

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: Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: Fort Assiniboine; Fort Assinaboine; North Montana Branch

Station: Northern Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Experiment Station, 24HL0329

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: Star Rte 36, Box 43

City or town: Havre State: Mt County: Hill

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒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 nomination 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. Fort Assinniboine meets the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

x national x statewide x local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

x A B x C x D

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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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>20</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>42</u>	<u>6</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 19

The Resource Count provided on the nomination form represents the totals for the entire district and incorporates the 19 previously listed contributing resources represented by Resources #1-19 in the inventory as well as the new resources associated with the later agricultural use of the site, the newly identified archaeological features, and the resources within the expanded boundary increase acreage. For clarification purposes the Additional Documentation action, excluding previously listed resources, reflects 5 new contributing buildings, 2 new contributing structures, 2 new contributing objects, and 11 new contributing sites. The Boundary Increase action accounts for three new contributing sites-cemetery (#49), ruins-scouts quarters (#39), and ruins-married men's quarters (#37). Please note also that the inventory lists omit resources #22, 25, and 29, as they represent former buildings replaced by modern noncontributing resources.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Defense/Military: Military Facility

Education: Research Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Education: Research Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Other: 19th Century (specifically 1870s Standardized Plans) American Military

Gothic

Second Empire

Colonial Revival

Romanesque Revival

Queen Ann Revival

Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundations: stone, concrete; walls: wood, stone, brick, weatherboard; roof: slate; metal; other: shingle, concrete, asphalt

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraphs

The Fort Assinniboine Historic District was listed in the National Register on May 31, 1989. Soon thereafter, historian Mark Hufstetler completed a survey and draft update to the district nomination. That draft remained unfinished, and much of the following information, specifically the standing building descriptions, derives from it.¹ Changes to the property since the preparation of that draft have been incorporated into the following feature discussion. As the majority of the buildings and sites on the property align either northwest-southeast or northeast-southwest, elevation/wall descriptions follow as such: “north” refers to the actual northwest elevation/wall, “south” refers to the actual southeast elevation/wall, “west” refers to the actual southwest elevation/wall, and “east” refers to the actual northeast elevation/wall.

Located in gently rolling terrain at the extreme northern edge of the Bear Paw mountain range, views to the north, west, and east from the Fort Assinniboine Historic District overlook the largely treeless plains of north-central Montana. Most of the surrounding land is used for wheat farming and other agricultural activity. Approximately six miles to the northeast, the town of

¹ Gary Wilson and Toni Hagener, Fort Assinniboine National Register Nomination, (NR listed May 31, 1989, NR #89000040), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, Montana. Mark Hufstetler, Fort Assinniboine Draft National Register Nomination (1990), on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT. Gary Wilson (1940-2015), co-author of the original 1989 nomination, is also credited for his efforts toward completing this amended nomination. Mr. Wilson’s dedication to the preservation and history of Fort Assinniboine and his persistence in recognizing its importance was unparalleled.

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Havre serves as a regional trade center. Beaver Creek, a north-flowing stream, constitutes much of the district's east boundary. Today, Fort Assinniboine serves as the home of the Montana State University's Northern Agricultural Research Center. Most current human activity occurs west, and outside the historic district, across 82nd Avenue West in a newly constructed (c. 1992-2005) complex that accommodates the research facility. However, a few historic buildings within the district continue to serve the research center as employees occupy some of the Officer's Quarters.

During Fort Assinniboine's years of military use (1879-1911) as many as 104 buildings stood neatly arranged around the 2,000-foot long parade ground, a nearly level terrace immediately north and west of Beaver Creek. The parade grounds essentially served as the focal point of the fort, around which the fort's buildings were constructed. The historic parade grounds remain undeveloped, continuing to express their importance in terms of setting, association, and feeling of the property, and the central role they played in the operation of the fort.

Most of the buildings were constructed of locally-produced load-bearing red brick, with native-stone foundations, and slate roof surfaces. Buildings were grouped according to function. A row of fifteen, two-story officers' residences (most with Mansard roofs) stood south of the parade ground, facing a row of five, two-story barracks buildings north of the ground. The eastern edge of the ground held a group of "civic" facilities (hospital, chapel, cemetery) while the post trader's residence, store, and hotel occupied the western edge. Large groupings of stable, warehouse, and workshop buildings sat north of the barracks. Ice houses and root cellars were placed behind the officers' quarters, near the post gardens and a small reservoir constructed on Beaver Creek.

Less than twenty percent of this substantial military infrastructure survives today; state contractors for the agricultural experiment station razed most of the other army buildings in 1925-1927. The largest concentration of surviving military buildings fills the far western parade ground area, which has functioned as part of the agricultural experiment station since 1915. The nine military buildings and features (numbers 1-7 and 19-20 as indicated on the attached site plan map) remain occupied and in generally good condition; most display an extremely high level of exterior design integrity. Substantial landscaping efforts (primarily "shelter belts" of trees) by experiment station crews over the years have reduced somewhat the military setting of this area.

Most of the historic parade ground remains currently unused, except for grazing cattle in late winter and/or early spring. The area is largely a barren expanse of native grasses and brush. Few of the military buildings once located around the parade ground survive; those that do (buildings number 8-14 on the attached site plan map) are mostly unmaintained and exhibit varying degrees of deterioration. This area contains almost no visual intrusions from the post-military period, with the result that the on-ground features closely matches the original army site plan.

Approximately 70 former building locations are easily discernable from their highly visible foundations, some of stone and some consisting of mounded soil with interior depressions. The majority of the foundations occur to the north and south of the parade grounds. These foundations clearly mark and represent where non-extant buildings once stood and served the

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U.S. military. These areas containing foundations retain very high potential for future archaeological investigations based on archaeological testing conducted by Ethos Consultants in 2000. The mere fact that the foundations remain indicates a high level of subsurface integrity exists at the property. Although the buildings no longer stand, the ability to easily identify a foundation to a building on the original army site map would allow for a clear link, or connection, between a building's historic location and recovered artifacts from that location. Recovered artifacts from a specific location and tied to a specific non-extant building could provide greater insight into specific functions and activities that occurred in these locations beyond what is already known. Details not mentioned in military journals might be discovered that shed further light on the life and daily activities of army personnel during the period of significance. Otherwise high subsurface integrity diminishes somewhat toward the far eastern edge of the parade ground, where a gravel pit was excavated in 1979.

South of the parade ground and east toward Beaver Creek stand additional buildings, including four military-period buildings (numbers 15-18). However, most relate to the use of the property by the agricultural experimental station during the 1920s and 1930s, and consist of wooden constructions, most which retain their original configuration and appearance today and are readily distinguishable from the military buildings. A large, complex corral area occupies the land immediately surrounding these agricultural buildings; this gives the area a strong visual sense of the time of agricultural use. The pre-1911 military atmosphere of this area has been lost.

As many of the buildings at the property have already been described in the original National Register nomination, and the 1990 draft, brief descriptions of the district's extant buildings, structures, sites, and objects follow. Standing military-related features are described first, followed by experiment station buildings, and then objects and sites. Building numbers are keyed to the attached site map; building numbers used during the historic period are enclosed in parentheses.

Narrative Description

Circulation (*one contributing structure*)

While some changes have occurred, much of the circulation pattern of the property continues to reflect the patterns found historically. The greatest intrusion results from the addition of Fort Circle, which provides access to the southwest portion of the property off 82nd Avenue West, which did not exist during the historic period. The majority of the main thoroughfares, indicated by solid lines on the historic Fort Assinniboine plan map, are readily apparent, either as maintained gravel roads or as two-tracks; this is especially true around the parade grounds and the administration area to the west. These predominately gravel drives generally lead to, and around, the standing buildings. These highly-visible, maintained roads serve the property in its function as an agricultural research center, though their origins date back to the property's use as a fort.

Now infrequently-maintained roads that appear as two-tracks on the historic plan map are still visible, albeit, in certain areas, ephemerally. These two-tracks access the northern and eastern

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portions of the property, the area containing most of the sites associated with the non-extant buildings. Two two-track roads in this portion of the property continue to define the boundary of the historic fort parade grounds (though faint on the east). In a few areas, although the historic roads or two-tracks may not be discernable, the corridors between foundations clearly indicate where they occurred in the historic period.

Although more-recent roads appeared in the 1920s and 1930s in the southeast portion of the property with the construction of buildings related to the agricultural research station near Beaver Creek, these roads occupy a small area and detract little from the overall circulation pattern.

A few trails that appear between buildings, generally in the eastern and northern portion of the property, served as such during recent times, likely have their antecedents in the historic period. They likely lie in their original locations and reflect the pedestrian routes associated with the fort. The trails are undeveloped consisting of bare earth.

1. Bachelor Officers' Quarters building (*military building #1*) (*erected 1880; one contributing building*)

One of two Bachelor Officer's quarters that once stood at the west end of the parade grounds during the period of national significance remains. This building, the most substantial and ornate within the district, stands two stories high and is constructed of load-bearing red brick over a native rubble stone foundation and brick water table. The building includes a large rectangular mass (approximately 36 feet by 150 feet) and three identical rear wings (each approximately 30 feet by 35 feet), giving the complete building a modified "E" shape. An EPDM membrane covers the nearly flat wood-framed roof (historic records mention a tin roof). A total of fourteen brick chimneys grace the roofline.

A three-story octagonal turret distinguishes the building at its northwest corner. The top of the turret terminates in a brick battlement topped with sandstone blocks rising immediately above corbelled brick courses. The primary (north) façade receives added visual detail from a continuous corbelled cornice at the roofline, and a series of brick pilasters marking the extent of each building's six row-house apartments. A wood-framed porch runs the length of the façade; a series of square wood pillars support its hipped shed roof.

The building's fenestration is wood-framed. Most windows are four-over-four double-hung with modern aluminum-framed storms. Windows have timber sills and lintels. The primary entry of each apartment is on the north facade; these doorways feature entry doors flanked by sidelights beneath transoms. Each unit also has two first floor and three second floor windows on the north wall. Similar window patterns exist on the other building elevations, and each apartment has a rear entry door on one of the wings. Second-floor windows on the rear wings of unit #3 and #4 have been enlarged to form doorways reached by non-historic exterior wood stairways. A hip-roofed enclosed porch with vertical wood siding occupies the ell at the southwest corner of the building. A metal cellar door at the south end of each unit provides access to that unit's basement.

The interior configuration of the building's six apartment units had alternate units using mirrored plans. Various experiment station remodeling, however, altered each of the units somewhat. At

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least two of the units have been subdivided into two apartments. As designed, the front door of each unit leads to a vestibule which opens to a hallway running nearly the length of the unit. Within the hall, an open stairwell leads to a second floor hallway above the first floor hall. A series of rooms extending the width of the unit adjoin the hallways. The main floor's first room is a parlor with a brick fireplace. It is followed by a dining room, a bathroom, and an enclosed stairwell leading both to the second floor and the basement. The kitchen is at the rear. The second floor contains four bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a large wood-framed skylight near the south end of the second floor hall. As of 2016, three of the building's apartments are occupied, and the vacant units showed signs of disrepair; some units showed evidence of long-term neglect, with large areas of fallen plaster and water damage.

2. The Duplex Officers' Quarter building (*military building #2*) (*erected 1879; one contributing building*)

The Duplex Officer's Quarter building stands as the last remaining example of this design of the ten original such buildings on Assinniboine's "Officers' Row". It stands two stories high, and displays construction of load-bearing red brick atop a native rubble stone foundation, and a brick water table. The building includes a primary rectangular mass (approximately 35 feet by 50 feet) and a rear wing (approximately 35 feet by 35 feet); this gives the complete building a modified "T" shape. The building is visually defined by its wood-framed Mansard roof, surfaced with unpainted wood shingles, which encloses the second level. The building features six rectangular brick chimneys.

All building fenestration is wood-framed; first floor doors and windows are beneath segmental arch lintels. Most windows are four-over four double-hung with modern aluminum-framed storm windows. Each second floor window is placed in an individual small wooden gabled dormer projecting from the mansard. A wood-framed hipped-roof porch supported by a series of square wood pillars runs the length of the building's primary (north) façade. There are two entry doors beneath transoms centered on the north facade. The windowless south wall contains two entry doors. Double metal cellar doors centered on the south wall provide access to the building's basement area. Small square enclosed wooden porches, or vestibules, occur in the two ells where the wing meets the primary building mass; these feature solid balustrades beneath large windowed areas.

Both units of the duplex serve as private residences. The building originally contained two identical apartments with mirrored floor plans. Each unit contained a parlor (with fireplace), library, dining room and kitchen on the first floor, and four sleeping rooms upstairs. Hallways run adjacent to the building's party wall.

3. The Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters building (*military building #90*) (*erected 1905; one contributing building*) is a two-story duplex residence constructed of red brick. The rectangular building (approximately 38 feet by 28 feet) rests on a concrete foundation. The building's wood-framed side gable roof is surfaced with slate shingles, and features a box cornice with decorative returns. The building has two central chimneys.

The building's fenestration is wood-framed. Windows feature concrete sills, and are beneath brick segmental arch lintels. The primary (south) façade is symmetrical; it is marked by a wood-

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framed hip-roofed porch running the length of the wall. The porch is supported by a series of square wood pillars. A multi-light/panel wooden entry door appears at either end of the porch. Between the entry doors are four evenly-spaced six-over six windows. Four identical windows occur on the façade's second level as well. The symmetrical and identical east and west walls contain two three-over-three windows on the first floor, a single six-over-six window on the second floor, and a semicircular window in the gable end. An exterior cellar door is visible near the west wall. The north wall originally boasted a porch identical to that on the south but has been enclosed using both vertical and horizontal wood siding. This enclosed porch includes two paneled wood doors, a six-light window, and a four-light window. Four six-over-six double-hung windows bracketed by a three-over-three unit appear in the second story north elevation. A wood-framed, shed-roofed car port projects from the building's northeast corner. This structure has plywood walls and a dirt floor.

The building historically contained two identical apartments with mirrored floor plans. Each unit contained a living room and kitchen on the first floor, with two bedrooms and a bath upstairs. An interior door now joins the two rooms, which is occupied by a single family.

4. The Post Library building (*military building #74*) (*constructed 1889; contributing building*) is a single-level building constructed of load-bearing red brick atop a native rubble stone foundation, and brick water table. The primary building mass is rectangular, covered with a wood-framed hip roof, and small hip-roofed wings extending from the center of all four walls. The primary mass measures approximately 23 feet by 75 feet. Roof surfaces are covered with unpainted wood shingles. A central brick chimney with a metal cap projects from the west roof slope.

The building's fenestration is wood-framed; windows are four-over four beneath segmental brick arches. The primary (east) façade features two wood-framed shed-roofed porches (one on each side of the façade's wing) supported by square wood pillars. Both the east and west walls hold entry doors and multiple window areas. A small stone set high in the east wall of the wing features the engraving "1888" (the last digit is vandalized and may be a "9"). The building's north and south walls are identical; fenestration on each consists only of two windows on the outer wall of the façade's wing. The west wall includes a small, enclosed wooden porch in the elevation's northwestern ell.

The building's interior originally featured a large library room. Later remodeling substantially altered the interior, and today the building includes seven workrooms, and workrooms and offices with non-historic finishes. A single storeroom at the building's north end does retain its historic wood floor, high plastered ceilings, and plastered walls.

5. The Guard House (*military building #89*) (*constructed 1905; one contributing building*) is a single-level building constructed of red brick (some walls measure 19 inches thick) above a concrete foundation and concrete water table. The building includes a primary rectangular mass (approximately 64 feet by 43 feet) and a rear wing (approximately 43 feet by 60 feet); this gives the complete building a modified "T" shape. The building has a hip roof and features a box cornice with decorative returns, surfaced with slate shingles. In 2011, extensive repairs were done to reconstruct the box cornice and replace missing slate roofing. Also, the porch roof was

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reconstructed and clad with standing seam roofing, to closely match the original construction. A rectangular brick chimney and two circular tin ventilator towers rise from the roof.

All building fenestration is wood-framed, and all windows rest on concrete sills. Main-floor windows in the primary building mass are beneath segmental brick arches; the wing features half-round windows. Historic jail bars remain on most windows, and on the west entry door. The primary (south) façade is visually defined by a prominent central hipped dormer with curved, slate-covered side walls. The dormer includes a pair of twelve-light windows. This façade also features a full-length wood-framed front porch with a low slope hipped roof supported by an evenly-spaced series of Tuscan columns. A double-transomed doorway is centered on the façade, and a single-transomed door is near the west end of the façade. The west wall also holds a double entry door. Main floor windows in the primary mass are four-over-four; there are also six-light basement windows. One of the tall narrow four-over-four half-round windows in the rear wing has been largely removed and replaced with a large utility entrance beneath a steel "I" beam lintel. This entrance contains an overhead garage-style wood door.

The interior of the primary mass features a wood floor with plaster-over-lath walls and ceiling. It includes a large eastern room and smaller office areas. The west doorway opens to the landing of a two-run wooden stairway joining the first floor and basement. The north wing (former cell area) consists primarily of a large single room with a high, pressed-metal ceiling and concrete floor. An arched opening leads from this room to a small room (probably the former inmate lavatory) in the primary building mass.

