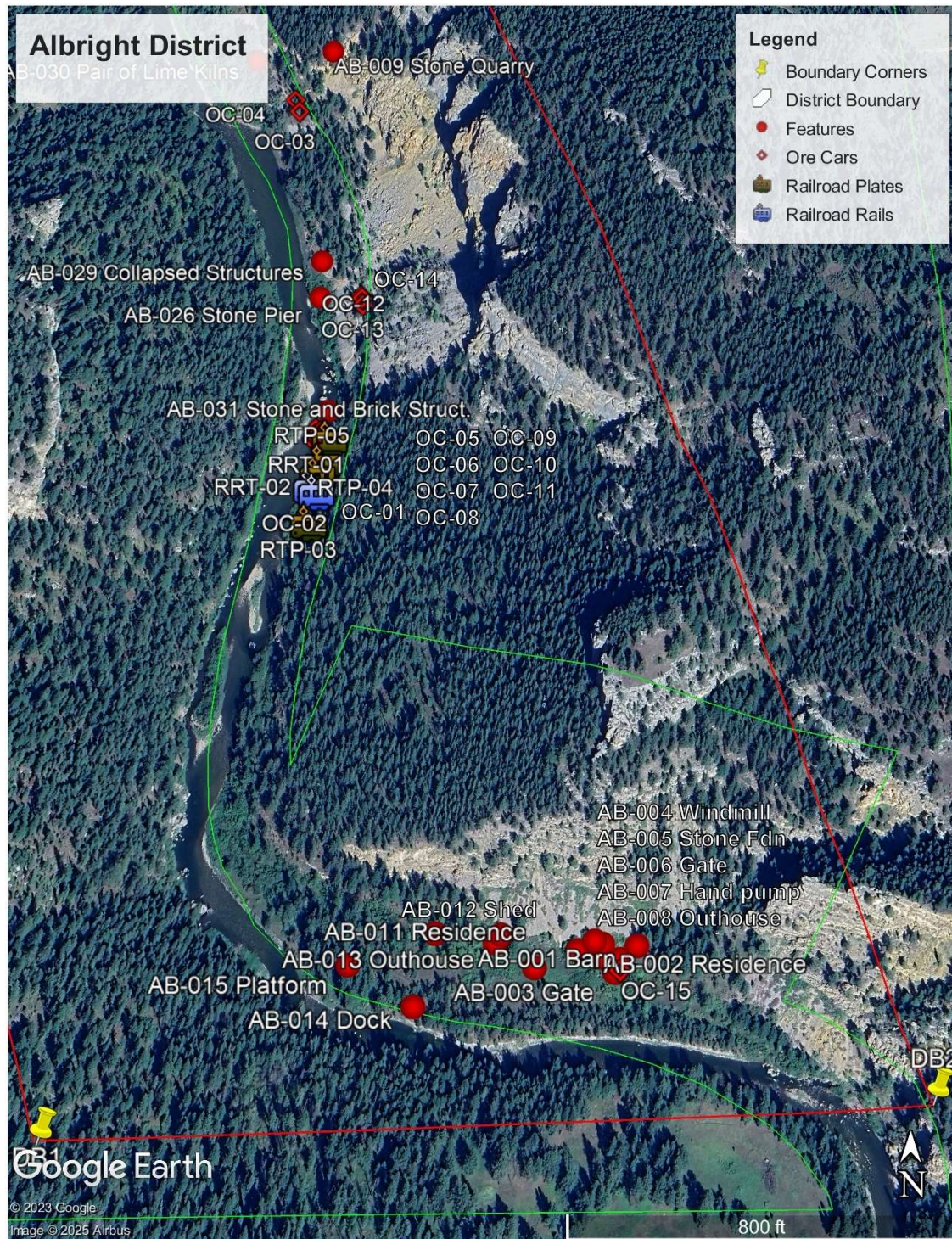
Map 5. Albright Historic District Map: Albright, Montana, outlined in red with feature locations. The green outline indicates the Sluice Boxes State Park boundary. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



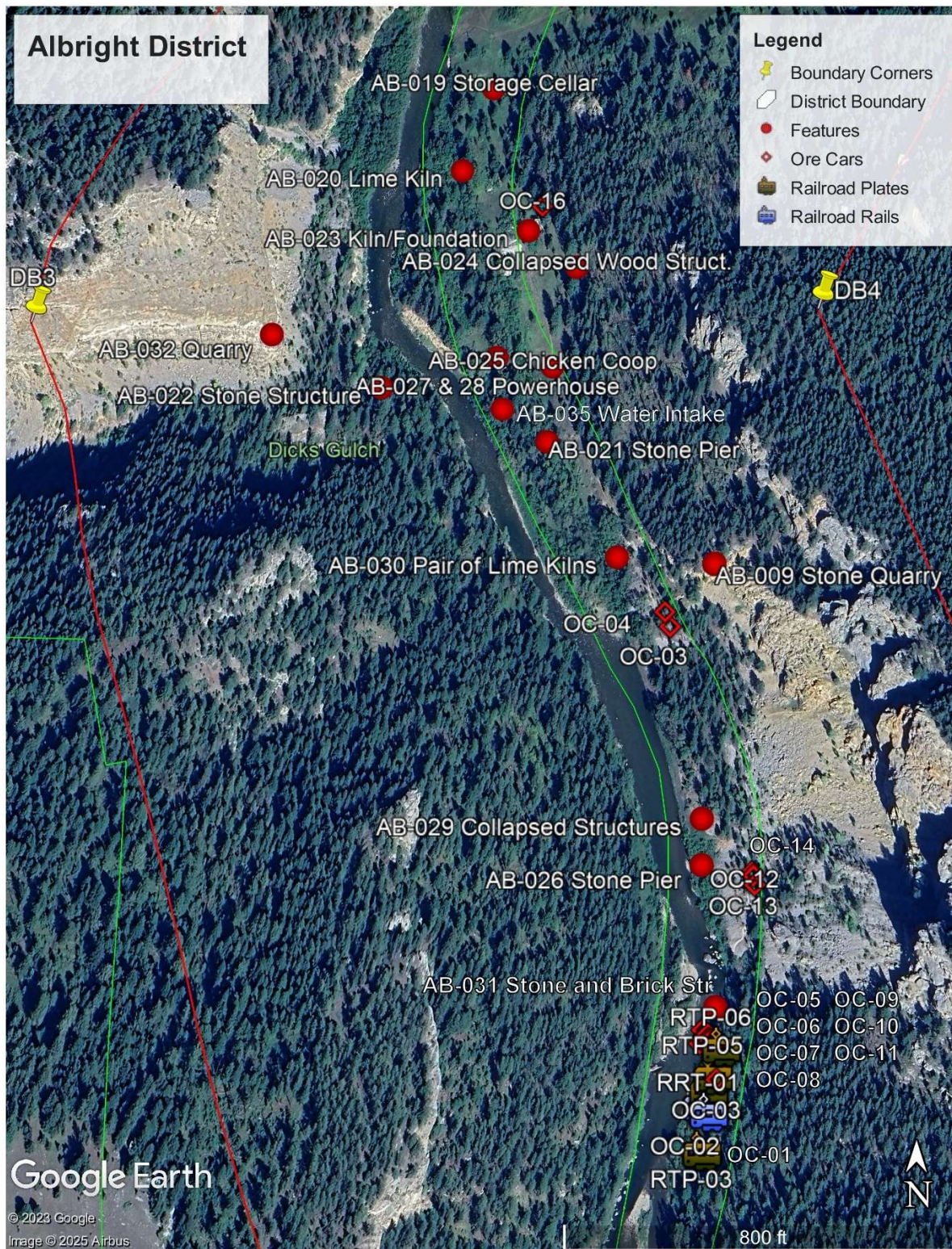
Map 6. Albright Historic District Map: Albright, Montana, southern end. Boundary coordinates are: 1. DB1 Latitude: 47.147161 Longitude: -110.955780; 2. DB2 Latitude: 47.147419 Longitude: -110.948357; 3. DB3 Latitude: 47.155901 Longitude: -110.959630; 4. DB4 Latitude: 47.155927 Longitude: -110.952976; 5. DB5 Latitude: 47.162799 Longitude: -110.953963; 6. DB6 Latitude: 47.160237 Longitude: -110.949320.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

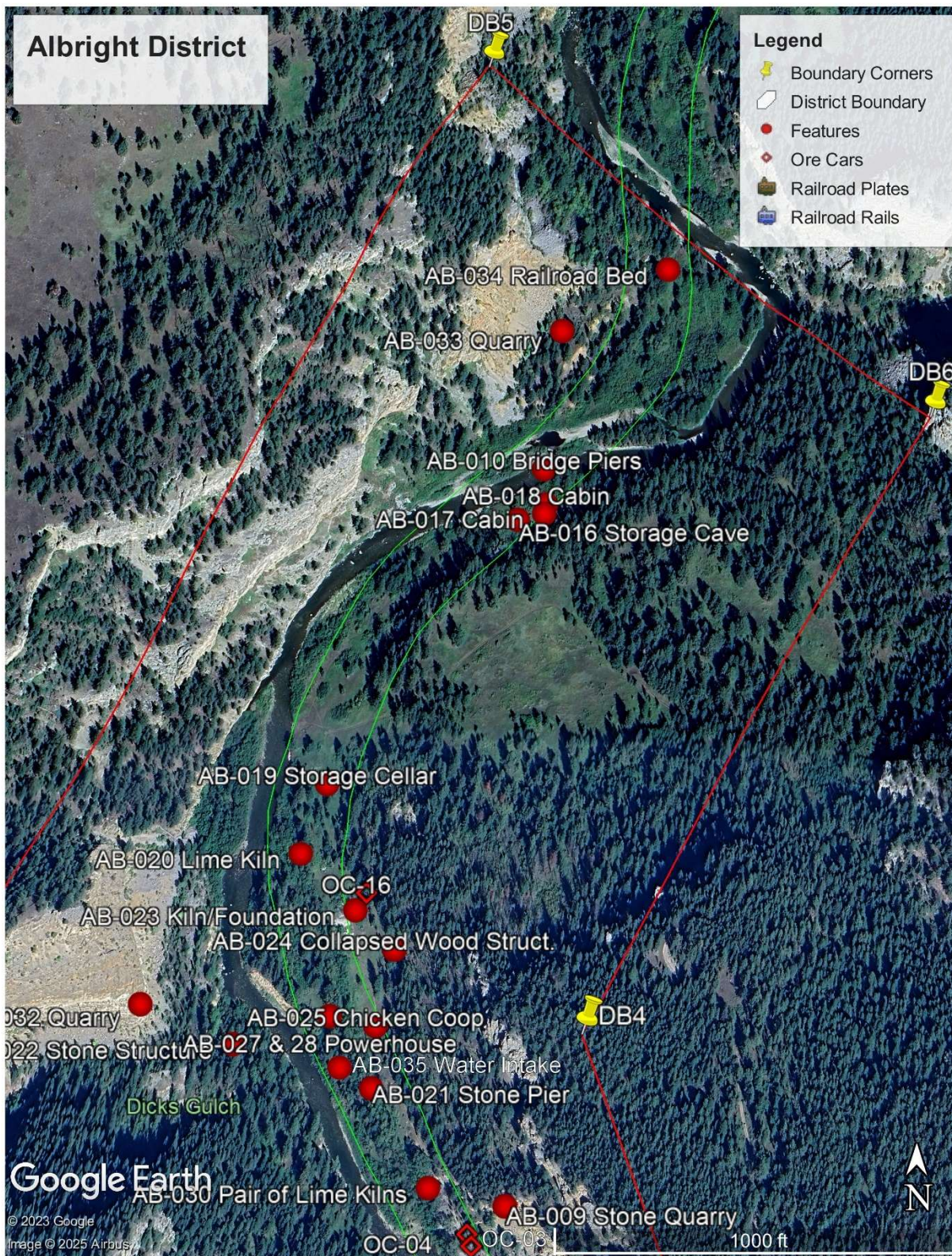
County and State



Map 7. Albright Historic District Map: Albright, Montana, midsection.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

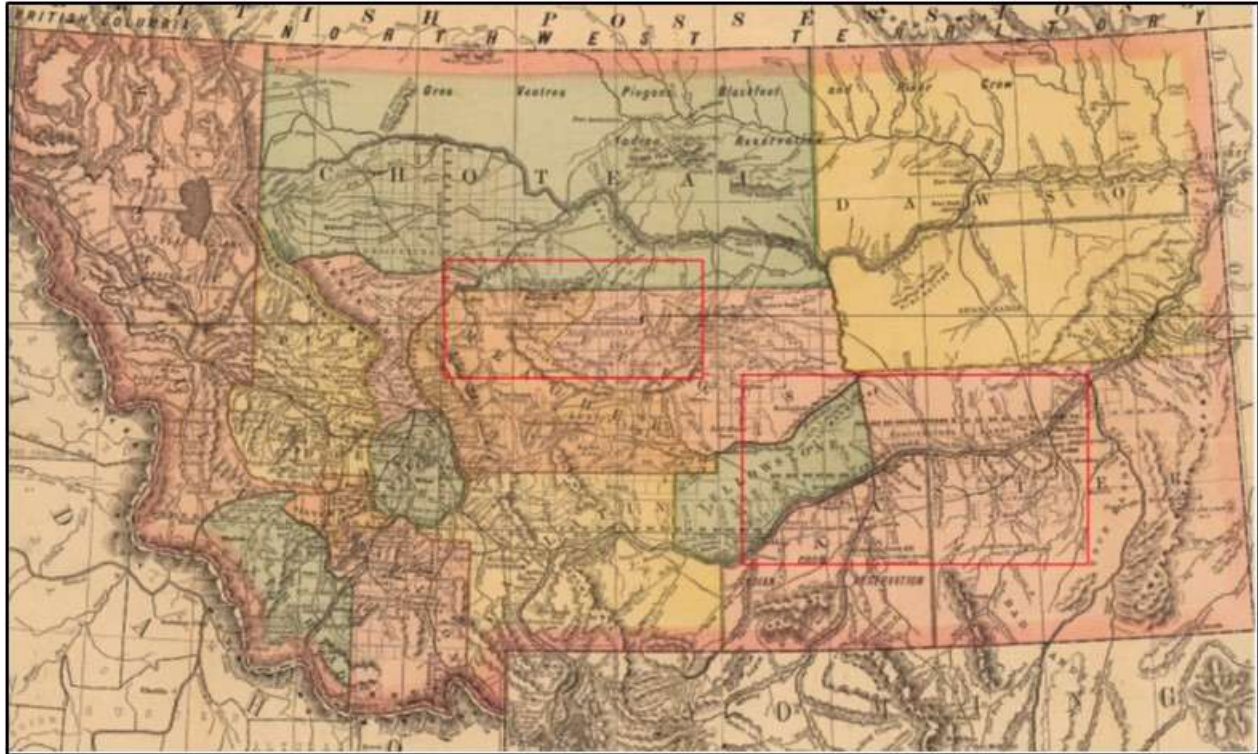
Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Map 8. Albright Historic District Map: Albright, Montana, north end.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Map 9. Rand McNally General Location Map: Albright, Montana in 1886. The lower right red rectangular section includes the first town of Albright, the upper left, the area of the second and currently referenced.

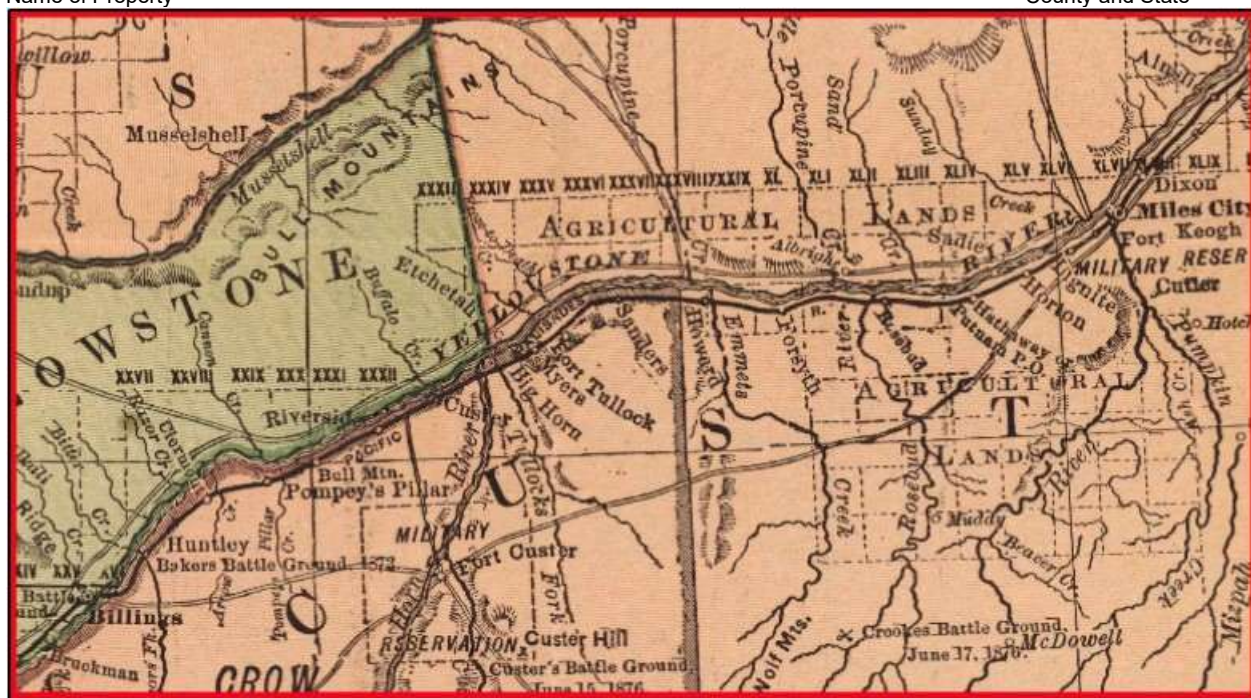
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Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Map 10. Rand McNally General Location Map Excerpt: Albright, Montana, east of Forsyth, north of the Yellowstone River in 1886.



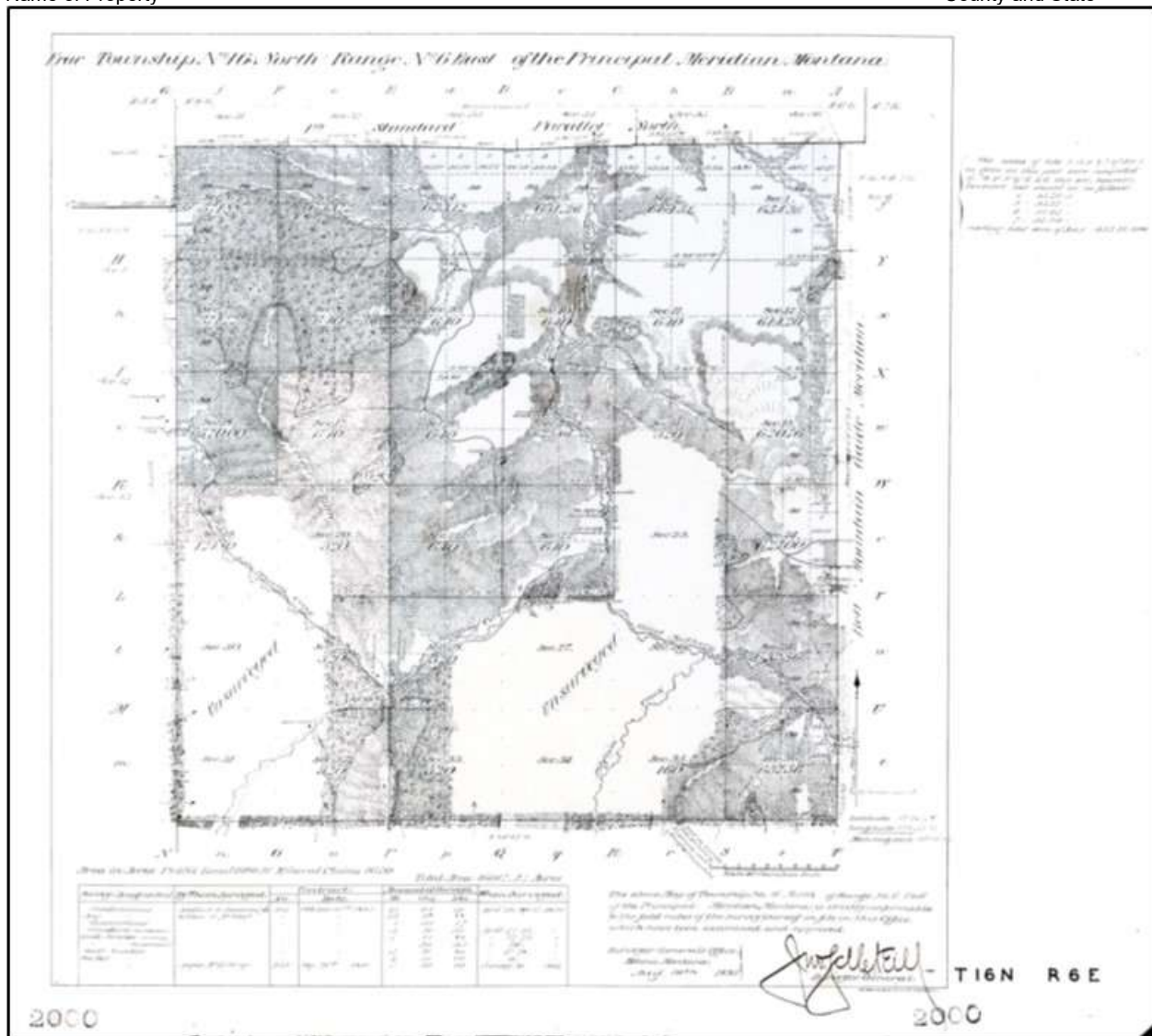
Map 11. Rand McNally General Location Excerpt: In 1886, Neihart is in existence, but Albright is yet to arrive.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Map 12. “Township No 16, North Range, No. 6 East of the Principal Meridian, Montana” 1896 Survey Map.²³⁷

