

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Zortman Ranger Station Historic District

Other names/site number: Zortman Ranger Station/24PH2151

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Northwest End of Whitcomb Street

City or town: Zortman State: MT County: Phillips

Not For Publication: Vicinity: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 D

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

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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 ☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>		structures
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office = ranger station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/government office = administration

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: No Style

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, WOOD, CONCRETE,
METAL

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

Located at the northwest end of Whitcomb Street, the Zortman Ranger Station is located in the unincorporated community of Zortman in the Little Rocky Mountains of northcentral Montana. The Zortman Ranger Station consists of six contributing features associated with the operation of the Zortman Ranger Station from 1908 to circa 1966. Contributing features include the ranger office/bunkhouse, storehouse, flagpole, remains of a root cellar, outbuilding foundation, and ranger station dwelling remains. The office/bunkhouse is a simple No Style gable-front-and-wing structure lacking ornamentation, but architecturally resembles the buildings that populate the community of Zortman, suggesting a highly like origin. The storehouse is comprised of the same materials as the office building and also lacks any architectural ornamentation. Both are functional buildings that reflect the rustic character promoted by the Forest Service in its early years. The remains of the root cellar, the outbuilding foundation, and ranger station dwelling provide spatial arrangement information about the ranger station while it functioned as such. Three noncontributing features at the site include a water hydrant, privy, and amphitheater. The water hydrant and privy were constructed within the past 50 years and do not contribute to the overall integrity of the site or its historic significance. Although the amphitheater is historic in age, it is associated with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) administration of the property and falls outside the period of significance.

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Narrative Description

The Zortman Ranger Station consists of nine features: the office/bunkhouse, storehouse, flagpole, root cellar remains, outbuilding foundation, ranger dwelling remains, amphitheater, hydrant, and privy. The property is located near the intersection of Whitcomb Street and a dirt road that curves around the base of the Little Rocky Mountains. The ranger station encompasses 1.76 acres. The county right-of-way on the northeast is delineated by a jack leg fence also present on the southeast side of the BLM property. A dirt two-track road provides access to the property from Whitcomb Street. The two standing buildings are oriented northeast-southwest.

Zortman Ranger Station Office/Bunkhouse (contributing)

The office/bunkhouse is a No Style gable-front-and-wing style with rear shed addition office and bunkhouse constructed about 1908. The small open front porch and rear addition may have been added in the 1940s. The building is L-shaped and faces northeast onto Whitcomb Street. The gable-front section measures 20' 6" northeast-southwest by 16' southeast-northwest. The wing section (east) measures 13' 6" southeast-northwest by 12' 6" northeast-southwest. The intersecting gable roofs are sheathed in wood shingles and the walls clad in wood clapboard with corner boards. An interior brick chimney pierces the northwest roof slope of the gable-front section. The building bears on a stone foundation; there is no basement.

A 6' x 5' 6" open-air gable porch supported by square wood posts protects the central person door entry and centers on the façade of the gable-front section of the house. The porch displays a wood pier foundation and wood deck. A wood paneled door with a single fixed lite fronted by a wood screen storm door allows ingress. A 1/1 double-hung window flanks each side of the entry and porch and paired 2/2 sliding windows center on the façade of the wing.

The southeast elevation of the wing section has a 1/1 double-hung window central to the elevation. A wood door covers a foundation opening and accesses the crawlspace under the building. The northwest elevation of the gable-front section of the house lacks any fenestration while the rear fable wall (southwest) holds two 1/1 double-hung windows.

The rear shed roof addition to the wing section measures 7' northeast-southwest by 13' 6" southeast-northwest and bears on a concrete foundation. The shed roof is sheathed in wood shingles and walls clad in clapboard with corner boards. The entry opening is northwest-of-center in the shed addition and holds a plywood door fronted by a screen storm door. The window opening southeast of the doorway is boarded over with plywood. The addition's southeast elevation has a single fixed-lite window.

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Storehouse (contributing)

The storehouse sits 25' northwest of the ranger station. It is oriented northeast-southwest and faces northeast. The 16' 6" x 12' 6" building is covered by a side gable roof sheathed in wood shingles with the walls clad in clapboard with corner boards. The building rests on a stone foundation. The doorway on the northeast end of the southeast facing façade holds a wood paneled door and is approached by four wood steps. Paired 1/1 double-hung windows are southeast of the doorway on the façade. The southwest façade holds oversized wood double doors centered under the gable and the northeast elevation has a 1/1 double-hung window central to the elevation. There are no window or door openings on the northwest elevation.

Flagpole (contributing)

A wood flagpole is located about 25' northeast of the office/bunkhouse and likely constructed sometime in the 1940s. The flagpole is 31' 5" tall and mounted on a hinged base of two wood posts sunk in the ground. The hinged base allows lowering and raising the flagpole.

Root Cellar (contributing)

The remains of the root cellar lie just off the southwest corner of the storage building and consist of an oval-shaped depression that measures 15' x 12'. The root cellar was constructed sometime between 1908 and 1912. What's left of the entry appears on the east side of the depression and measures 6' north-south by 3' east-west. No artifacts are associated with the root cellar.

Outbuilding Foundation (contributing)

An outbuilding foundation lies near the southwest corner of the property. It once supported either a barn or chicken coop. The 15' x 13' foundation is outlined by 12 rocks and believed associated with the earliest development of the station. No artifacts are associated with the foundation.

Ranger Dwelling Remains (contributing)

The remains of the ranger dwelling is located in the southeast corner of the property adjacent to Whitcomb Street. The dwelling was constructed in 1908 and is associated with the initial development of the ranger station. The location measures 42' x 32' and is currently overgrown with tall bushes and grass. No artifacts associated with the feature are present on the surface.

Amphitheater (noncontributing)

Built circa 1974-1976, the amphitheater stands about 170' southwest of the ranger station and faces northwest. The amphitheater measures 44' north-south by 55' east-west and has a 20' x 14' concrete slab stage. A small projection screen on the southeast side of the concrete stage consists of four plywood panels supported by three wood posts with the northeast post hosting an electrical outlook box for powering equipment. There are 12 benches on the northwest side of the stage oriented toward the screen. Each bench measures 16" x 48" and is made of four wood planks attached to a two-post metal frame. Three rows of benches face the stage with the front row 10' away.

Well/Hydrant (noncontributing)

Installed in the early 1980s, the frost-proof yard hydrant stands about 65' southwest of the office/bunkhouse. The well/hydrant has a capacity of less than 500 gallons per minute and surrounded by a circle of 12 rocks. It may have originally supplied water to a mobile home located on the property from about 1982 to 1998.

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Privy (noncontributing)

The plywood outhouse is of unknown age and association. It is located near the southeast corner of the property behind the amphitheater. The 4' x 4' privy has a shed roof clad in asphalt with walls of plywood sheeting. The plywood privy door opens to the west but is currently sealed with a piece of wood nailed to the building's frame. The east elevation has a ventilation opening.

The Zortman Ranger Station grounds are not professionally landscaped and consist of grass, bushes, and a few trees scattered across the grounds. The grounds are accessed from Whitcomb Street by a dirt approach on the northeast corner of the property.

Integrity

The six contributing resources at the Zortman Ranger Station are associated with the operation of the facility by the United States Forest Service from circa 1908 until 1966, when the property passed from Forest Service management to Bureau of Land Management administration; the resources reflect the historic spatial arrangement of the property at that time allowing for integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling. The style and appearance of the standing buildings, the office/bunkhouse and storehouse, suggest repurposing from older buildings in Zortman, a departure from most Forest Service buildings around the time that feature log construction. It is also possible the buildings represent new construction at the time in a style that mimicked the existing surrounding building stock.

Though essentially devoid of architectural ornamentation or distinguishing features, both standing buildings retain integrity materials, workmanship, and design, their utilitarian intent apparent. The addition on the rear of the office/bunkhouse and the porch entry reflect functional additions and do not detract from the overall integrity as the changes are historic and occurred within the period of significance. There appear to be no changes or modifications to the storehouse. The BLM rehabilitated the office/bunkhouse in the early 2000s, replacing some of the deteriorated clapboard siding and roofing with materials that matched the original. The original windows, doors, and other features on the building are intact and unchanged. The buildings appear as they did historically.