6. The Officers' Amusement Hall (*military building #62*) (*constructed 1886; one contributing building*) is a single-level building with load-bearing walls and foundation constructed of native rubble stone. The building includes a rectangular primary mass (approximately 27 feet by 90 feet) and a side wing (approximately 25 feet by 44 feet). The wing extends west from the rear of the primary mass, giving the complete building an "L" shape. The building features a hip roof surfaced with unpainted wood shingles, with a smaller shed-roofed area at the rear. Three brick chimneys with corbelled caps project from the roofline; all show signs of decay.

All building fenestration is wood-framed; most windows are four-over-four double-hung. The tops of window openings are arched slightly. The north wall of the primary mass is largely occupied by a non-original overhead garage door flanked with sidelights; an additional garage door appears in the east wall. The west end of the south wall contains a multi-panel entry door. There is a small wood-framed entry porch with a hip roof in the corner of the ell (northwest); paneled entry doors lead from the porch to both the primary mass and the wing.

The building's interior has a wood floor and historic plaster-on-lath walls (decaying). The building contains four rooms: one encompassing the primary mass, one in the wing, and two in the shed-roofed area. The interior's most notable feature is a hand-painted mural on the south wall of the primary room; this mural was a backdrop for musical productions once staged by soldiers in the room. The mural, in poor condition, depicts a masonry wall and highly ornate iron gate leading to a drive.

7. The Post Exchange (*military building #83*) (*constructed 1879; one contributing building with modern shed addition, and one free-standing noncontributing shed building*) is a single-

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level building constructed of load-bearing red brick, three courses thick, atop a native rubble stone foundation, and brick water table. Brickwork is severely decayed in several areas. The rectangular building (approximately 28 feet by 176 feet) is topped with a wood-framed gable roof, currently surfaced with wood shingles (some in poor condition). Eaves are non-existent; rafters end at a fascia board directly above the top of the brickwork. A central brick chimney with a corbelled cap projects from near the southern end of the building.

The building's north and south walls extend above the roofline to form corbelled parapets; a third east-west brick wall, also with a corbelled parapet, delineates the southern third of the building. Both the east and west walls display a variety of historic and non-historic fenestration, including large vehicular entry doors. All fenestration is wood-framed; some doors and windows are beneath brick segmental arch lintels, and one larger overhead metal garage-style door sits beneath a timber lintel in the east elevation. The two inner brickwork courses at the north end of the east wall have been replaced with concrete block (not visible from the exterior), suggesting the site of a structural failure.

On the south end of the west elevation stands a wood-framed shed-roofed storage shed addition (approximately 10 feet x 24 feet) attached to the brick building. Detached from the main brick building another small wood-framed storage shed (approximately 10 feet x 14 feet) with a gabled roof stands just to the west. The addition and free-standing shed are connected by a concrete sidewalk. The date of construction for both sheds is unknown, but both are obvious later additions to the property.

The northern two-thirds of the Post Exchange building consists of a single unfinished room used for storage. The south third of the building includes a laboratory room and a vehicle storage garage.

8. The Ordnance Storehouse (*military building #53*) (*constructed 1884; one contributing building*) is a single-level building constructed of load-bearing red brick (showing visible decay), two courses thick, resting on a native rubble stone foundation, and brick water table. The rectangular building (approximately 25 feet by 60 feet) displays a wood-framed hip roof, currently surfaced with wood shingles (poor condition). A central brick chimney with corbelled cap (poor condition) projects through the roof.

All fenestration is wood-framed, with wooden lintels and sills; poorly-matched brickwork reflects changes in fenestration patterns over time. A non-original exterior brick chimney is centered on the south wall. The west elevation originally contained four window openings, though one was infilled with brick in the past. The remaining three openings are covered with plywood. The east elevation contains two entries and a single window opening. Both entries are man door-size, though the central entry appears to have originally been a double door reduced to a single door by brick infilling of the southern half of the opening. The window is covered with plywood. The north elevation features a large oversize doorway. The building's interior is currently divided into two rooms. The larger room, roughly-finished, occupies the southern two-thirds of the building. The room at the northern third of the building features plastered walls and a deteriorated plaster-on-lath ceiling.

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9. Stable No. 4/Recreation Hall (*military building #39*) (*constructed 1906; one contributing building*) was one of 13 large cavalry stables at the fort. It is a single-level building constructed of load-bearing red brick, three courses thick, resting on a concrete foundation. The rectangular building (approximately 35 feet by 233 feet) displays a wood-framed gable roof, currently surfaced with unpainted shingles. The shingles were painted in linseed oil and the fascia in white paint a few years ago. Five large evenly-spaced tin ventilators project from the ridge of the roof. In addition, five interior eave wall brick chimneys appear within the south half of the stable, three along the west wall and two along the east wall.

The building is symmetrical in plan with the fenestration patterns mirrored on the east and west walls. All window openings would have contained wood-framing with concrete sills beneath brick relieving arches. East and west walls each contain ten irregularly-spaced large window openings (no sashes survive). Between these larger openings are eight smaller openings high in the walls near the eave, the pattern only being interrupted on the south end of the building by the presence of the interior brick chimneys. Oversized entry doors that would have allowed the passage of animals appear near the center of both the long elevations; both these entries have been partially infilled with brick with a man door, below an iron-beam lintel, now gracing the location. The south façade contains a large centered two-part sliding wood entry door beneath an iron beam lintel; window openings covered with metal sheeting flank the door. An opening infilled with plywood occurs above the two-part door. This could have been either an oversized window to allow light into the building, or possibly a hayloft access. The north wall features an oversized entry that would have allowed the passage of animals, partially infilled with brick and a man door, below an iron-beam lintel.

The northern two-thirds of the building's interior retains its historic open, unfinished configuration, but lacks the dividing walls of the numerous horse stalls. The southern third of the interior was converted to a recreation hall (the "Rose Room") after the military's departure. It has a concrete floor and wood ceiling and boasts a large fireplace built of smooth creek stones on the west wall. A simple wooden stage area is at the north end of the room. The "Rose Room" is currently used for storage.

10, 11, 12. Double Cavalry Stable Guard and Shop buildings (*military buildings #92, #93, and #94*) (*constructed 1905; three contributing buildings*) share identical construction and orientation. The single-level buildings are constructed of load-bearing red brick, two courses thick, set on concrete foundations. The rectangular buildings (approximately 33 feet by 53 feet) feature wood-framed gable roofs originally surfaced with slate (building 10 now has a *synthetic slate* shingle roof). The exposed rafter tips are cut in a uniform, decorative curved pattern. Each roof's ridgeline features two central brick chimneys and a large tin ventilator. The primary façade of each building originally displayed a full-length wooden hip-roofed porch. Only Building 10 retains its original porch and roof. The porch on Building 12 collapsed and lays nearby. The porch and roof of Building 11 was reconstructed in 2015. The porch that remains on Building 10 indicates original support from square wood posts with metal sheeting serving to clad the porch roof itself.

The buildings are symmetrical in plan, reflecting a duplex interior design. All fenestration would have displayed wood framing, with windows beneath brick relieving arches, and above concrete

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sills. Most doors and window openings are covered with plywood or boards. A few door openings have been infilled and others enlarged or nonoriginal openings added. Primary entry doors are on the south façade. Both the east and west walls feature large doorways (beneath iron lintels) for horses. Brick ramps, some obscured by vegetation, lead to these doorways.

Each building's interior is divided into mirrored halves by a party wall running beneath the roof ridgeline. The south end half of each contains a two-room apartment with plaster-on-lath walls and ceiling. The north end (the former blacksmithing areas) has brick walls and floor, and a finely-detailed ceiling of tongue-and-groove wood. Building interiors are in generally good condition, although minor non-historic changes are evident.

13, 14. The Field Officers' Stable buildings (*military buildings #50 and #51*) (*constructed ca. 1880; two contributing buildings*) were identical when constructed. They are single-level buildings constructed of load-bearing red brick, two courses thick, resting on a native stone foundation with a brick water table. The buildings are rectangular (approximately 18 feet by 48 feet). Building 13 has a wood-framed gable roof covered with wood shingles. In 2012, repairs were done to the roof, brick repointing and reconstruction of the west facing wooden gable end. A non-historic window was installed to provide daylight for the interior. In 2015, a storm severely impacted Building #14 resulting in the complete collapse of the roof and portions of the walls.

All fenestration was wood-framed with timber sills; little of the window treatments remain. Most openings are either open to the elements or covered with horizontal boards. Some non-historic changes have been made to fenestration patterns, including the brick infilling of entries. The north façade was marked by a large double entry door (for horses or carriages) centered on the wall. The building interior of the standing building, #13, consists of a single room with a dirt floor. The gabled area of both buildings would have been used as a hayloft.

15. The Commissary Root Cellar (*military # 86*) (*constructed 1902; one contributing structure*) is a largely underground root cellar with rubble stone walls some 18 to 24 inches thick. The cellar is rectangular (approximately 25 feet by 75 feet). Only the cellar's symmetrical south wall (containing the entrance) is above ground. The center section of this wall has an arched top, flanked by sloping, angled wings serving as retaining walls for the hillside. The cellar has a wood-framed gently-sloping gable roof covered with sod. Three small ventilation shafts penetrate the sod along the roof's ridgeline.

The entry doorway is topped by a heavy timber lintel. The double entry doors lead to a small concrete vestibule area with a high, arched ceiling. The main storage room has a concrete floor and unfinished stone walls. The roof structure is visible from within; a series of regularly-spaced vertical wood posts helps support the roof.

16, 17. The Commissary Root Cellars (*military buildings #87 and #88*) (*constructed 1902; two contributing structures*) were originally identical to root cellar # 15. The roof and much of the south wall of these cellars no longer remain. What does remain is used to store silage.

18. The Ice House (*military building #96*) (*constructed 1904-1905; one contributing building*) is a large two-level building constructed of load-bearing red brick at least five courses thick resting on a massive foundation of native rubble stone. The primary building mass is rectangular

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(approximately 34 feet by 104 feet). It exhibits a wood-framed gable roof, surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. There is a small gabled dormer near the north end of the east roof slope. The roof-wall connection allows for air circulation.

All four exterior walls are visually defined by a series of prominent, regularly-spaced brick buttresses. The south wall features a large wooden door between two brick buttresses, leading to the interior's loft level (former ice area). A small, wood-framed gabled addition (non-historic) at the left end of this wall leads to the building's lower level; similar additions exist on the other three walls, as well. Both the east and west walls have four sets of two, four-light windows just above the foundation. Each window pair is topped by a single timber lintel. The west buttress of the north wall has been removed to allow for the modern wooden addition. The lower level of the building's interior (now used for cattle feeding) consists of a single room with a concrete floor and unfinished wood ceiling. The large upper level contains a single empty room.

19. The Flag Staff (*military object #101 erected ca. 1890; one contributing object*) stands approximately 130 feet high, and displays riveted hollow steel tube construction. Three "X"-shaped steel cross-members positioned horizontally at intervals on the staff provide anchors for the steel bracing cables. Some of these cables begin at the staff base, run upward and outward to the ends of the cross-members, and then continue upward and inward to near the top of the staff. A steel ladder running approximately two-thirds of the way up the staff displays similar configuration. The staff design gives the visual illusion of a ship's mast. Additional bracing cables run from the central cross-member to four concrete anchors set in the ground. A small metal plate affixed to the staff identifies its maker as the American Hoist & Derrick Company of St. Paul and Chicago. The pole still functions in its original capacity.

20. The Fort Assinniboine Monument (*erected ca. 1880; one contributing object*) consists of a single sandstone block measuring approximately 56" long x 30" high x 10" thick. The stone displays a thin protective cap of concrete (probably not original) and sits in a concrete base measuring approximately 69" long x 24" wide (also not original). The inscription is on the west face of the stone, which shows spalling. The lettering notes the fort's construction dates, first commanding officers, and initial garrison. A protective glass enclosure encases the monument was added in recent years to protect the sandstone from further deterioration.

21. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Marker (*erected 1958; one contributing object*) is a historical marker constructed of stone and concrete. It includes a curved rubble stone wall, approximately 5 feet high, set on a concrete base. A horizontal concrete bench extends outward from both sides of the western third of the wall. A second mass extends northward from the rubble wall, near its east end. This mass includes a rubble stone base supporting a cut granite stone approximately 5 feet square. A metal plaque affixed to the west face of the stone displays the Daughters of the American Revolution emblem as well as a brief historical narrative describing Fort Assinniboine.

Additional plaques, provided by the Montana Historical Society, were mounted to the rubble stone wall above the bench. These three plaques share a common medium, the rubble stone wall. These plaques include: The Buffalo Soldiers Plaque (erected 2003) which gives a brief description of the Buffalo Soldiers, their role in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, and their eventual arrival at Fort Assinniboine, and their role in the Spanish American War. The Old Forts

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Trail Plaque (erected, ca. 1999) is situated between the Buffalo Soldiers plaque and the National Register plaque. This marker provides a brief discussion of the history of the Old Forts Trail and the important placement of Fort Assinniboine between Fort Walsh in Saskatchewan and Fort Benton on the Missouri to the southwest. The National Register Plaque (erected 1998), the most southern of the three mounted on this wall, provides a brief description of the history of Fort Assinniboine.

23. The Cattle Feeding Shed and Hay Storage Barn (*erected 1934/1938; one contributing building*) Although conjoined, the two structurally are distinct elements, a hay barn and cattle feeding shed. They are described separately below.

The hay storage barn is a single-level, wood-framed building with tongue-and-groove siding and a concrete foundation. The building is a rectangular (approximately 25 feet by 72 feet) and features a wood-framed gambrel roof, currently surfaced with corrugated steel. The north wall features a large, overhead garage-door style wood door providing loft access. Some of the other fenestration sites have been infilled. The barn's single interior room has a wood floor with unfinished walls and ceiling. A partial loft floor exists above the southern one-fourth of the room.

The cattle feeding shed is a single-level wood-framed building with clapboard walls and a partial concrete foundation. The building is rectangular (approximately 25 feet by 288 feet); it attaches and is perpendicular to the hay barn. It has a wood-framed gable roof, currently surfaced with corrugated steel. The south wall consists largely of eight large open structural bays, allowing cattle movement to and from the corrals to the south. The shed's interior consists of a single space, largely unfinished. A wooden trough runs the length of the building.

24. The Machine Shed and Shop building (*constructed 1938; one contributing building*) is a single-level building constructed of load-bearing red brick, three courses thick, resting on a concrete foundation. The rectangular shaped building (approximately 32 feet by 180 feet) has a wood-framed saltbox roof, currently surfaced with corrugated metal (the original roof was slate). The exposed rafter tips are cut in a uniform, decorative curved pattern. There is a central brick chimney.

The building is divided into three functional areas. The building's east and west ends contain semi-open bays along the north elevation used for equipment storage, while the enclosed center serves as a small repair shop. All fenestration is wood-framed; window sills are concrete. The north wall of the shop area includes overhead garage doors, two 15-light windows, and a man door beneath a segmental brick arch with a concrete keystone. The west, east, and south walls contain no fenestration. The interiors of the storage areas are largely unfinished. The shop area is a single room with a concrete floor.

26. The Pump House (*erected ca. 1927; one contributing building*) is a single-level, wood-framed building with clapboard walls and a concrete foundation. The building is rectangular (approximately 13 feet by 24 feet). A wood-framed gable roof, currently surfaced with unpainted wood shingles, tops the building. The building's primary (south) façade contains a centered doorway. The identical east and west walls each contain a pair of large wood-framed six-over-six windows. The building's interior is divided into two rooms of approximately equal

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size. Interior walls, floor and ceiling are all unpainted wood. A cellar door in the south room accesses a stairwell leading to the basement.

27. The Two-Stall Garage (*erected ca. 1927; one contributing building*) is a single-level, wood-framed building resting on a series of timber sills. The garage has a wood-framed gable roof surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. The south wall is clad with corrugated metal, while the remaining walls are covered with horizontal and vertically-applied clapboard (poor condition). The building is rectangular (approximately 20 feet by 21 feet).

The building's north wall contains two garage openings separated by a vertical wooden post and accessed by wooden ramps. A boarded-over six-light window is above the doorways. The building's east, west and south walls each contain a single six-light window. The interior consists of a single room, with wood floor and ceiling.

28. The Valve House (*erected ca. 1923; one contributing building*) is a small, single-level, wood-framed with horizontal weatherboard siding building that sits on a concrete foundation. The rectangular building (9 feet by 10 feet) is topped by a wood-framed gable roof, currently surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. The hinged wooden entry door is centered on the west gable wall. Single window areas centered on both the north and south walls are covered with plywood. The interior consists of a single room.

30. The Pesticide Storage Building (*erected ca. 1981; one noncontributing building*) is a small, single-level, wood-framed with a gable roof building. The rectangular building (approximately 12 feet by 16 feet) rests on an 8-foot by 32-foot concrete pad extending north and west of the building. The building's roof is surfaced with unpainted wood shingles. The north, south, and east walls are clad with modern vertical panel siding; horizontal metal siding clads the west wall. Other than small, vent openings located beneath the gables and eaves, the building's only fenestration is limited to a solid entry man door centered on the west wall. The interior consists of a single room.