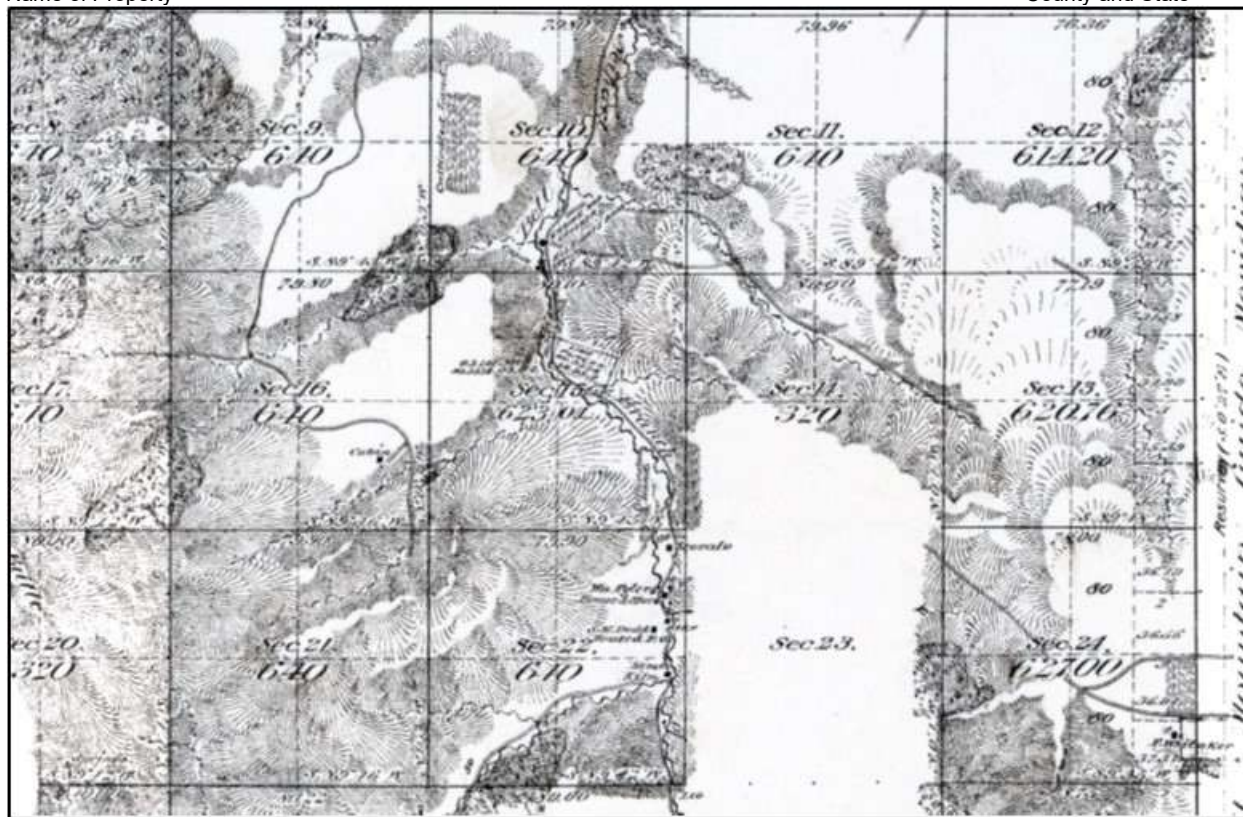
²³⁷ “Township No. 16, North Range, No. 6 East of the Principal Meridian, Montana,” U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1896, Accessed on 2-3-2025 at <https://glorecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=409043&docClass=SER&sid=s2bgpffv.ocj#resultsTabIndex=1>

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



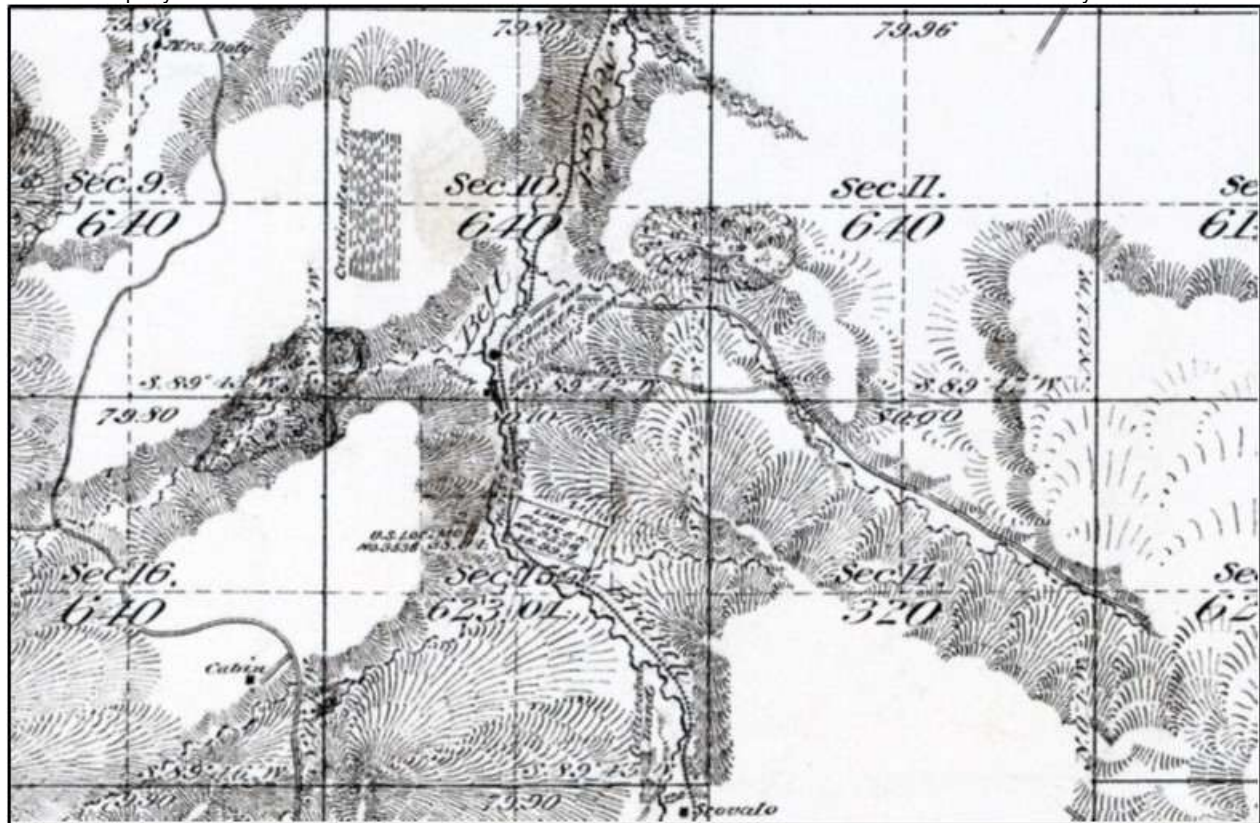
Map 13. Township map excerpt focusing on Sections 10, 15, and 22. Albright/Limedale was in Sections 10 and 15 and Logging Creek is in Section 22, with a “kiln” noted at the bridge. The 1896 survey map shows the close proximity of Albright/Limedale and Logging Creek. Without room to spread laterally in the Belt Creek Valley due to the steep limestone cliffs, occupation occurred lineally adjacent to the creek and the railway. It was little more than a one-mile walk south from “Ellright’s Dam” (presumably “Allbright’s”) to “Wm Tyler’s House & Store.” The Post Office at Albright and the Post Office at Logging Creek were approximately two miles apart.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

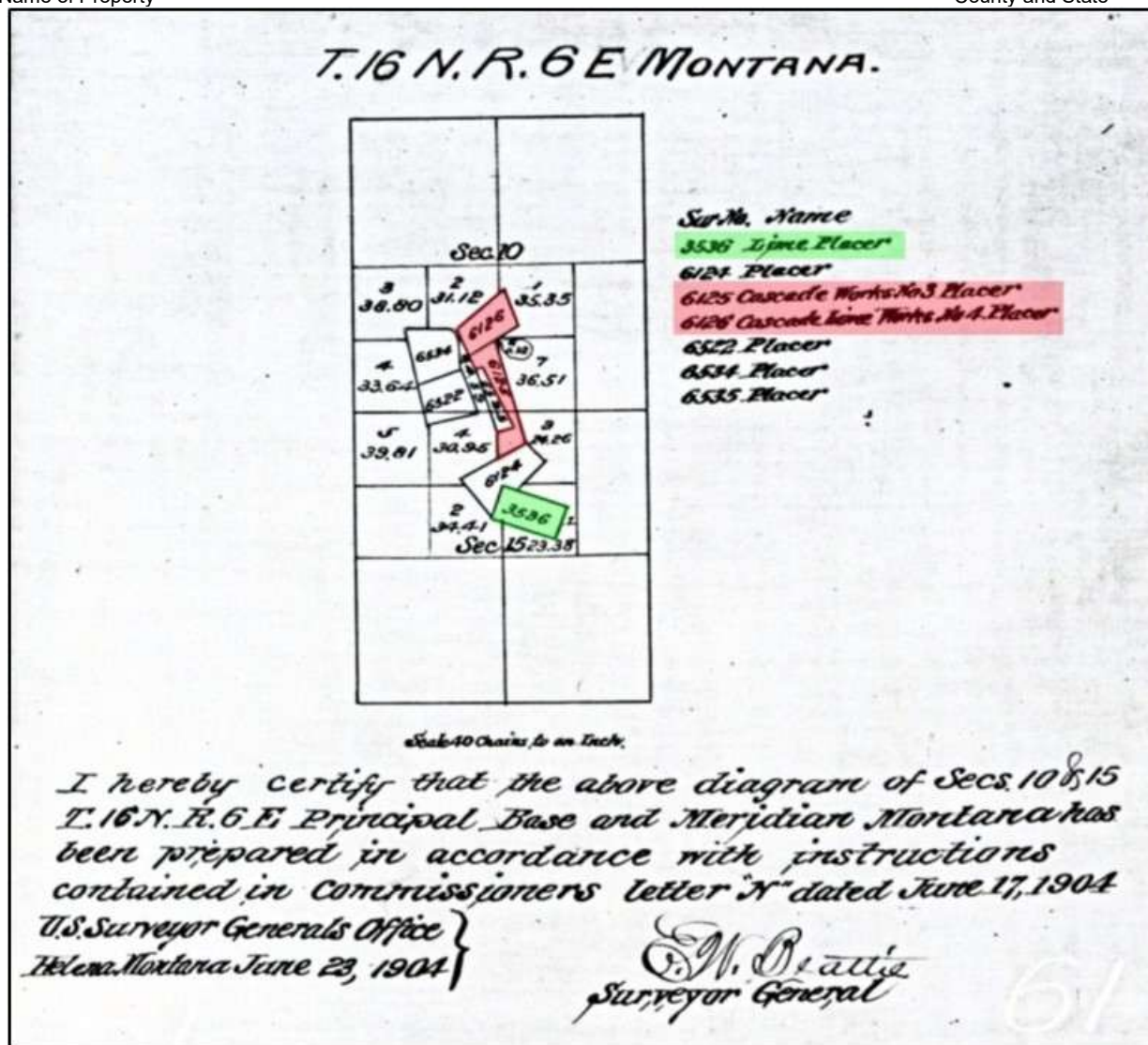
County and State



Map 14. Township map excerpt showing Sections 10 and 15, location of Albright, Montana. Note the 1896 location of Albright's "Engine and Crusher" at Dick's Gulch, and "Ellright's (sic) Dam" a short distance to the south, where a cabin is noted on the west side of Belt Creek.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Map 15. 1904 placer map of Sections 10 and 15.²³⁸ The two pink segments are noted as “6125 Cascade Works No. 3 Placer” (north-south segment), and “6126 Cascade Lime Works No. 4 Placer” (northern segment). The green segment is noted as “3536 Lime Placer,” with the remaining numbered segments noted simply as “Placer.”

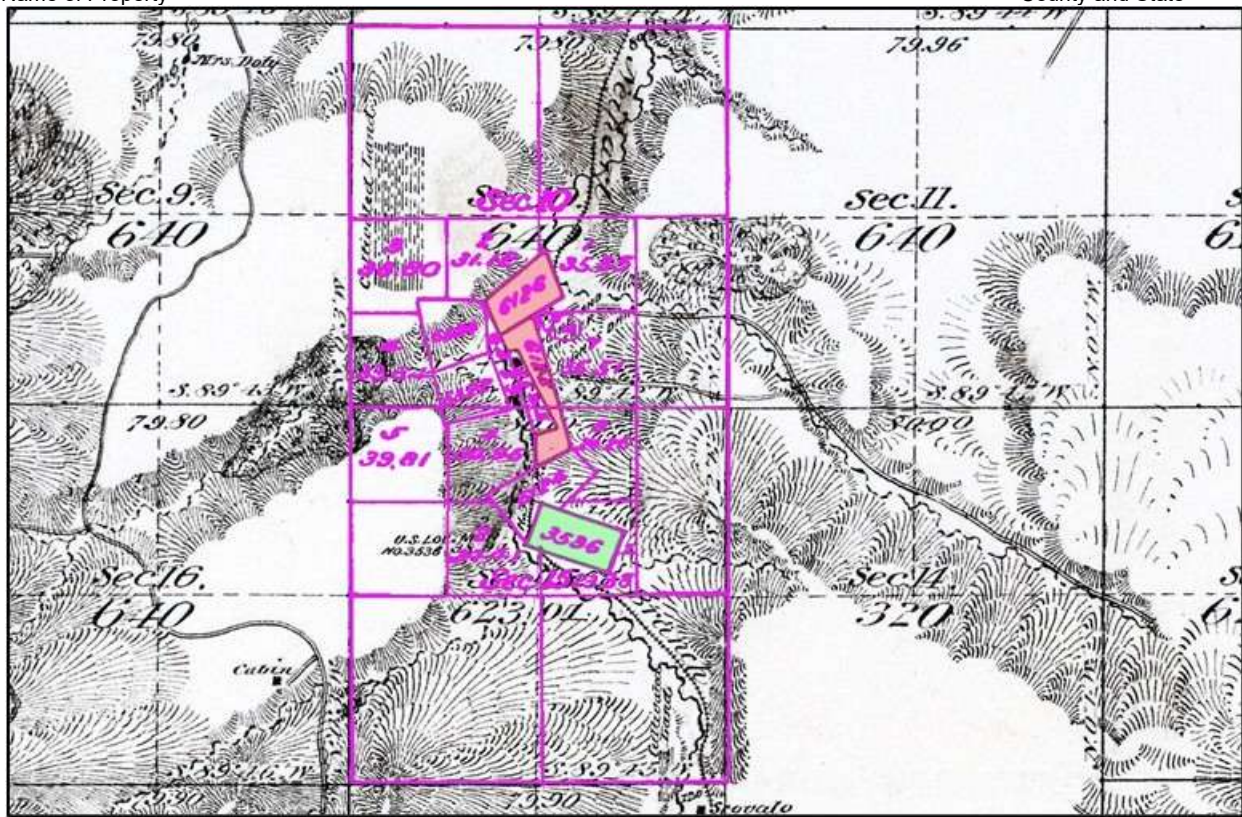
²³⁸ “T. 16 N. R. 6 E. Montana,” U. S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 1904, Accessed on 2-3-2025 at <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=409043&docClass=SER&sid=s2bgpffv.ocj#resultsTabIndex=1>

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



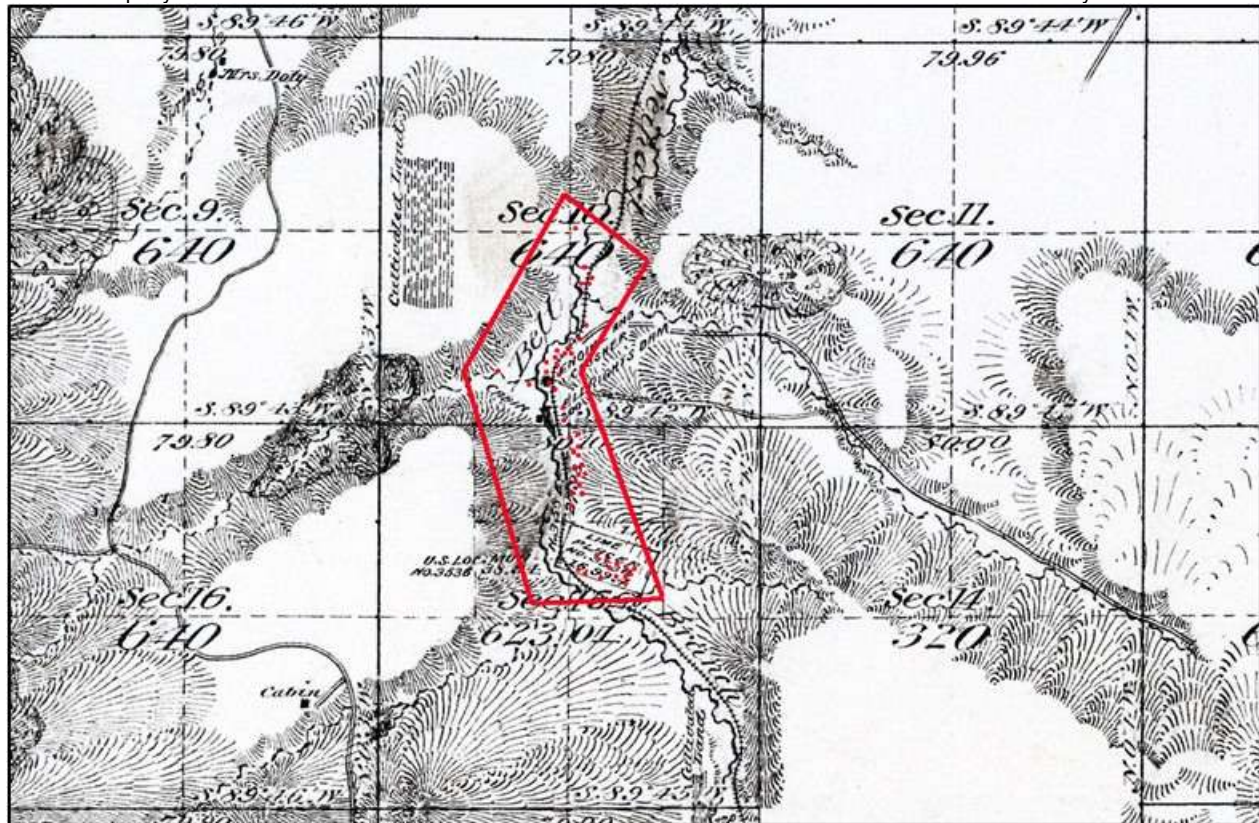
Map 16. Township map excerpt showing Sections 10 and 15 with the 1904 placer map (Map 15) overlain in magenta.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State



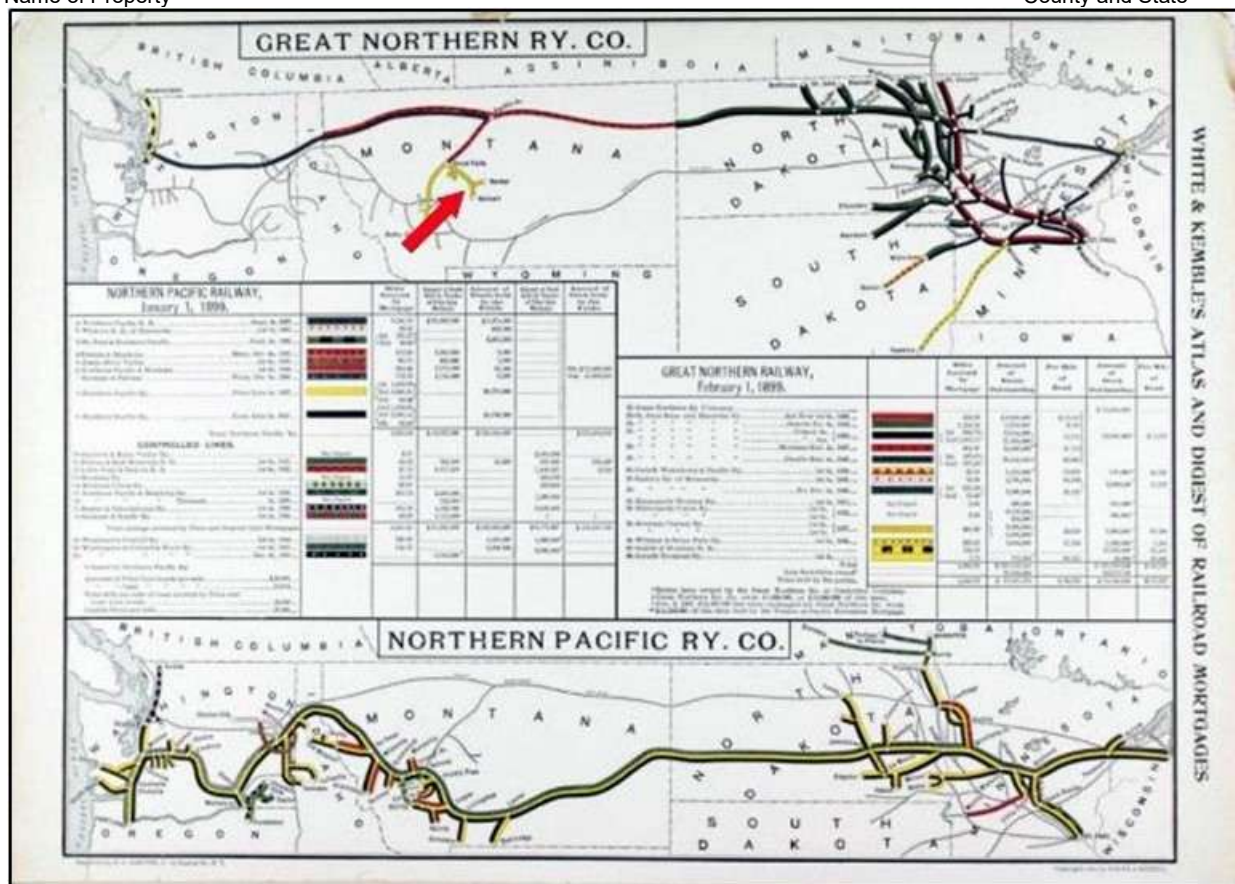
Map 17. Township map excerpt showing Sections 10 and 15 with the Albright Historic District boundary outline and feature points in red, overlain on the 1904 placer map (Map 14).