Other historic features at the ranger station include two foundations, a root cellar, and a flagpole. The buildings supported by the foundations appear to have been removed in the 1940s and were likely the 1 ½ story No Style wood frame ranger's dwelling, log barn or chicken house; the dwelling appears in historic photographs. These features were not on-site by the time of the first known aerial photograph of the property, but their locations remain apparent through on-ground examination.

The office/bunkhouse was rehabilitated between 2010 and 2013 by the Forest Service's historic preservation team with materials (i.e. clapboard siding and wood shingle roofing) sympathetic to the original. The preservation team also repaired the outside of the office/bunkhouse and landscaped the yard to divert runoff undermining the foundation.¹ The stone foundation was

¹ Federal Register, "Proposed Supplementary Rules for the Zortman Ranger Station and Buffington Day use Area on Public Land in Phillips County Near Zortman, MT," found at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2016/09/02/2016-21178/proposed-supplementary-rules-for-the-zortman-ranger-station-and-buffington-day-use-area-on-public>, viewed January 11, 2024.

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also rehabilitated at that time. The storehouse stands as constructed. The design of both buildings is intact and they appear as when they served as the mission of the station. The rural setting of the property is also intact.

The property once contained more buildings, including a barn, hayshed, chicken house, and ranger dwelling. Those buildings were moved sometime between 1943 and 1954, when the first aerial photograph of the site was taken. The BLM installed a mobile home and a metal building on site about 1983, both since removed. The noncontributing well/hydrant is associated with the mobile home and is an inobtrusive feature within the district. An amphitheater built between 1974 and 1976, while historic in age, falls outside the period of significance; it occurs toward the rear of the property and detracts little from integrity of the original Forest Service resources on the property. The privy also falls outside the period of significance, but it too is small scale and detracts little from the overall property significance.

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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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other

Period of Significance

1908-1966

Significant Dates

1908, 1966

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

US Forest Service/Architect and Builder

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

The Zortman Ranger Station is associated with the early history of the US Forest Service in Montana. Established in 1908, the station served as an administrative center for the newly formed Jefferson National Forest and functioned as a station for forest guards to monitor and fight forest fires. In 1932, the Jefferson National Forest merged into the Lewis and Clark National Forest. After the merger, it continued to function in its original capacity as an important component of the Forest Service's programs to combat forest fires and manage the resources contained within the forest. The ranger station is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A. Under Criterion C, the property contains two simple, utilitarian, vernacular wood frame buildings that retain good architectural integrity and symbolize the Forest Service's activities in the Little Rocky Mountains from 1908 until 1966; these two buildings in fact

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represent some of the earliest intact and remaining Forest Service buildings that date from the agency's earliest period of development. The construction of the buildings strongly suggests reuse by the Forest Service of existing buildings from the town.

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

Overview

Established in 1908, the Zortman Ranger Station is associated with the initial development of Forest Service infrastructure in Montana. The Transfer Act of 1905 created the National Forest Service and established eight administrative regions in the United States by 1909. Montana was and is part of Region 1 of the US Department of Agriculture's National Forest Service. The location of the Zortman Ranger Station initially fell under the auspices of the Little Rockies Forest Reserve until 1908, when the Little Rockies combined with other nearby reserves to create the Jefferson National Forest. The future station's location fell within the existing mining camp of Zortman. The district was responsible for the management and fire protection of over 1.2 million acres, though it remains unknown the extent of the Zortman Ranger Station's jurisdiction. It did, however, play a critical role in monitoring its district to prevent and suppress fires, not an easy task considering it was also an active mining district until 1943. The Zortman Ranger Station was part of a local and statewide program that involved the management of the federal forests in Montana.

The ranger station has local significance as part of the Forest Service's management of its Region 1 and the protection of the forest from timber predation and fires. The station was part of a forest-wide network of ranger and guard stations and fire lookouts constructed in the early part of the twentieth century. The station also displays local significance as an integral part of the management of the Jefferson and, later, the Lewis and Clark National Forest in the Little Rockies. The station played an important role in combatting catastrophic forest fires in the 1920s and 1930s and provided a source of employment for local residents. The Zortman Ranger Station can be listed in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

Under Criterion C, the Zortman Ranger Station stands at its original location at the northwest end of Zortman's main street at the foot of the Little Rocky Mountains. In the Forest Service's early days, the agency and those who worked for them during those halcyon years sometimes repurposed older buildings already on-site or in the vicinity of the intended station. Evidence suggests, based on the design and materials of the office/bunkhouse, storehouse, and historic photos that show the location where the ranger dwelling sat (now marked by foundation remains), that could likely be the case in Zortman. The community originated as a mining camp about the same time as when it became a guard station on the Jefferson National Forest. The simple No Style design of the two standing buildings that bear a completely different appearance compared to most early Forest Service buildings, suggests the agency either acquired them locally and repurposed them as administration buildings for the new station or built new following the style of buildings present within the town. Unlike other contemporary ranger stations, the office/bunkhouse and storehouse are not constructed of logs although the material was readily available in the Little Rockies. The station still exhibits integrity of workmanship,

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feeling and association as an early twentieth century ranger station. The Zortman Ranger Station can be listed in the National Register under Criterion C.

History

The Little Rocky Mountains stand as an island of great relief on the northern Great Plains of Montana, the result of a 15-mile-wide igneous dome pushing its way up through 1700-million-year-old Precambrian basement rocks about 50 million years ago. The mountains are a composite of Precambrian metamorphic rocks, Paleozoic limestone and dolomite, Mesozoic sandstone and shale, and Tertiary intrusive rocks. The loftiest portion of the range is girdled by a steeply dipping wall of Madison Limestone that makes the interior part of the range appear as a fortress. The Little Rockies also contain igneous dikes and sills that contribute to their rugged appearance.²

Northern Montana was a traditional crossroads for the Indian tribes now associated with eastern Montana, North Dakota, Saskatchewan, and Alberta. The lush prairie grasses and open range provided ideal pasturage for bison, elk, and other game animals. The Assiniboine, Chippewa-Creek, Sioux, Aaniiih (Gros Ventre), and Blackfeet Indians hunted bison in the region until the 1880s, when the mass extermination of the animals and the construction of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway (Manitoba) profoundly impacted the tribes by forcing them onto U.S. Government-administered reservations. Prior to that, however, the Lamar Treaty of 1855 set aside the area north of the Missouri River from the Dakota border westward to the continental divide as part of an enormous reservation for several tribes in Montana. Beginning in 1874 and culminating in 1889, the reservation was reduced in size and then divided into three separate reservations: the Blackfeet, Fort Belknap, and Fort Peck.³

The Little Rocky Mountains Mining District

In 1884, prospectors found placer gold in many of the stream beds in the southern part of the Little Rocky Mountains. The placers soon played out, and mining activity in the mountain range languished until the Panic of 1893 sent prospectors once again scurrying into the range in search of gold and silver quartz prospects.⁴

In 1893, Oliver Peter "Pete" Zortman located the Alabama Mine and began development of it with partner George Putnam. Zortman, Putnam, and E. W. King formed the Alder Gulch Mining Company in August 1902. They constructed a cyanide mill in 1893 to process ores taken from the Alabama and Pole Creek mines and underground mining began. Hundreds of miners, most of whom lived in Zortman and nearby Landusky, worked in mines that reached more than 600 feet deep to extract the gold and silver.⁵

² Donald W. Hyndman and Robert C. Thomas, *Roadside Geology of Montana*, Second edition, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2020), pgs. 264, 380.

³ Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*, rev. ed., (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1992), pgs. 120-21, 143; Merrill G. Burlingame, *The Montana Frontier*, (Helena: State Publishing Co., 1942), p. 389.

⁴ Muriel Sibell Wolle, *Montana Pay Dirt*, (Athens, OH: Sage Books, 1963), p. 377.