31. Calving Barn (*constructed 2010; replaced the original dairy barn #22; one noncontributing building*) is a single-level, steel-framed building. The building sports a gable roof with a north-facing clerestory. The building measures approximately 80 feet by 120 feet and includes five bays located in the north half of the building. The walls and roof are clad with ribbed metal. An off-center overhead door located on the south portion of the west elevation allows access to an east-west corridor that runs the length of the building, exiting through the same style overhead door in the east wall. The west and east gables feature light-colored fiberglass that allows for the passage of light into the interior. The brand E lazy S and MSU logo signage appears below the west gable. Below this signage is a large overhead door that serves an area used for vehicle storage. The south elevation contains an overhead door, six paired 1-by-1 slider windows, and two larger areas covered with light color fiberglass for additional interior lighting. The north side presents a dropped shed roof below the clearstory; the clerestory contains transparent fiberglass allowing additional natural lighting to the interior.

32. The Scale House (*constructed 2007, replaced the original scale house #25; one noncontributing building*) This single-level, wood-framed, metal-clad building measures 30 feet by 30 feet. It has a gable roof, also covered in metal. On the west side is a centered sliding door

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leading from a system of corrals. This central door connects to the scale located within the interior of the building. The east wall contains another central sliding door. The north wall contains a sliding door with a small man door within it. A single man door exists on the south elevation.

33. The Fencing Shed (*constructed 2010; one noncontributing building*) is a single-level, pole-constructed building sitting on a continuous perimeter spread footing. Its 8-foot by 32-foot wood-framed walls are clad with vertical wood siding and asphalt shingles cover its shed roof. Two sets of paired large sliding doors on an overhead track comprise the entire east side of the building. There are no other openings. This building is currently used to store fencing supplies.

34. The Supplement House (*constructed 1999; one noncontributing building*) This single-level, wood-framed building is clad with ribbed metal panels, as is the gable roof. It measures 15 feet by 30 feet and sits on a concrete slab. A large sliding door exists in the south wall and a man door in the west wall.

35. Weather Station (*erected ca. 1915; one contributing structure*) The weather station comprises a weather vane and weather gaging equipment. It sits in a fenced area measuring approximately 50 feet x 50 feet. The fence consists of time-appropriate woven wire fence with 2" diameter metal corner posts and steel support posts between corners. A small gate located on the northwest corner provides access to the equipment. The weather vane projects from the southwest fence corner post. Within 15 feet of the weather vane, and positioned near the fenceline, is a metal cylinder mounted on top of a concrete base inscribed with "Friez Baltimore." Friez (also known as Belfort Instrument Company) specialized in weather instruments. On the west corner of the concrete base is a metal plate, similar to a survey pin, with the number 2688.86. A tripod structure stands within the fenced area; it is unknown if this once supported another weather vane. A few small square concrete pads sit on the ground within the perimeter.

36. Ruins: Officers Row Housing along Parade Ground (*constructed 1879-1880; one contributing site*) These features, located on the south side of the parade grounds, consist of concrete foundations with flat sandstone caps. From west to east, three foundations are evident, possibly single residences, located north of the stables (map legend 13 and 14). East of these single-residence foundations are five sets of duplex foundations. Just east of these duplex foundations appear a six-plex foundation. The three single residence foundations indicate all boasted bay windows on the west side. The crawlspace and/or basement area of the duplex foundations indicate construction of concrete with small gravel aggregate as well as some portions of rubble stone with concrete grout. Brick is scattered around the entire foundation area suggesting it served as the primary wall construction.

37. Ruins: Married Men's Quarters (*constructed 1879-1880; one contributing site*) Located just east of the eastern-most six-plex foundation of the Officers Row foundations and south-southeast of the Hospital foundation, these foundations represent three long and narrow buildings used for married men's housing. The foundations consist of rubble stone with concrete grout. Small amounts of scattered brick indicate its use as the primary wall material.

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38. Ruins: Hospital (*constructed 1879-1882; one contributing site*) Unfortunately, the location of the hospital foundation was severely impacted in the early 1980s when gravel excavation occurred in the area, though small portions of the foundation still remain.

39. Ruins: Scout's Quarters (*constructed 1881-1882; one contributing site*) The rubble stone and concrete foundation measures approximately 24 feet x 48 feet with a 12-foot x 16-foot addition on its east wall overlooking the bank of the creek below. Scattered brick indicates its use as the primary wall material. A nearby small pit may represent a latrine.

North of the parade grounds occur a large number of foundations. The foundations tend to align northeast-southwest (east-west) paralleling the parade grounds. Because these features tend to loosely group according to function and use, and the definitive determination of individual feature walls proves difficult at times, they are described below (and noted on the map) and counted collectively as single contributing sites, each containing a number of foundations.

40. Ruins: Enlisted Men's Barracks (*constructed 1879-1883; one contributing site*) This site encompasses a large area comprising foundations related to the Enlisted Men's barracks. The fort originally contained five Enlisted Men's Barracks; four of the foundations related to the barracks are still quite easy to discern. The foundations consist of thick (24"-30") walls consisting of concrete with gravel aggregate faced with a skim coat of concrete to create a more uniform vertical surface. The foundations extend about 24" deep. Two of these foundations lie south of the Double Calvary Stable Guard and Shop (#12) building, a third lies immediately southeast of the Double Calvary Stable Guard and Shop buildings (#11 and 12), a heavily impacted and very difficult to recognize foundation lies almost immediately south of the Ordinance Storehouse, and the fifth lies southwest of the Ordinance Storehouse and southeast of the NC Officers Quarters (#3). In addition to the barrack foundations, the location of the Office and Bath House, located between the second and third barrack foundations from west to east, are easily visible, though their on-site representation presents as depressions and mounded soil.

41. Ruins: Stables and Storehouses (*constructed 1879-1883; one contributing site*) Northwest and north of the Enlisted Men's Barracks lie the foundations of the stables and storehouses. The foundations consist of rubble stone with concrete. Three foundations, two long and narrow and one shorter and wider labeled "Band Stable" on historic maps, appear east of extant Stable #4/Recreation Hall.

Eight long and narrow foundations exist to the west (two appear on each side of the Ordnance Storehouse, one labeled as "Q. M. Storehouse" on historic maps, and one appears just north of the storehouse). All the foundations align northwest-southeast (north-south) [including the standing stable and Ordnance Storehouse], except for the foundation which lies immediately north of the Ordnance Storehouse which aligns northeast-southwest (east-west). The foundation fourth from the west end is difficult to discern. Standing Stable #4/Recreation Hall is the only stable that remains.

42. Ruins: Quarter Master Stables (*constructed 1879-1880; one contributing site*) Two large northwest-southeast (north-south) running stable foundations appear northwest of the long row of foundations. These foundations, noted as Quarter Master Stables on historic maps, are

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generally represented rubble stone with concrete and mounds of dirt; they display depths varying from 24"-48" and measure nearly 300 feet in length.

43. Ruins: Civilian Employee Quarters (*constructed 1881-1883; one contributing site*) Two significantly smaller northeast-southwest (east-west) running foundations, identified on historic maps as Civilian Employee Quarters and Blacksmith Quarters, lie just east of these large foundations. Similar to the stable and storehouse foundations, the Civilian Employee Quarters are constructed of rubble and stone with concrete. The depth measures roughly 24".

44: Ruins: Blacksmith Quarters (*constructed 1881-1882; one contributing site*) Immediately northeast of the Civilian Employee Quarters is the foundation of the Blacksmith Quarters. This rubble and stone with concrete feature also runs northeast-southwest. It exhibits a similar depth as the other foundations, approximately 24" or more and measures almost 100 feet long.

45: Ruins: Blacksmith Shop (*constructed 1880-1881; one contributing site*) Immediately southwest of the south end of the Quarter Master Stables lies the rubble and stone with concrete foundation of the former Blacksmith Shop. Its northeast-southwest-running long axis measures 50 feet in length. It displays a similar depth as the previously mentioned foundations.

46: Ruins: Coal Shed (*constructed 1894; one contributing site*) Just north of the Blacksmith Shop and west of the Quarter Master Stables is the coal shed foundation. This foundation is more defuse than many of the others resulting in poorly defined depth. Constructed of rubble and stone with concrete, it exhibits a length of almost 100 feet.

47: Ruins: Carpenter and Saddle Shop (*constructed 1881; one contributing site*) Immediately southwest of the Blacksmith Shop is the rubble and stone with concrete Carpenter and Saddle Shop foundation. The feature displays three interior walls resulting in a feature that contains four separate room, or stalls. Roughly 90 feet in length, the depth is about 24"-30" in depth.

48: Ruins Non-Commissioned Staff (NCS) Quarters (*constructed 1881-1883; one contributing site*) The well-defined NCS Quarters foundation lies at the far southwest end of this northern alignment of foundations. It is roughly square in shape and varies from 24" to 36".

Brick is scattered throughout this northern area of foundations, indicating its use as the primary material used in wall construction. Surface artifacts identified include ceramic (including porcelain) dish fragments and metal.

49. Cemetery (*1879-1911; one contributing site*) While quite difficult to discern both on the ground and with aerial photography, the fort cemetery lies due northeast of Band Stable foundation, and near Beaver Creek. While no physical above-ground evidence, such as head stones or markers, remains to corroborate the exact location, comparison of historic fort maps and aerial photographs strongly suggest its location as indicated on the nomination map.

The cemetery appears to have been used since the founding of the fort to at least 1905 when the burials were reinterred at the national cemetery at Little Big Horn National Monument, formerly Custer Battlefield National Monument.² The cemetery records from the Little Big Horn National

² "Ewanida Rail Records," Custer National Cemetery, Crow Agency, Big Horn County, Montana, last modified May 2008, accessed March 22, 2017, <http://www.mrail.net/data/cemete/mont/bighorn/custer/index.htm>.

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Monument indicate that in March of that year, over 170 burials transferred to the National Cemetery. While many of the reinterred burials comprised military personnel, numerous burials are of family members, including several children, who perished while husbands and fathers were stationed at the fort. The child burials include those of three sisters, Mary, Matilda, and Minnie, the daughters of Christopher Lov, who perished within seven years of each other, and brother Julian and sister Vivian, the children of G.S. Hoyle who died within a year and a half of each other. It remains unknown if other burials from Fort Assinniboine were reinterred at other locations.

After March 1905, an additional 18 people were buried at the Fort Assinniboine cemetery.³ No records have yet been located that explain where those 18 people were reinterred after the post closed in 1911. It also remains unknown if other Fort Assinniboine military deaths occurred from March 1906 to 1911, and if so, where those individuals were buried.

Small scale features

A variety of small-scale features are found throughout the Fort Assinniboine Historic District. These include fire hydrants, small sections of poorly preserved historic concrete sidewalks, and scattered period debris/artifacts. The presence of the different small-scale features is acknowledged, and for the most part, they relate to the period of significance, but are not included in the resource count.

Integrity

Although reduced in number from the original count that once occupied the fort property, the military resources that do remain retain sufficient integrity to convey their original purpose and function. The historic resources related to the use of the property as an experiment station also convey their association and use. Similar to the more recent additions to the fort property, the buildings and structures that remain standing related to the early use of the fort retain integrity of design, materials, and workmanship; their presence also provides a vehicle to understand and

³ "U.S., Burial Registers, Military Posts and National Cemeteries, 1862-1960," Post Cemetery, at Fort Assinniboine, accessed March 23, 2017, https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3135/40447_2421402106_0593-00015?pid=69317&backurl=http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc%3DbIN31%26_phstart%3DsucccessSource%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue%26indiv%3D1%26db%3Dburialregisterspostscemeteries%26gss%3Dangs-d%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26MS_AdvCB%3D1%26gskw%3DFort%2520Assiniboine%26gskw_x%3D1%26cpxt%3D1%26cp%3D12%26MSAV%3D2%26uidh%3Dfm1%26pcat%3DMIL_CASUALTIES%26fh%3D0%26h%3D69317%26recoff%3D%26ml_rpos%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=bIN31&_phstart=succcessSource&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=40447_2421402106_0593-00015 and https://www.ancestry.com/interactive/3135/40447_2421402106_0593-00015?pid=69317&backurl=http://search.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc%3DbIN31%26_phstart%3DsucccessSource%26usePUBJs%3Dtrue%26indiv%3D1%26db%3Dburialregisterspostscemeteries%26gss%3Dangs-d%26new%3D1%26rank%3D1%26msT%3D1%26MS_AdvCB%3D1%26gskw%3DFort%2520Assiniboine%26gskw_x%3D1%26cpxt%3D1%26cp%3D12%26MSAV%3D2%26uidh%3Dfm1%26pcat%3DMIL_CASUALTIES%26fh%3D0%26h%3D69317%26recoff%3D%26ml_rpos%3D1&treeid=&personid=&hintid=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=bIN31&_phstart=succcessSource&usePUBJs=true#?imageId=40447_2421402106_0593-00015

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appreciate how the non-extant buildings would have appeared. Integrity of association and feeling has been compromised by the loss of resources, but not enough to completely negate the importance of these two types of integrity. The property retains excellent integrity of location and setting. The placement of Fort Assinniboine reflects the careful analysis by the military for a location that would best serve the mission of the fort. While a few modern intrusions occur within the viewshed of the fort, the surrounding area remains rural. In many cases, the footprints of non-extant buildings remain easily identifiable, providing further integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association to the lost resources.

Table of Remaining Resources at Fort Assinniboine

Number	Name of Resource	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	CONTRIBUTING/ NONCONTRIBUTING	TYPE
	Circulation		C	Structure
1	Bachelor Officer's Quarters	1880	C	Building
2	Duplex Officers' Quarters	1879	C	Building
3	Non-Commissioned Officers' Quarters	1905	C	Building
4	Post Library	1889	C	Building
5	Guard House	1905	C	Building
6	Officers' Amusement Hall	1886	C	Building
7	Post Exchange	1879	1C, 1NC	Building
8	Ordinance Storehouse	1884	C	Building
9	Stable No. 4/ Recreation Hall	1906	C	Building
10	Double Cavalry Stable Guard and Shop	1905	C	Building
11	Double Cavalry Stable Guard and Shop	1905	C	Building
12	Double Cavalry Stable Guard and Shop	1905	C	Building
13	Field Officers' Stable	1880	C	Building
14	Field Officers' Stable	1880	C	Building
15	Commissary Root Cellar	1902	C	Structure
16	Commissary Root Cellar	1902	C	Structure
17	Commissary Root Cellar	1902	C	Structure
18	Ice House	1904-1905	C	Building
19	Flag Staff	1890	C	Object
20	Fort Assinniboine Monument	1880	C	Object
21	Daughters of the American Revolution Marker	1958	C	Object
23	Cattle Feeding Shed/ Hay Storage Barn	1934/1938	C	Building
24	Machine Shed and Shop	1938	C	Building
26	Pump House	1927	C	Building
27	Two-Stall Garage	1927	C	Building
28	Valve House	1923	C	Building
30	Pesticide Storage Building	1981	NC	Building

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Number	Name of Resource	DATE OF CONSTRUCTION	CONTRIBUTING/ NONCONTRIBUTING	TYPE
31	Calving Barn	2010	NC	Building
32	Scale House	2007	NC	Building
33	Fencing Shed	2010	NC	Building
34	Supplement House	1999	NC	Building
35	Weather Station	1915	C	Structure
36	Ruins: Officers Row House	1879-1880	C	Site
37	Ruins: Married Men's Quarters	1879-1880	C	Site
38	Ruins: Hospital	1879-1882	C	Site
39	Ruins: Scout Quarters	1881-1882	C	Site
40	Ruins: Enlisted Men's Barracks	1879-1883	C	Site
41	Ruins: Stables and Storehouses	1879-1883	C	Site
42	Ruins: Quarter Master Stables	1879-1880	C	Site
43	Ruins: Civilian Employee Quarters	1881-1883	C	Site
44	Ruins: Blacksmith Quarters	1881-1882	C	Site
45	Ruins: Blacksmith Shop	1880-1881	C	Site
46	Ruins: Coal Shed	1894	C	Site
47	Ruins: Carpenter and Saddle Shop	1881	C	Site
48	Ruins NCS Quarters	1881-1883	C	Site
49	Cemetery	1879-1911	C	Site

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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.)

Military
Commerce
Exploration/Settlement
Agriculture
Archaeology- Historic Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
Architecture

Period of Significance

1879-1898
1898-1903
1904-1911
1912-1967

Significant Dates

1879, 1896, 1898, 1903, 1904
1911, 1913
1915

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

African American
Native American

Architect/Builder

Col J.G.C. Lee, Chief Quartermaster, Department of the Dakotas
Col C.A. Broadwater, L.K. Devlin, United States Army, Métis, and civilian employees

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraphs

This nomination addendum (boundary increase and additional documentation) to the previously listed Fort Assinniboine Historic District (5/31/1989, NR #89000040) serves to acknowledge Fort Assinniboine's national significance under Criteria A during the tempestuous period from the fort's opening in 1879 to its transition to a military training base in 1903, raising the level of significance noted in the original nomination for the military-aspect of the property from local to national. Fort Assinniboine served a principal role in the United States' military and diplomatic

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relationships, not only with the tribal nations of the area, but also Canada, in addition to the more prosaic duties of containment and border patrol.

This addendum also expands the period of significance to 1967 to acknowledge the importance of the Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC), the operation that assumed the property after the dissolution of the fort.