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



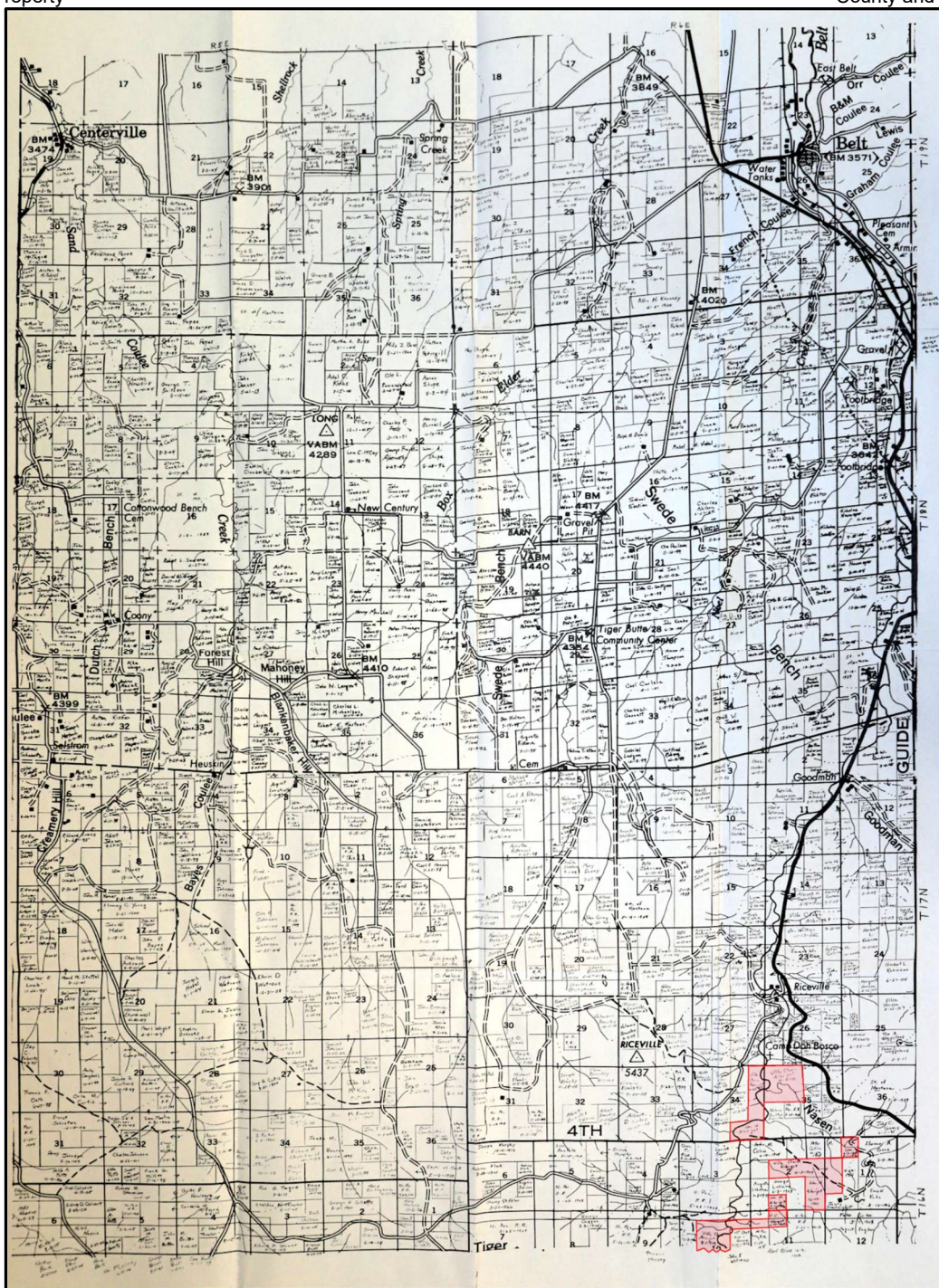
Map 18. 1899 Great Northern Railway Company map showing the railway in place to Monarch. Red arrow points to approximate location of Albright.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



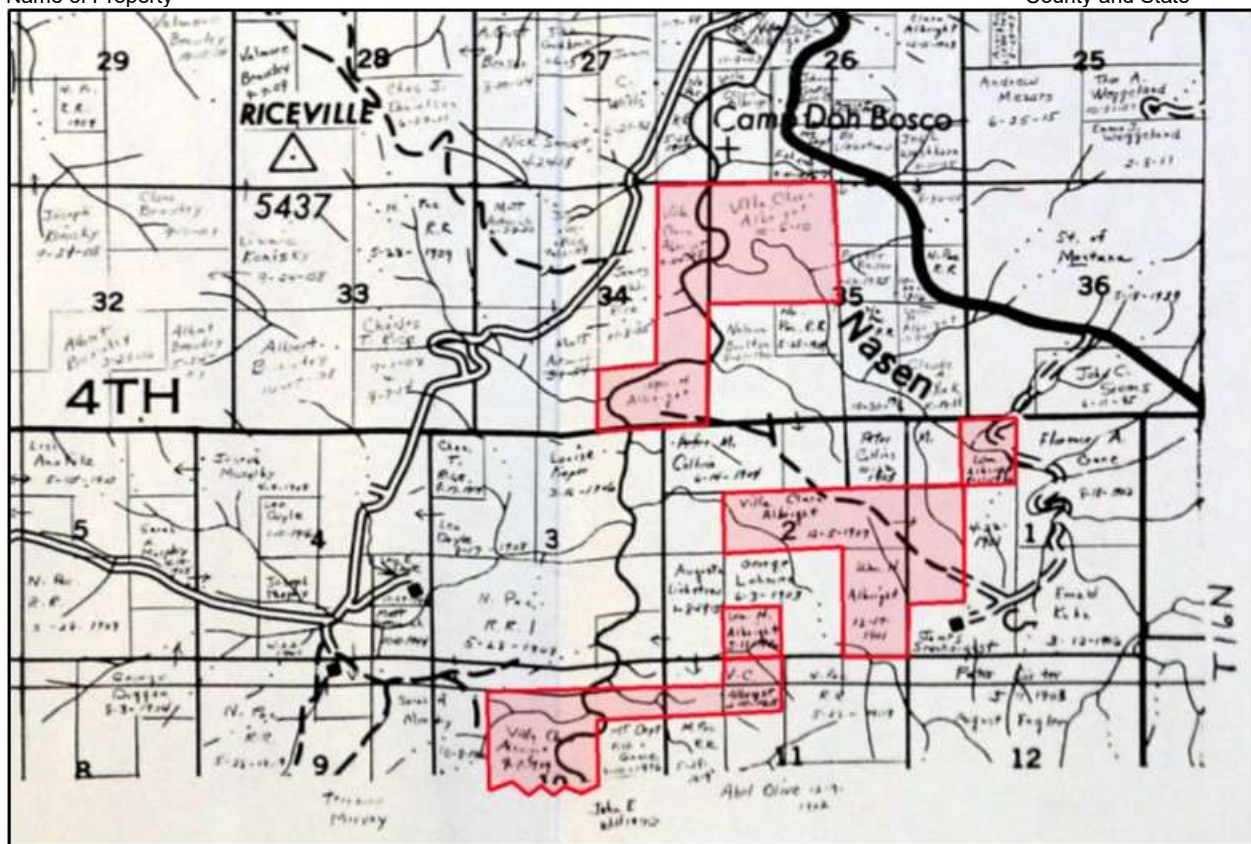
Map 19. Untitled property map showing parcel ownership in the area. Some map notations are circa 1976 as several State Parks parcels are noted. For orientation, Centerville is in the upper left (northwest) corner and Belt is in the upper right (northeast) corner. Red areas indicate ownership parcels of W. H. Albright and Villa Clara Albright. Written at the very bottom of the lower broken pink area is the name “John E Williams.” Map photographed at the Great Falls Museum and History Center, Great Falls, Montana in 2024.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State



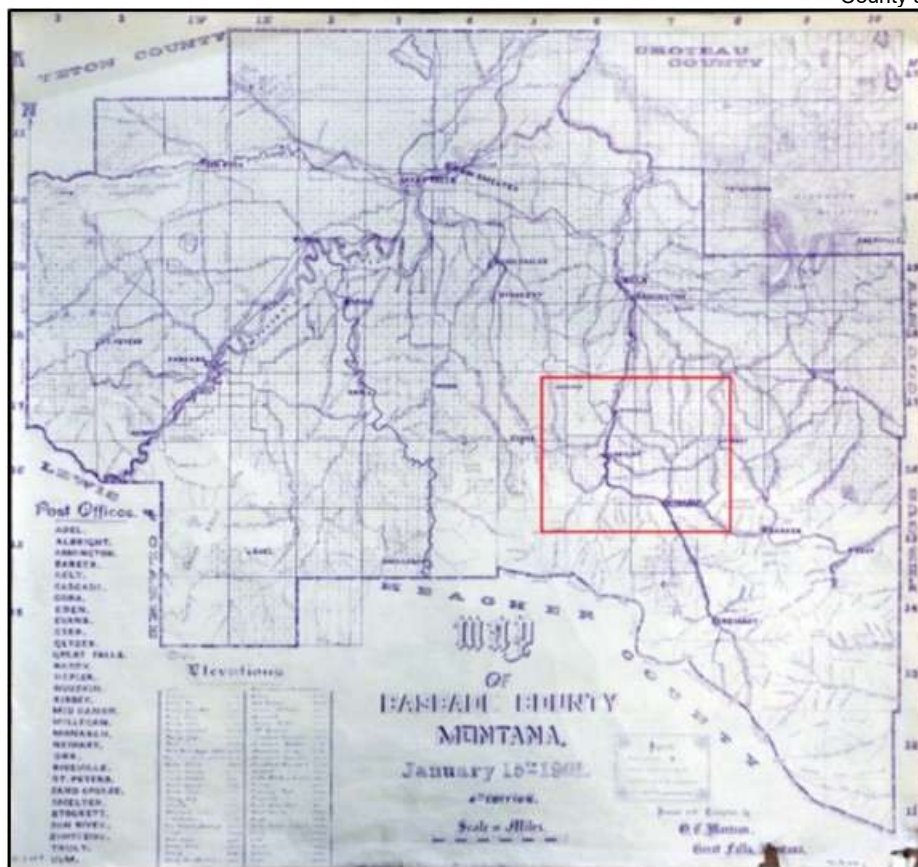
Map 20. Excerpt from the untitled property map showing parcel ownership in the area. Red areas indicate ownership parcels of W. H. Albright and Villa Clara Albright, but not the full extent of their holdings in the area. The bottom of this map terminates at the approximate northern end of the Albright Historic District and has the name “John E Williams.” Map photographed at the Great Falls Museum and History Center, Great Falls, Montana in 2024.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Map 21. *Map of Cascade County, Montana. January 15th, 1901, 4th Edition, O.C. Morton, Great Falls, Montana.*



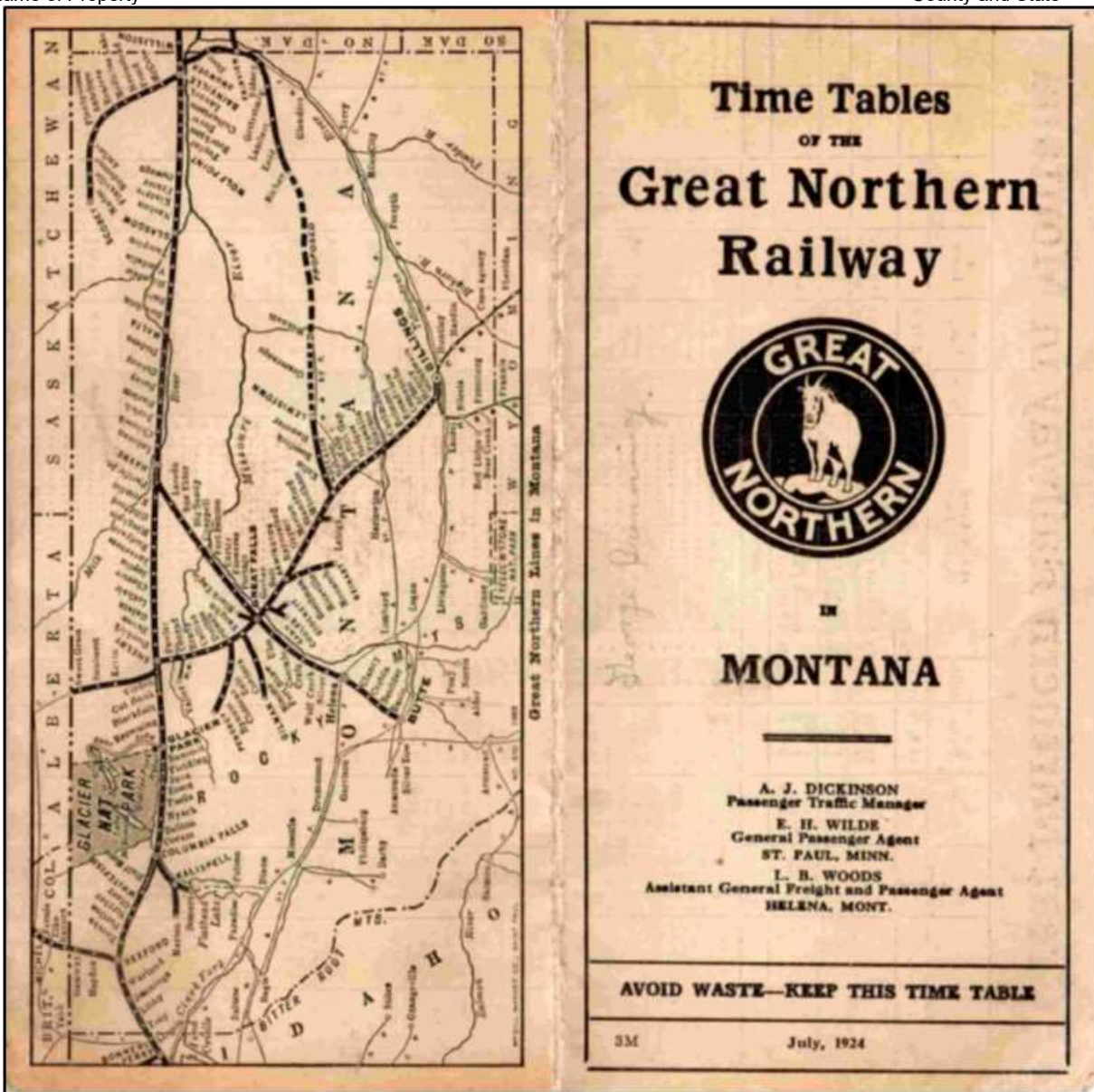
Map 22. *Excerpt of the Map of Cascade County, Montana, showing Albright as located on the west side of Belt Creek between Riceville and Monarch. The local features of Tiger Butte and Logging Creek are also noted.*

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



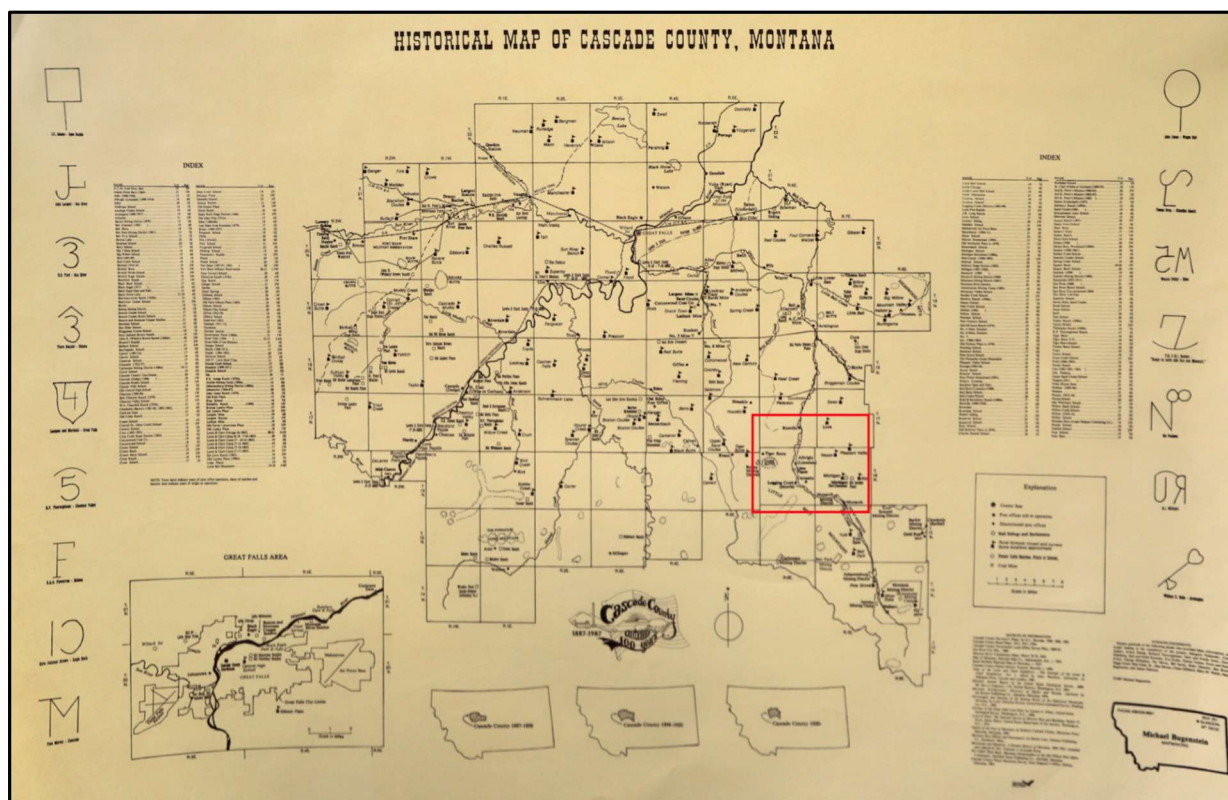
Map 23. Excerpt of the *Time Tables of the Great Northern Railway in Montana*, July, 1924.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

C. P. R. {		4 10 PM	205 Ar	Lethbridge...Lv	† 9 30 AM	{ C. P. R.
GREAT FALLS—NEIHART						
	216-212		Miles	Mountain Time		211-215
	Ex. Sun.					Ex. Sun.
.....	8 35 AM	0	Lv	Great Falls...Ar	.....	4 30 PM
.....	f 8 47 AM	7	"	Field....."	.....	f 4 17 PM
.....	7 50 AM	10	"	Gerber....."	.....	4 10 PM
.....	f 8 04 AM	14	"	Swift....."	.....	f 2 56 PM
.....	f 8 11 AM	17	"	Fife....."	.....	f 2 50 PM
.....	f 8 17 AM	21	"	Wayne....."	.....	f 2 44 PM
.....	8 31 AM	26	"	Belt....."	.....	2 32 PM
.....	9 00 AM	28	"	Armington....	.....	2 27 PM
.....	9 20 AM	39	"	Riceville.....	.....	1 35 PM
.....	f 9 45 AM	44	"	Albright....."	.....	1 15 PM
.....	f 9 50 AM	46	"	Logging Creek."	.....	12 55 PM
.....	10 15 AM	53	"	Monarch.....	.....	12 35 PM
.....	10 50 AM	66	Ar	Neihart.....Lv	.....	12 01 PM
GREAT FALLS—BENDBOY						

Map 24. Excerpt of the *Time Tables of the Great Northern Railway in Montana, July, 1924*. Albright is not shown on the flyer map, but it included as a stop.



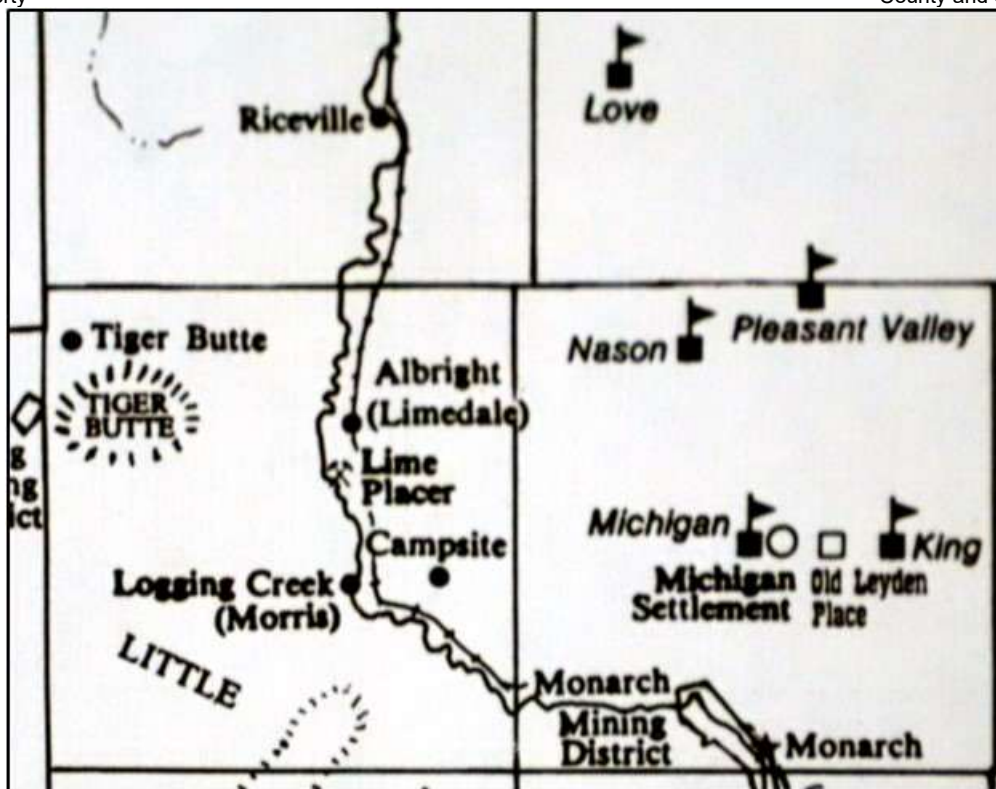
Map 25. *Historical Map of Cascade County, Montana, 1989*, Michael Bungenstein, Glasgow, Montana.