⁵ Wolle, *Ibid.*

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In 1895, Tom Carter and John Throop began mining operations in Ruby Gulch, the drainage where Zortman and the Zortman Ranger Station stand. Soon after, sheep rancher Charles Whitcomb arrived in the Little Rockies in the late 1890s. Described by the *Little Rockies Miner* as “a man with vision,” Whitcomb obtained mining claims and got fellow sheep rancher Benjamin D. Phillips to back his plans to develop the claims. Whitcomb built a 100-ton cyanide mill, reputedly one of the world’s largest, and organized the Ruby Gulch Mining Company in November 1904. He enlarged the cyanide mill and convinced a New York syndicate to back his operation in 1906. By 1908, the Little Rockies Mining District was the second largest gold-producing district in Montana. Despite the early success of the district, mineral production in the Little Rockies mines significantly diminished in the 1920s. Fire destroyed the mills in 1936 and Franklin Roosevelt’s Executive Order L208 in December 1942 prohibiting gold mining in the US sounded the death knell for the district. Gold mining did resume in the Little Rockies in the 1990s, but ceased by the early twenty-first century.⁶

Zortman

The expansion of Whitcomb’s mine and the opening of other mining operations in the Little Rockies resulted in the establishment of Zortman about 1903. Zortman and Putnam laid out the blocks and lots of the townsite in 1903 and obtained fee title ownership of 147 acres encompassing the Zortman townsite in June 1904. The post office opened in 1903 with Susan Brown as postmaster. An article appearing in the *Malta Montana Homesteader* announced that James Opie conducted the first ever sermon at the “commodious hall ... erected by the citizens and ... used as a school, church, and hall for social purposes.” In 1904, the town of Zortman blossomed and for a short time before World War I, Zortman boomed as a mining camp. Local lore claims that wagon loads of gold bricks were freighted from the smelters through Zortman to Malta and Dodson and then shipped out on the Great Northern Railway. By 1905, Zortman claimed two “good stores,” two barbershops, one confectioner, two hotels, boarding houses, and four saloons, “every forty feet and a badman on every corner.” Fire nearly destroyed the camp in 1929. Economic depression and Executive Order L-208 further eroded Zortman. By 1939, it claimed a population of 70 people. The Federal Writers’ Project described the camp as not quite a ghost town; it had a “forlorn, time-bleached appearance common to abandoned camps. Many cabins built by hopeful prospectors in the 1890s stand windowless and lonely among the trees.”⁷

Muriel Sibell Wolle visited the Little Rocky Mountains, the remains of its mines, and Zortman in the late 1940s researching her book, *Montana Pay Dirt*. She described Zortman:

Most of the settlement was south of the creek that meandered through town and some distance from the two-story frame school house, whose bright blue roof was

⁶ Wolle, *Montana Pay Dirt*, pgs. 377-378; *Progressive Men of the State of Montana*, (Chicago: A. W. Bowen, 1902), 1865-1866; *Montana Place Names from Alzada to Zortman: A Montana Historical Society Guide*, (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2009), p. 303.

⁷ Cheney, *Names on the Face of Montana: The Story of Montana’s Place Names*, (Missoula: Mountain Press Publishing Co., 1990), 298-299; “Hydrography in Montana,” *The Great Falls Tribune*, December 28, 1903; “Malta News Notes,” *The Montana Homesteader*, June 9, 1904; Federal Writers’ Project, *Montana: A State Guide Book*, (Helena: Montana Department of Agriculture, Labor and Industry, 1939), pgs. 249-250; “Zortman,” *Great Falls Tribune*, March 8, 1905.

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the only gay note among many drab buildings. The upper part of the camp lay on a gently sloping meadow which ended abruptly against rocky cliffs and big, gray boulders.... Cabins were tucked in among trees on back streets, but it was the main street that contained the core of the town – homes, a stone jail with barred windows, and several small, false-fronted stores, most of which were boarded up.⁸

At its peak about 1910, Zortman boasted over two hundred homes and a population of 400 with majority of these buildings presenting a similar wood frame construction as the Zortman Ranger Station buildings. By the time of Wolle's visit, Zortman contained two stores, three bars, and a restaurant. In 2023, Zortman boasts a motel/garage, café, grocery store, post office, RV park, and a population of 31 full-time residents. The town caters mostly to recreationalists.⁹

Zortman Ranger Station¹⁰

The US Department of Agriculture created the Little Rockies National Forest in March 1907. At first, it had no administration for the first few months of its existence. The Forest Service established the Zortman Ranger Station in about 1908. Prior to the stations's establishment, James G. Thain, superintendent of the Highwood Mountains National Forest, was assigned administration of the area of the Little Rockies in July 1907, at which time he went to Landusky to visit. There, Thain hired Fred D. Roberts, a Landusky resident, as the forest guard. His duties focused on fire watch and policing to control logging activity.

An executive order consolidated the Little Rockies, Little Belt, Snowy Mountains, and Highwood Mountains National Forests to create the Jefferson National Forest in July 1908. The new forest initially had 15 fulltime and 20 seasonal employees. The forest was organized into seven ranger districts, with the forest supervisor's headquarters in Great Falls. The Little Rockies Ranger District was originally headquartered at Stanford with a ranger station in Zortman. Fred Hart continuously worked as ranger in the Little Rockies until at least 1914, suggesting he was primarily responsible for construction/reuse of the buildings at the Zortman Ranger Station. Unfortunately, Hart never made mention if the buildings at the station were reused from existing Zortman buildings or if he constructed them.

The only available historic map of the Zortman Ranger Station was made in 1921. Although the map is labeled "Improvement Plan, a notation on it states, "No proposed imp," suggesting the map depicts the ranger station as it existed. Features labeled on the map of the station include an office/bunkhouse, storehouse, root cellar, barn, hayshed, chicken house, dwelling, toilet, flagpole, and one other structure labelled illegibly. Two photographs of the ranger station also provide insight into the spatial arrangement and character of the property.

⁸ Wolle, *Montana Pay Dirt*, p. 381.

⁹ Wolle, *Ibid*, p. 382; US Census Records, viewed at www.ancestry.com.

¹⁰ Portions of this section are derived from the Architecture & Engineering Record for the Zortman Ranger Station (24PH2151), prepared by Blain Fandrich of Ethnoscience, Inc. for the Bureau of Land Management on February 22, 2023. Original on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana. Fire discussion, station manning, fire awareness, agency transfer, and architectural significance prepared by John Boughton.

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The Department of Agriculture discontinued the Jefferson National Forest in April 1932 by Executive Order 5834. It was absorbed into the Lewis and Clark National Forest. The forest consolidation had little effect on the Zortman Ranger Station other than shifting its administrative headquarters from Stanford to Lewistown, 90 miles to the south.

Fire—A Constant Threat in the Little Rockies

Several fires broke out near the Zortman Ranger Station over the course of its existence prior to its transfer to the Bureau of Land Management. Two occurred in July 1936, around Mission Peak, just less than five miles west of Zortman, and second close to the town of Landuski.¹¹ Initial efforts to quell the Mission fire appeared successful though a few days later the fire broke out again; the intensity of the fire resulted in the death of three men. The scope of the fires resulted in nearly "...1000 weary men..." who "labored...along a 25-mile front to check the blaze."¹² The firefighters derived from the "Lewis and Clark National forest ranger stations, the Indian reservation, ranchers and WPA workers form a half-dozen nearby towns..." The size of the blazes also necessitated the transport of three bus loads of men from Lewistown to the Little Rockies to assist.¹³

The size and intensity of the conflagration resulted in a number of agencies involved in an investigation including the Fort Belknap Agency, Phillips County authorities, and the Forest Service with the forestry personnel including representation from the Lewis and Clark National Forest, Missoula and Great Falls offices, and district supervisor S.E. Eckert. The investigation determined the fires as accidental, with the fire near Mission Peak, "started by people camping to pick chokecherries," and the second fire begun by a mining company employee in his tent-house.¹⁴ The fires consumed approximately 40,000 acres with 15,000 acres burned on Forest Service land, comprising about half of the acreage of the Little Rockies division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest; the remaining burned acreage fell on tribal land. The destruction and terror of the fire that rampaged through the Little Rockies and nearly claimed the towns of Zortman and Landuski and the Zortman Ranger Station as victims found voice through the recollections of Mrs. Gail Parrent who provided an eye-witness account.¹⁵

Despite the devastation of the 1936 fires near the Zortman/Landuski and the ranger station, the heat of the blaze yielded one positive as it "opened cones to scatter millions of seeds over the burned sections in the days following the fire."¹⁶ The density of seeds equated to "...scores...to the square yard..." ensuring the next stage of conifer growth in the area.