In addition, subsurface investigations at the fort since the property's original NR-listing indicate its potential to yield important information regarding the fort's role in national Indian policy, international relations, and the daily experience of its occupants. This amendment documents the property's significance under Criterion D at a local, state, and national level.

The remaining significance levels under Criteria A and C, excepting the national level significance of the fort's earliest history, remain unchanged from the original listing.

Criterion A – National Significance

Between 1879 and 1903, Fort Assinniboine served as the key component of a nationally-significant military strategy to secure the international border with Canada with respect to an overall policy of intimidation and containment of the Native American nations. It represents one of several open-planned post (fort) complexes constructed between 1877 and 1879 in Montana, the Dakotas, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Idaho. Fort Assinniboine's primary function was border patrol and engagement with the Cree, Metis, Blackfeet, and Sioux. Its location between the Blackfeet reservation to the west and Fort Belknap to the east, led to interaction with the Gros Ventre and Assiniboine nations as well. While fort personnel rarely engaged in battle, its role in the United States' military and diplomatic relationships with tribes and Canada proved crucial. The mere fact of the fort's existence undoubtedly dissuaded, or at least caused pause to consider, possible actions by Native Americans. As Fort Assinniboine personnel were charged not only with patrol, seizure, deportation, and combat, but also protection and assistance, they effectively influenced national Indian policy. The role the fort played in "rounding up" Native people, regardless of their origin of birth, and deporting them to Canada or reservations tremendously impacted the lifeways of those native populations. Between 1879 and 1903, Fort Assinniboine and its area of influence was the place where the United States' evolving relationships between tribal nations and Canada played out.

The extant buildings, sites, and structures constructed and used between 1879 and 1903 retain sufficient integrity to convey Fort Assinniboine's association with these nationally-significant events. The size and scale of the military post and 220,000-acre military reservation established it as one of the most massive in the United States. The permanence of the buildings, the large number of soldiers stationed there over the majority of its lifetime, and the allocation of Congressional funding for upgrades, renovation, and new construction testify to the post's primary importance in the larger military mission of containment and border control. The district stands at a critical location, chosen to secure the northern tier, to protect settlers, and to maintain international relations by thwarting what was considered unauthorized crossing of the boundary between Canada and the United States by Native Americans, mostly the Cree and Métis.

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Criterion A – State and Local Significance

Fort Assinniboine transitioned to serve as a potential military training facility after 1903, and closed as a military base soon thereafter in 1911. With the near-containment of tribal nations in the area by the late 1890s, the purpose of the post began to change. The Spanish American War's outbreak in 1898 initiated the transfer of companies including the 10th United States Cavalry, a unit of all African American Buffalo Soldiers commanded by Lt. "Black Jack" John J. Pershing, to military action overseas. A measurably smaller number of military personnel manned the station, but continued to conduct patrols, intercede in tribal affairs, and work with and support other forts in the region. In 1903, Congress designated Fort Assinniboine a training facility. This change in purpose necessitated new construction and renovation at the base. Major investments paid for with appropriations made in 1903 and 1905 revitalized the facility. However, its remoteness and harsh winters combined with shifts in military priorities thwarted the fort's training facility role. In 1911, the United States military abandoned Fort Assinniboine and transferred it to the Department of the Interior.

Fort Assinniboine gains additional significance under Criterion A for its association with the 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantries. Beginning in April 1892, companies from one or a combination of these regiments served continuously at the fort through August 1900. Formed in 1866 after the Civil War, these regiments for black enlisted men, led by white officers, were instrumental to the United States' military campaigns and policy enforcement in the West. Not only did the troops fully participate in the military aspects during their stay, they engaged with, and in some cases, chose to remain in the surrounding communities after their service.

Fort Assinniboine's, and later the Northern Agricultural Research Center's, spheres of influence had a significant impact on the development of Montana's northern tier. A regional comparison of the ten containment forts constructed at the same time as Fort Assinniboine indicates their influence over and enhancement of local commerce drove the economic development and founding of nearby towns. Havre, located within a few miles of Fort Assinniboine, can attribute its beginnings to key businessmen, their colleagues, and employees associated with the fort's trader's store and private contractors. The arrival of James J. Hill's Great Northern Railroad in 1887, and the economically-driven men doing business with the post, such as Col. Charles A. Broadwater, Lawrence K. Devlin, and Simon Pepin, ensured the availability of goods to the post and early settlement of the area. These early businessmen eventually constructed substantial businesses and buildings in Havre, becoming some of the town's most prominent citizens. Between 1913 and 1968, its function as an agricultural experiment facility not only provided important support to the local agricultural economy, it also advanced science-based agricultural methods and practices along Montana's Hi-Line.

Criterion C – statewide and local significance

The ten 1877-1879 forts in the State of Nebraska, and the Territories of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, and Dakota boasted grand-scale construction in popular 19th Century Revival styles and based on standardized plans produced by the Army's Quarter Master Corps and Corps of Engineers. Standardized in mass, uniformity of materials, and size, the building designs

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reflected the Army's message of permanency, order, and power. Comparison of the buildings between the forts reveals many similarities in material use and architectural styles. Standardized plans and frame construction are replicated in the 2nd Empire mansard-roofed officer's quarters at Forts Assinniboine, Meade, Keogh, and Maginnis, and in the Colonial Revival gambrel-roofed quarters at Forts McKinney and Missoula. Fort Custer's and a few of Fort Maginnis' officers' quarters indicate the same massing and design, but with gable roofs. Indeed, the extant buildings at Fort Assinniboine stand as significant regional and local examples of late nineteenth and early twentieth century military architecture.

Criterion D – National, Statewide, and Local significance

Archaeological investigations in 1996 at Fort Assinniboine revealed cultural materials that exemplified life at the post within the historic period. Investigations suggested future work could address specific periods of the fort's occupation, including the very earliest Army occupation, when its mission focused on international relations and national Indian policy. Such information would be in addition to that related to the everyday work and living patterns of the soldiers, officers, their families, civilian employees, and Native Americans trading and working for the post.

Fort Assinniboine's cemetery is a contributing resource within the Fort Assinniboine Historic District. As a contributor, not the focal point of the district, the cemetery need not meet Criteria Consideration D.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Native American Lifeways on the Northern Plains during the 19th Century

Before military enforcement of the international boundary between Canada and the United States, several different tribes freely traveled, survived, and traded on the vast plains of both countries. Dependent on the uninterrupted seasonal migration of animals and availability of food sources, these tribes shared an intimate knowledge of the terrain, plants, and game that resulted in generational and cyclical patterns of hunting and gathering. Their areas of subsistence, sometimes shared and sometimes the subject of battle, included what would in part become the Canadian provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and Montana Territory. The most notable places of habitation closest to Fort Assinniboine included the Sweet Grass Hills and Canadian Cypress Hills, Little Rockies, Bear Paw Mountains, and the Big Middle. Bands of the Sioux and Blackfoot Nations, River Crow, Gros Ventre, Assiniboine, Chippewa, Cree, and the Métis who were people of Native American and French or British "voyager" descent, most frequented and occupied these lands. For two-and one-half centuries, many of these tribes maintained close economic and personal relationships with the French, British, and American fur traders. Prominent company fur traders and their employee trappers depended on amicable relationships

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with tribal members for food, marriage, partnership, bondage, friendship, and to gain knowledge of the land and animals and Native trade networks.⁴

Tribal nations' overlapping hunting grounds and juxtaposition resulted not only in conflict, but also alliances. For example, the Assiniboine and Cree pursued common interests together and frequently intermarried. Commonly, Cree medicine men performed the rain dance ceremony for the Assiniboine. The Assiniboine also retained peaceful relationships with the Crow, Hidatsas, River Crow, and Gros Ventre, often fighting together against the Piegans, Sans Arc, and Sioux. Alliances were mutually beneficial in warfare, for support in hunting and trade ventures, in obtaining wives, and building families.⁵

The early Cree lived as far east as what is now Pennsylvania, moving west with non-Native American intrusion to inhabit much of future Canadian territory and the Great North Lakes region. The contracting fur trade, disappearing northern buffalo herds, and increasing non-native settlement caused fragmentation of the tribes and migration south and west. By the late 1870s and early 1880s, the Cree and Pembina band of the Chippewa appeared together in the area north of the Missouri River and Milk River in the Montana Territory. The mixed blood Métis, who were escaping Canadian oppression, shared their area of habitation. Many Métis lost their Red River lands, part of an experimental land grant, initially given to Hudson Bay Company retirees and their inter-racially mixed families and funded by Lord Selkirk. The disastrous results of the Canadian Red River Resistance of 1869 to 1870, subsequent conflicts, and the eventual 1885 Louis Riel Rebellion caused mass movement. They expanded older Métis settlements at and around Lewistown, and later settled along the Rocky Mountain Front and areas of what would become Montana's Hi-Line. The Chippewa, Cree, and Métis, regardless of their origin of birth, who traveled south across the international boundary after the Rebellion were automatically assumed to be Canadian Cree by many Native and non-Native Americans. This label set the stage for them to be considered "Landless Indians."⁶

⁴Morris Belgard, Fort Belknap Tribal Preservation Officer, interview by email, July 12, 2013; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014; Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg. 37; Anne Hyde, *Empire, Nations, and Families. A New History of the North American West, 1800-1860* (New York: Harper Collins Publishers 2011), pgs. 91, 97; Denise Juneau, "Indian Education for All Montana Indians. Their History and Location" (Helena: Montana Office of Public Instruction, Division of Indian Education), 2009, pgs. 46-47.

⁵Michael Hogue, "Disputing the Medicine Line," *Montana Magazine of Western History*, Montana Historical Society (Winter 2002), pg. 5; David Miller, Dennis Smith, Joseph R. McGeshick, James Shanley, and Caleb Shield, *The History of the Assiniboine and Sioux, Tribes of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation, Montana, 1800-2000* (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 2008), 42; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014.

⁶Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg. 13; Elizabeth Sperry, "Ethnogenesis of the Métis, Cree, and Chippewa in the 20th Century Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Montana, Missoula), 2007, pgs. 17, 19, 22-23; David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pg. 224; Anne Hyde, *Empire, Nations, and Families. A New History of the North American West, 1800-1860* (New York, Harper Collins Publishers, 2011), pg. 101; Denise Juneau, "Indian Education for All Montana Indians. Their History and Location" (Helena: Montana Office of Public Instruction, Division of Indian Education), 2009, pgs. 46-47, 57.

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According to Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's cultural historian, the Cree lived in Montana long before historical documentation by the traders. They followed animals and gathered plants in small family units. Their regular travels led them as far south as Wyoming and Idaho, the Dakotas, and into what later became Canada. They conducted rain dance ceremonies north of present day Billings, collected roots and experienced manhood ceremonies in the Sweet Grass Hills, listened to the stories of the buffalo rocks at Cree Crossing near present day Malta, traded near Devil's Tower, and sang songs about the obsidian they collected in present day Yellowstone National Park. They prayed in the Sweet Grass and Cypress Hills, at Chief Mountain on the Rocky Mountain Front, and on Old Baldy in the Bear Paw Mountains. They dove for water lily bulbs wherever they could be gathered, and followed buffalo in to Canada as the animals searched for available forage. They had no concept of lineal land claims; their main purpose in life was to survive and live productively.⁷

Jim Blood, grandson of Chief Mountain who signed the Stevens-Lame Bull Treaty of 1855, described a cyclical travel pattern of a band of Blackfeet, perhaps the Bloods. The band moved fifteen times in a year beginning with winter camp near the Marias River where they stayed until late spring when the horses were fat and done shedding. When the buffalo bean, or sweet peas, bloomed they moved between the Sweet Grass and Cypress Hills in Alberta and Saskatchewan where they hunted buffalo, dried meat, and made the hides into parfleches. They next moved to Pakoki Lake, southwest of the Cypress Hills to hunt buffalo for lodge skins. In June, the band stayed at Many Berries, not far from the lake, to gather service, goose, and red willow berries and process the hides into lodges. They traveled next to Buffalo-Bull's-Head to pick chokecherries to dry for winter use, and then 7 Persons, northwest of the Cypress Hills, where they hunted elk and processed the hides into clothing. They moved back to the Cypress Hills specifically to gather lodge pole pine trees used for lodge poles. They stopped at Long Lake for purposes that may have been religious, travelling on to Women's Society Left Their Lodge Pole, west of the Hills, to chase stray buffalo bulls. The bull hides were processed at their next stop on Green Lake into hair-on robes and more parfleches, string was made from sinew, and the rawhide used for travois. More chokecherries were gathered at Writing on the Stone on the Milk River, and antelope hunted to make clothing from their hides at their next location of Woman's Point on the Milk River. In the fall, the band moved to Cut Bank Creek on the Rocky Mountain Front to cut more lodge poles and complete the sewing of the buffalo hide covers for the winter teepees. At the first light snow, the band moved to the Lower Cut Bank Creek near the Marias River to set up winter lodges and horse corrals. Only the two- to four-year-old buffalo heifers were hunted from this location. Winter robes were made from their hides and the dried meat augmented with dried spring and summer berries, tree cambium, roots, black alkalai, rosehips, kapsii', and bullberries. After the first big snow, the women collected all of the firewood for the winter. Once all the provisions were laid in, the men hunted buffalo for robes and other animals for their furs to trade. Then, when spring came, the patterns of movement began again.⁸

⁷ Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's cultural historian, oral interview, February 5, 2014.

⁸ Rosalyn LaPier, "Relationship with the Land- Seasonal Round Unit Resource," Piegan Institute, Browning, Montana, n.d., n.p.

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The oral histories of Alvin Windy Boy and Jim Blood reveal the critical importance of buffalo to the Native American's survival and how seasonal animal migration and seasonal vegetation growth influenced the movement of people, regardless of political boundaries. Shrinking buffalo herds and non-Native expansion across the continent from east to west drastically altered every tribe's way of life. Both the United States' and Canada's national policies of treating with Indian nations and limiting their movements exacerbated the tribes' crises. Fort Assinniboine most directly engaged with these issues and dynamic national and international policy.

Origination of the Plains Fort System

In 1872, five years after the Dominion of Canada's establishment, it joined with the United States to survey the international boundary at the 49th parallel. Teams from both countries, comprised of scientists and support crews, traveled between Lake of Woods and the crest of the Rocky Mountains, determining the line using astronomical observations. The General of the Department of Dakota, Alfred Howe Terry, escorted the United States commission through Indian lands for "safety and exemption from molestation." In contrast, Captain Donald Cameron, the chief boundary commissioner for the Canadian survey, hired thirty-nine Métis scouts, dubbed the 49th Rangers, to guide, support, and protect the team. The survey commissions of both countries noted the geology, topography, flora and fauna, and people inhabiting the area. Their reports of encounters with hunting parties from various tribes, including the Métis, received particular attention. The commission constructed huge, earthen cone shaped cairns along their way as a means of demarcating the border to give firmer expression to United States and Canadian territorial claims. The cairns, however, did nothing to stop the native people from crossing the then unmanned border. Chief Stick, of Blackfeet and Cree descent, stated: "In those days, there were no customs officers where you had to report...the boundary could be crossed at any time or any place."⁹ And cross they did, but with eventually dire consequences.

Travel across the boundary by Native Americans directly conflicted with the United States' plans and policies of containment. In the 1844 Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, T.M. Crawford claimed of the mixed blood people labeled Canadians, "they ought not be permitted within our boundaries to the injury of Indians and citizens of the United States trading among them."¹⁰

The United States government's solution to this and other perceived threats to public safety resulted in the 1850s treaties which mapped out the domain of each tribe and obligated them to

⁹ "Department of State Reports of the Survey of the Boundary between the Territories of the United States and the Possessions of Great Britain from the Lake of the Woods to the Summit of the Rockies," Authorized by an Act of Congress, March 19, 1872, Government Printing Press, 1878, pgs. 17, 26; Michel Hogue, *Métis and the Medicine Line, Creating a Border and Dividing a People* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2015), pgs. 92, 97; "Department of State Reports of the Survey of the Boundary Between the Territories of the United States and the Possessions of Great Britain from the Lake of the Woods to the Summit of the Rockies," Authorized by an Act of Congress, March 19, 1872, Government Printing Press, 1878, pgs. 63, 283; Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg. 4-5.

¹⁰ "Annual Report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs" (Washington: T. Barnard Printer, 1946).