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

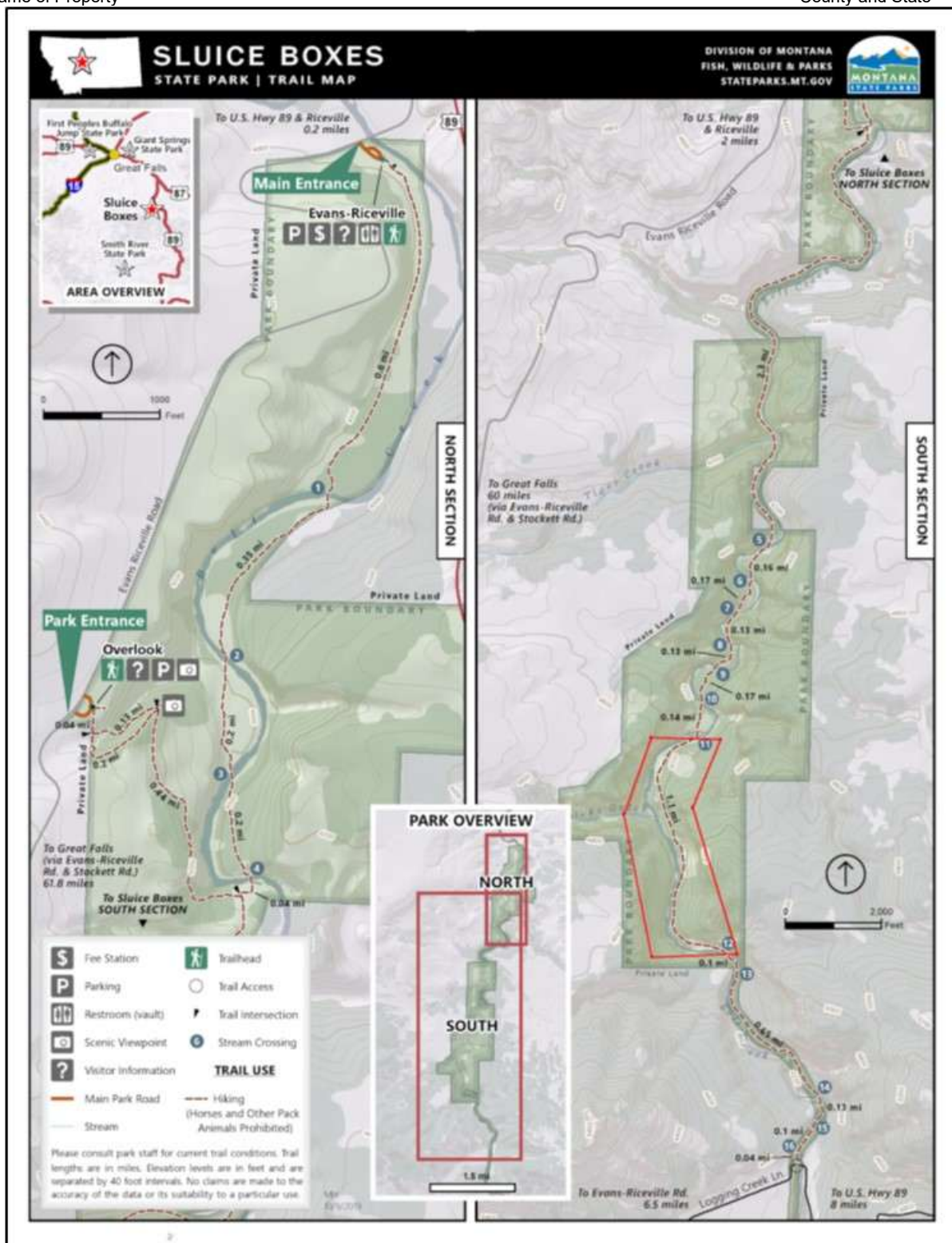
County and State



Map 26. Excerpt of the *Historical Map of Cascade County, Montana, 1989*, Michael Bungenstein, Glasgow, Montana. This map notes the town as Albright (Limedale), a rare mapping reference to “Limedale.” Many newspaper articles of the time appear to reference Limedale as a separate location slightly south (and adjacent) to Albright, but the distinction is unclear as development occurred along the creek from the post office at Albright to the post office at Logging Creek.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



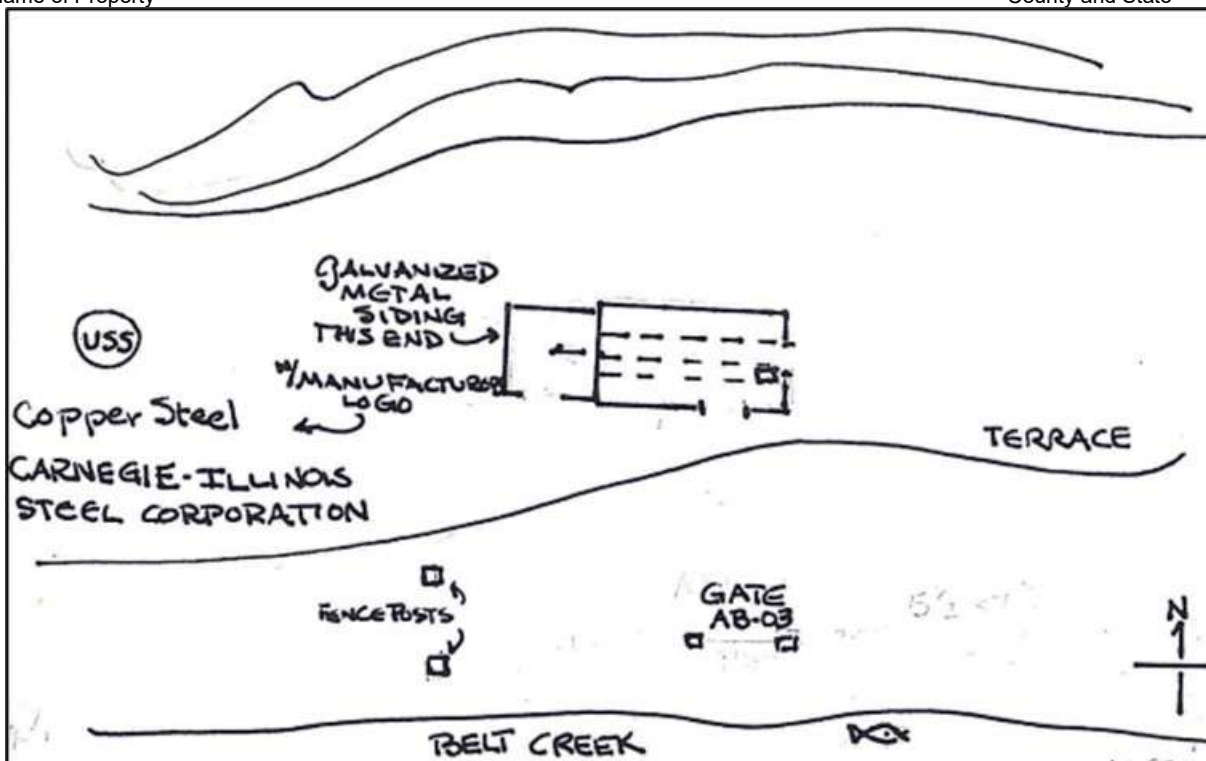
Map 27. Boundary overlay (red outline) onto park trail map.

Albright Historic District

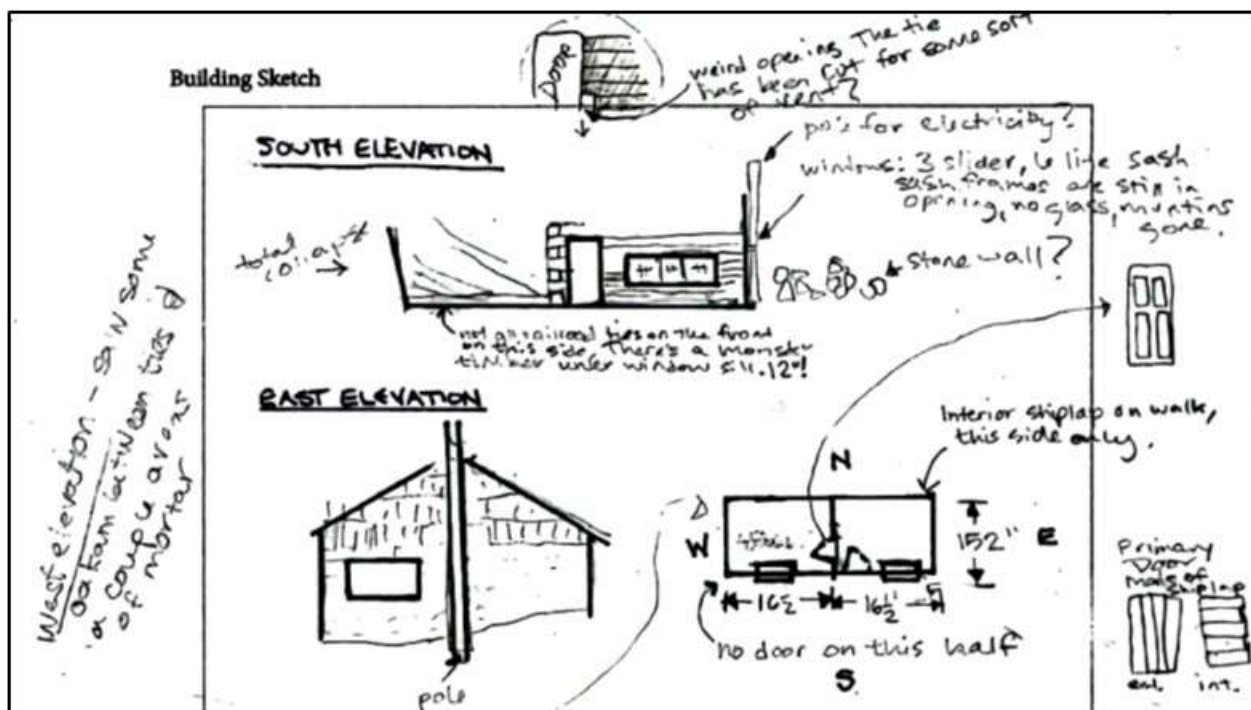
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Sketch 01. Site Map of Feature AB-001. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



Sketch 02. Details of AB-002. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

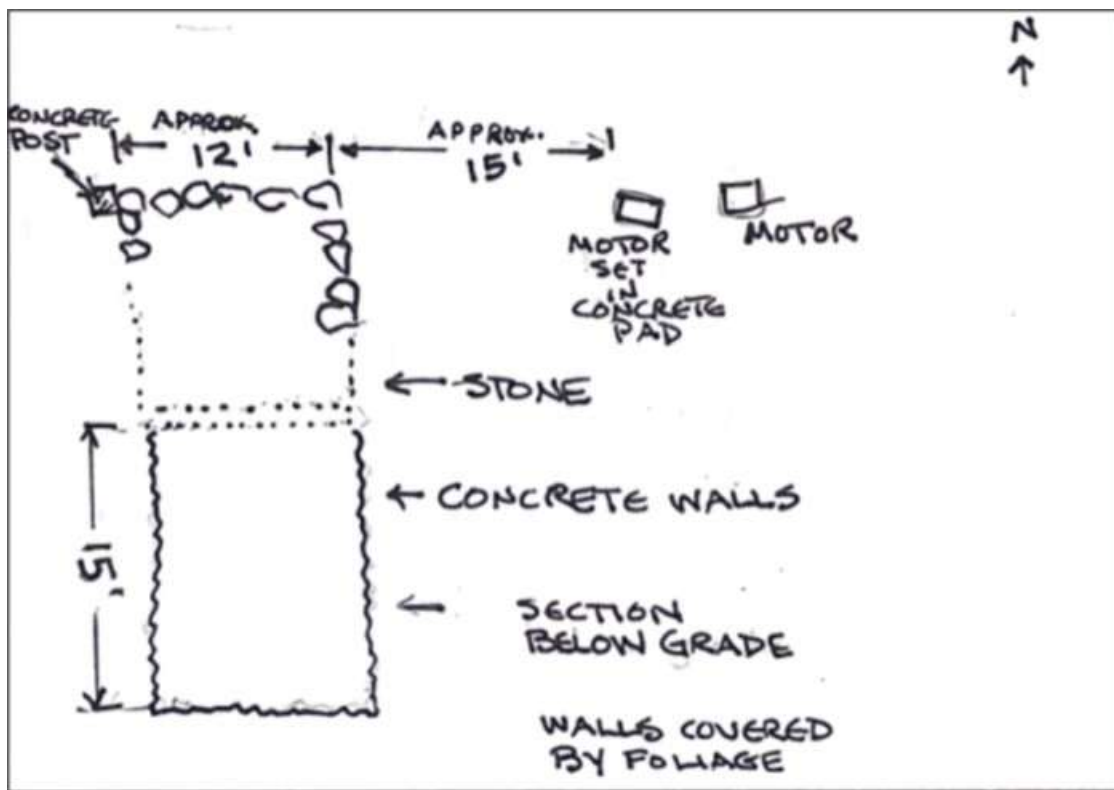
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



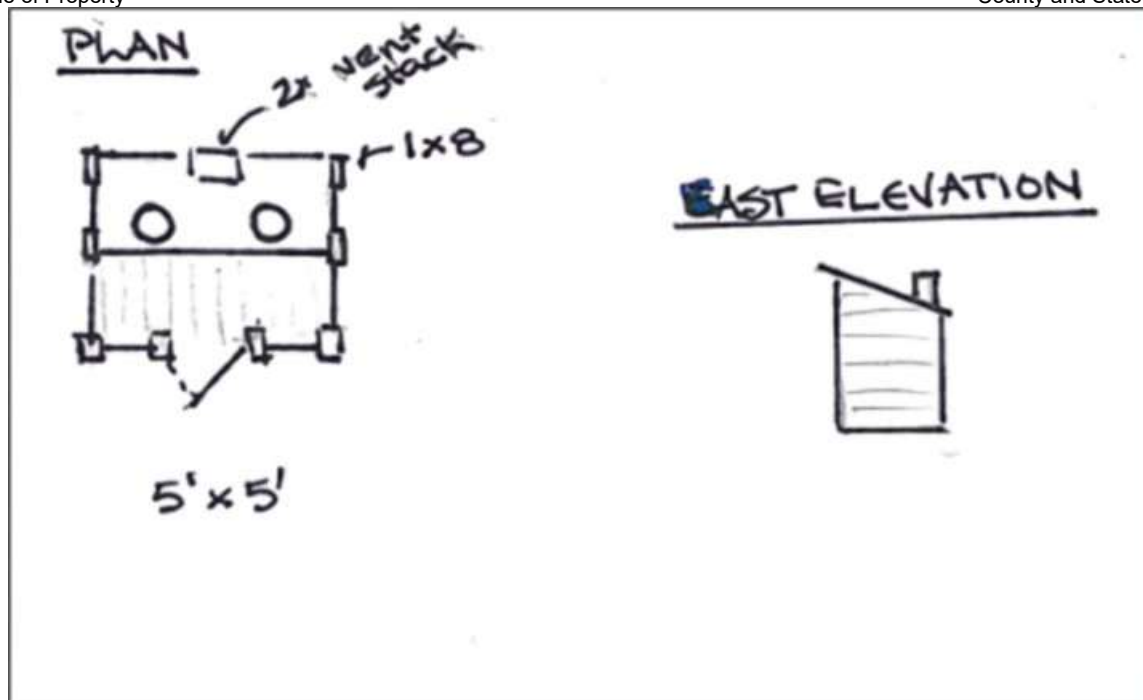
Sketch 03. Site map including Features AB-001 thru AB-007. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



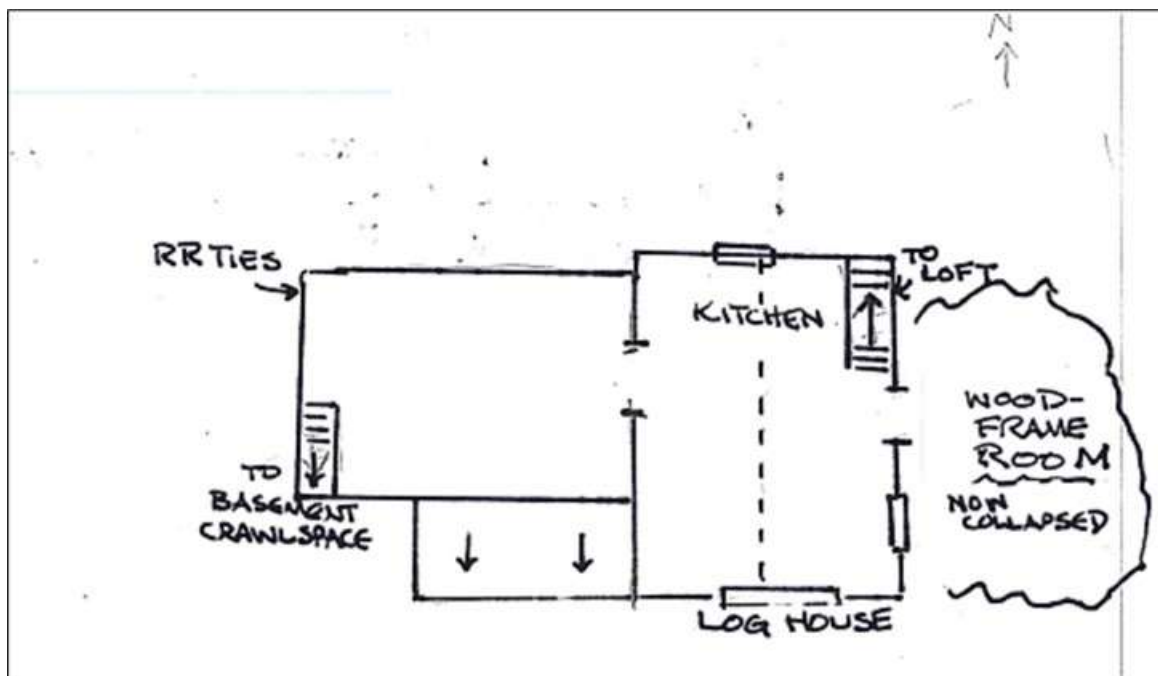
Sketch 04. Site plan of Feature AB-005. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Sketch 05. Plan and elevation of Feature AB-008. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



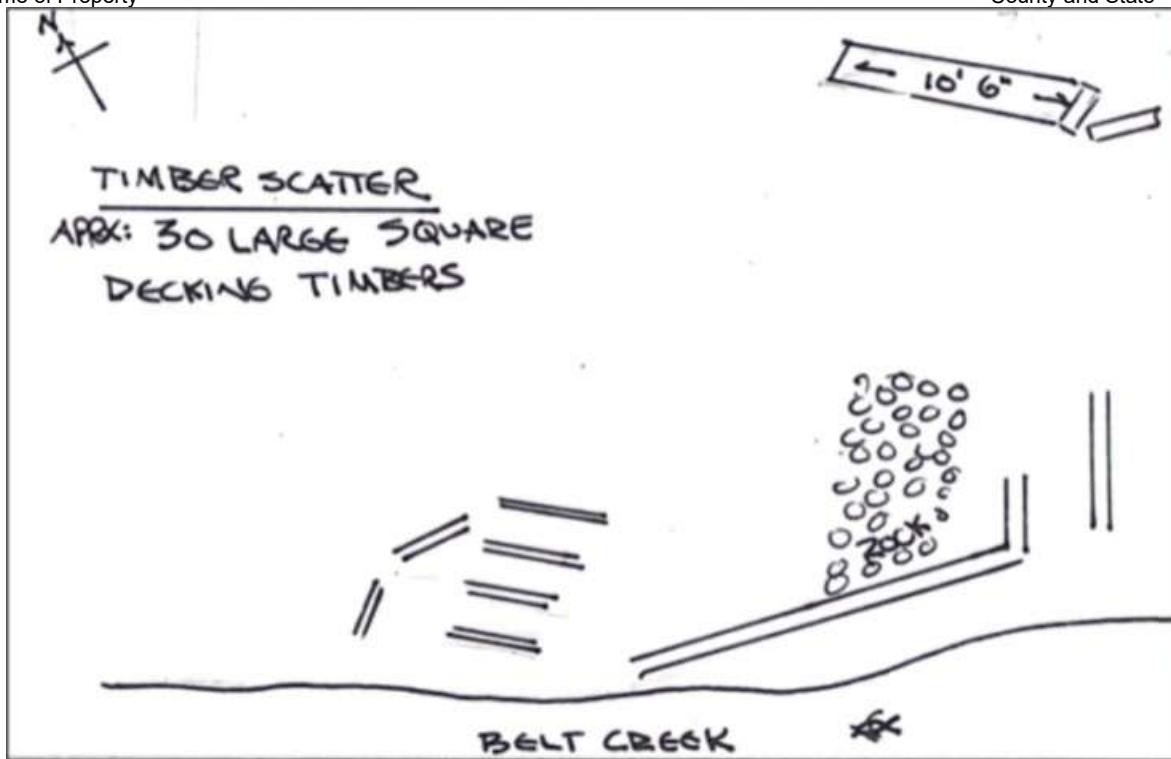
Sketch 06. Floor Plan of Feature AB-011 (1 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

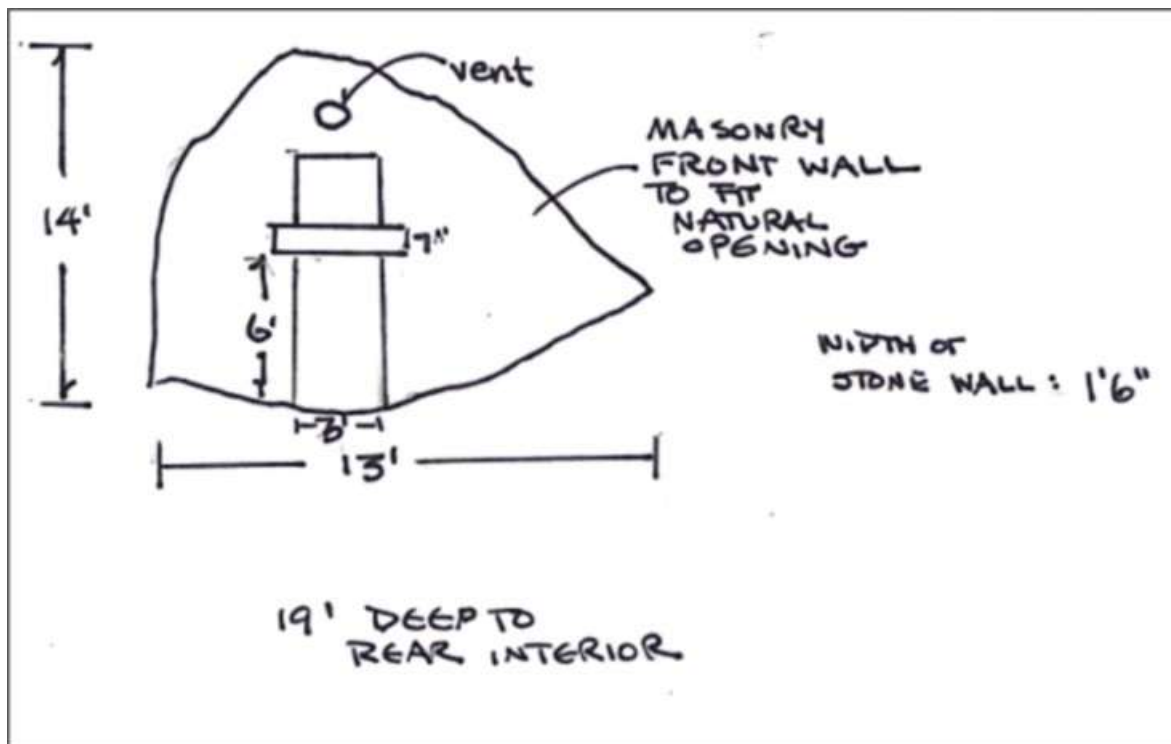
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