Communication between the ranger station and headquarters became a priority after the fires in 1936. The Forest Service installed shortwave radio equipment in 1937 to allow daily communication between Zortman and Lewistown. Concern about the increase in forest fires was

¹¹ "Flames Are Again Out Of Control," *Lewistown Democrat News*, July 30, 1936, p. 1

¹² "1,000 Men Fighting Flames," *Lewistown Democrat News*, July 29, 1936, p. 1.

¹³ "See Fire In Little Rockies," *Argus Farmer*, August 6, 1936, p. 5.

¹⁴ "Nature Reseeding Burned Over Area," *Lewistown Democrat News*, August 8, 1936, pgs. 1, 7.

¹⁵ "Woman Tells Of Struggle Against Fire," *Lewistown Democrat News*, August 10, 1936, p. 3.

¹⁶ "Nature Reseeding Burned Over Area," *Lewistown Democrat News*, August 8, 1936, pgs. 1, 7.

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highlighted in a 1937 article that detailed 85 man-caused fires in the forests before July 1 of that year, with one in the Little Rockies figuring prominently in the story.¹⁷ Additional means to identify fire threats occurred with the Forest Service's constructed of two new lookouts in the Little Rockies in 1939, connected by telephone lines to the Zortman Ranger Station.

The persistent possibility of fire in the Lewis and Clark Forest near the Zortman Ranger Station required early planning. By May of 1941, assistant ranger Al Young completed his office work to make his return to the "Little Rockies ranger station at Zortman...".¹⁸ Young was to gain assistance from Arthur Dwyer later in the summer after Dwyer's completion of his field duties elsewhere. The wording of the article suggests the Zortman station may have been a seasonal facility. Strengthening that possibility was the report that all grazing permits had been issued with the anticipation of cattle moving on to the ranges by mid-June with sheep following suite two weeks later. The move of stock to the ranges near the Zortman Ranger Station in association with the two Forest Service employees' arrival around or slightly earlier implies the presence of the Rangers corresponded not only to the need of addressing fire-related Forest Service duties but also the need to oversee the nearby range. Consolidation of services offered by the Forest Service through the years did not always equate to jettisoning buildings. Many buildings began service as season stations while improvement funds found a home in the more sizable ranger district buildings.¹⁹ In many cases, Forest Service employees spent winters elsewhere and returned to the more rural stations once the snow melted and work could commence.²⁰ The transition to automobiles also resulted in a shift of some stations from permanent to seasonal.²¹ This very well appears to be the case for the Zortman Ranger Station.

Fire activity in the Little Rockies appears to have been limited, or at least controllable, with little reporting appearing in the papers for a number of years until 1944. In September of that year, Forest Ranger Carl Uhlhorn travelled to Zortman to direct efforts toward a Little Rockies fire reported to have burned nine buildings on Forest Service land.²² Other changes to the station occurred with the removal of the ranger's dwelling from the property, likely during World War II. It may have been moved to Malta.

Although fire continued to haunt forests during the summers, including the forest under the watchful eye of the Zortman Ranger Station, regular life continued for those in the area too, with visits to the area from friends and family. In the summer of 1948, Mr. and Mrs. George Cleveland of Ekalaka visited Zortman. The Clevelands made the long trip from southeast

¹⁷ "Foresters Concerned As Man-Caused Fires Increase Over State," *Argus Farmer*, July 22, 1937, p. 7.

¹⁸ "Rangers Set For Grazing, Fire Season," *Lewistown Evening Telegram*, May 15, 1941, p. 3.

¹⁹ Janene Caywood, James McDonald, and Theodore Catton, *Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places: Volume 1*, prepared for the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest (then Custer National Forest) by Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA), 1991, p. 43.

²⁰ United States Forest Service, "Heritage-Guard Stations," found at https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/ashley/learning/history-culture/?cid=fsm9_002409, accessed January 30, 2024.

²¹ Richa Wilson, *Within A Day's Ride, Forest Service Administrative Sites in Region 4, 1891-1960*, United States Forest Service Intermountain Region, 2004, P. 73

²² "Heard & Seen About Town," *Lewistown Democrat News*, September 22, 1944, p. 3.

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Montana to visit their son and daughter-in-law in Zortman; son Dick, a forestry student at Montana State University, found employment at the Zortman Ranger Station for the summer.²³

Maintaining constant vigilance with the ability to respond quickly represented much of the routine for Forest Service employees in small outposts, such as the Zortman Ranger Station. Fires starts from lightning were and are nothing new to timbered areas and in 1954, three strikes in the Little Rockies, one on Saddle Butte near Zortman, received quick attention and was promptly controlled.²⁴ The efficient response likely resulted from personnel based at the Zortman Ranger Station. Similar occurrences repeated themselves as illustrated by the reported strikes in the Little Rockies two years later in the month of June.²⁵ Despite the early fires in the summer of 1956, August of that year proved exceptionally wet in the Little Rockies with the result that lookouts closed much earlier than usual, the end of August; the Zortman Ranger Station tallied 1.55 inches of precipitation for the month of August.²⁶ The year 1957 followed suite with lightning strikes hitting near Zortman and attended to by two Forest Service employees, undoubtedly based at the Zortman Ranger Station.²⁷ Nineteen sixty-one illustrates that Forest Service personnel received aid from the local populace in their quest to subdue some of these lightning strikes—"Forest Service guard Winston Mitchell, Ray Williams and other ranchers in the Landusky-Zortman area quelled a forest fire in the Little Rockies..." in early June of that year.²⁸ Assistance of Phillips County ranchers and farmers played a vital role in the reduction of fires in the Zortman Ranger Station area and Lewis and Clark National Forest through the years.²⁹

The ability to assist the rangers at stations like Zortman inspired the Forest Service Per Diem Guard, a collection of the local population who in addition to their usual jobs, often as farmers, ranchers, or loggers, not only reported new fires but were often the earliest to respond in the field.³⁰ In 1962, 18 per diem guards served the area around the Little Rockies and Snowies. The program allowed payment of services only when fighting fires. Despite this, the per diem guards spend "...a great deal of their own time in training, conditioning of their tools, and looking for smokes." The per diem guards earned acclaim, as noted by the Forest Service who stated they "...are the most essential part of our local fire control organization."

After almost 60 years of Forest Service use, in 1966, the Lewis and Clark National Forest closed the Ranger Station and transferred ownership to the Bureau of Land Management.³¹ Plans for

²³ "Ekalaka Flashes," *The Ekalaka Eagle*, July 16, 1948, p. 1.

²⁴ "Lightening Starts Fires Near Zortman," *Great Falls Tribune*, July 14, 1954, p. 4.

²⁵ "Lightning Starts Three Small Fires," *Great Falls Leader*, June 18, 1956, p. 2.

²⁶ "Fire Lookouts Released From Numerous Stations," *Great Falls Tribune*, August 31, 1956, p. 10.

²⁷ "Lightning Starts Three Forest Blazes," *Great Falls Tribune*, July 16, 1957, p. 8.

²⁸ "Ranchers Quell Forest Fire in Little Rockies," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 6, 1961, p. 1.

²⁹ "Ranchers Quell Forest Fire in Little Rockies," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 6, 1961, p. 1.

³⁰ "Snowy Mountain Trails," *Lewistown Daily News*, August 12, 1962, p. 6.