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respect the designated reserved land of their neighboring tribes. The domains were in contradiction to their traditional life-ways and gave no consideration to animal migration patterns or seasonal plant growth. These forced domains, eventually whittled down with the discovery of gold and non-native development opportunities, evolved into the tribal reservations of today. Canada also established reservations and located the Cree, Assiniboine, and some bands of Sioux, and Chippewa on three reserves via the treaties of 1874 and 1876.¹¹

In the United States, the establishment of reservations and subsequent boundary changes fomented several uprisings and battles with the military. The Sioux, who did not sign the United States' treaties, engaged the military at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876. This confrontation finalized the fate of the Native Americans as publicized stories of the monumental defeat of the military forces spread nationwide, jolting government officials and the public. The *Benton Weekly Record* wrote regarding the Sioux leader of the battle, Sitting Bull, "...to oppose this formidable host, there is not a single soldier north of the Missouri River from Fort Buford to Fort Benton, and indeed there are no troops worth mentioning at a point nearer than Fort Shaw."¹² Seeking refuge from the vengeful Army, in 1877 Sitting Bull and upward of five thousand Sioux travelled in familial groups to an area between the Canadian Fort Walsh, located in the Cypress Hills of Alberta, and the nearby Wood Mountain Post of the Northwest Mounted Police (NWMP), well aware that the American military could not cross the boundary known to the Sioux as the "Medicine Line".¹³

Most of the Sioux remained for four years, many intermarrying and raising families with mounted police. Local traders at Wood Mountain encouraged the Sioux, one of their largest customer bases, to stay in the area. Their continued residence, however, caused the Canadian government concern that the local Blackfeet, enemies of the Sioux, would be hostile over competition for food resources. As a result of the large presence of Sioux, Canadian officials nervously expanded Fort Walsh with two large, round bastions, making it the headquarters for the NWMP from 1878 to 1882. The fort had been constructed in 1875 to maintain Canadian sovereignty in the Northwest Territories, settle the Native Americans onto the reserves, and stop illicit whiskey trade, exacerbated by the whiskey fort, Fort Whoop-Up, established by American traders from Fort Benton.¹⁴

¹¹ Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, *A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), pgs. 87-88; Ian Getty, "Assiniboine," *The Canadian Encyclopedia*, pg. 5, accessed February 2, 2016, at thecanadianencyclopedia.com.

¹² Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pgs. 83, 87.

¹³ Ogden Tanner, *The Canadians* (New York: Time Incorporated, 1977), pg 178; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pg. 5.

¹⁴ David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pg. 227; John G. Lepley, *Birthplace of Montana, A History of Fort Benton*, (Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1999), pg. 64; Canada's National Parks and National Historic Sites, self guided tour pamphlet, "Fort Walsh National Historic Site," n.d., pgs. 1, 3; Frank Rasky, *The Taming of the Canadian West* (Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Ltd, 1967), pg. 181.

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A year after Little Big Horn, the Nez Perce engaged in battles with the United States military on a flight path to Canada. Chief Joseph and more than 400 of his people fell short of their goal in a multi-day battle that ended October 5, 1877, approximately forty-five miles south of the international boundary at Snake Creek. Others fled with the Nez Perce leader White Bird into Canada to join Sitting Bull's people.

The continued conflicts with the tribes resonated in Washington. Since the end of the Civil War to 1875, more than 200 engagements between the Army and the tribes, mostly the Sioux, had occurred. The Commanding General of the United States Army, William T. Sherman, pursued a plan to erect a number of posts to protect western settlement. Forts were constructed with four objectives in mind: proximity to Native American groups, transportation and communication routes, settlements, and the military chain-of-command. The construction of these posts would serve to yield a "picket line of civilization" in the west. The end of Reconstruction funding allowed a redirection of money toward his cause resulting in the establishment of posts in Nebraska and the territories of Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana from 1877 to 1880.¹⁵ A total of ten posts, designed to bound and suppress tribal threats, were constructed. Each fort was intended to engage specific tribes, with a collective long-term goal of completely shutting down tribal movement in the plains. Although the intended function of the individual forts generally aligned in terms of tribal suppression, the actual fulfillment of these prescribed duties and day-to-day operations varied.

The Wyoming and Dakota territories and Nebraska posts were designated to stop the unauthorized movement of mostly the Sioux and Cheyenne. The earliest fort constructed outside of Montana Territory was Fort McKinney (2nd location 1877) in Wyoming Territory followed by Fort Meade (2nd location 1878) in South Dakota Territory, Fort Robinson (2nd location 1878) in the Black Hills. Nebraska hosted two forts, Fort Robinson (2nd location 1878) and Fort Niobrara (1879). West of the Montana posts was Fort Sherman (1878) in Idaho Territory, a post located to watch and engage the Coeur d'Alene, Bannocks, Paiutes, and specifically, the Nez Perce.

Five forts were constructed in the Montana Territory, specifically in locations where engagement with specific tribes was likely. Fort Keogh (2nd location 1877) was intended to control the Sioux and Cheyenne; Fort Custer (1877), the Crow and Sioux; Fort Missoula (1877), the Nez Perce; Fort Assinniboine (1879), the Cree, Métis, and Sioux; and Fort Maginnis, (1880) the Sioux and Blackfeet.

In addition to the actual forts proper, liberal amounts of land surrounding the forts became part of the larger complex. These reserves were utilized for a variety of purposes, from military exercises to more domestic, though necessary efforts, such as coal mining and hay production. The size of the surrounding reserves also varied, though that associated with Fort Assinniboine

¹⁵ John Wunder, "Encyclopedia of the Great Plains" (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1989), pg. 1; Herbert M. Hart, *Old Forts of the Northwest* (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1963), pgs. 10, 11; James B. McCrellis, *Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions* (Washington D.C: Government Printing Office, 1898), pgs. 49, 121-127, 216, 274; Robert A. Clouse and Elizabeth Knudson Steiner, "A Study of Historic Structures at Fort Snelling" (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1998), pg. 28.

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was by far the largest.¹⁶ The huge size of Fort Assinniboine's reserve may have served as a deterrent to tribes about crossing the area; if so, avoiding the reserve would have resulted in crossing lands that fell under the jurisdiction of another fort.

Establishment of Fort Assinniboine

American and Canadian officials voiced displeasure over the Nez Perce and Sioux presence in Canada. Their concerns resulted in several attempts to form a commission from both sides of the border to resolve the issue. Eventually, a meeting of key players, known as the Terry Commission, was formed and called on October 17th, 1877. The "players" included the NWMP and Colonel James F. Macleod, American military leaders including Brigadier General Alfred Howe Terry, Sioux leaders, as well as interpreters and newspaper correspondents. The group met to negotiate a peace treaty at the Superintendent's house in Fort Walsh. Terry began by reading a message for the return of the Native Americans to the territories and their ultimate surrender. Reporters described the Sioux's response. Sitting Bull stated:

You came here to tell us lies, but we don't want to hear them. Don't you say two more words. Go back home where you came from. This country is mine and I intend to stay here and to raise this country full of grown people.

Then the Sioux arose to leave, but Terry asked one more question. "Shall I say to the President that you refuse the offers made to you?" Sitting Bull replied, "...If we told you more you would not pay any attention to it. That is all I have to say... You belong on the other side..." The negotiations had failed. Despite Col. Macleod's warning that the Sioux were not considered British subjects and would not receive aid, the Sioux choose to remain in Canada despite suffering from depleting resources.¹⁷

¹⁶ Herbert M. Hart, *Old Forts of the Northwest* (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1963), pgs. 10, 11, 165, 167, 169, 171, 175, 177, 179, 183-185; Larry Jones, "Fort Sherman," Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series, Number 355, n.p., 1979, pg. 1; James B. McCrellis, *Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), pgs. 49, 121-127, 216, 274; Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, William L. Lang, *Montana, A History of Two Centuries*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), pg. 138.

¹⁷ Paul F. Sharp, *Whoop-Up Country, The Canadian-American West, 1865-1885* (Minneapolis: The University of Minnesota, 1955), pgs. 268-277; Ogden Tanner, *The Canadians* (New York: Time Incorporated, 1977), pgs. 178-179. Buffalo constituted the most significantly depleted resource. In 1871, tanners invented a method to process buffalo hides which greatly expanded the hide economy causing the animal's dramatic decline and a decimating effect on Native Americans. From 1870 to 1879, approximately 428,000 buffalo robes were sold and transported out of Fort Benton by steamboat. About half of these robes came through Fort Whoop-Up in Canada. They sold at \$5.00 to \$7.50 per robe equating to well over two million dollars over the nine-year period. However, American hide hunters, many of whom were Métis, burned the Canadian prairies, which, combined with the extremely dry years from 1877 to 1878, caused most of the buffalo to stay south of the border. By the following year of 1879, the buffalo herds no longer survived in vast numbers anywhere; the booming robe trade virtually ended. Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, *A History of Two Centuries*, (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), pg. 115; Hugh Dempsey, "An Examination of the Economic and Financial History of Fort Whoop-Up," Exhibit 8, Indian Commission Claims Inquiry, 1996-1997, pg. A,4; Ogden Tanner, *The Canadians*, (New York: Time Incorporated, 1977), pgs. 178-179.

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On October 18th, 1877, one day after the Terry Commission peace negotiations, Colonel John Gibbon, Commander of the 7th Infantry wrote to his commanding officers, "...there should be established in Northern Montana a large post...rendered necessary by the presence of a large number of hostile Indians directly across the British line..."¹⁸ On October 23rd, 1877, General Philip Sheridan, Commander of the Division of the Missouri, wrote Commanding General of the United States Army, William T. Sherman. He stated:

The necessity of building a new military post...is now so great that I must respectfully recommend, as one of the first acts of Congress, an appropriation for it. There are now about 13,500 Indians up in the angle of northeastern Montana, exclusive of the bands under Sitting Bull just over the line in British America. These Indians are all north of the Missouri River and south of the British line, and are in name as follows: Assiniboine, Gros Ventres, Yankonnais, Bloods, Hunkpapas, Minneconjous, Gros Ventre of the Prairie, Santee Sioux, River Crows, Piegans, and a few smaller bands. A post established in the early spring at a cost of \$100,000 may save complications and perhaps lives.¹⁹

The powerful military leaders were rallying for a strong military presence of the northern tier of Montana specifically aimed at guarding the American/British line.²⁰

Montana Territorial Delegate Martin Maginnis, championed a bill which became an Act of Congress on June 18, 1878 that authorized:

¹⁸ Col. John Gibbon, "Report of the District of Montana, October 17, 1877," printed in the "Annual Report of the Secretary of War," *Index to the Executive Documents of the House of Representatives*, 45th Congress, 2nd Session, Vol. 2. (Congressional Serial Set Vol. 1794), (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1878), p. 523.

Available online:

https://books.google.com/books?id=pU1HAQAAIAAJ&pg=PA523&lpg=PA523&dq=%22rendered+necessary+by+the+presence+of+a+large+number+of+hostile+Indians+directly+across+the+British+line%E2%80%A6%E2%80%9D&source=bl&ots=W_qfldDs7-&sig=rjHv3Qde2yhAtZs8GxgYbCqRYY&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-s8yQnOTXAhUXHGMMKHYLCKUQ6AEILDAB#v=onepage&q=%22rendered%20necessary%20by%20the%20presence%20of%20a%20large%20number%20of%20hostile%20Indians%20directly%20across%20the%20British%20line%E2%80%A6%E2%80%9D&f=false

¹⁹ Lt. Gen. P.H. Sheridan to Gen. W.T. Sherman, telegram, October 30, 1877. Printed in Senate Report No. 286, 45th Congress, 2nd Session, p. 3. Available online:

https://books.google.com/books?id=3q0ZAAAAYAAJ&pg=RA2-PA285&lpg=RA2-PA285&dq=There+are+now+about+13,500+Indians+up+in+the+angle+of+northeastern+Montana,+exclusive+of+the+bands+under+Sitting+Bull+just+over+the+line+in+British+America.+These+Indians&source=bl&ots=y9dZE1lrYq&sig=limHHYo6H_whJhU_s2pA88KTaPI&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwj-r7MO_meTXAhVS5WMK_HRniAJ8Q6AEIKzAA#v=onepage&q=There%20are%20now%20about%2013%2C500%20Indians%20up%20in%20the%20angle%20of%20northeastern%20Montana%2C%20exclusive%20of%20the%20bands%20under%20Sitting%20Bull%20just%20over%20the%20line%20in%20British%20America.%20These%20Indians&f=false

²⁰ "Returns from United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891," Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pgs. 5-6; Jim Spangelo collection, "Report of the Secretary of War, District of Montana, Headquarters, District of Montana, Fort Shaw, Montana, 10-18-1877," pg. 523.

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That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is hereby, appropriated for the purpose of building a military post or garrison near the northern boundary of the Territory of Montana, in the vicinity of the point where the Milk River crosses said boundary from the Dominion of Canada, or at such other point in that region as may be, in the judgment of the President, best adapted for the protection of the citizens of Montana from the hostile incursions of the Sioux and other Indian tribes congregated in that region.²¹

Lt. Col. John R. Brooke of the 3rd Infantry (later renowned in the Spanish American War serving as Governor-General of Cuba) surveyed a site four miles south and west of the confluence of the Milk River and Beaver Creek. Brooke selected the post building site on July 28th and the Secretary of War approved it on November 23rd. On December 30th, the site was dubbed Fort Assiniboine, with one “n”. The fort retained that spelling until officially changed December 3, 1884. That next spring, Gen. Thomas H. Ruger faced an extreme change in climate when he brought ten companies and the 18th United States Infantry from Atlanta, Georgia and two companies of the 2nd Cavalry to formally establish Fort Assinniboine on May 9, 1879.²²

Ruger, his men, and their family members with household goods, traveled by rail from Atlanta to Bismarck, North Dakota Territory. From Bismarck, the steamers *Key West*, *Josephine*, and *General Sherman* transported the regiment on the Missouri River to Coal Banks Landing, Montana Territory. From there, they traveled by wagon to the new post site, forty miles to the northeast, arriving on May 4th. With little rest and just five days later, the weary group started construction.²³

Regimental Headquarters, two companies from Camp Baker, and several other companies that wintered at the fairgrounds in Helena, prepared for their move to the new post of Fort Assinniboine as well. Officer Faye Roe’s wife, Frances, wrote in her diary:

We had been given no warning whatever of this move, and had less than two days in which to pack and crate everything...this time there was necessity for careful packing and crating, because of the rough mountain roads the wagons had to come over...I was up and packing every precious minute the night before we came away, and that night seemed very short

²¹ 20 Stat. 149. Forty-Fifth Congress, Session II, Chapter 263, 1878. This same Act authorized an additional \$100,000 to establish what would become Fort Walsh in the Black Hills area. Still an active military base, and now a VA hospital, the NR-listed Fort Walsh also played an important role in advancing the U.S. containment policy during the last decades of the nineteenth century, particularly with the Sioux.

²² “Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891,” Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, “Fort Assinniboine,” n.d., pgs. 5-6; James B. McCrellis, *Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions*, Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), pg. 121; Wirth Associates, “Determination of Eligibility, Fort Assinniboine/Agricultural Experiment Station Historic Site, Hill County, Montana,” Western Area Power Administration, Billings, Montana, 1983, pg.2; Nicholas P. Hardeman, “Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911,” *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pg. 56; Mark Hufstetler, “Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview” (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), p. E-8.

²³ Jeffrey A. Johnson, “Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911,” (Master’s Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pgs. 7-8.

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too...And I was tired- almost too tired to sit up, but at eight o'clock I got in the ambulance and came nearly forty miles that one day!²⁴

The location selected for Fort Assinniboine was viewed as ideal since resources were abundant and nearby Native American and fur trading trails crossed into Canada, giving the post a strategic position to watch southern or northern bound travelers. Nearby hills undulating into a broad rolling prairie that extended past the international boundary were well suited for grazing. The nearby Bear Paw Mountains yielded pine and fir for construction and fire wood, and coal from about seven miles due north of the post and across the Milk River. The post, constructed on the left bank of Beaver Creek approximately seventy miles northeast of Fort Benton, was easily accessed by steamships from the freighting destination of Coal Banks Landing, one of the farthest points north on the Missouri River, and located about half way from Fort Benton to the new post. Later in the season when the river became less navigable, Broadwater's Landing served as the freighting destination. Built only thirty-five miles from the international boundary, Fort Assinniboine was located in close proximity to areas of frequent Native American habitation such as the Canadian Cypress Hills, the Sweet Grass Hills, the Rocky Mountains, Cut Bank Creek, and the Two Medicine, Teton, Missouri, Marias, and Milk River drainages.²⁵

The post's location allowed the military to oversee and contain Native Americans on the surrounding reserve, control movement of Native American bands into Canada or into the United States, control the flow of smuggled goods and whiskey, and reduce the likelihood of conflict between Métis, Native, and non-Native American people. These actions, coordinated in close contact with the Canadian officials and NWMP, maintained and preserved palatable relations between the United States and Canadian governments. In essence, Fort Assinniboine served as the first border patrol station in Montana.²⁶

The massive post's construction on a grand scale in stone, concrete, and brick gave it an air of permanency and served as a testament to its role as a primary border and containment fortification. Its imposing and formidable size declared to all, on either side of the border, that the fort's role in maintaining the rules was a game-changer. Quarried stone from Black Butte, the location of a notable Sioux and Gros Ventre fight, served as building material and foundations, wood was harvested from the nearby Bear Paw Mountains, and the brick and lime were made on site. Col. C.A. Broadwater, post sutler, hired 500 Métis and 350 civilians from eastern locales and Minnesota to make the bricks, and Chief Quartermaster of the Department of the Dakotas, Col. J.G.C. Lee supervised the post's construction. The overland freight company Diamond R, partly owned by Broadwater, shipped items not obtained locally from steamboat deliveries from Fort Benton or Coal Banks. The workers practically finished the post in five

²⁴ Frances M.A. Roe, "Army Letters from an Officer's Wife- 1871-88," (London and New York: D. Appleton & CO., 1909), pp. 198-199.

²⁵ Microfilm, "Fort Assinniboine Post Returns, Report of the 1st Lt, 7th Infantry, 1885," pg. 1, 3; David Wishart, editor, *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, "Frontier Forts" (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 2004).