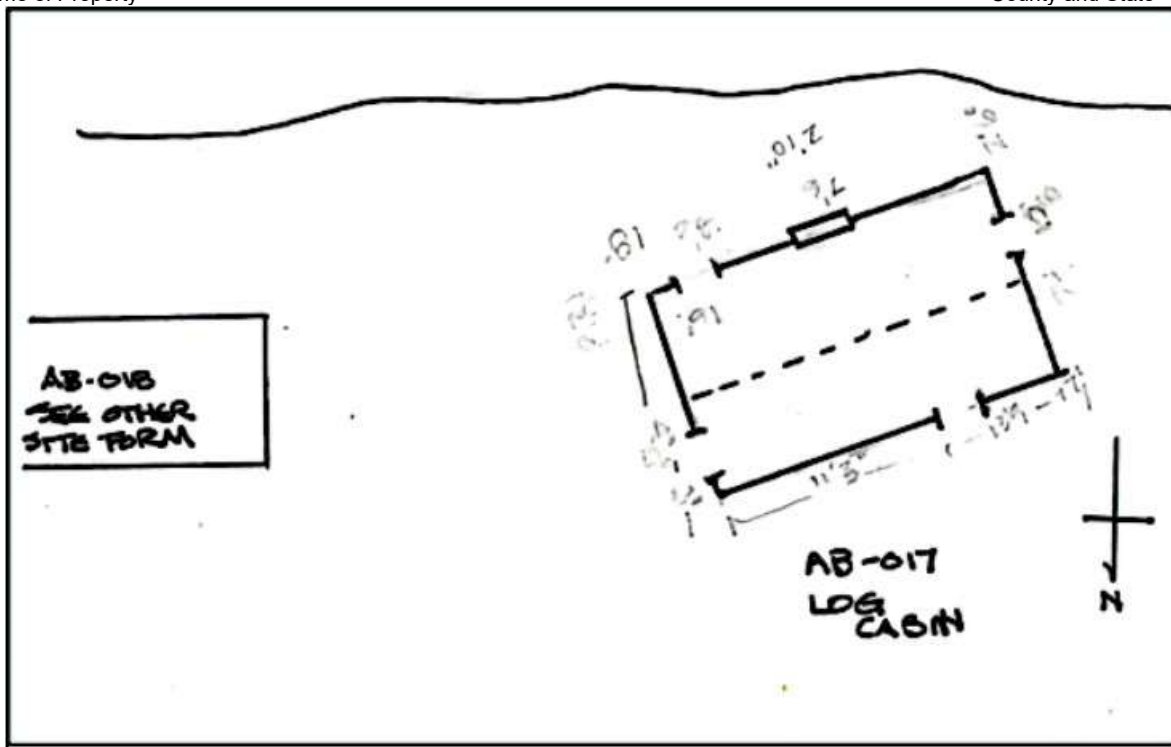
Sketch 09. Plan view of Feature AB-015. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



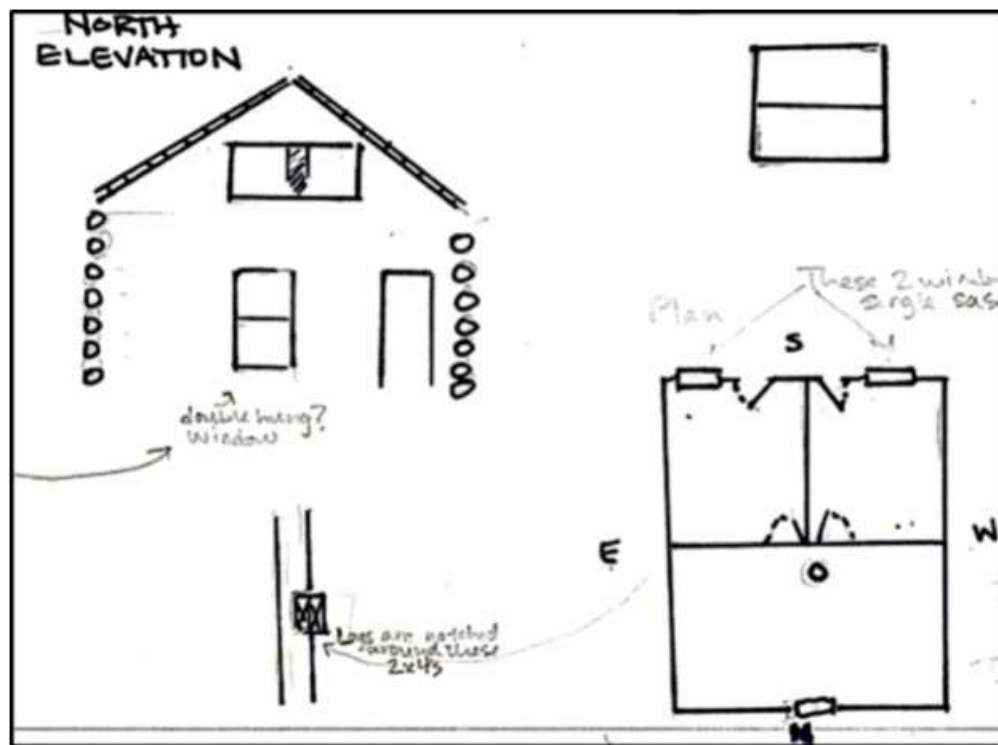
Sketch 10. Elevation view of Feature AB-016. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Sketch 11. Plan view of Feature AB-017. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



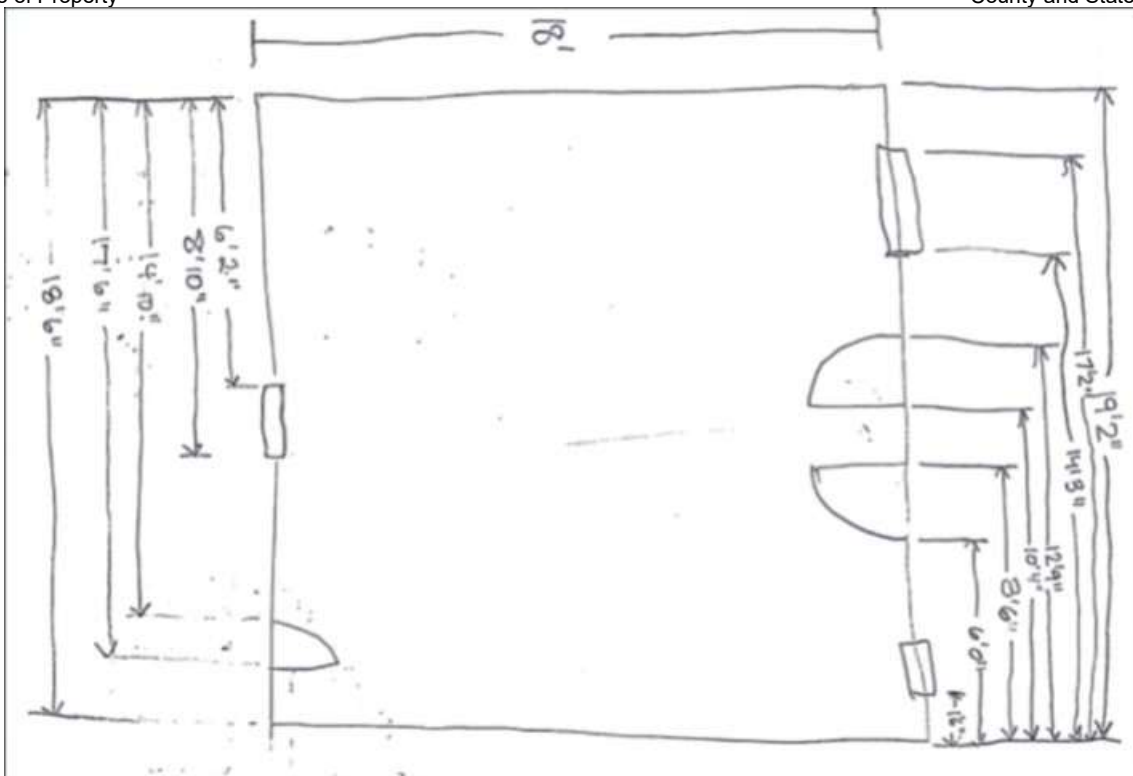
Sketch 12. Elevation, plan, and detail views of Feature AB-018 (1 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

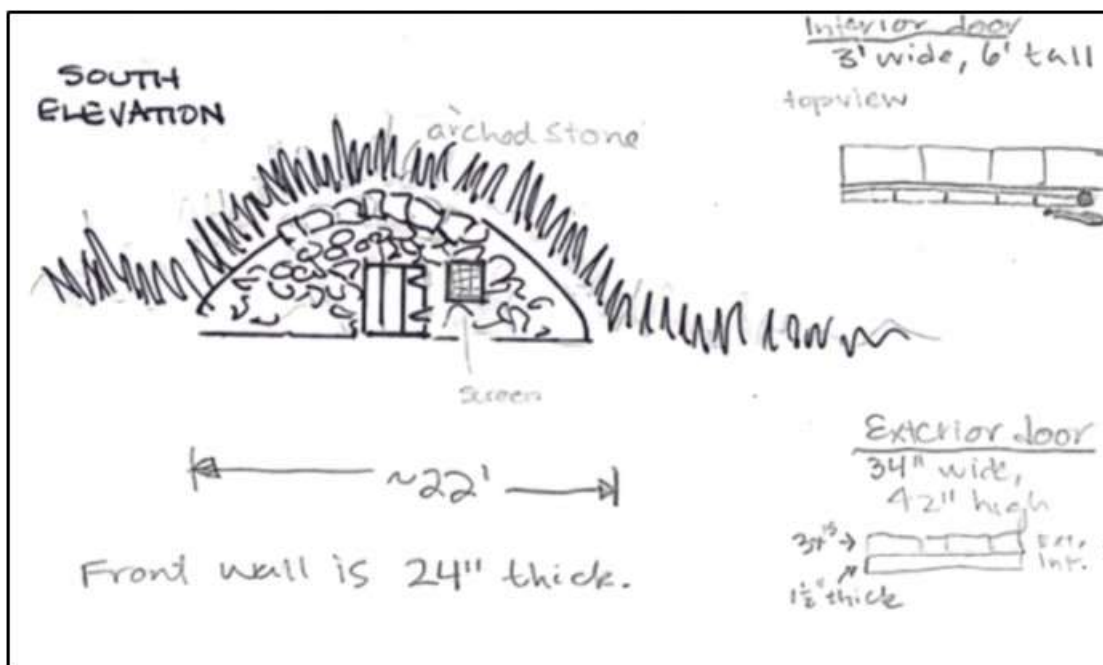
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



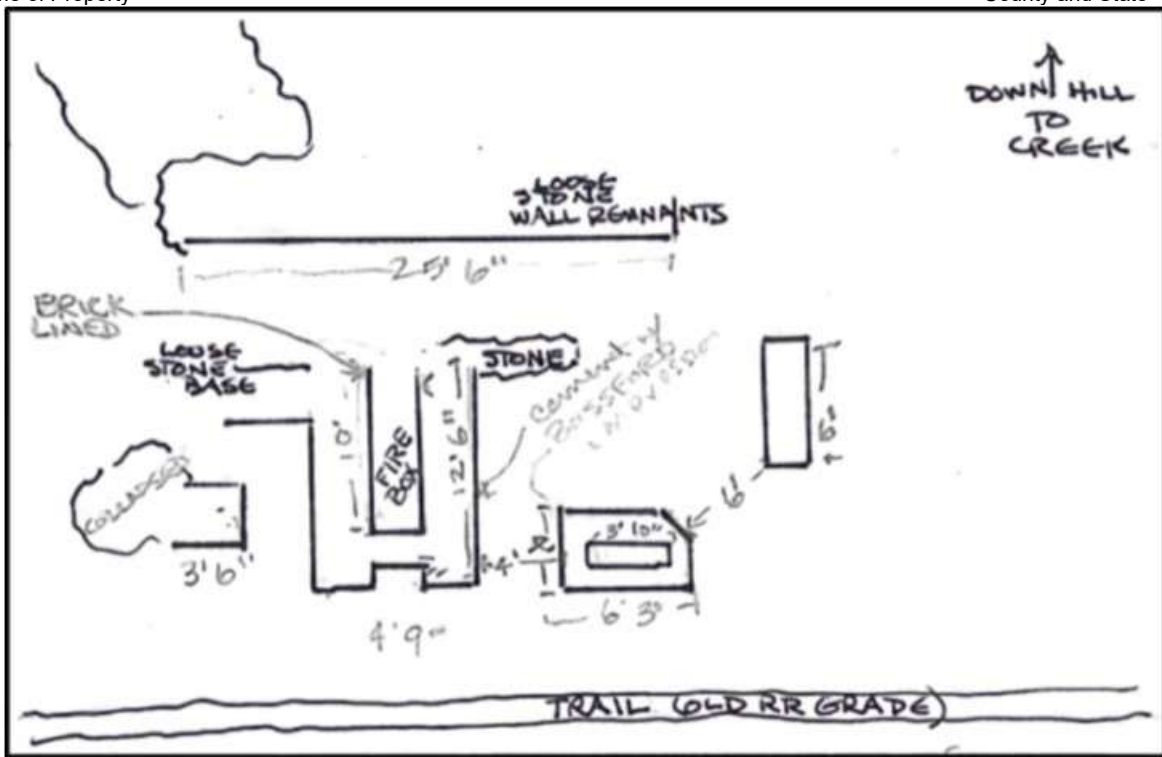
Sketch 13. Plan view of Feature AB-018 (2 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



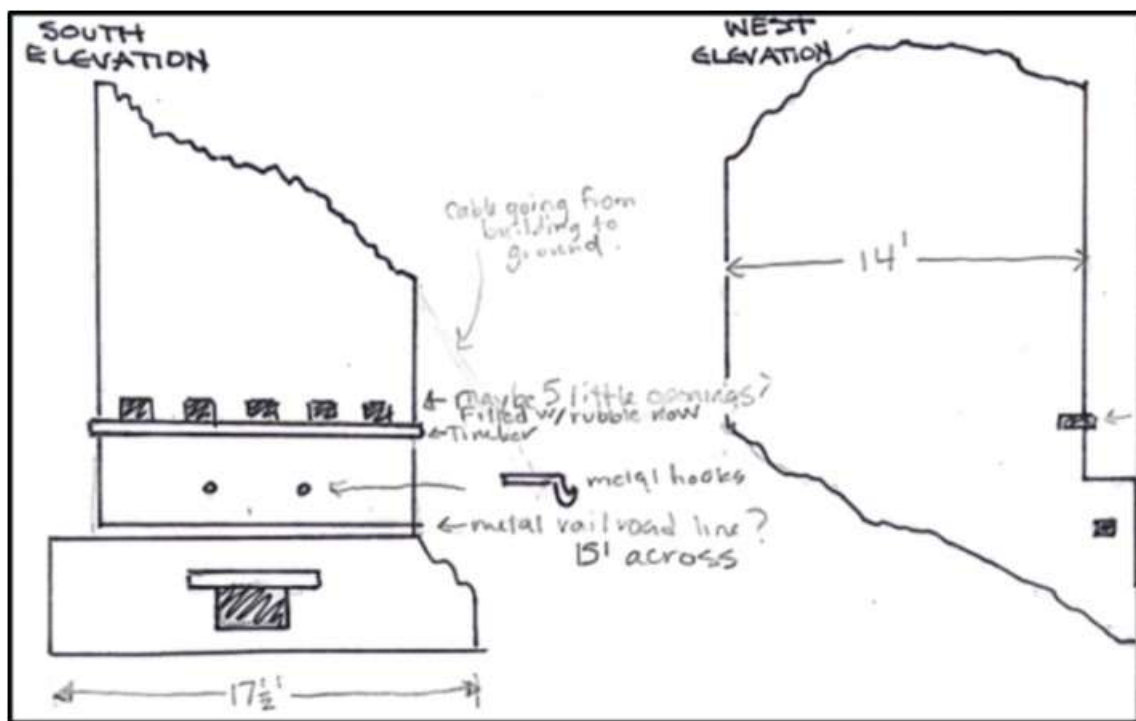
Sketch 14. Elevation and detail views of Feature AB-019. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



Sketch 15. Plan view of Feature AB-020. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



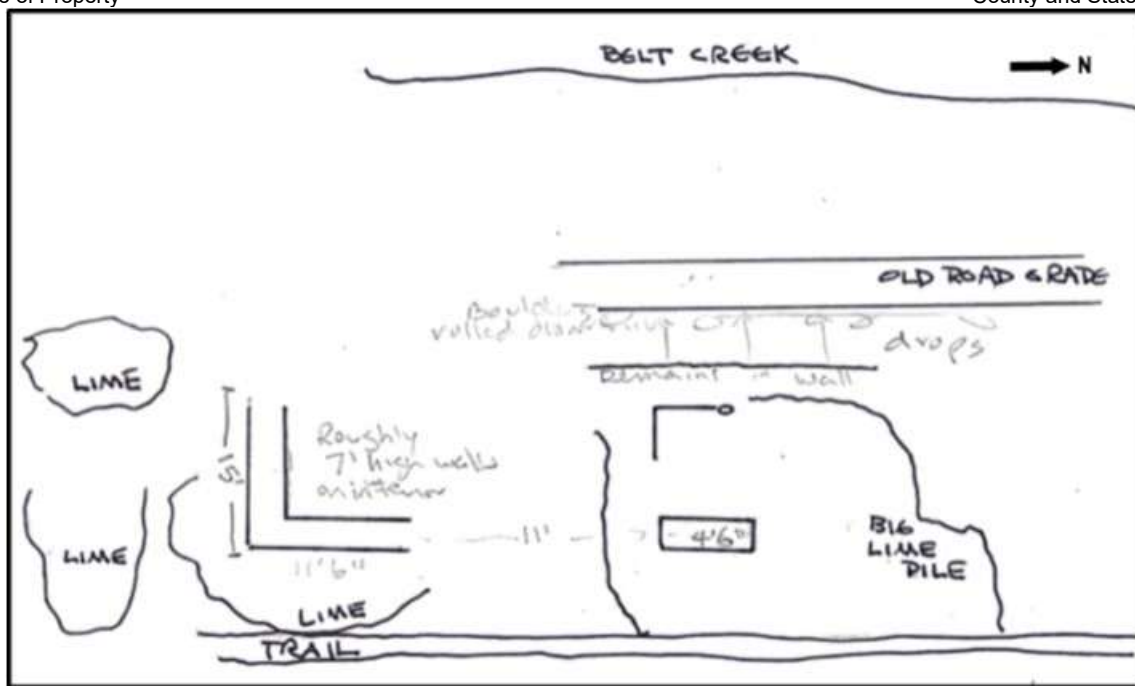
Sketch 16. Elevation views of Feature AB-021. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

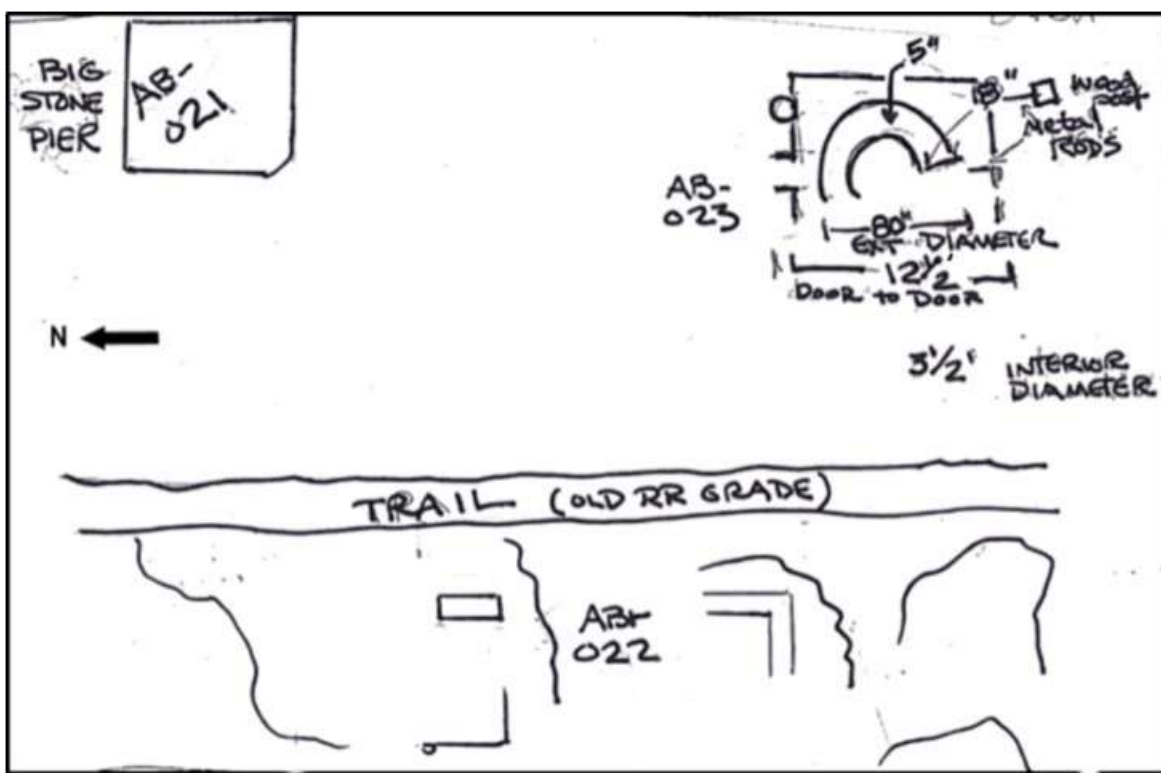
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Sketch 17. Plan view of Feature AB-022. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