³¹ Email, Jim Curtis to David Curtis, Joshua Chase, and Vicki Maclean, Cleo Heath Phillips Reminiscence, December 20, 2011; Bureau of Land Management, Cultural Resource Inventory Card, Zortman BLM Fire Station (24PH2151), September 7, 1983, on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana; *Federal Register*, Volume 31 Number 40, (Washington D.C, March 1, 1966), p. 3251; "BLM, Forest

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the transfer had been discussed since 1961 and included 66,440 acres between the two agencies. The BLM transferred "...38,000 acres in scattered tracts west of Missoula and around Butte and assume(d) management of about 28,000 acres in the Little Rockies Division of the Lewis and Clark National Forest." This exchange brought the towns of Zortman and Landuski, originally within the National Forest, under BLM supervision. The BLM noted the exchange occurred to increase efficiency and to save money and that the transfer wouldn't entail and significant mineral status changes, grazing rights, easements, or long-term use of the land. The BLM-acquired lands were "...chiefly valuable for watershed protection, timber production, wildlife, and recreation."³² With the transfer, administration shifted to the BLM Malta office. The lands in the transfer, which included the land where the Zortman Ranger Station sits, were classified for multiple-use management, a classification that had its roots in an earlier 1964 law.³³

Per Title 43—Public lands: Interior:

The lands excluded from the Lewis and Clark National Forest by paragraph 2 of this order are hereby added to Montana Grazing District No. 1, and shall hereafter be subject to all laws and regulations applicable to public lands in grazing districts, effective on and after the date of publication of this order in the Federal Register.³⁴

Following the transfer, the BLM surveyed townsite lots for the existing occupied parcels to allow the residents of Zortman and Landuski to acquire title to their respective plots.³⁵ The survey established deeds for the townsite. The occupants of both towns would be trespassing on Federal land without the purchase opportunity.

Aerial photographs taken in 1954 and 1970 show the Zortman Ranger Station, but are of limited value because of poor resolution. Obvious building standing include the office/bunkhouse and storehouse. There is no evidence of the barn, hayshed, and chicken house shown on the 1921 map. The flagpole, root cellar, and residence outhouse were too small to discern on the 1954 aerial photo. Reasonably high-resolution photographs of the Zortman Ranger Station were not available until the mid-1990s. These show the office/bunkhouse, storehouse, and amphitheater, along with a mobile home and metal building present on the site, but now gone.

Between 2010 and 2013, the BLM conducted restoration work on the office/bunkhouse at the old ranger station. This included the repair of the stone foundation, the replacement of the original clapboard siding and roofing, and the repainting of the exterior. The work followed the Secretary of the Interior's guidelines and utilized materials similar to the original.

Service make land exchange in Little Rockies area," *Lewistown Daily News*, March 3, 1966, pgs. 1, 2; "Forest Service, BLM Exchange Land," *Missoulian*, March 4, 1966, p. 24.

³² "Forest Service, BLM Exchange Land," *Missoulian*, March 4, 1966, p. 24.

³³ *Federal Register*, Volume 35 Number 123 (Washington D.C., June 25, 1970), p. 10385, 86, 87; Public Law 88-607, September 19, 1964.

³⁴ *Federal Register*, Volume 31 Number 40, Public Land Order 3938 (Washington D.C., Tuesday, March 1, 1966), p. 3251.

³⁵ "Landusky, Zortman to be sold by BLM," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 1, 1966, p. 1.

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Architectural Significance³⁶

Early Forest Rangers performed many duties that included establishing the base of operations in their designated area. The high point of these duties occurred between 1897 and 1918, when Rangers designed and built most of the permanent improvements in Region 1, often during their “off-duty” hours.³⁷

Although one imagines all early ranger stations assuming the guise of buildings constructed of logs from the readily available landscape, in some instances, the development of new stations or headquarters employed reusing existing buildings, especially buildings locally available. In all cases, whether a Ranger constructed new, or recycled existing structures (or constructed new to match nearby buildings), Forest Service buildings built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries manifest the definition of “vernacular.”

Slight variations of the definition exist though they all ascribe to the basic tenants of:

... a type of local or regional construction, using traditional materials and resources from the area where the building is located... closely related to its context and is aware of the specific geographic features and cultural aspects of its surroundings, being strongly influenced by them.³⁸

Further narrowing of the definition states:

an architecture that encompasses the peoples' dwellings and other constructions, relating to their respective environments and resources, usually built by the owners or the community, using traditional techniques. It is built to meet specific needs, accommodate the values, economy, and lifestyles of a specific culture.³⁹

A strong aspect of a building’s vernacular construction was and often continues to be its utilitarian character. This springs from the need for a single building to address a number of

³⁶ For a thorough overview of architectural history of the Forest Service’s region 1, please refer to *Evaluation of Region 1 Forest Service-Owned Buildings for Eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places: Volume 1*, prepared for the Ashland Ranger District of the Custer Gallatin National Forest (then Custer National Forest) by Janene Caywood, James McDonald, and Theodore Catton of Historical Research Associates, Inc. (HRA) in 1991. This report includes historical contexts that trace the development of the Forest Service and its “permanent improvement program” and identifies major architectural trends for historic buildings located within Region 1.

³⁷ Caywood et al. p. 68.

³⁸ Camilla Ghisleni (translated by Tarsila Duduch), “What is Vernacular Architecture?”, *Arch Daily*, found at <https://www.archdaily.com/951667/what-is-vernacular-architecture>, accessed January 23, 2025.

³⁹ Paul Oliver, *Built to Meet Needs: Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture*, (Oxford: Architectural Press 2006) in Camilla Ghisleni (translated by Tarsila Duduch), “What is Vernacular Architecture?”, *Arch Daily*, found at <https://www.archdaily.com/951667/what-is-vernacular-architecture>, accessed January 23, 2025.

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uses, exemplified at early Forest Service administrative sites where office space and living quarters co-existed in the same building.

The exact origin of the earliest buildings at the Zortman Ranger Station remains unknown but they truly embrace the definition of vernacular—utilitarian and simple—as well as serving the essential needs of a rural and developing ranger station.

After the Transfer Act of 1905, the nascent Forest Service developed and embraced a small portable guide of standards that seemed to discuss nearly everything and anything important to the agency. The guide, known as the *Use Book*, proved so popular that numerous editions found circulation. The 1905 edition noted:

Eventually all the Rangers who serve year round will be furnished with headquarter cabins on the Reserves. It is in the intention of the Forest Service to build these as rapidly as funds will permit. Whenever possible, cabins should be built of logs with shingle or shake roofs.⁴⁰

Many Rangers were forced to construct new due to the ruralness of the selected site location and they used the bounty of the surrounding landscape to meet their construction needs. Using the trees near the site allowed many to conform to the early 1905 goal of log construction; in these cases, the possibility of building reuse didn't exist. For newly selected headquarter sites that fell near or within a populated area that had already experienced some development, however, expediency certainly played a role as to headquarters infrastructure. In these instances where sites selected for administrative withdrawal already contained some improvements, the convenience of existing building stock would have proved enticing, especially when Rangers were expected to establish the headquarters on their off-time. Accounts of such acquisitions to serve as shelter by early rangers include one by Ranger Thomas Myers on the Judith District in the Little Belt Forest Reserve.⁴¹

Earlier headquarters reflected a builder's skill, or lack thereof, to a larger degree than later stations with a commensurate elevation in variation specific to those aspects of integrity of workmanship, materials, and design; agency requirements or goals were not always adhered to at these earliest stations. The amount of skill on hand could easily play into a building's presentation, or possible selection to reuse existing buildings, in lieu of new construction. Expediency and opportunity factored into decisions—use of existing buildings likely proved an opportunity too good to miss; the lure of recycling older buildings for Forest Service use must have proved tempting. Such opportunity was not available in most cases, but it was in Zortman.

⁴⁰ USDA Forest Service, *The Use of the National Forest Reserves: Regulations and Instructions* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1905), p. 108.

⁴¹ Caywood et al., p. 33.

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The Zortman Ranger Station vernacular and limited flair buildings largely reflects the availability of materials, and by default design and workmanship. The presentation of the station resonates with its surroundings, assimilating with the community by exhibiting facilities akin to those found in Zortman at the time, instead of standing out. The simple wood frame style construction clearly relates to the other buildings of the time in the mining community. Such a choice likely derived from an excess of vacant buildings, conserving time and labor toward the establishment of the headquarters when a plethora of other duties lingered. Even if the buildings were constructed new, the conscience decision to meld with the community is obvious, a judicious alternative when one considers the hostility faced by many early Rangers.