²⁶ Not surprisingly, since 1924, nearby Havre has been a major location of deployment and offices for the United States Customs and Border Protection. "Havre Sector, Montana," US Customs and Border Protection, last modified May 17, 2016, accessed February 18, 2016, <https://www.cbp.gov/border-security/along-us-borders/border-patrol-sectors/havre-sector-montana>.

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months at a cost of \$500,000. It was the largest post in the Northwest and one of the largest ever constructed in the United States. Generally, the population of the fort numbered well over 500 including family members. For part of the time, it served as the Army's central nucleus for all regimental operations and headquarters for the District of Montana.²⁷

Fort Assinniboine and the Sioux, Métis, and Cree

By the late 1870s, the near extinction of the buffalo combined with long periods of harsh weather caused the northern plains tribes on both sides of the international boundary to face severe subsistence crises. Recognizing the hardship of the tribes, the Canadian Prime Minister John A. MacDonald and NWMP Commissioner James Macleod, allowed them to cross into the United States in search of food. Provisions were in short supply on the Canadian reserves; by allowing the tribes to head south, the Canadian government reduced their cost in rations. Thousands of Cree and Métis, many survivors of the Canadian Red River Resistance of 1869 to 1870, crossed into Montana, finding food where they could.

In Montana, Granville Stuart, famous as the vigilante leader of the Stuart Stranglers, ranched near what became Fort Maginnis and present-day Maiden and Lewistown. He alleged that bands of Métis and Cree killed thousands of his cattle then returned to Canada in the spring. Stockmen organized to push the Native Americans back into Canada, causing military officials considerable alarm over vigilantism. The commanding officer at the newly constructed Fort Assinniboine received orders to do whatever needed to keep the Cree and Métis, called "part time Cree" by some Cree, in Canada.²⁸

As construction of Fort Assinniboine continued in 1879, Louis Riel, the leader of the Metis Resistance, fled to Fort Belknap, Montana, and eventually worked as a teacher at St. Peter's Mission near present day Cascade. He identified an opportunity to help his starving people who were fighting over the dwindling buffalo herds with other Native Americans. This was especially true of the Sioux still in Canada, who also conducted hunger-based hunting raids in Montana Territory. Because of their dire situation (they had been forced to eat grass, mice, carrion, dogs and their horses), the Sioux asked Riel to discuss terms of surrender with the Americans on their behalf. Riel arrived at Fort Assinniboine and informed Commander Col. Henry M. Black of his discussions with the Sioux, formally written in three letters from March 16th and 18th, 1880.²⁹

²⁷ Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pgs. 56-57; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911" (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pgs. 7-8,15,19; Montana Historical Society Archives, Microfilm, "Fort Assinniboine Post Returns, Report of the 1st Lt, 7th Infantry, 1885," pg. 1, 3; Michael P. Malone and Richard B. Roeder, *A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), pg. 107.

²⁸ Michael Hogue, "Disputing the Medicine Line," *Montana Magazine of Western History*, Montana Historical Society (Winter 2002), pgs. 4-6; David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pg. 224; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014.

²⁹ David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pgs. 224-226; Ogden Tanner, *The Canadians* (New York: Time Incorporated, 1977), pg. 179.

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In the first letter, Riel thanked the commander for allowing his people to winter on the Big Bend of the Milk River and assured him that they would leave the area; many had already headed south of the Missouri River and to Canada. In his second letter, Riel laid out the condition of the Sioux, their demands, and a threat "... to infest Montana by horse stealing and by murdering." The third letter identified their location on Frenchman's Creek and their needs: blankets, cartridges, shot, and balls for hunting game, and a plea to keep their horses. They offered a pipe as a demand of reconciliation and a knife as a mark for no more fighting. The letter reiterated the threat of stealing horses and murder saying "...the bulk of the camp would go over the boundary line and remain hostile" if their needs were not met.³⁰

Without instructions from his superiors to deviate from policy, Col. Black refused the gifts. He asked Riel to inform the Sioux that surrender was unconditional. Relations broke down prompting Fort Assinniboine in 1880 to send twelve companies of men and fifty scouts on their first major endeavor to stop Sitting Bull. The resulting conflict ended as the last military confrontation with Sitting Bull's people. Two or three Sioux were killed, causing them to retreat back to Canada. In July of 1881, Sitting Bull and a few hundred of the remaining Sioux traveled back for the last time into Montana Territory and surrendered at Fort Buford in present-day North Dakota.³¹

Military reconnaissance and deployment from Fort Assinniboine increased to deal with the continuing border crossing and alleged livestock-raiding by the Blackfeet, Cree, and Métis. On the other side of the boundary, the Canadian government changed their policy regarding tribal travel through the provinces to one of less tolerance as the Canadian Pacific Railway crossed the continent. Their expanding non-Native populations precipitated a more aggressive tribal containment policy. In Montana Territory, Fort Assinniboine entered into a serious campaign to round up the Cree and Métis. In an August 23, 1881 letter to Fort Assinniboine, Samuel Breck, Adjutant General of the United States Army wrote, "Send out as strong a force as possible under a careful officer to notify the foreign Indians to return to their own country."³²

November 7, 1881, the 2nd Cavalry imprisoned eight Cree in the Fort Assinniboine jail for hunting and trading on American soil. They were sent, barefoot, back to Fort Walsh, but two died of starvation and exposure on the way. That same year, Troop L of the 2nd Cavalry and a detachment of the 18th Infantry, known as "walks a heap," located and burned the homes of several Cree and Métis. They pushed the people back over the international boundary and returned to the post having covered 237 miles at thirteen miles per day. Two months later, Troop L marched to Fort Maginnis, 175 miles to the south, to help protect and move livestock in the

³⁰ David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pgs. 227-231.

³¹ David G. McCrady, "Louis Riel and Sitting Bull's Sioux: Three Lost Letters," *Prairie Forum* 32 No 2 (Fall 2007), pg. 225; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pg. 8; Ogden Tanner, *The Canadians* (New York: Time Incorporated, 1977), pg. 180.

³² Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg. 88.

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Judith Basin, the area dominated by the A. J. Davis, Samuel T. Hauser, and the Granville Stuart DHS ranch. By the time the company reached Fort Assinniboine, they logged 350 miles.³³

The following years, regular deployment of Troop L guarded activities along the international boundary. On July 9th, 1882, near present day Saco, the company captured a band of Cree or Métis, nine horses, and twenty rifles. Turning west, they combed the coulees and hills of Milk River tributaries Woody Island, Cottonwood, Whitewater, and Frenchman's Creek, establishing a military presence. The patrol conducted their surveillance from July to October of that year.³⁴

Numerous Cree traversed the fort's surveillance areas across the United States' northern tier, and Fort Assinniboine patrols chased, captured, and relocated many of them. Lt. Gustavus Doane wrote of several expeditions against Cree encampments. One states, "March 6, 1882. Burnt 100 shacks yesterday- only twelve men with me. Cold as Greenland." Eight days later, troops sent thirty-seven lodges of people following the Cree leader, Little Pine, back to Canada. On March 15th, they burned 250 houses abandoned by people fleeing to Canada. On April 17, 1883, Troop L of the 2nd Cavalry pursued Cree who supposedly stole seventeen horses from settlers living on the Teton River several miles west of the fort. Six days later, Company F of the 18th Infantry captured sixty-nine Cree or Métis, sixty-one guns, eighteen horses, three Red River carts, and twenty buffalo robes, escorting them to the international boundary. Not long after, post scouts and a detachment of Troop L tracked a group of Cree with a herd of horses at the east end of Wild Horse Lake, near the Boundary, killing two Cree and two horses with no casualties to the company.³⁵

Many of the deportations involved taking Cree back to Canada regardless of where they were born. United States government often failed to recognize distinctions among what they considered "transient" bands. A group of Cree taken prisoner by Fort Assinniboine soldiers and perplexed by the prospect of being taken north, arrived at the border, for a planned hand-off to the NWMP. The military contingency waited until finally a lone "red coat" (NWMP) showed up randomly at the border, unaware of a scheduled exchange. He refused taking the Cree whom,

³³ Timothy C. Losey, "The Trail of Private Losey, A Biographical Sketch of Anson E. Losey's Military Service 1881-1884" (Tomahawk, AB self-published, 2004), pgs. 33-35; Michael Hogue, "Disputing the Medicine Line," *Montana Magazine of Western History*, Montana Historical Society (Winter 2002), pgs. 2-6; Michael J. Koury, *Military Posts of Montana* (Bellevue, Neb: The Old Army Press, 1970), pg. 69.

³⁴ Timothy C. Losey, "The Trail of Private Losey, A Biographical Sketch of Anson E. Losey's Military Service 1881-1884" (Tomahawk, AB self-published, 2004), pg. 35; Joseph Lambert "One Hundred Years with the Second Cavalry" (Kansas: Newton Publishing, 1999, reprinted), n.p.

³⁵ Doane was referring to the scientific and geographic 1880 expedition of Greenland in which he participated. Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pg. 61; Ibid.; "Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891", Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Michael Hogue, "Disputing the Medicine Line, *Montana Magazine of Western History*, Montana Historical Society (Winter 2002), pg. 7.

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instead, were freed by their captors to immediately head back south. According to oral history, the Cree beat the soldiers back to the fort.³⁶

While many Cree were deported, others were allowed to reside on the plains around Fort Assinniboine and on Beaver Creek, and some served the military in a variety of jobs. They built cabins and worked as maids, servants, wood cutters, and on the post's hay crews, receiving new titles from the fort occupants including the "Saddler" adept at repairing saddles and other cavalry accoutrements. Many Cree and Métis picked buffalo bones from the plains of the Fort Assinniboine reserve, around the Bear Paw Mountains, and in an area called the "Big Middle." They marketed the bones for fertilizer. The present town of Box Elder, about twenty miles west of the post, earned the name "Bone City" because of the plentiful bones from slaughtered buffalo.³⁷

In the following years, the presence of such large numbers of Native Americans in the area necessitated constant vigil by Fort Assinniboine's soldiers. The extremely harsh and long winter of 1886 to 1887 exacerbated the famine amongst the Cree. Starving Native Americans caused further unrest in the area, and the Army mounted expeditions against them in 1889. The longest of these lasted from June 10th to June 23rd. When Montana became the 41st state in November of that year, newly elected Governor Joseph K. Toole received numerous complaints that British Cree were flocking into the state. The Ghost Dance, performed to bring back the buffalo and past dead, the 1890 killing of Sitting Bull, and the battle at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in December 1890, intensified fears. Troops from Fort Assinniboine were sent east as far as the Fort Peck Reservation near the confluence of the Missouri and Milk Rivers to quell any outbreaks, though they did not engage in skirmishes.³⁸

The continuing movement of the Cree in Montana searching for food sources caused the anti-Cree campaign to greatly intensify in 1895 and 1896. The Buffalo Soldiers of the 10th Cavalry, led by Lt. John J. "Black Jack" Pershing, carried out several campaigns against the Cree. The 10th patrolled the Canadian line, going as far West as a portion of the Rockies and St. Mary's Lake, wading through mud and water two feet deep. Montana Governor J.E. Richards wrote the Secretary of State, Richard Olney to, "...get rid of those annoying us...prevent others from coming." Orders from Washington D.C. and a Congressional appropriation of \$5,000 directed the plan for the Cree removal. Julian Pauncefoot, envoy to the United States from the Canadian

³⁶ Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg.3; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014.

³⁷ Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pg. 11; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014; Morris Belgard, Fort Belknap Tribal Preservation Officer, interview by email, July 12, 2013.

³⁸ Wirth Associates, "Determination of Eligibility, Fort Assinniboine/Agricultural Experiment Station Historic Site, Hill County, Montana," Western Area Power Administration, Billings, Montana, 1983; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pg. 11; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911" (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pg. 39; Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg.153.

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Privy Council, agreed that the NWMP would receive any "Canadian" Indians at the boundary guilty of "marauding in the United States territory."³⁹

Sentiment was mixed by this time as many Cree provided inexpensive labor and services, living around Fort Assinniboine and other Montana communities. Others exhibited concern, horror, or disgust toward the number of people starving and living off garbage dumps. With political pressure, the roundups continued as Lt. Letcher Hardeman and a Troop C detachment gathered Cree near Chinook. Pershing and the 10th Cavalry crossed the bridge west of Great Falls, rounded up and imprisoned the Cree, later escorting them on the rail to the Canadian border crossing at Coutts. They were told Canadian leaders had given them a full pardon. Pershing loaded on just the first of many trains, 110 Cree, 176 horses, 30 vehicles, and a large number of personal possessions. The operation took two months as it proved difficult to gather the Cree who lived in small family groups mostly concealed in thickets and gullies, and spread over several hundred miles. The deed, completed by July of 1896, deported 100 Cree willingly, and 532 Cree of questionable willingness. Although not the last campaign against the Cree, who continued to drift back over the Boundary in large numbers into Montana, it was Fort Assinniboine's largest.⁴⁰

By the late 1890s, most Native American nations in the Intermountain West resigned themselves to reservations. The same was true in Canada. Starvation, disease, and constant warfare left the tribal nations little choice but to comply with the United States' and Canada's containment and assimilation policies. The international boundary, enforced with varying degrees of success and attitude between 1876 and 1896, served as the locus as these nationally-significant approaches to Indian policy played out. Historian Nicholas P. Hardeman wrote:

During its first two decades, there were ample social, racial, political, and economic ingredients present to generate conflict in the area served by the base. Perhaps more than any other post in the region, this isolated redoubt shepherded the Far Northwest from an era of potential turbulence to one of tranquility. If peace through strength was the objective – and it was – Assinniboine, though unheralded, must rank high among the nation's forts.⁴¹

While the removal operation of 1896 ranks as the largest such undertaking by Fort Assinniboine troops, their work continued as it had through the Spring of 1898. At that time, the Spanish American War began, and the Army assigned most of the nine Companies of the 10th Cavalry and both Companies of the 25th Infantry stationed at Fort Assinniboine to active duty overseas. Presence at the fort dropped dramatically from 591 personnel in March 1898 to just 22 people in April 1898. While that conflict only lasted through August, relatively few troops occupied the

³⁹ Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pgs. 156, 164. Cree deportation: 29 Stat. 117 (54th Congress, 1st Session, Chapter 175), approved May 13, 1896.

⁴⁰ Ibid. pg. 171, 173-175; Trooper Hardrick Crawford, 9th and 10th Cavalry Association, email interview, March 18, 2013; Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pg. 62.

⁴¹ Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pg. 67.

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fort over the next three years. The majority of the African American soldiers next deployed to the Philippines, serving there until 1902.⁴²

The remaining members of the 24th Infantry left the fort in September 1900, replaced by 41 troops from the 8th Infantry. The following summer, personnel increased steadily, reaching a high of 843 in September 1902, including four companies of the 24th. By then, the shift in national policy away from active containment measures to assimilation and allotment endeavors rendered Fort Assinniboine's original mission largely irrelevant. While the "landless Cree" continued to establish communities in the area, active deportation and contention generally ceased. Fort military occupancy nonetheless remained high after 1903 as preparations occurred to transition the fort to another purpose over the next nine years.⁴³

Beginning with its establishment in 1879, through its transition to a potential training base after 1903, Fort Assinniboine played a critical role in the United States' national military and diplomatic interactions with tribal nations and the Dominion of Canada. Indeed, Fort Assinniboine personnel's duties – to patrol, seize, deport, battle, as well as to protect, feed, and employ – in relation to tribal members were directed by and influenced national Indian policy. Through the turn of the twentieth century, containment's culmination resulted in a change of purpose for the fort. In 1903, Congress recognized the diminished need for perpetual patrols and engagement, and provided for Fort Assinniboine's transition to a training facility.

The Soldiers

The success of the posts, including Fort Assinniboine, depended upon organized, well-trained military personnel to conduct the Army's plan of Native American containment. Over its lifetime from 1879 to 1911, Fort Assinniboine served as a periodic home to companies of the 2nd, 6th, 7th, 8th, 18th, 20th, 22nd, 24th, and 25th Infantries and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 10th, and 13th Cavalries.⁴⁴ As with most postings, a soldier's life at the fort consisted of regular duties to maintain the property, drills, and routine assignments. To ward off "mischief and laziness" brought on by boredom between engagements, the administration strove to provide some activities beyond the usual military fare. For example, troops attended classes in a variety of academic subjects, and officers often prepared lectures related to their military expertise. In addition, officers and regular troops went to parties, dances, concerts and plays; they exercised in the post gymnasium, and some attended church services. To discourage desertion, the command strove to serve hot, nutritious meals supplemented by nearby gardens and dairies. These activities not only kept the soldiers occupied, but also forged an interdependent relationship with civilians that settled in the area.⁴⁵

⁴² Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), p. E-14.

⁴³ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), p. E-14.

⁴⁴ S. E. Whitman, *The Troopers, An Informal History of the Plains Cavalry, 1865-1890* (New York: Hastings House Publishing, 1962), pgs. 21, 27-38, 251; Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. E-8-E-17.

⁴⁵ Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pp. 63-64, 67.

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For example, enlisted men played in baseball games intramurally and with community teams, both on and off the fort grounds. Fort Benton's *River Press* announced on March 13, 1889:

Fort Assinniboine, March 5, 1889...