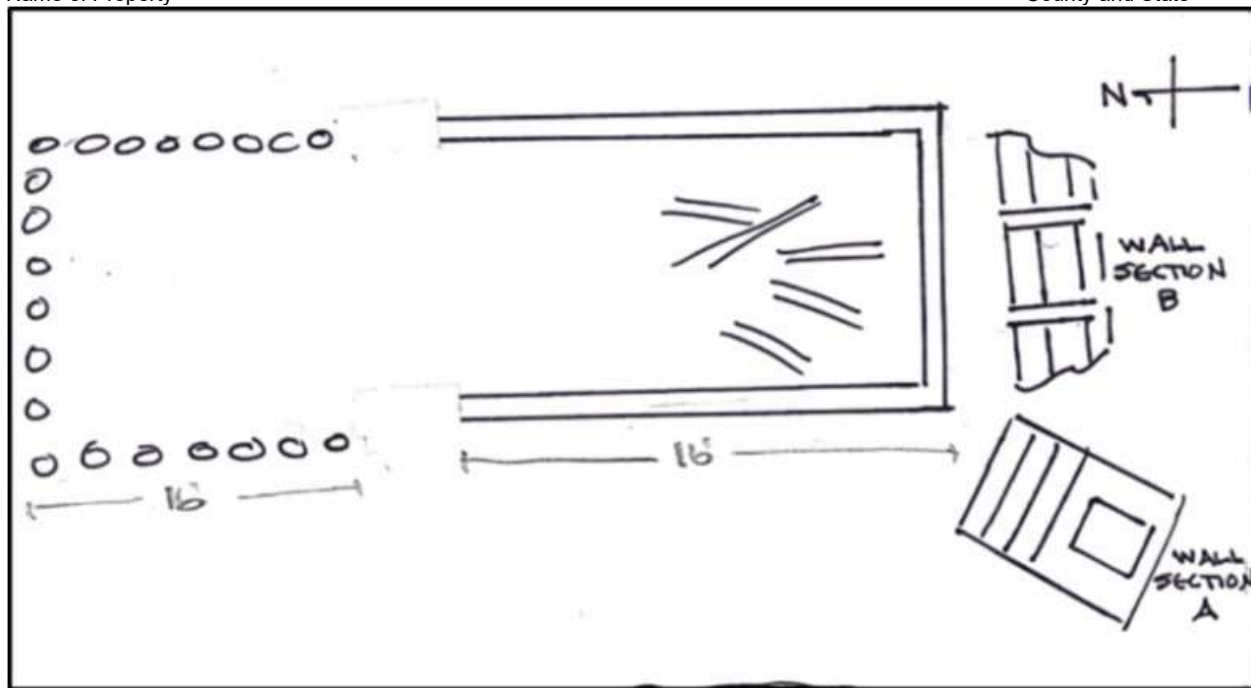
Sketch 18. Plan view and detail of Feature AB-023. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

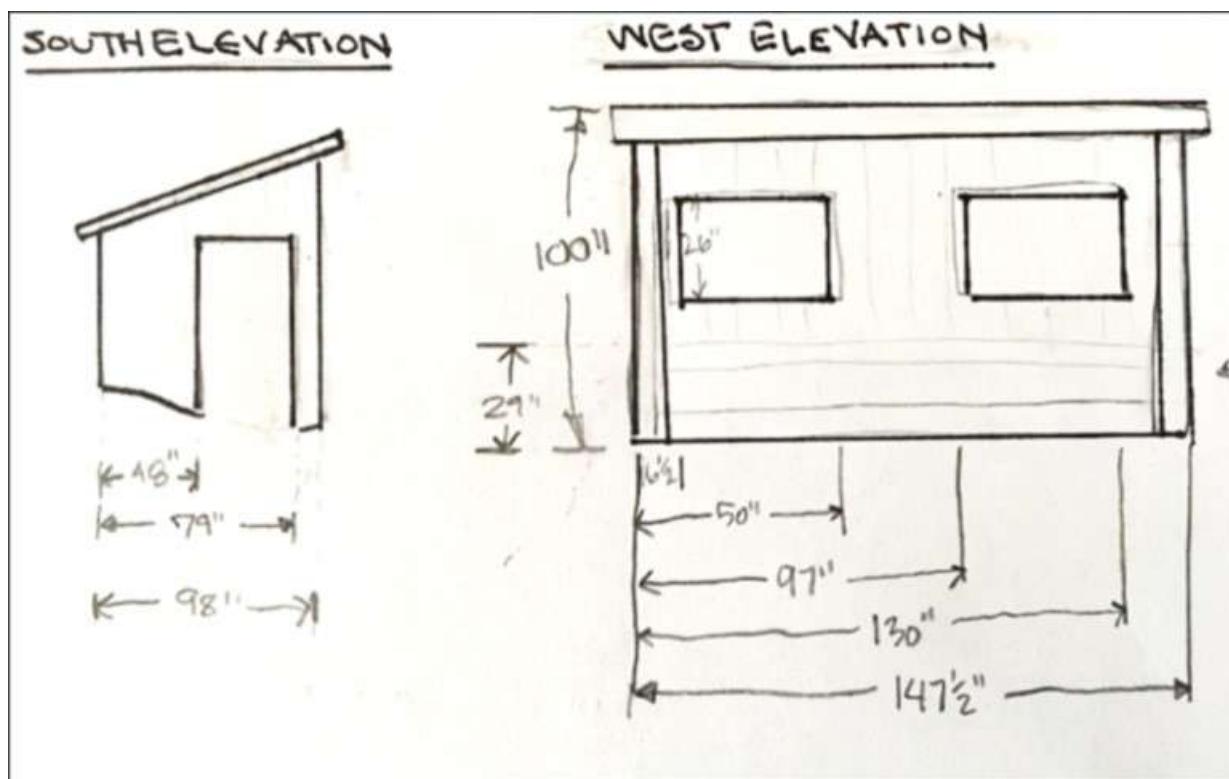
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



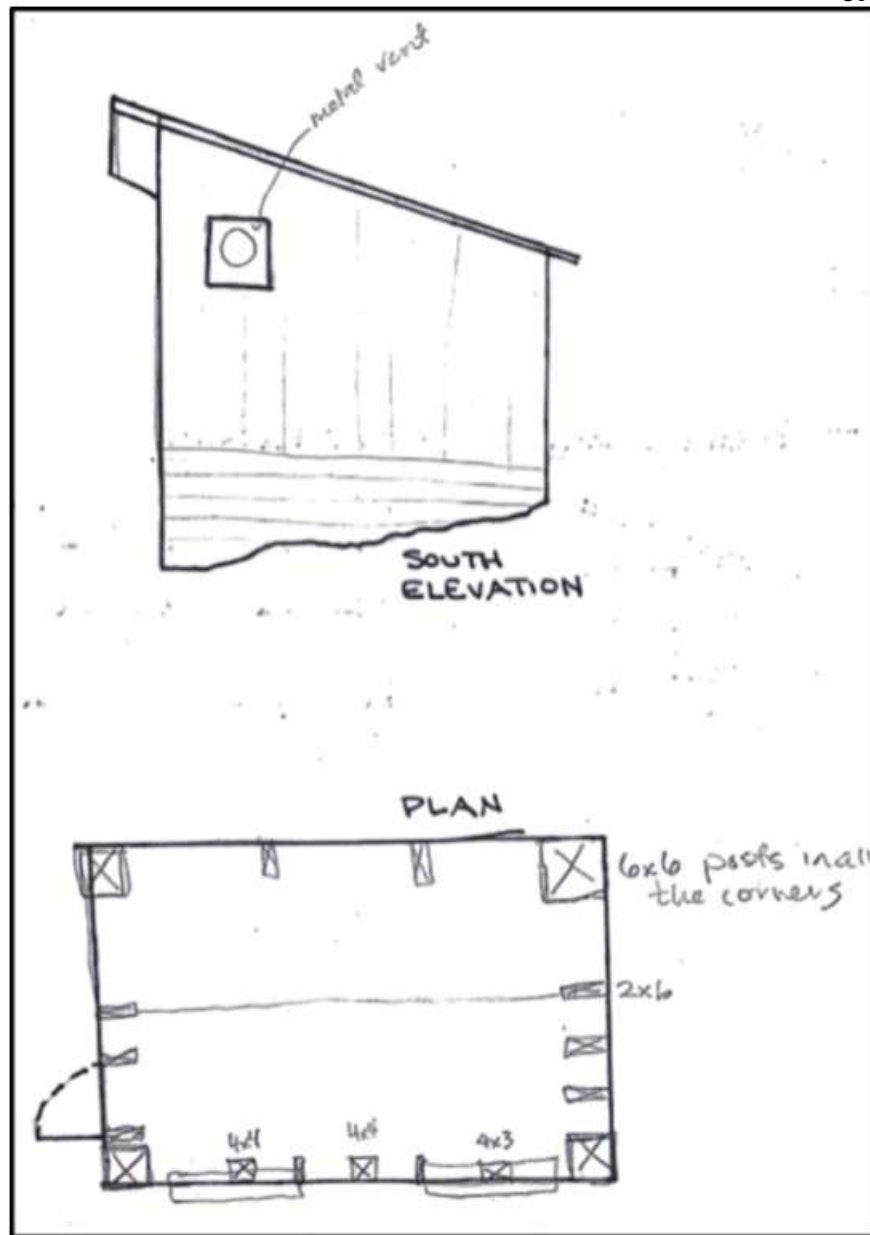
Sketch 19. Plan view of Feature AB-024. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



Sketch 20. Elevations of Feature AB-025 (1 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



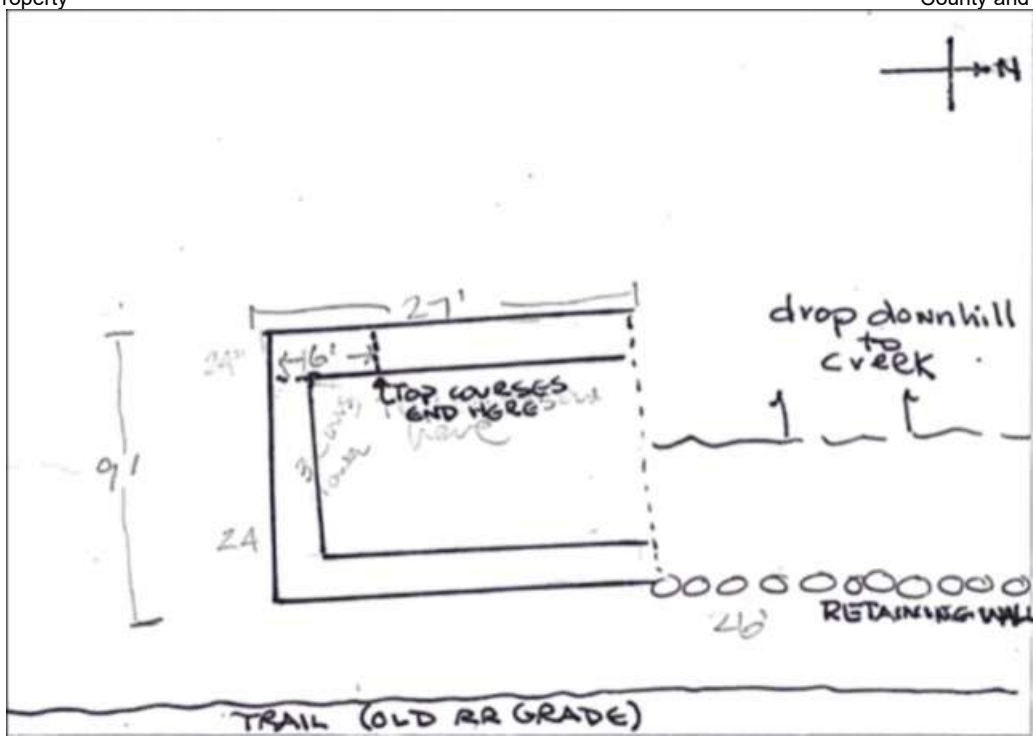
Sketch 21. Plan and elevation of Feature AB-025 (2 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

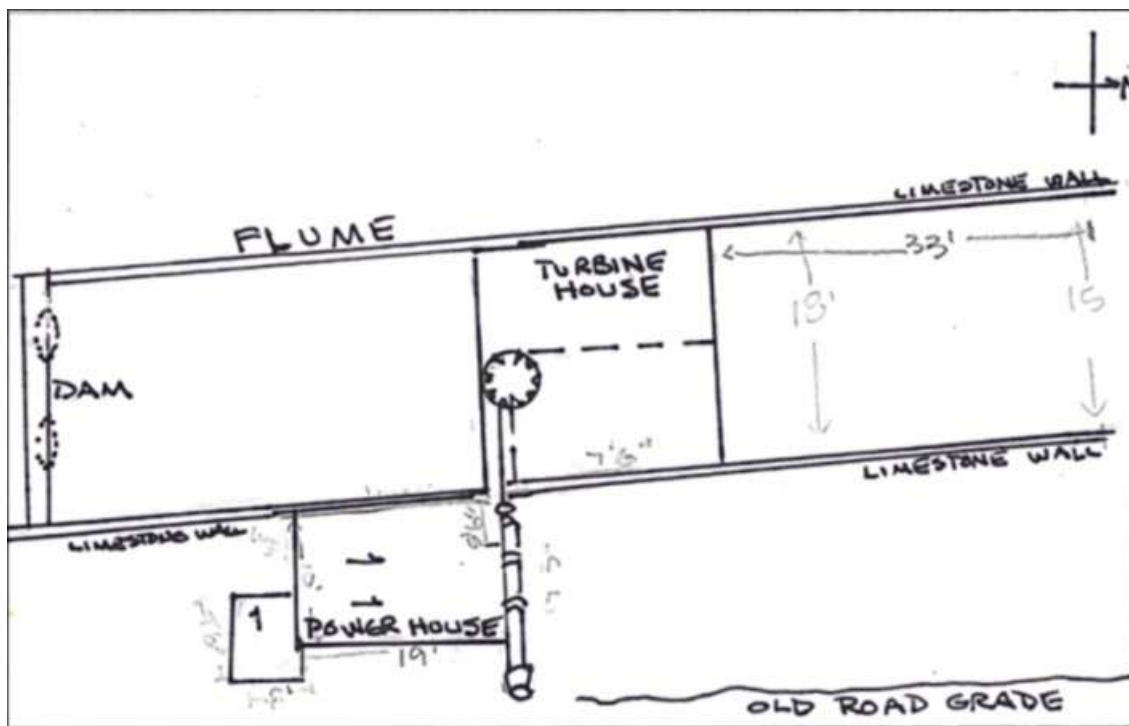
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Sketch 22. Plan of Feature AB-026. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



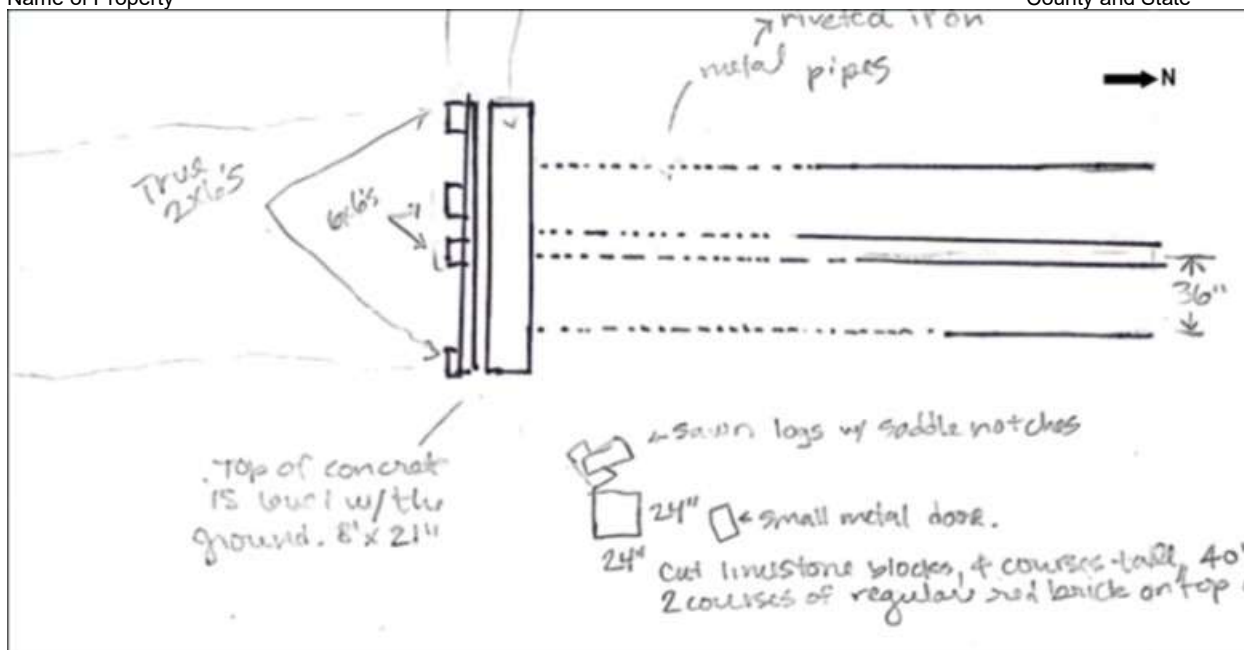
Sketch 23. Plan of Features AB-027 and AB-028 (1 of 2). Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

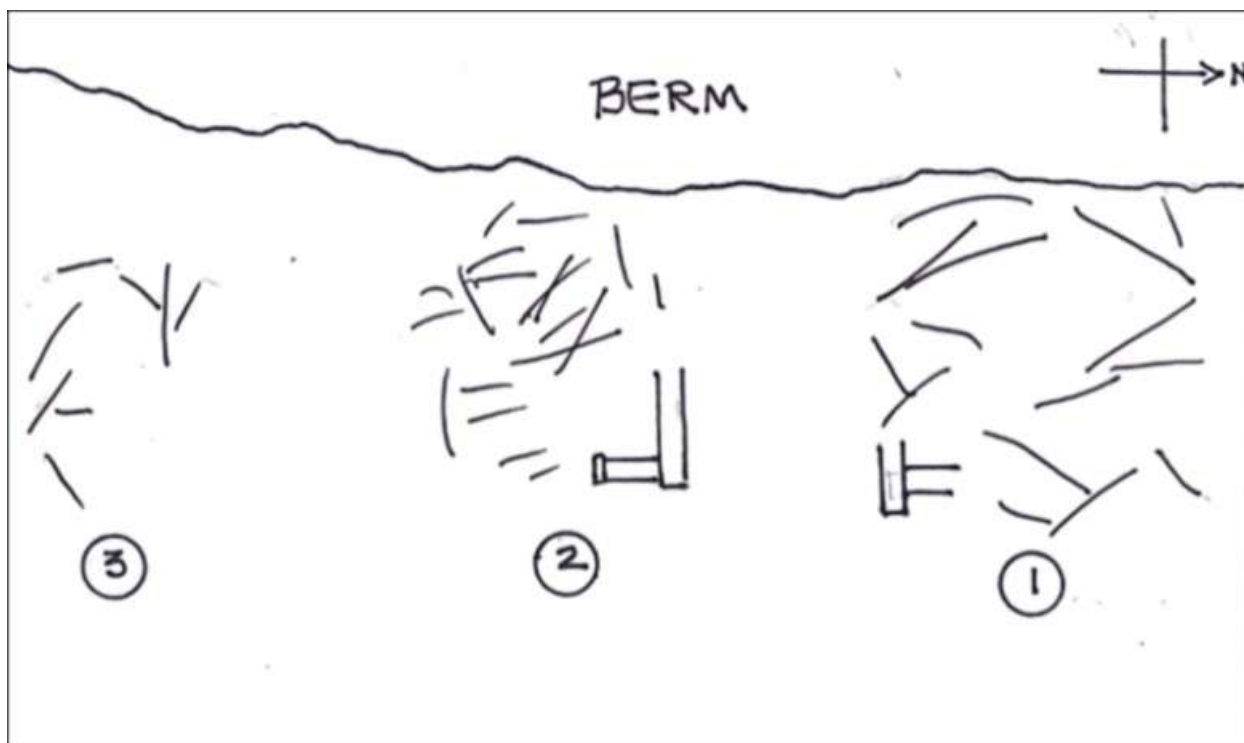
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Sketch 24. Plan of Features AB-035. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



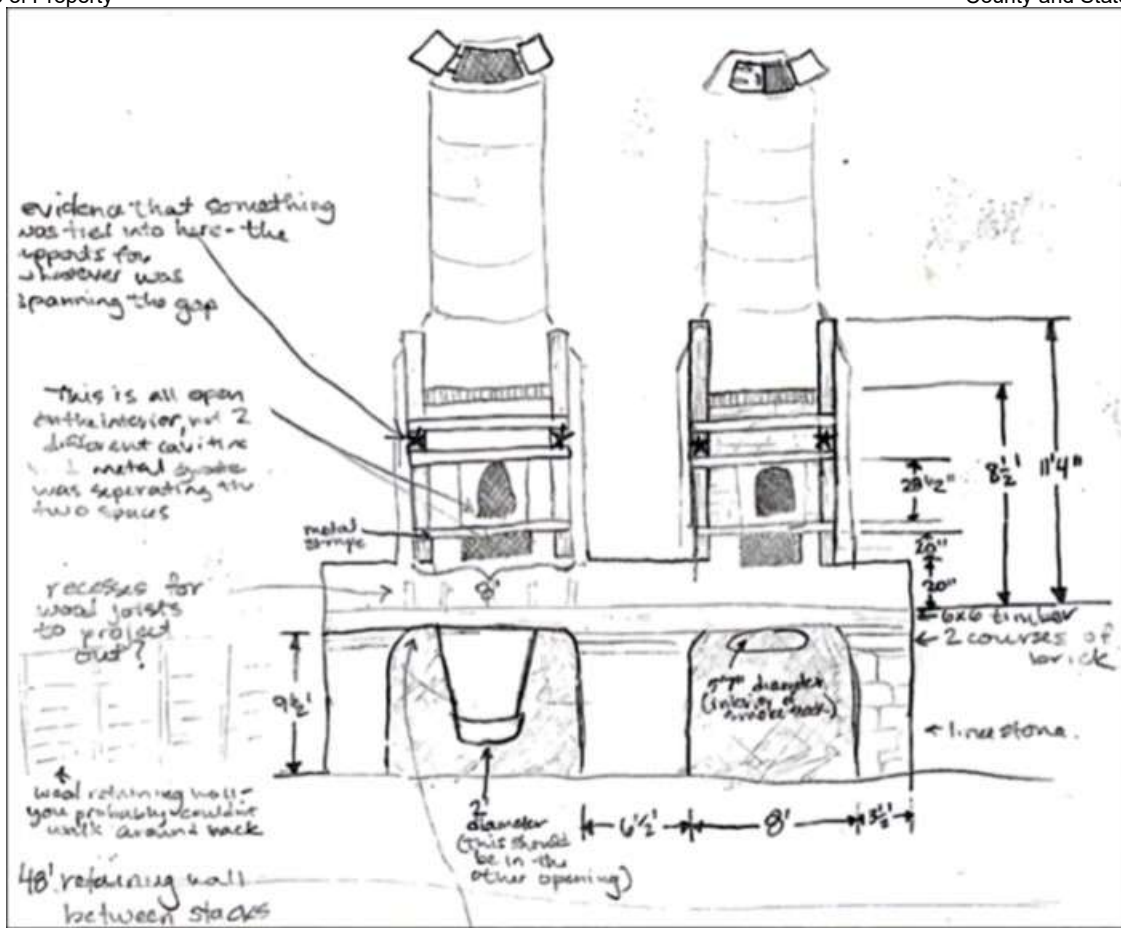
Sketch 25. Plan of collapsed Feature AB-029. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District

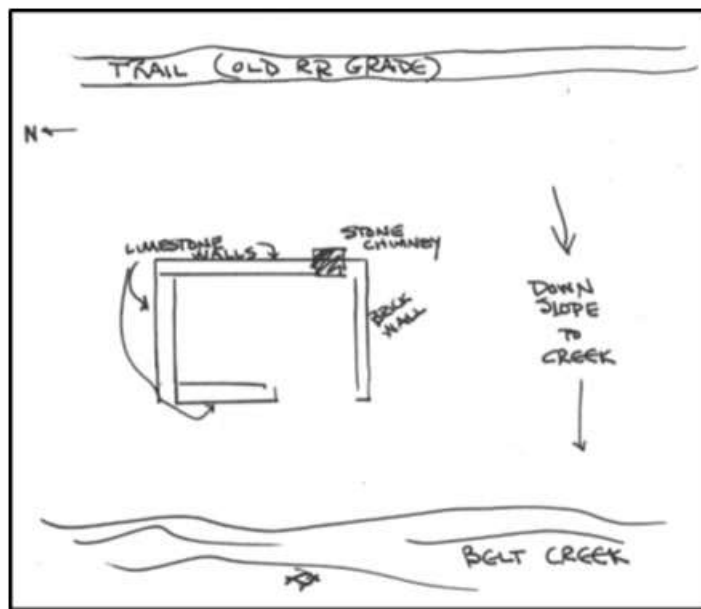
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Sketch 26. Elevation of kiln Feature AB-030. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.