When the reuse of existing buildings proved absent, foresters tried to follow guidelines, such as those published in the 1906 version of the *Use Book*, that advocated for the construction of buildings that featured log walls, stone foundations, and roofs topped with wood shingles or shakes for office/residences. Aspects of construction that included the number of stories, roof style, or floor plan fell to the Rangers destined to building the station, decisions that undoubtedly factored into the overall skills of the builder.⁴² Such flexibility regarding a headquarters' appearance would have also played into the reuse of existing buildings, when available, and any changes or modifications to them for use by the Ranger.

The Zortman Ranger Station was established in 1908, at which time Forest Service guidance did exist that related to the preferred log construction of their buildings. With guidance in place yet not followed suggests the buildings at the station likely found a second life by the Forest Service. It is also unknown if the other station buildings removed from the property circa 1940s were also artifacts of reuse or if they may have been built new, following Forest Service dictates.

Regardless of whether the Zortman Ranger Station buildings were constructed new or reused from existing local building stock, few of these early stations remain. After World War I, the Forest Service commenced upgrading facilities at their administrative sites. The Zortman Ranger Station appears to have either been missed or left out of these improvements, with the result that it stands much the same today as when first occupied, a rarity in the life of a station that dates to 1908. The post-World War I upgrades were followed in the 1950s and 1960s by a second wave where a number of Forest Service buildings were dismantled or destroyed. This dodging of the "improvement" bullet allows the simple, vernacular, and utilitarian Zortman Ranger Station to stand somewhat as a time capsule from the earliest years of the Forest Service.

Its precisely this simple, plain, utilitarian presentation that renders the Zortman Ranger Station eligible under Criterion C. Although a common style in the town of Zortman, the No-Style vernacular wood frame buildings that comprise the station stand as not only a rare style selection by the Forest Service but also represent a rare surviving Forest Service building cluster that harkens back to the earliest days. Indeed, even the additions to the office/bunkhouse conformed

⁴² Caywood et al., p. 68.

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to the original 1908 presentation and one that represents an alternative style to log construction, again emulating the surrounding buildings of the mining town.

Availability of materials and ease of access continued to play a small role in Forest Service construction into the 1920s. Those locations readily accessible exhibited frame buildings, acknowledging the ease of transport of such materials. Like their predecessors at the Zortman Ranger Station, these frame buildings from the 1920s bore strong resemblance to the structures of the nearby towns. However, by the 1920s and into the 1930s, wood frame buildings began to feature stylistic detailing setting them apart from earlier frame buildings, such as Craftsman detailing, an obvious departure from the earlier utilitarian appearance of the Zortman station. These Craftsman queues also found their way into the very popular Bungalow style log buildings of the Forest Service.

Later Forest Service improvement history needs no discussion as all the facilities at the Zortman Ranger Station reflect the earliest stage of construction with little newer development, a testament to the integrity of the station.

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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: Bureau of Land Management

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.76

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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

- 1) Latitude: 47.918600 Longitude: -108.528270
- 2) Latitude: 47.918140 Longitude: -108.527300
- 3) Latitude: 47.917580 Longitude: -108.527940
- 4) Latitude: 47.918040 Longitude: -108.528950

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

The National Register boundary for the Zortman Ranger Station measures approximately 295 feet x 275 feet. The boundary encompasses the Ranger Station and all features historically associated with its operation by the Forest Service from 1908 to 1966 and three later resources associated with the BLM management of the property. The buildings are located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 17, T25N, R25E. See attached maps Section 9 pages 29 and 30; reference to these maps confirms the boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses all the resources associated with the historic use of the property by the National Forest Service known as the Zortman Ranger Station. The boundary includes sufficient setting to convey the property's sense of place within the Zortman community.

11. Form Prepared By

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organization: _____
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and

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city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620
e-mail jboughton@mt.gov
telephone: (406) 444-3647
date: January 2024

Property Owner:

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Bureau of Land Management/Billings Field Office
street & number 5001 Southgate Drive telephone (406) 896-5000
city or town Billings state MT zip code 59101-4669

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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.)

Photographs

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

Photo Log, All Photographs

Name of Property: Zortman Ranger Station

City or Vicinity: Zortman, Montana

County: Phillips State: MT

Photographer: Blain Fandrich

Date Photographed: July 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

Please see Continuation Sheets

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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Zortman Ranger Station Historic District

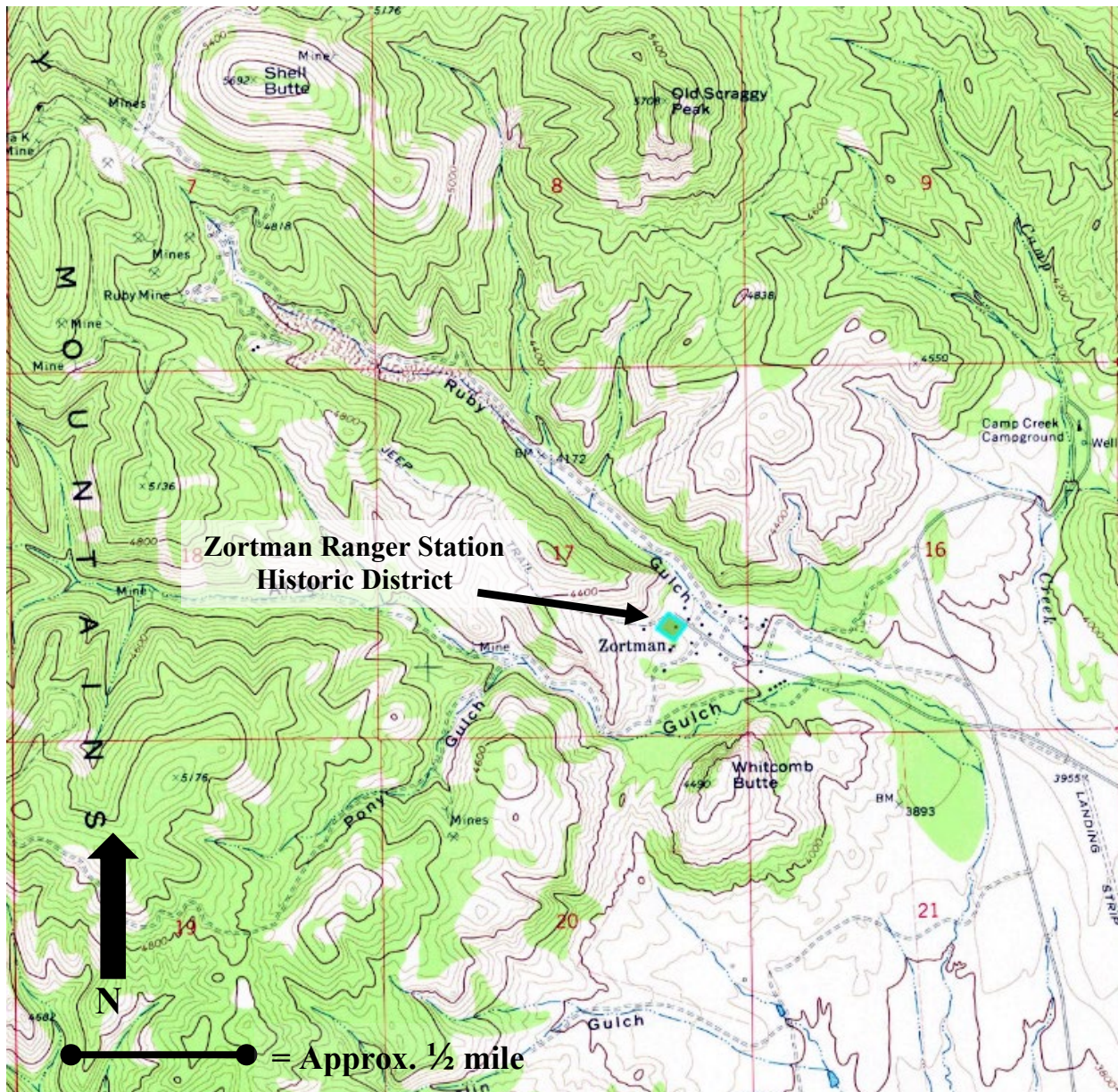
Name of Property

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Location of the Zortman Ranger Station. Found on the USGS 7.5' Quadangle map: Zortman (2020).