Gentlemen: We would state that the men at Fort Assinniboine have organized a baseball team for the season of 1889, and would be pleased to hear from any team at Benton or vicinity in regard to a series of friendly games; we also state that the club has a handsome uniform of steel gray, trimmed with maroon...⁴⁶

On May 31, 1894 at the fort, the Band team and "G Company's Invincibles" played. The Invincibles upset the Band 6-5. Reportedly, "there was a large attendance and great interest prevailed, the Band being looked upon as sure winners."⁴⁷

Other avenues than sports found the attention of the soldiers. Tenth Cavalry soldier William D. Davis used his spare time to help himself and his fellow horsemen in a very practical way. Perhaps inspired by days of riding patrol on less than ideal mounts in rugged terrain, Davis patented a riding saddle in 1896 while serving at Fort Assinniboine. Designed to provide a more comfortable ride, Davis' saddle utilized springs beneath the seat at the stirrups:

to render easy and comfortable riding while the horse is in a trot, however high-spirited the horse may be; second, to avoid downright jolting, which in many cases causes pain and soreness and many other disorders constantly complained of resulting from riding hardtrotting horses; and third, to relieve the cavalry-men and all others who travel long distances by horseback by providing a saddle which shall be both durable and adapted to the purpose.⁴⁸

The soldiers did not engage exclusively in academically and morally up-lifting extracurricular activity. Desertions and intoxication occurred frequently. Officials contended with contraband alcohol, off-base bars, prostitution, and gambling.⁴⁹

African American Soldiers

Social interactions between the soldiers, and between them and the public, were not always friendly. This was particularly true of the community's and even other soldiers' attitude toward the members of 24th and 25th Infantries and 10th Cavalry. Companies of these all-black units arrived at Fort Assinniboine beginning in May 1892 and multiple companies worked there through August 1900. The 24th returned in August 1902 and stayed another three years. In September 1902, Colonel A.E. Woodson, Commander of the Third Cavalry stationed at the fort, reported:

⁴⁶ "Benton BBC Attention," *River Press*, March 13, 1889, p. 3.

⁴⁷ "News From the Fort: Base Ball Engages the Attention of Some of the Boys," *River Press*, June 6, 1894, pg. 5.

⁴⁸ William D. Davis, Riding Saddle, U.S. Patent 568,939 filed March 13, 1896, and issued October 6, 1896. Available online, accessed July 31, 2017. <https://www.google.com/patents/US568939>

⁴⁹ Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pp. 63-64.

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The recent disturbance which occurred in the town of Havre, which resulted in the shooting and wounding of Private Edward A. Poag, Troop G, Thirteenth Cavalry, and the death by gunshot wound of Private John W. Traylor, Company G, Twenty-Fourth Infantry, was caused by a drunken quarrel between white and colored troops in a dance hall where liquors are sold and lewd women are kept, chiefly for the patronage of soldiers of this command, which could not otherwise exist.⁵⁰

The Havre newspaper noted that Traylor, the black soldier, had crossed into the “whites only” section of the bar. The white soldier that killed Traylor remarked that he “fixed that ***** that shot Poag.”⁵¹ Offensive epithets, racist attitudes, and paternalism abounded. In an article published in *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, artist Fredric Remington explained that the 10th Cavalry “never had a ‘soft detail’ since it was organized, and it is full of old soldiers who know what it is all about, this soldiering.” Despite his compliments, the article recounting his trip with the 10th from Fort Assinniboine is full of patronizing descriptions as well as racist vocabulary and tropes.⁵² In a July 1903 game with the 24th Infantry ballclub, a Great Falls team “basically stole the first game at Black Eagle park with a combination of a biased umpire and flocks of chickens let loose on the field to disrupt the soldiers’ fielding.”⁵³

In addition to these anecdotes, Montana passed a series of discriminatory laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. For example, efforts to disenfranchise the black soldiers statewide culminated in 1897. That year the Legislature passed a voting rights residency statute that kept many black soldiers stationed in Montana from voting. According to the law’s provisions, “any person living on an Indian or military reservation”—unless that person had acquired a residence in the state—was excluded from voting.⁵⁴

Despite prejudice, the African American Buffalo Soldiers were some of the most notable troops that served at the western forts. According to Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson, 10th Cavalry, they earned the name from the 1871 Comanche campaign wherein the Comanche noted their tireless marching and trail skills, reminding them of the rugged buffalo. Immediately after the Civil War, free black Americans sought better opportunities, which included enlistment in the regular army. In 1866, Congress authorized the establishment of six black regiments supervised by white officers; however, an 1869 overall troop reduction resulted in retaining only the 9th and 10th Cavalry and 24th and 25th Infantry. Initially, black troops were stationed at forts in Kansas, Indian Territory, West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. For the next eighteen years, the troops

⁵⁰ A.E. Woodson, “Report to the Adjutant General, Department of the Dakota,” September 4, 1902. Printed in “Sale of Beer and Light Wines in Post Exchanges. A Letter from the Acting Secretary Of War, January 9, 1903” (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office 1903), pg. 30.

⁵¹ Hardeman, p. 67.

⁵² Frederic Remington, “Vagabonding with the Tenth Horse,” *Cosmopolitan Magazine*, XXII (February 1897), no. 4. Reprinted in John M. Carroll, Ed., *The Black Military Experience in the American West* (New York: Liveright, 1971), pp. 163-170.

⁵³ Ken Robison, “Play Ball: Baseball in Early Great Falls,” unpublished article, on file at MT SHPO.

⁵⁴ Quoted in Delia Lee Hagen, “African-American Heritage Places in Helena, MT Multiple Properties Documentation Form,” September 2016, p. 45.

<http://mhs.mt.gov/Portals/11/shpo/AfricanAmerican/Helena Af Am MPD.pdf>

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fought in what became known as the Indian Plains Wars. Assigned to various western posts during the 1880s to 1890s, their headquarters changed often. In 1885, Regimental Headquarters transferred to Fort McKinney, Wyoming, along with many of the black companies, including the 9th Cavalry, who were assigned to that post, as well as to Forts Robinson and Niobrara in Nebraska. It was the 9th that participated in the Sioux conflicts of 1890 to 1891, and restored order in the wake of the Wyoming Johnson County cattle war of 1892.⁵⁵

From 1887 to 1890, troops from the 10th Cavalry fought the Apache of the Southwest under Col. J.K. Mizner. In 1891, Mizner requested a transfer for himself and his troops, suggesting being stationed as far north as Kansas. The War Department, however, assigned the troops much farther north to the frigid garrisons of Forts Custer and Assinniboine in Montana, and at Fort Buford in western North Dakota. Troop K arrived in Montana by rail in a May blizzard, marching thirty miles to their new assignment at Fort Custer. Troop K joined Troops A, B, E, F, and G, to form the fort's regular garrison. While at Fort Custer, the troops trained and practiced marching, performed garrison duties, and settled civil disorders, such as labor disputes in Butte and Billings. In June of 1892, two companies of the 10th arrived at Fort Assinniboine and joined the eight companies of 20th Infantry stationed there. Troop K aided Fort Assinniboine troops in the 1896 "Cree Roundup" forcing Billings area Cree to the Canadian Border. "K" also played a major role in the last big confrontation with the Cheyenne in 1897 and subsequent arrest of Whirlwind, reported to have killed a sheepherder on the Tongue River. This last confrontation, however, spelled the end of Cheyenne rebellion and a need for Fort Custer, abandoned as a military post in November of that same year. The remaining troops moved overland to Billings and rode the rail to Fort Assinniboine.⁵⁶

Unusual troop duty transpired when twenty Buffalo soldiers of the 25th Infantry, at the request of Lt. James A. Moss of Fort Missoula, received official and formal recognition by Gen. Nelson A. Miles to form a Bicycle Corps, the objective to test the practical use of the bicycle for military purposes in mountainous country. Their first venture to Lake McDonald in 1896 prepared them for an 800-mile ride to Yellowstone Park via Fort Assinniboine on the return trip. Upon their return to Fort Missoula and after resting three days, the 25th Bicycle Corps joined the 10th Cavalry in a practice march. Frederic Remington, the famous artist who chose the Buffalo Soldiers as subjects for his artwork, accompanied the 10th and noted that the Corps managed very well with the heavy wheeled bicycles. A subsequent trip of 3,800 miles taken a year later took the 25th from fort to fort in Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Missouri with a return arrival placing them at Fort Custer on the 21st anniversary of the Custer Massacre.⁵⁷

⁵⁵ Walter Hill, "Exploring the Life and History of the Buffalo Soldiers," *The Record*, pg. 2; William H. Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers, A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), pg. 6, 17-18, 21, 251; Bruce A. Glasrud and Michael N. Searles, *Buffalo Soldiers in the West, A Black Soldiers Anthology*, (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2007), pgs. 5, 8, 35, 176-178.

⁵⁶ Bruce A. Glasrud and Michael N. Searles, *Buffalo Soldiers in the West, A Black Soldiers Anthology*, (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2007), pgs. 118-120; Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. E-11.

⁵⁷ Bruce A. Glasrud and Michael N. Searles, *Buffalo Soldiers in the West, A Black Soldiers Anthology*, (College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2007), pgs. 245-246; Fort Missoula clippings file, *Missoulian*, n.t., 11-5-1972, pg. 38.

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The 25th Infantry, critical in the quelling of the Northern Pacific Railroad strikes of 1892, received glowing reports from the Headquarters of the Department of the Dakotas. It stated, "...the time they were on duty here was exemplary and demonstrated beyond a doubt the excellence of the negro as a soldier." Companies of the 25th transferred from Fort Buford to Fort Assinniboine beginning from 1895 to 1897 and remained there until the breaking of the Spanish American War in 1898.⁵⁸

The Spanish American War dramatically changed the future operations of all of the forts, including Fort Assinniboine. The United States called on infantry and cavalry units from throughout the west to prepare for war, which depopulated and hastened the demise of most of the western forts. The Buffalo Soldier regiments of the 25th Infantry, part of the 24th Infantry, and 10th Cavalry at Fort Assinniboine mobilized for the Cuban campaign. The War Department selected these troops based on the belief that the soldiers held a "natural immunity to tropical diseases" of the Caribbean. Lt. Pershing served as the Regimental Quartermaster for the 10th Cavalry, leaving the fort with his troops on April 19, 1898, eight days after the President McKinley received congressional authorization to deploy. They arrived at Chickamauga Park, Georgia May 5th, and left for Cuba on June 14th. While in Cuba, the 10th fought in several skirmishes, but most notably, were the first troops to engage the enemy in the battles of Kettle Hill and San Juan Hill. It was reported that the 10th, forced to leave their horses behind in Georgia because of the impossible footing and treacherous terrain, enabled the success of Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders. Corporal Horace W. Bivens of the 10th Cavalry, recognized for his bravery in battle during the war, received a major commendation for heroism. The Governor of New York stated, "I am sure that I speak the sentiments of officers and men in the assemblage when I say that between you and the other cavalry regiments there exists a tie which we trust will never be broken."⁵⁹

Their preparedness, crucial to the success of the United States in the Spanish American War and later in other conflicts, can be attributed in a large part, to their training in rugged terrain and harsh climatic conditions, and previous military encounters while at the posts, including Fort Assinniboine. In strict military fashion, each duty at the fort was succinctly laid out, from reveille to taps. Conducting maneuvers, campaigns against Native Americans, and long distances over rough terrain and in drastic temperatures hardened military personnel and prepared them for fighting in the worst of conditions. Because of the Army's military policy to shift regiments and regimental headquarters, the Buffalo troops of the 24th, 25th Infantries, and 9th and 10th Cavalries, frequently moved from northwestern post to post, which tied the forts closely together militarily and formed personal bonds amongst the soldiers.⁶⁰

⁵⁸ John H. Nankivell, "History of the 25th Infantry, 1869-1926," Fort Missoula clippings file, n.pub., n.d., pgs. 54, 61, 64; Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. E-12-14.

⁵⁹ Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911," (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pgs. 61-62; Gary Wilson, Draft National Register nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," n.d., pg. 14; Crystal Phares and Holly Clanahan, "The Buffalo Soldiers," *America's Horse*, AQHA, (March, 2014), pg. 21.

⁶⁰ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. E-30; Trooper Hardrick Crawford, 9th and 10th Cavalry

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Approximately forty men of the 24th Infantry Unit, which arrived at Fort Assinniboine a few months after the Spanish American War began, remained behind during the war. After the war, most of the troops that served in Cuba did not return to Fort Assinniboine as the military activity there at that time mostly involved routine police action against the Cree, requiring few troops. The Cree were never fully removed from the Bear Paws and from around Fort Assinniboine and many returned from the deportation of 1896. Policing continued into the early twentieth century as indicated by a 1904 post return report, "Whenever necessary, detachments are sent out to remove trespassers from the (military) reservation."⁶¹

The Passing of Fort Assinniboine as a Military Facility

The military reserve experienced several modifications over the life of the post. The reserve acres were redefined and modified a few times. In 1888, several thousand acres labeled the Hay and Coal Fields brought the reserve total to 704,000 acres. The post, redefined as a training base for the Army, was expanded and reconstructed from 1904 to 1905. Pursuant to a 1903 Act of Congress, the fort received new upgrades in heating, plumbing, and material uses of steel and concrete, with similar appropriations issued to Fort Missoula. A few years later, two civilian quarters, two ice houses, and a post laundry were demolished. In 1907, a December Post Return stated, "...Enlisted men being sent away to join their stations to be then discharged...No drills are being held as all men are on constant duty." Less than six years after its refurbishment, and with political pressures interested in homesteading and development, President William H. Taft signed a bill that ended Fort Assinniboine's service. The water tower burned on February 6th and five days later, on February 11, 1911, the War Department announced the decision to withdraw the 2nd Infantry by June 5th. In May, only eleven soldiers of the 2nd Infantry under Lt. L.R. Dredendall remained to help with the disposition of auctioned items and the abandonment of the post and military reservation. The War Department officially closed Fort Assinniboine on July 25, 1911.⁶²

Association, email interview, March 18, 2013; John H. Nankivell, "History of the 25th Infantry, 1869-1926," n.p., n.d., pg. 64, Fort Missoula clippings file; W.H. Banfill, "Fort Custer was Known Throughout the World...", *The Meagher Republican*, File Fort Custer, Montana Historical Society Archives," 11-16-31. n.p.

⁶¹ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. E-14; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911," (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pgs. 40, 65.

⁶² James B. McCrellis, "Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions," Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), pg. 121; "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," United States Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 38-39; "Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891", Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911" (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pg. 68-69; Mark Hufstetler, Draft NR nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," 1990, Section 8, pg. 3; Robert Roberts, *Encyclopedia of Historic Forts* (London: MacMillan Publishing Company, 1988), pg. 467; Fort Assinniboine Vertical File, retyped "1889 Report of Regimental Quartermaster, Augmented 1911."

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With the dissolution of the fort, the immense amount of property associated with it began to be parceled out to different interests, which occasionally entailed complications. One ramification of fort closure involved the use of the reserve land by stock growers. The enormous land holdings of the military reserve had served local stock-growers with free grazing since around 1900. Once the fort closed, the War Department denied these ranchers' petitions to graze. However, in an important change of policy, on November 20 and December 9, 1911, the government completed the military reservation's transfer from the War Department to the Department of Interior, making land available again for grazing.⁶³

Additional parceling of the reserve included over 9,000 acres for a park measuring 1-mile wide by 17-miles long, now known as Beaver Creek County Park.⁶⁴ Established in 1916, local officials applied for national park status in 1929 and 1934, without any success. The park continues to serve the citizens of Havre and Hill County as a recreation retreat.

Other land appropriations were directed toward the Chippewa, Cree, and other landless Native Americans. By the 1910s, most of the Native Americans in the West had been forced to live on established reservations. However, several bands of Chippewa and Cree, the "Landless Indians," eked out an existence at the edges of Montana's growing urban centers. Little Bear and his people, present at the Canadian Frog Lake Massacre, crossed the international boundary multiple times, including by force. Little Bear sought asylum in Montana, petitioning the governor of the state, to little success. He then met Rocky Boy, a Chippewa spiritual leader who was negotiating with the United States government for their own reservation. After nearly 15 years, and several failed attempts, and with the aid of noted author and sympathizer, Frank B. Linderman, as well as Great Falls founder Paris Gibson and *Great Falls Tribune* editor William Bole, fruition of a reservation to call their own occurred. In April of 1916, Congress set aside 30,900 acres of the former Fort Assinniboine military reserve as a permanent reservation for the Rocky Boy and Little Bear bands of Chippewa and Cree, and other homeless Métis. In a final bill, they received 56,035 acres. The reservation, however, did not include Little Shell's band who still seek federal recognition.⁶⁵

⁶³ Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891, Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Volume 22, Annual Report of the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station, F.B. Linfield, Director, Bozeman, 1915, pgs. 234-235; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911," Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000, pg. 70-72; Hill County Bicentennial Committee, Grits, Guts, and Gusto, Havre, 1976, p. 27.

⁶⁴ 39 Stat. 739, (64th Congress, 1st Session, Chapter 452), approved September 7, 1916.