Sketch 27. Plan of Feature AB-031. Drawn by the Preserve Montana Team, 2020.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

Photo Log and Photographs

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0001	0001 – Feature AB-001, View direction northwest, Cascade County, Montana, 2024. Photographer: James Busse.
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0002	0002 – Feature AB-001, View direction northwest construction materials detail, Cascade County, Montana, 2024. Photographer: James Busse.
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0003	0003 – Feature AB-001, View direction southeast, Cascade County, Montana, 2020. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0004	0004 - Feature AB-001 south and west elevations in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0005	0005 - Feature AB-001 interior looking southwest in 2024. View direction southwest. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0006	0006 - Feature AB-001 interior looking southeast in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0007	0007 - Feature AB-001 interior loft framing looking southeast in 2024. View direction west. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0008	0008 - Feature AB-002 east end of south elevation in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0009	0009 - Feature AB-002, southeast corner, looking northwest in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0010	0010 - Feature AB-002, end wall detail in 2020 showing residential electrification. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0011	0011 - Feature AB-002, stone wall or foundation remnant leading from the east wall, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0012	0012 - Feature AB-003, steel gate in fence line, in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0013	0013 - Feature AB-003, steel gate in fence line, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0014	0014 - Feature AB-004, toppled steel windmill tower, looking from rotor platform end in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0015	0015 - Feature AB-004, toppled steel windmill tower in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0016	0016 - Feature AB-005, concrete and stacked stone foundation in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0017	0017 - Feature AB-005, stacked stone portion of the foundation in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0018	0018 - Feature AB-005, steel component embedded in concrete in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0019	0019 - Feature AB-006, wooden gate and gateposts in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0020	0020 - Feature AB-007, water pump in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0021	0021 - Feature AB-007, water pump manufacturer detail in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0022	0022 - Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2024. View direction east. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0023	0023 - Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2020. Note the electrical wiring. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0024	0024 - Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0025	0025 - Feature AB-009, quarry in 2020. View direction northeast by east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0026	0026 - Feature AB-010, rail crossing remnants in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0027	0027 - Feature AB-010, rail crossing concrete piers on north side of crossing 11 in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0028	0028 - Feature AB-011, in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0029	0029 - Feature AB-011, in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0030	0030 - Feature AB-011, interior of log portion of building in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0031	0031 - Feature AB-011, interior of addition to building in 2020 where the original window has been modified to create a doorway. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0032	0032 - Feature AB-012, shed in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0033	0033 - Feature AB-012, shed interior in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0034	0034 - Feature AB-013, outhouse in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0035	0035 - Feature AB-013, outhouse in 2024. Image enhanced for clarity of interior details. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0036	0036 - Feature AB-014, submerged doc structure in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0037	0037 - Feature AB-015, graded area with rock bed and scattered timbers the site in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0038	0038 - Feature AB-016, site overview from the trail in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0039	0039 - Feature AB-016, masonry stone front wall of the cave in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0040	0040 - Feature AB-016, interior of grotto in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0041	0041 - Feature AB-017 in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0042	0042 - Feature AB-017 in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0043	0043 - Feature AB-018 in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0044	0044 - Feature AB-018 in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0045	0045 - Feature AB-018 interior in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0046	0046 - Feature AB-019 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0047	0047 - Feature AB-019 interior in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0048	0048 - Feature AB-019 interior wall oven in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0049	0049 - Feature AB-019 looking out in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0050	0050 - Feature AB-020 lime kiln fire boxes in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0051	0051 - Feature AB-020 lime kiln fire box remains in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0052	0052 - Feature AB-020 masonry detail showing the HOSSFORD imprints in the mortar in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0053	0053 - Feature AB-020 site overview showing lime spilling down hillside (left) in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0054	0054 - Feature AB-021 stone pier overview in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0055	0055 - Feature AB-021 stone pier in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0056	0056 - Feature AB-021 stone pier embedded rail with wrapped cable in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0057	0057 - Cable coil adjacent to the Feature AB-021 stone pier in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0058	0058 - Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0059	0059 - Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2024. View direction west. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0060	0060 - Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0061	0061 - Feature AB-023 lime kiln with steel door in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0062	0062 - Feature AB-023 lime kiln wall construction detail in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0063	0063 - Feature AB-023 embossing from HOSSFORD brick in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana) MT
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0064	0064 - Feature AB-024 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0065	0065 - Feature AB-024 in 2020. View direction east as viewed from the trail. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0066	0066 - Feature AB-025 in 2024. View direction southeast as viewed from the trail. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0067	0067 - Feature AB-025 in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0068	0068 - Feature AB-026 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0069	0069 - Feature AB-026 in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0070	0070 - Feature AB-027 in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0071	0071 - Feature AB-027 Generator House (at right) and AB-28 Turbine House over raceway (at left), in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0072	0072 - Feature AB-028 paired water pipes south of the hydro facility, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0073	0073 - Feature AB-028 dam with wooden head gate leading to turbine house, in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0074	0074 - Feature AB-029 Log Buildings 1 (foreground) and 2 (rear at right) in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0075	0075 - Feature AB-029 Log Building 2 corner in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0076	0076 - Feature AB-029 looking across the site of three collapsed buildings, with Building 3 in the foreground right, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0077	0077 - Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0078	0078 - Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0079	0079 - Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0080	0080 - Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0081	0081 - Looking up a stack at the Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2020. View direction up. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0082	0082 - Feature AB-030 lime kiln loading bay in 2024. View direction east. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0083	0083 - Feature AB-031 in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0084	0084 - Feature AB-031 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0085	0085 - Ore Cart OC-01 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0086	0086 - Ore Carts OC-01 and OC-2 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0087	0087 - Ore Cart OC-03 in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0088	0088 - Ore Cart OC-03 in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0089	0089 - Ore Cart OC-04 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0090	0090 - Ore Cart OC-05 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0091	0091 - Ore Cart OC-06 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0092	0092 - Ore Cart OC-07 in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0093	0093 - Ore Cart OC-07 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0094	0094 - Ore Carts OC-08, OC-09, and OC-10 in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0095	0095 - Ore Carts OC-08, OC-09, and OC-10 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0096	0096 - Ore Cart OC-08 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0097	0097 - Ore Cart OC-09 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0098	0098 - Ore Cart OC-09 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0099	0099 - Ore Cart OC-11 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0100	0100 - Ore Cart OC-12 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0101	0101 - Ore Carts OC-13 and OC-14 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0102	0102 - Ore Cart OC-14 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0103	0103 - Ore Cart OC-15 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0104	0104 - Ore Cart OC-15 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0105	0105 - Ore Cart OC-16 in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0106	0106 - Railroad rail section in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0107	0107 - Railroad rail sections in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0108	0108 - Railroad Switch, Frog RR-003, in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0109	0109 - Railroad Switch, Frog RR-006, in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0110	0110 - Railroad Switch, Frog RR-005, in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0111	0111 - Railroad Switch, Frog RR-004, in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0112	0112 - Railroad rail section protruding from quarry spoils in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0113	0113 - Mining refuse at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0114	0114 - Can at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0115	0115 - Can at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0116	0116 - Wheelbarrow in the southern section near Belt Creek in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0117	0117 - Bedframe in the northern section near Belt Creek in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0118	0118 - "Miami Powder Co., Chicago" powder can in a quarry area in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0119	0119 - Looking northwest from the east side of Belt Creek near Albright in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0120	0120 - Looking northwest toward the entrance of the Dick's Creek Canyon in 2024. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0121	0121 - Looking toward the entrance of the Dick's Creek Canyon in 2024. View direction northwest (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0122	0122 - Looking upstream, at Belt Creek near the kiln in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0123	0123 - Looking downstream, at Belt Creek near the kiln in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0124	0124 - Looking toward a large quarry area at Albright in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0125	0125 - View across the meadow at Limedale in the southern end of the district with Feature AB-011 on the right (south) in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0126	0126 - View of Features AB-013, outhouse, and AB-011, residence, on the right (south) in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0127	0127 - Riding a "railroad speeder" near Albright circa 1913. View Direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0128	0128 - Riding a "railroad speeder" at Albright circa 1920. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0129	0129 - Nebel family on a "railroad speeder" at Albright circa 1920. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0130	0130. Riding a "railroad speeder" at Albright circa 1920. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0131	0131 - Albright in 1902. View Direction southeast. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0132	0132 - Albright in 1902. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0133	0133 - Albright circa 1902. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0134	0134 - Albright on January 10, 1913. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0135	0135 - Albright on January 10, 1913. View direction southeast with a dormitory in the foreground left. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0136	0136 - The kiln owned by Col. Jack Williams at Albright\Limedale in 1904. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Unknown)

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0137	0137 - The kiln at Albright\Limedale in 1945. View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0138	0138 – Fish Train stopped at Logging Creek Station. Photo circa 1920s. View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0139	0139 - Passengers on the Fish Train. Photo circa 1920s. View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0140	0140 - Fishing camp at Belt Creek. Photo circa 1920s. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0141	0141 - Herman Nebel and his 4 ¾ lb. circa 1920s.” View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0142	0142 - 1912 postcard of “Fishing in the Sluice Boxes at Belt Creek, Northern Montana” From 1912. View Direction North. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0143	0143 - Crew of the 511 on the last rail trip in 1945. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0144	0144 – Photo of a mylar tracing of the red ochre figures at Site 24CA0108. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Steve Aaberg)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0145	0145 – Looking into the Sluice Boxes State Park from the north end, View direction south, Cascade County, Montana, 2024. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0146	0146 – Excerpt from the “Applications for Employment, Book 3, Albright Quarries.” View direction down. Cascade County, Montana, 2024. (Photographer Tim Urbaniak)
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0147	0147 – Albright’s ferry near Rosebud. View direction north. Rosebud County, Montana, 2025. (Photographer Frank Vassau)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0001. Feature AB-001 south and east elevations in 2024.
View direction northwest. (Photographer: James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0002. Feature AB-001 corner detail showing the south and east elevations in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0003. Feature AB-001 Looking southeast in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0004. Feature AB-001 south and west elevations in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0005. Feature AB-001 interior looking southwest in 2024.
View direction southwest. (Photographer: James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0006. Feature AB-001 interior looking southeast in 2024.
View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0007. Feature AB-001 interior loft framing looking southeast in 2024. View direction west. (Photographer: James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0008. Feature AB-002 east end of south elevation in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0009. Feature AB-002, southeast corner, looking northwest in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0010. Feature AB-002, end wall detail in 2020 showing residential electrification. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0011. Feature AB-002, stone wall or foundation remnant leading from the east wall, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0012. Feature AB-003, steel gate in fence line, in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0013. Feature AB-003, steel gate in fence line, in 2020.
View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0014. Feature AB-004, toppled steel windmill tower, looking from rotor platform end in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0015. Feature AB-004, toppled steel windmill tower in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0016. Feature AB-005, concrete and stacked stone foundation in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0017. Feature AB-005, stacked stone portion of the foundation in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0018. Feature AB-005, steel component embedded in concrete in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0019. Feature AB-006, wooden gate and gateposts in 2020.
View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0020. Feature AB-007, water pump in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0021. Feature AB-007, water pump manufacturer detail in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0022. Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2024. View direction east. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0023. Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2020. Note the electrical wiring. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0024. Feature AB-008, outhouse in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0025. Feature AB-009, quarry in 2020. View direction northeast by east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0026. Feature AB-010, rail crossing remnants in 2024. View direction north. Quarry feature AB-033 is on the left (west). (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0027. Feature AB-010, rail crossing concrete piers on north side of crossing 11 in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0028. Feature AB-011, in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0029. Feature AB-011, in 2020. View direction west.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0030. Feature AB-011, interior of log portion of building in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0031. Feature AB-011, interior of addition to building in 2020 where the original window has been modified to create a doorway. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



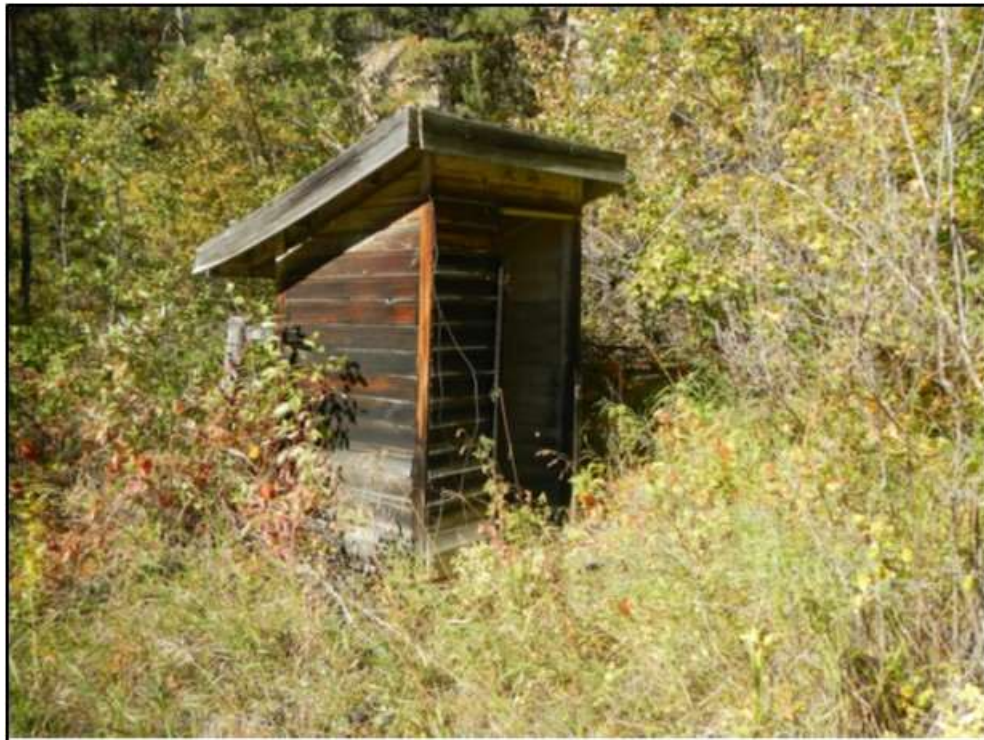
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0032. Feature AB-012, shed in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0033. Feature AB-012, shed interior in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0034. Feature AB-013, outhouse in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0035. Feature AB-013, outhouse in 2024. Image enhanced for clarity of interior details. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0036. Feature AB-014, submerged doc structure in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0037. Feature AB-015, graded area with rock bed and scattered timbers the site in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0038. Feature AB-016, site overview from the trail in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0039. Feature AB-016, masonry stone front wall of the cave in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0040. Feature AB-016, interior of grotto in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0041. Feature AB-017 in 2024. View direction northeast.
(Photographer: Robin Mutchler)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0042. Feature AB-017 in 2020. View direction northwest.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0043. Feature AB-018 in 2024. View direction northeast.
(Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0044. Feature AB-018 in 2024. View direction southeast.
(Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0045. Feature AB-018 interior in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0046. Feature AB-019 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0047. Feature AB-019 interior in 2020. View direction east.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0048. Feature AB-019 interior wall oven in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0049. Feature AB-019 looking out in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0050. Feature AB-020 lime kiln fire boxes in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0051. Feature AB-020 lime kiln fire box remains in 2020.
View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0052. Feature AB-020 masonry detail showing the
HOSSFORD imprints in the mortar in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve
Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0053. Feature AB-020 site overview showing lime spilling down hillside (left) in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0054. Feature AB-021 stone pier overview in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0055. Feature AB-021 stone pier in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0056. Feature AB-021 stone pier embedded rail with wrapped cable in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0057. Cable coil adjacent to the Feature AB-021 stone pier in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0058. Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2020. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0059. Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2024. View direction west. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0060. Feature AB-022 lime kiln or storage structure in 2020. View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0061. Feature AB-023 lime kiln with steel door in 2020.
View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0062. Feature AB-023 lime kiln wall construction detail in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0063. Feature AB-023 embossing from HOSSFORD brick in 2020. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0064. Feature AB-024 in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0065. Feature AB-024 in 2020. View direction east as viewed from the trail. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0066. Feature AB-025 in 2024. View direction southeast as viewed from the trail. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0067. Feature AB-025 in 2024. View direction north.
(Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0068. Feature AB-026 in 2020. View direction south.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0069. Feature AB-026 in 2020. View direction northeast.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0070. Feature AB-027 in 2020. View direction northeast.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0071. Feature AB-027 Generator House (at right) and AB-028 Turbine House over raceway (at left), in 2020. View direction south. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0072. Feature AB-035 paired water pipes south of the hydro facility, in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0073. Feature AB-035 dam with wooden head gate leading to turbine house, in 2020. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0074. Feature AB-029 Log Buildings 1 (foreground) and 2 (rear at right) in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0075. Feature AB-029 Log Building 2 corner in 2020.
View direction west. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0076. Feature AB-029 looking across the site of three collapsed buildings, with Building 3 in the foreground right, in 2020. View direction north.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0077. Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0078. Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0079. Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0080. Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0081. Looking up a stack at the Feature AB-030 lime kiln in 2020. View direction up. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0082. Feature AB-030 lime kiln loading bay in 2024. View direction east. (Photographer: James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0083. Feature AB-031 in 2020. View direction west.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0084. Feature AB-031 in 2020. View direction south.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0085. Ore Cart OC-01 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0086. Ore Carts OC-01 and OC-2 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0087. Ore Cart OC-03 in 2020. View direction west.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0088. Ore Cart OC-03 in 2020. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0089. Ore Cart OC-04 in 2020. View direction north.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0090. Ore Cart OC-05 in 2020. View direction south.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0091. Ore Cart OC-06 in 2020. View direction east.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0092. Ore Cart OC-07 in 2020. View direction west.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0093. Ore Cart OC-07 in 2020. View direction east.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0094. Ore Carts OC-08, OC-09, and OC-10 in 2020.
View direction northeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0095. Ore Carts OC-08, OC-09, and OC-10 in 2020.
View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0096. Ore Cart OC-08 in 2020. View direction south.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0097. Ore Cart OC-09 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0098. Ore Cart OC-09 in 2020. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0099. Ore Cart OC-11 in 2020. View direction south.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0100. Ore Cart OC-12 in 2020. View direction north.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0101. Ore Carts OC-13 and OC-14 in 2020. View direction north. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0102. Ore Cart OC-14 in 2020. View direction east. (Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0103. Ore Cart OC-15 in 2020. View direction east.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0104. Ore Cart OC-15 in 2020. View direction north.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0105. Ore Cart OC-16 in 2020. View direction west.
(Photographer: Preserve Montana)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0106. Railroad rail section in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0107. Railroad rail sections in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0108. Railroad Switch, Frog RR-003, in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0109. Railroad Switch, Frog RR-006, in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0110. Railroad Switch, Frog RR-005, in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0111. Railroad Switch, Frog RR-004, in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0112. Railroad rail section protruding from quarry spoils in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0113. Mining refuse at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0114. Can at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0115. Can at a quarry area in the central section in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0116. Wheelbarrow in the southern section near Belt Creek in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0117. Bedframe in the northern section near Belt Creek in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0118. "Miami Powder Co., Chicago" powder can in a quarry area in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0119. Looking northwest from the east side of Belt Creek near Albright in 2024. View direction northwest. (Photographer James Busse)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0120. Looking northwest toward the entrance of the Dick's Creek Canyon in 2024. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0121. Looking toward the entrance of the Dick's Creek Canyon in 2024. Albright's main quarry is located at the exposed cliff (left-center). View direction northwest. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0122. Looking upstream, at Belt Creek near the kiln in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer: Robin Mutchler)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0123. Looking downstream, at Belt Creek near the kiln in 2024. View direction north. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0124. Looking toward a large quarry area at Albright in 2024. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



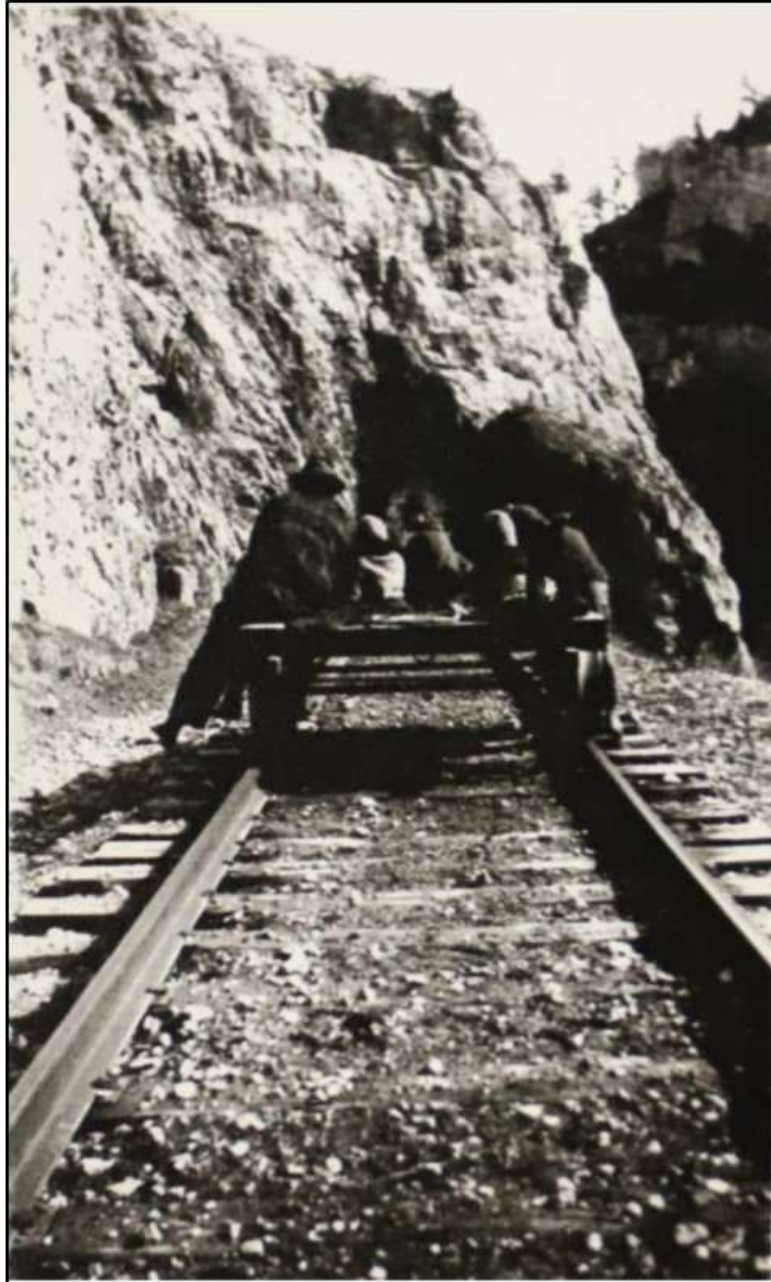
MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0125. View across the meadow at Limedale in the southern end of the district with Feature AB-011 on the right (south) in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0126. View of Features AB-013, outhouse, and AB-011, residence, on the right (south) in 2024. View direction northeast. (Photographer James Busse)