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Zortman Ranger Station Historic District

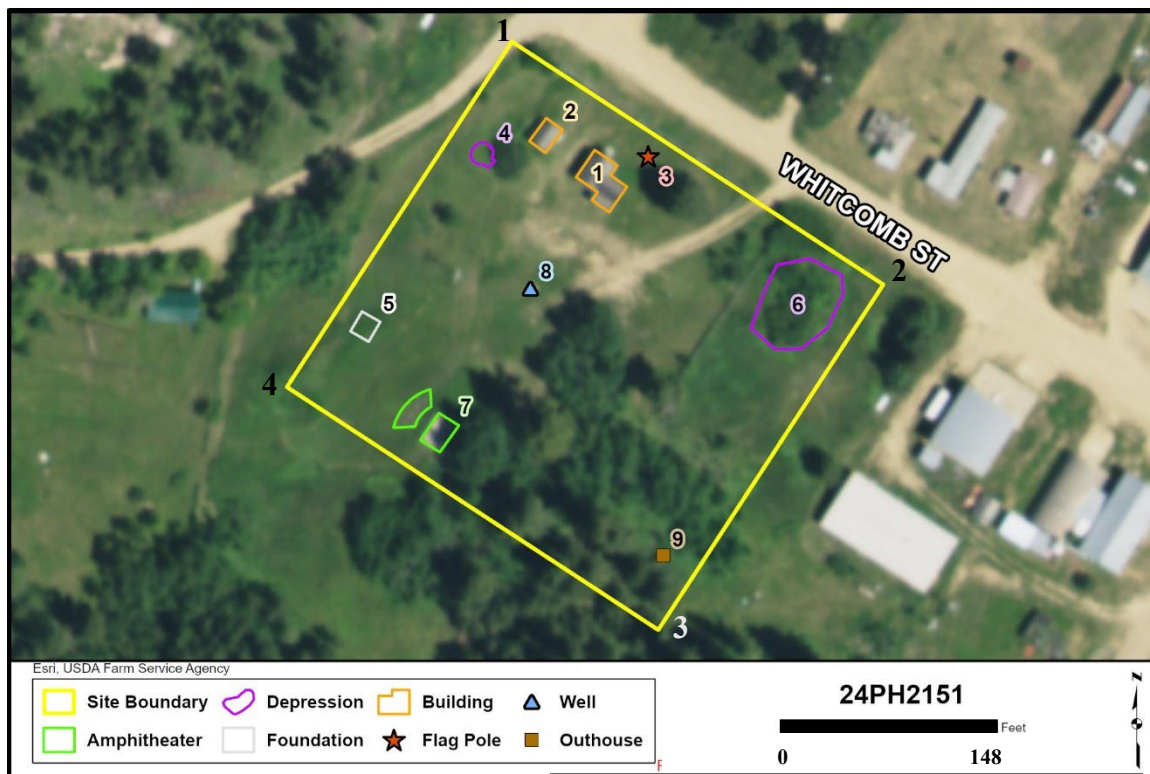
Name of Property

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Aerial view of Zortman Ranger Station National Register boundary.

1) Latitude: 47.918600 Longitude: -108.528270 2) Latitude: 47.918140 Longitude: -108.527300 3) Latitude: 47.917580 Longitude: -108.527940 4) Latitude: 47.918040 Longitude: -108.528950

- 1) Office/Bunkhouse (contributing)
- 2) Storehouse (contributing)
- 3) Flagpole (contributing)
- 4) Root Cellar (contributing)
- 5) Outbuilding Foundation (contributing)
- 6) Ranger Dwelling Remains (contributing)
- 7) Amphitheater (noncontributing)
- 8) Well/Hydrant (noncontributing)
- 9) Privy (noncontributing)

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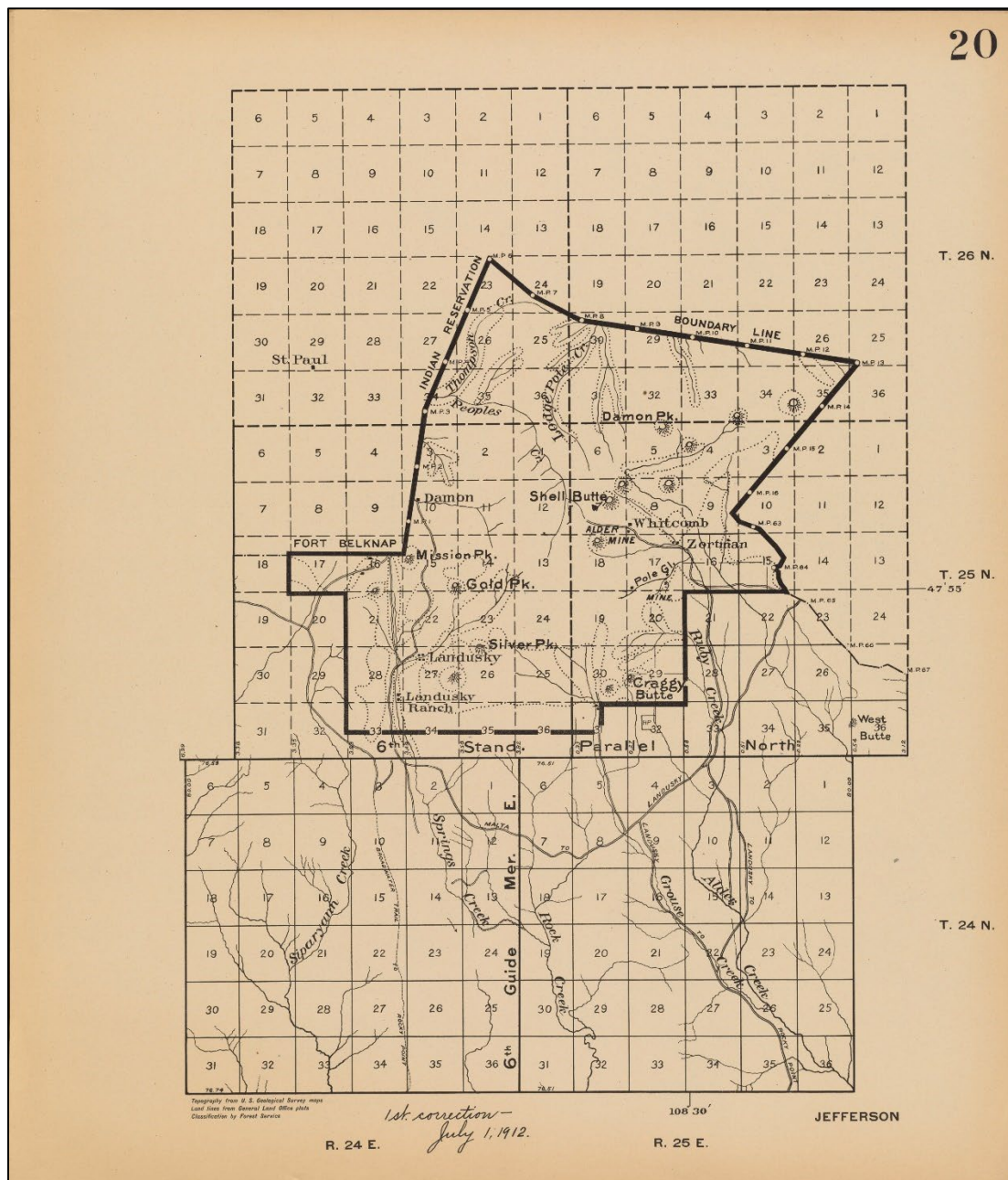
Name of Property

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Jefferson National Forest, Little Rockies District, 1912.

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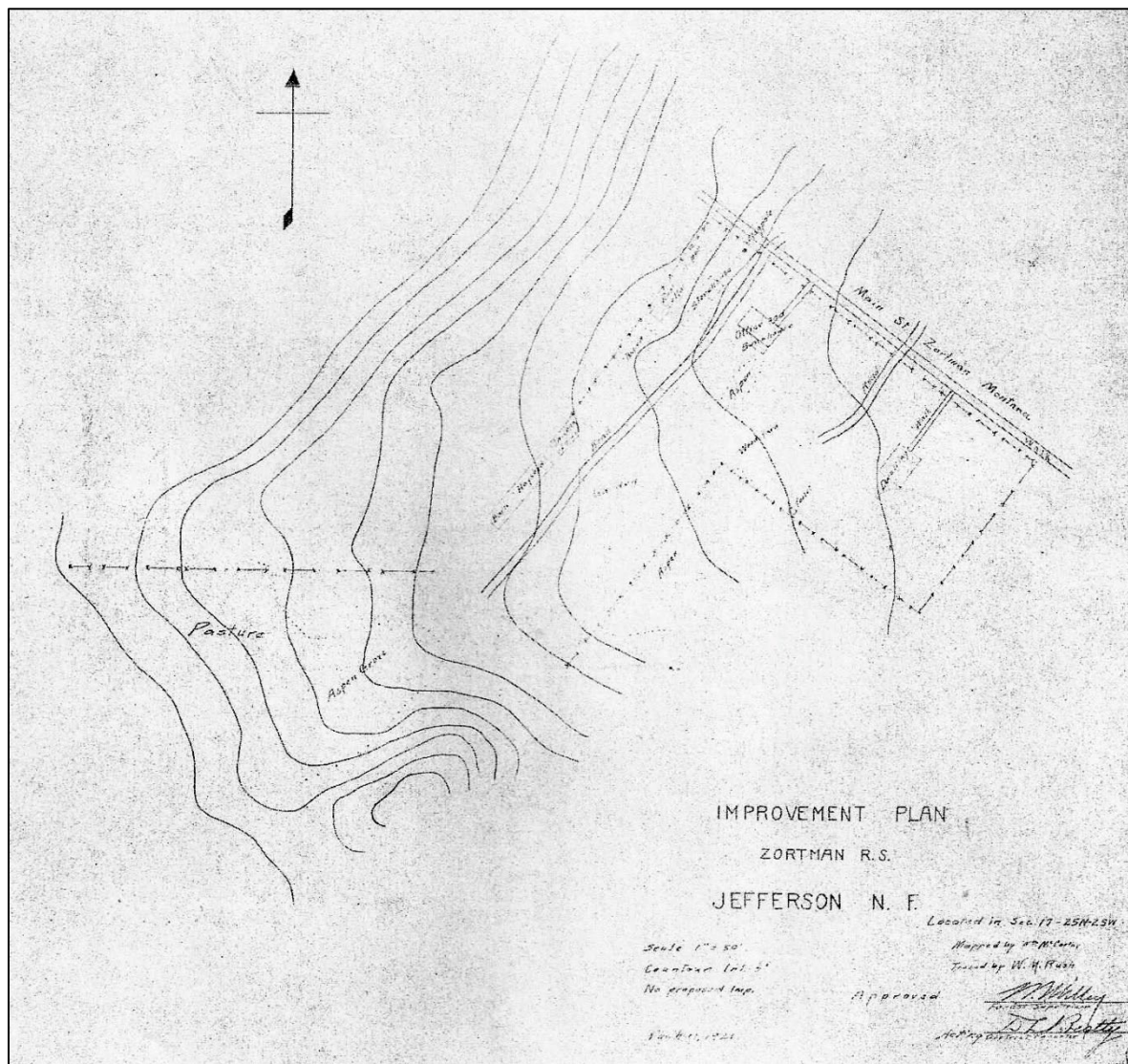
Name of Property

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Map of Zortman Ranger Station, 1921.

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Overview of Zortman, 1908.

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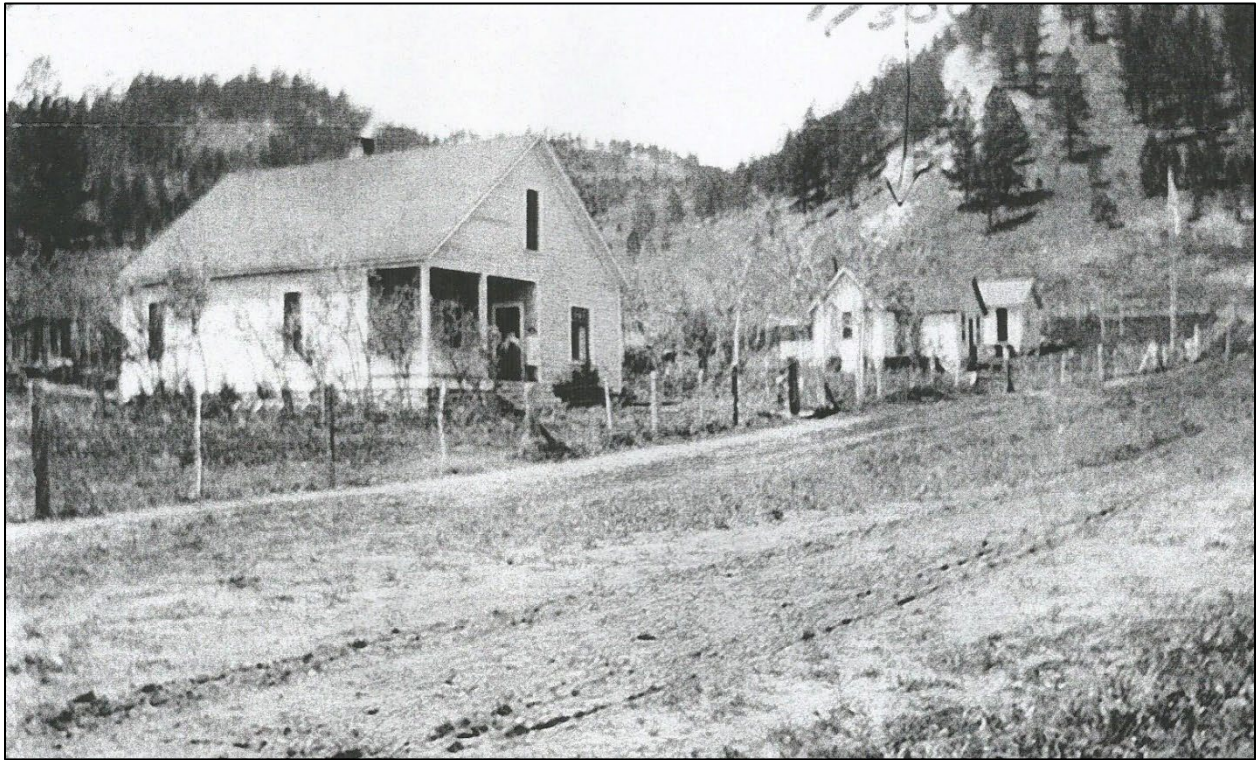
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Historic photograph showing Ranger's residence, Office/bunkhouse, and storehouse, ca. 1916-1922.

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Historic photograph of rangers residence, ca. 1920s. View to southwest.

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Photo Log, All Photographs:

Name of Property: Zortman Ranger Station
City or Vicinity: Zortman
County: Phillips State: MT
Photographer: Blain Fandrich
Date Photographed: July 2023



**Zortman Ranger Station. Overview. View to west.
MT_PhillipsCounty_ZortmanRangerStation_0001**

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**Zortman Ranger Station. Overview. View to the northeast.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Overview. View to Northwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Overview. View to west.
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Zortman Ranger Station. Overview showing office/bunkhouse and storehouse. View to the west.

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**Zortman Ranger Station. Office/bunkhouse. View to southwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Office/bunkhouse. East side. View to the northwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Office/bunkhouse. Rear façade. View to northeast.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Office/bunkhouse. West side. View to east.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Storehouse. Façade. View to the northwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Storehouse. North side. View to southwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Storehouse. South side. View to northeast.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Flagpole. View to northwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Root cellar. View to the north.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Root cellar. View to the south.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Foundation. View to the northeast.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Ranger dwelling remains. Root cellar. View to the northwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Ranger dwelling remains. View to the southwest.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Amphitheater. View to the southeast.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Hydrant. View to the west.
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**Zortman Ranger Station. Privy. View to the north.
MT_PhillipsCounty_ZortmanRangerStation_0021.**