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0127. Riding a “railroad speeder” near Albright circa 1913. View Direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)²³⁹

²³⁹ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0128. Riding a “railroad speeder” at Albright circa 1920. “My father (Mr. Nebel) on right, 3 smelter gurus on the speeder. 1920s” written on the back. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁰



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0129. Nebel family on a “railroad speeder” at Albright circa 1920. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴¹

²⁴⁰ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

²⁴¹ Sasha Lewis, “Chronology of Albright Quarries from 1911 to 1945,” *Sluice Boxes State Park History & Management*, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks, 1996, p. 37 On file at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, MT. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District

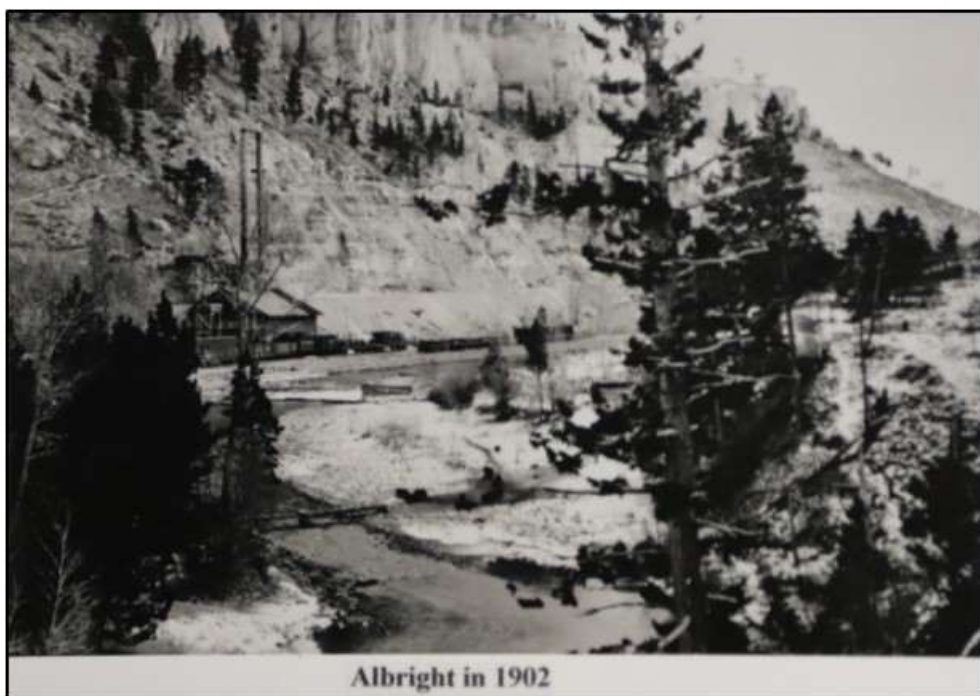
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0130. Riding a “railroad speeder” at Albright circa 1920. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴²



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0131. Albright in 1902. View Direction southeast, Kiln Feature AB-030 on the left (east). (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴³

²⁴² Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

²⁴³ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

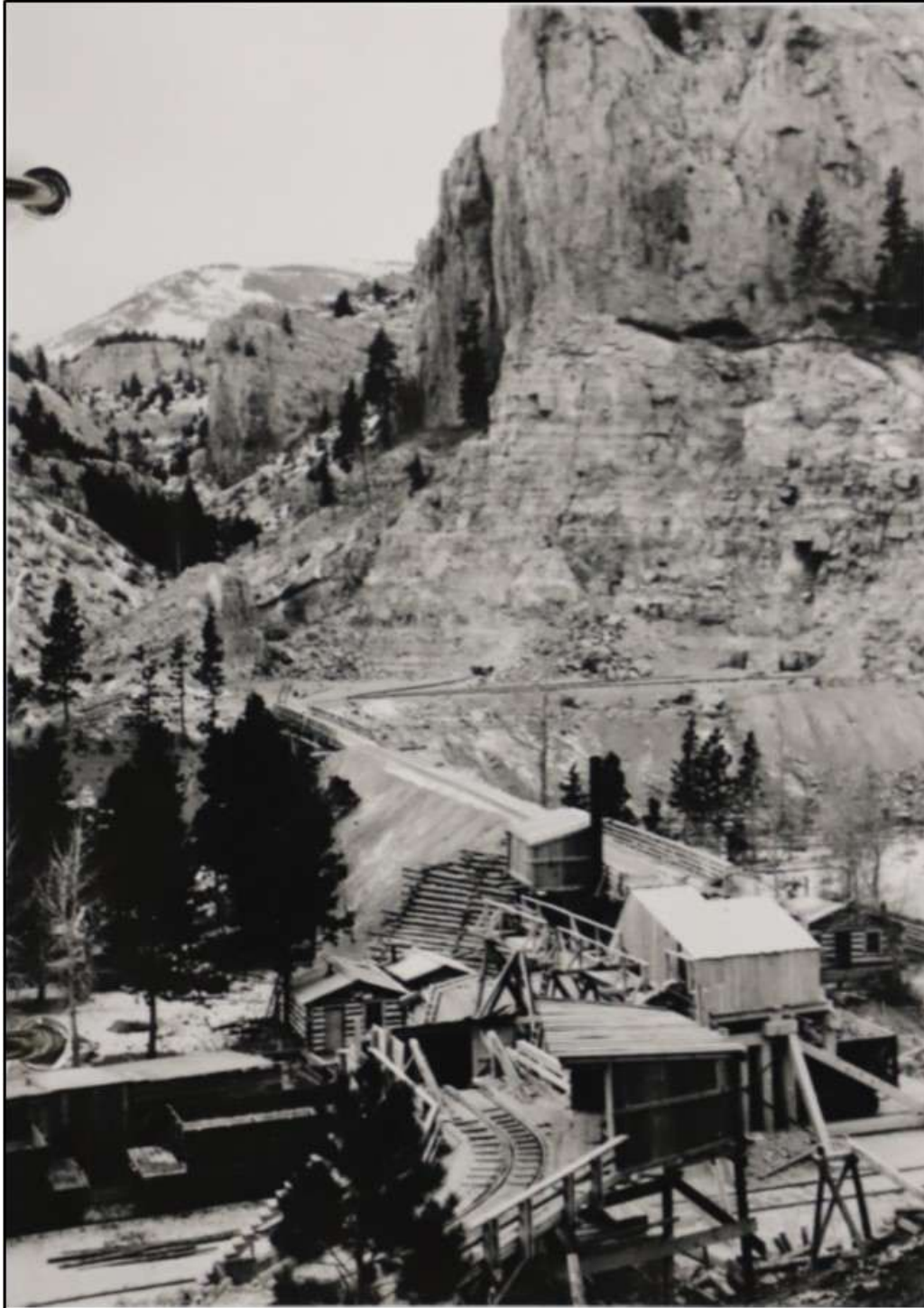


MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0132. Albright in 1902. View direction unknown.
(Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁴

²⁴⁴ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0133. Albright circa 1902. View to the northwest from the east side of Belt Creek at Dick's Gulch, looking at Feature AB-031. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁵

²⁴⁵ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0134. Albright on January 10, 1913. View direction southwest, looking across Belt Creek with Dick's Gulch to the right (west). (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁶

²⁴⁶ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

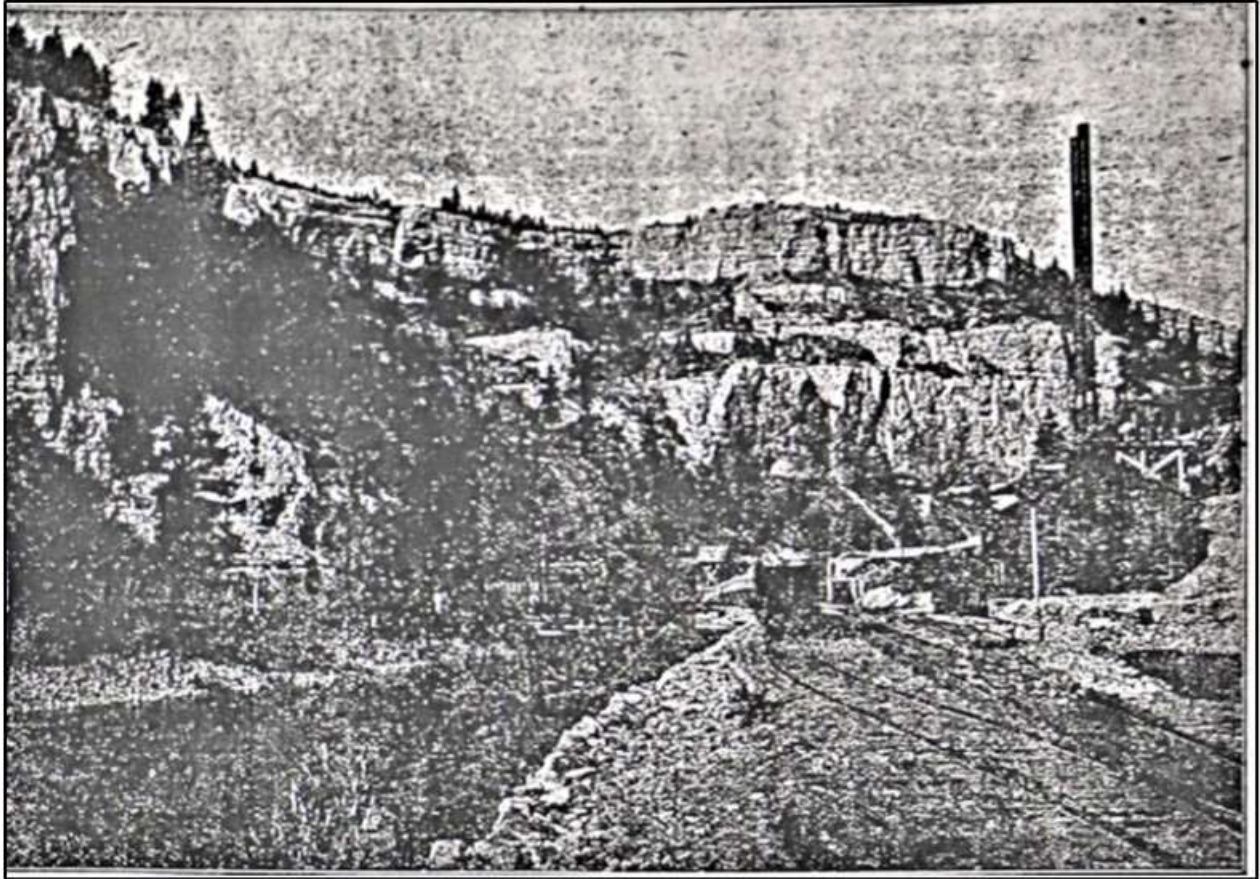


MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0135. Albright on January 10, 1913. View direction southeast with a dormitory in the foreground left (east). Belt Creek is to the right of the photographer. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁷

²⁴⁷ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0136. The kiln owned by Col. Jack Williams at Albright/Limedale in 1904, Feature AB-030. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁸

²⁴⁸ Photo, *Belt Valley Times*, April 7, 1904, p. A5.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0137. The kiln Feature AB-030 at Albright in 1945.
View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁴⁹

²⁴⁹ "Days of Riotous Mining Town Relived with Closing of Neihart Branch Line," *Great Falls Tribune*, Sunday, November 4, 1945, p. 1.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



The train between Great Falls and Neihart stopped at Logging Creek Station bringing recreationists to the scenic area. Local residents could catch the train along its Belt Creek route to make a trip to Great Falls. Until the mid-1940s, the train's whistle could be heard throughout the area. The line was discontinued in 1946.

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0138. “The train between Great Falls and Neihart stopped at Logging Creek Station bringing recreationists to the scenic area. Local residents could catch the train along its Belt Creek route to make a trip to Great falls. Until the mid-1940s, the train’s whistle could be heard throughout the area. The line was discontinued in 1946.” Photo circa 1920s. View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁵⁰

²⁵⁰ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *Fishing and Hunting are Favorite Sports of Early Residents*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 213.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0139. Passengers on the Fish Train. Photo circa 1920s.
View direction north. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁵¹



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0140. Fishing camp at Belt Creek. Photo circa 1920s.
View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁵²

²⁵¹ Porter and Dorthy Fender, *Fishing and Hunting are Favorite Sports of Early Residents*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 143.

²⁵² Porter and Dorthy Fender, *Fishing and Hunting are Favorite Sports of Early Residents*, Belt Valley History, 1978, p. 142.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State

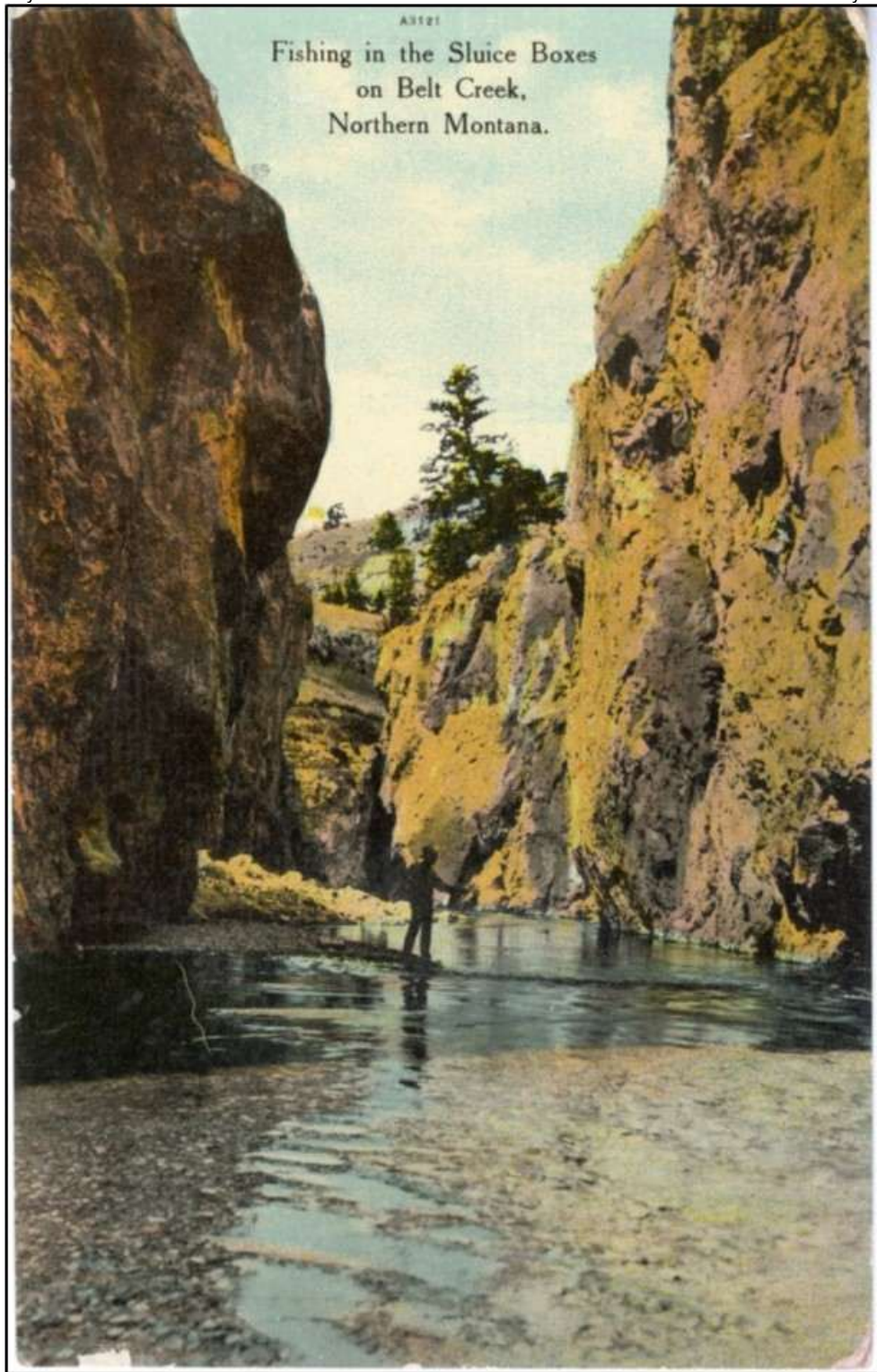


MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0141. Written on the back of the photo is “My father, Herman Nebel, foreman of the quarry at Albright. Belt Creek behind him where he caught the 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. trout just outside his home. 1920s.” View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁵³

²⁵³ Photograph copy obtained at the Montana State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana, 1924. Photo courtesy of the Montana Historical Society, Helena, Montana.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0142. 1912 postcard of "Fishing in the Sluice Boxes at Belt Creek, Northern Montana" From 1912. View Direction North. (Photographer: Unknown)

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0143. “Crew of the 511 is photographed just before the return trip to Great Falls Nov. 3, marking the last trip on the Armington-Neihart line of the Great Northern railroad. Left to right, they are, George Montgomery, fireman; Tom Kleiv, conductor; George Doros, engineer; Homer Bain, brakeman, and E. J. Sjaholm, brakeman. In the background are the belt mountains, from which lead, zinc and silver ore and concentrates were taken for years to furnish cargo for the train.” Photograph 1945. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Unknown)²⁵⁴

²⁵⁴ “Photo,” *Great Falls Tribune*, November 10, 1945, p. 15.

Albright Historic District
Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana
County and State



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0144. Photo of a mylar tracing of the red ochre figures at Site 24CA0108. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Steve Aaberg)²⁵⁵



MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0145. Looking into the Sluice Boxes State Park from the north end in 2024. View direction south. (Photographer James Busse)

²⁵⁵ The mylar traced by Steve Aaberg in 1978 is at the State Parks Office in Great Falls, Montana.

Albright Historic District

Cascade County, Montana

Name of Property

County and State

10	Euphrosyne Charles	62	Brodevitch Joe	113	Brandt, Olaf
11	Labal Steve	63	Kalafatic Martin	114	Haccasark, Andre
12	Petersen Peter C	64	Phillip Lazo	115	Embsich, Alf
13	Raccaro Joe	65	Corr John	116	Eusab, Fred
14	Koytocki Joe	66	Janosch Steve	117	Kralich, Joe
15	Busha Joe	67	Baracz Clemente	118	Surcak, Andre
16	Stone Ivan	68	Kralich Matt	119	Plazaj, Tom
17	Vayvodich Rade	69	Vayvodich George	120	Leewis, William
18	Dragich Joe	70	Toich Joseph	121	Gaines, Frank
19	Corr George	71	Menggan George	122	McCabe, Walter
20	Velich Steve	72	Kratnich Frank	123	Kovalevic, Matt
21	Skocilich Steve	73	Donkovich Phillip	124	Em Lundall
22	Teresia Mela	74	Colombus Joe	125	Sanderberg Charles
23	Apich Steve	75	Donerich Dan	126	Schora, Joe
24	Mikich Stead	76	Konanovich Mike	127	Beard, Arthur L.
25	Radakovich Mike	77	Varilla John	128	Stipar, Sam
26	Calich Mike	78	Juss John	129	Miller, John
27	Lillo Martin	79	Hansen Hans	130	Murkowski, Henry
28	Spoja Peter	80	Miller Virgil	131	Kallio, John
29	Mikich John	81	O'Connell Ed	132	Laiti, John
30	Gavin Phillip	82	Kellacher, Carl	133	Gubisich, Jacob
31	Tarabino Lynette	83	Lukacz, Anton	134	Gable, Andre
32	Jakundich Nick	84	Petersen, Joseph	135	Peters, John
33	Brugo, Eudenzio	85	Hudoch, Andre	136	Pegko, George
34	Brueich Andrew	86	Dragich, Ivan	137	Uvavets, George
35	Corra Carlo	87	Eusab, Carlo	138	Antonich, Milan
36	Matterich George	88	Sinnac, Kuzma	139	Nansen, Christ
37	Anderson Oscar	89	Cronin, John	140	Smith, Joe
38	Trkla Mike	90	Lirola, Louis	141	Bourin, Thomas
39	Scilla Frank	91	Curic, Leo	142	Floros, George
40	Swanson Aril	92	Miller, Sam	143	Ignatoff, Peter
41	Swanson Frank	93	Leipich, Joe	144	Dumrie, Mike
42	Dahlgreen August	94	Moria, Steve	145	Negrea, Sam

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0146. Excerpt from the "Applications for Employment, Book 3, Albright Quarries." No date association could be found in the journal, but it is presumed to be from either the early Albright operation or early in the Amalgamated Copper Company operation. The names are all in the same handwriting, with few exceptions. Photographed in 2024. View direction down. (Photographer Tim Urbaniak)

Albright Historic District

Name of Property

Cascade County, Montana

County and State



Ferry built and operated by Wm. H. Albright, later by L. Paine. Edith Jackson Finch with umbrella crossing Yellowstone River near Rosebud. L. B. Paine, owner, in row boat. 1908.

MT_CascadeCounty_AlbrightHD_0147. "Ferry built and operated by Wm. H. Albright, later by L. Paine. Edith Jackson Finch with umbrella crossing Yellowstone River near Rosebud. L. B. Pine, owner, in row boat. 1908." Photo courtesy of the Rosebud County Museum, Looking north, original photographer unknown. Photo of photo by Frank Vassau, 2025.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.