⁶⁵ Wirth Associates, "Determination of Eligibility, Fort Assinniboine/Agricultural Experiment Station Historic Site, Hill County, Montana," Western Area Power Administration, Billings, Montana, 1983, pg.15; Brenden Rensink, "The Transnational Immigrant-Refugee Experience of Mexican Yaquis and Canadian Chippewa-Crees in Arizona and Montana" (Master's Thesis, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, 2009), pg. 15; Alvin Windy Boy, Rocky Boy's Historic Preservation Officer, oral interview, February 5, 2014; Denise Juneau, "Indian Education for All Montana Indians. Their History and Location" (Helena: Montana Office of Public Instruction, Division of Indian Education), 2009, pg. 57; Julie Cajune, "Montana Reservation Profiles," *Indian Land Tenure Foundation, Montana Tribal Lands Project*, pg. 18, accessed September 3, 2017; found online at: http://www.lessonsofourland.org/sites/default/files/Reservation%20Profiles_3.pdf; 39 Stat. 739, (64th Congress, 1st Session, Chapter 452), approved September 7, 1916.

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The acquisition of the fort's building cluster and immediately surrounding land by the State of Montana occurred shortly thereafter. In 1913, the state of Montana purchased the buildings for \$500 and 2,000 acres around the fort for \$5,000. One idea proffered by the state was to establish a college on the former fort's campus. Instead, the property became an agricultural research center, eventually named the Northern Agricultural Research Center (NARC).⁶⁶

The Economic Impact of Fort Assinniboine

By the end of the 19th century, unauthorized Native American migration across the border and relations between tribal nations and settlers had mostly subsided. The containment of the tribes allowed non-Native Americans to further develop and continue the settlement of the western plains. In 1887, James J. Hill spurred this development by crossing the northern tier states from Minnesota to the west coast with his Great Northern Railroad. He constructed Assinniboine Station, in close proximity to the post, which served as the division point between the Great Northern, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Manitoba Railway, and Col. C.A. Broadwater's Montana Central linking Helena to the region.⁶⁷

The Broadwater family had deeply entrenched ties with the fort in providing the supplies and goods, means for transporting those materials, and friends and family to man important civilian post jobs. A successful entrepreneurial businessman from Helena, Col. C.A. Broadwater, earned the contract for furnishing all materials and goods needed during, and for the construction of the post, including the local manufacture of the brick and burnt lime. What was not obtained locally was shipped in by paddle wheelers to Coal Banks Landing and transported overland by the Diamond R Freighting Company, partly owned by Broadwater. His business savvy earned Broadwater the contract to manage the post sutler's store, which he operated from 1879 until he retired in 1882. R.L. McCulloh, an employee of the Diamond R, joined Broadwater in 1879 and upon Broadwater's retirement, assumed the Fort Assinniboine post trader position; business continued through their partnership, Broadwater-McCulloh and Company. In 1880, Broadwater with the aid of Cornelius J. McNamara, constructed Fort Maginnis. They held the contract at Fort Maginnis for the sutler's store which was supplied, again, by the Diamond R Freighting Company and later, the wide-spread Montana Cattle Company (currently the IX Ranch) formed by Broadwater and his nephew, Thomas Marlow, and McNamara in 1888.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ "Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891," Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; F.B. Linfield, "Annual Report of the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station," Volume 22 (Bozeman, 1915), pgs. 234-235; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911" (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pg. 70-72; *Grits, Guts, and Gusto* (Havre: Hill County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 27.

⁶⁷ *Grits, Guts, and Gusto* (Havre: Hill County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 52.

⁶⁸ *Grits, Guts, and Gusto* (Havre: Hill County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), pgs. 26, 52; Michael Malone and Richard Roeder, *Montana, A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976), pg. 59; Joaquin Miller, *An Illustrated History of the State of Montana* (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1894), pg. 756; Michael J. Koury, *Military Posts of Montana* (Bellevue, Neb.: The Old Army Press, 1970), pg. 69-70; "History," IX Ranch, accessed February 18, 2016, <http://www.ixranch.com/history.php>; *Thomas A. Marlow papers, 1886-1937*, University of Montana Mansfield Library Archives, Collection MSS 030, Archives West, accessed February 16, 2016, archiveswest.orbiscascade.org.

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Edward T. Broadwater, traveled from St. Louis to Helena the year of his cousin C.A. Broadwater's retirement, eventually making his way to Fort Assinniboine where he became a clerk and later bookkeeper at the post store. E.T. Broadwater's younger brother, Arthur J., also headed west finding employment for six months at the Rocky Mountain Telegraph Company in Fort Benton until he accepted a job as the Quartermaster's Clerk at Fort Assinniboine, a position he held for five years. Another employee of the Quartermaster's Department, Lawrence K. Devlin, aided in the construction of the post supervising the laying of the foundation walls. Devlin entered the employ of the trader's company as a bookkeeper and managed the business from 1891 until it completely closed three years later.⁶⁹

By 1892, Fort Assinniboine officials opted to terminate the post sutler's store and instead conduct business with eastern and local growing businesses. Initially, the local businessmen were, however, the Broadwaters and their partners or employees. A year earlier, E.T. Broadwater with Simon Pepin, a Diamond R freighter and cattleman, brought in a stock of goods and set up the first mercantile business on acreage they purchased in the nearby Bullhook Bottoms. They bypassed the dying town of Cyprus, famous amongst the soldiers for the brothels and saloons, but made out-of-bounds by the commanding officer at Fort Assinniboine. When the Great Northern Railway came through, Pepin and Broadwater agreed to donate forty acres each to the rail line under one condition; abandon the Assinniboine Station and designate the future townsite of Havre as a division point—this requirement proved the biggest factor in the up-building and solidification of Havre as a town. In pursuit of economic advancement, the partners constructed a frame building in the town site on a First Street lot in 1893, calling their business the Broadwater-Pepin Merchandise Store. They offered a variety of goods and services including A.J. Broadwater's pharmacy and the services of Dr. Almas, Havre's first physician. Other entrepreneurs continued to build in the town site, but a colossal fire in 1904 consumed most of Havre forcing businessmen to construct more substantial buildings out of brick, coincidentally, the same year the fort experienced much new construction. The brick block merchandise business owned by the partnership still stands on First Street.⁷⁰

Simon Pepin's association with Broadwater didn't slow his own individual pursuits. He continued to supply beef as the government beef contractor and owner of the P Cross Cattle Company, and increased his holdings as the biggest cattle outfit north of the Missouri River. The ranch enjoyed a lucrative business providing the government contract beef for Fort Assinniboine in the early years of the sutler's store. His operation worked well; the cattle ranged on the military reservation south into the Bear Paw Mountains and after fattening, were slaughtered near the present-day livestock facility of the post. Pepin benefited from his business partnerships, growing his holdings to include the P Cross Ranch south of Havre, the Diamond R Ranch, five miles north-east of Havre and the P Cross Ranch in the Cypress Hills of Canada. A friend and co-worker of Pepin and Broadwater, L.K. Devlin, who aided in securing the

⁶⁹ Ibid., pgs. 40, 218, 220, 244; Montana Historical Society Records, Guide to the Broadwater Pepin Company Records, 1891- 1931, Collection MC 99, Archives West, accessed February 18, 2016, archiveswest.orbiscascade.org.

⁷⁰ Ibid., pgs. 52, 218, 220, 276; "Broadwater Pepin Block inventory form," Havre Hill County Historic Preservation Commission, 2009.; Jon Axline and Jodie Foley, *Still Speaking Ill of the Dead: More Jerks in Montana History* (Guilford, CT: Globe Pequot Press, 2005), pg. 13.

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government beef contracts, acquired an interest in the marketing portion of the P Cross, the Pioneer Meat Company. In the spring of 1891, Devlin and his associates set up the first meat market in the Bullhook Bottoms. When the Broadwater-Pepin Merchandise Block was constructed, Devlin opened the meat market at the rear, later going into business on his own. Devlin managed the business and served as president until 1919.⁷¹

All of these entrepreneurial men can attribute their success and financial power in a large part to their association with Fort Assinniboine. They came to the area seeking a means to further economic development and their own financial gain, and the post became the vehicle through which success was obtained. It began with the provision of materials to construct the post, and later, with supplies to the large contingency of military and civilian personnel, and Native Americans who traded with the sutler's store. It ended with the post closure and subsequent establishment of businesses and a town near the fort. Their successes in business and interests in building a community catapulted them into positions as bankers, town-site creators and investors, and politicians—core leaders of the community responsible for the birth of Havre, the economic center of the area today.

The success of Broadwater, Pepin, and Devlin followed a similar pattern to success as that which occurred in many western towns of the time: economic growth and prosperity often began with the establishment of a military presence. The purpose of the northwestern posts, to subdue and contain the Native Americans, transformed into positive and highly influential factors for economic development and expansion in rural areas. Towns and cities grew and shared in a symbiotic relationship to the nearby forts. Fort Keogh's construction began six months after the battle of the Little Big Horn and "Miles City" reputedly received its start when General Nelson A. Miles responded to fights between civilians and soldiers. He banned civilians from the post for a two-mile area, formally measuring the distance. Out of spite, Charles Gurley, immediately built a house out of driftwood just two miles from the post. That first night, he ran a faro game and thus the city was born. Founders named it "Miles City" in derision for Miles's actions.⁷²

Other posts and their associated towns that shared the common growth pattern include Fort Custer and Hardin; Fort Missoula and its namesake Missoula; Fort Sherman and Coeur d' Alene; Fort Robinson and Crawford, Nebraska; Fort McKinney and Buffalo, Wyoming; Fort Meade and Sturgis, South Dakota; and Fort Niobrara and Valentine, Nebraska.⁷³

Many of the towns, such as Havre, had the additional bonus of serving as railroad towns. This situation greatly boosted their economic development and fortunes. Many of these towns grew and overshadowed the sun-setting posts affected by the loss of troops sent into battle during the Spanish American War. The containment of the Native Americans and end of the Spanish-American War resulted in the posts outliving their usefulness. Many were de-commissioned and

⁷¹ Ibid., pgs. 36, 276.

⁷² D.J. O'Malley, "Pioneer Tells Story of Early Days at Fort Keogh...", *Phillips County News*, Malta, Montana, September 23, 1937, Fort Keogh file, Montana Historical Society Archives; Charles Gurley, "Historic Sketches of the Early Days at Fort Keogh and Miles City," *The Weekly Historian*, Mission Hills, S.D., June 17, 2010, pg. 2, Fort Keogh file, Montana Historical Society Archives.

⁷³ Don Miller and Stan Cohen, *Military and Trading Posts of Montana* (Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1978), pg. 56.

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their buildings and land sold for use in a variety of ways including as Native American Reservations, for homesteading, repurposed as remount stations, Army or Army National Guard training centers, CCC camps, alien detention centers, military prisons, veteran's hospitals, wildlife refuge, or as in the case of forts Robinson, Keogh, and Assinniboine, agricultural experiment stations.⁷⁴

Transitions—Fort Assinniboine as the North Montana Branch Station

The origins of the experiment stations that dot the United States began in 1862 with the passage of two important acts, one that established the Department of Agriculture, and the second, the Morrill Act, which established the public-land grant system of higher education.⁷⁵ Without these two acts, the development of extension stations likely could never have occurred. Although extension stations often receive little recognition, their importance to the success of many homesteaders, ranchers, and farmers cannot be understated.

When the initial wave of homesteaders settled as a result of the Homestead Act of 1862, they were often forced to learn the intricacies of farming and land management by trial and error, especially those who lacked any such experience. With the passage of the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, and the subsequent reduction of the “proving up time” from five to three years in 1912, an even greater number of immigrants flooded into Montana; spurred by the arrival of the railroads and their propaganda campaigns, a secondary homestead boom occurred, and the vast prairies of Montana served as a target for many. The number of entries in Montana alone rose from 7,500 in 1909 to almost 22,000 in 1910.⁷⁶

Certain legislation sought to assist those living off the land including the 1887 Hatch Act, which authorized each state to develop agricultural experiment stations as divisions of their land-grant colleges:

...to aid in acquiring and diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects connected with agriculture, and to promote scientific investigation and experiment respecting the principles and applications of agricultural science... the object and duty of said experiment stations to conduct original researches or verify experiments on the physiology of plants and animals; the diseases to which they

⁷⁴ “Guide to Fort Keogh 1864, 1892,” Collection MSS 0138, University of Montana Mansfield Library Archives, Archives West, accessed February 18, 2016, archiveswest.orbiscascade.org; Michael J. Koury, *Military Posts of Montana*, (Bellevue, Neb: The Old Army Press, 1970), pgs. 51, 60, 67, 72, 79; “Civilian Conservation Corps,” Rocky Mountain Museum of Military History, accessed February 23, 2016, fortmissoula.org; “Fort McKinney,” Wyoming State Historical Society, accessed February 23, 2016, wyohistory.org; “Fort Robinson History,” Nebraska State Historical Society, February 23, 2016, nebraskahistory.org; “Fort Niobrara History,” February 23, 2016, nebraskahistory.org; “Fort Meade History,” Fort Meade Museum, February 23, 2016, fortmeademuseum.org.

⁷⁵ Department of Agriculture: 12 Stat. 387 (37th Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 72), approved May 15, 1862; Morrill Act: 12 Stat. 503 (37th Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 130), approved July 2, 1862.

⁷⁶ Homestead Act: 12 Stat. 392 (37th Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 75), approved May 20, 1862; Enlarged Homestead Act: 35 Stat. 639 (60th Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 160), approved February 19, 1909; Amended “proving” time: 37 Stat. 123 (62nd Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 153), approved June 6, 1912. Greg Bradhrie, “How the West was Settled,” *Prologue Magazine*, Winter 2012, pg. 35, accessed August 4, 2017, <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2012/winter>.

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are severally subject, with the remedies for the same; the chemical composition of useful plants at their different stages of growth; the comparative advantages of rotative cropping as pursued under a varying series of crops; the capacity of new plants or trees for acclimation; the analysis of soils and water; the chemical composition of manures, natural or artificial, with experiments designed to test their comparative effects on crops of different kinds; the adaptation and value of grasses and forage plants; the composition and digestibility of the different kinds of food for domestic animals; the scientific and economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese; and such other researches or experiments bearing directly on the agricultural industry of the United States as may in each case be deemed advisable, having due regard to the varying conditions and needs of the respective States or Territories.⁷⁷

Initiated in Europe, the modern experiment station was refined in the United States through systematic laboratory research combined with repeated rigorous field work and the dissemination of findings through publications and demonstrations.⁷⁸ Both rural and urban populations benefited from the research and resulting accomplishments of the experiment stations. Focused on providing real-world advice, the experiment stations rose to the challenge of disseminating information regarding the most suitable best crops to grow and animals to raise in different areas.

Montana Experiment Stations

In Montana, much of the experiment stations' imperative revolved around developing productive agricultural procedures for the state's arid plains that would benefit the farmers and ranchers, including the influx of homesteaders. The first recognized experiment station was placed near Bozeman in 1893, associated with what eventually became Montana State University. Through fits and starts, generally related to a virtual complete lack of state funding, the Bozeman station slowly gained traction in its pursuit of agriculture-related research. Much of the research, however, was agriculture using irrigation, with little interest toward dry farming techniques.⁷⁹ This changed with the appointment of Frederick B. Linfield. Linfield realized that for the state to achieve its agricultural potential, all aspects of agriculture, not just agriculture that relied on irrigation, must be researched and understood. He understood the importance of farm management studies: "...a thorough knowledge of farm management may be worth more to the farmer than many other kinds of agricultural knowledge."⁸⁰ He also recognized two avenues necessary to advance his vision: the experiment station to further research, and the agricultural college and extension service to dispense the information.⁸¹

⁷⁷ Hatch Act: 24 Stat. 440 (49th Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 314), approved March 2, 1887.

⁷⁸ H.C. Knoblauch, E.M. Law, W.P. Meyer, B.F. Beacher, R.B. Nestler, and B.S. White, Jr. "State Agriculture Experiment Stations, A History of Research Policy and Procedure," Cooperative State Experiment Station Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publication 904 (1962): pg. 4.

⁷⁹ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pg. 9.

⁸⁰ F. B. Linfield, *Twentieth Annual Report for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1913* (Bozeman: Montana Agricultural College Experiment Station, 1914), pg. 146.

⁸¹ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pg. 26.

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In 1905, Linfield travelled to Dickinson, North Dakota to visit Thomas Cooper of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Cooper committed \$2,500 toward the establishment of dry farming research substations along its rail line. Linfield then coaxed an additional \$1,000 from the Montana State legislature toward the venture. Not to be outdone, the Great Northern Railroad also agreed to a \$2,000 investment along their line. Additional funding of \$1,000 came from the Irrigation Director of the USDA.⁸² This early funding served as a springboard to greater investment, especially by the state, in the future. Linfield believed the most effective way to spend the money was through a concentrated approach, not spreading the money over too great an area, and keeping it directly under his control. By 1906, the Bozeman station supervised six substations across Montana and by 1909, thirteen.⁸³ The location of each station selected was to allow research on a unique set of soil and climatic conditions specific to that area.⁸⁴

In 1913, the Montana Legislature appropriated funding to buy 2,000 acres of the old Fort Assinniboine military reservation southwest of Havre, a purchase concluded in 1915. This acquisition, called the Northern Montana sub-station, provided Linfield one of his three requested field crop stations.⁸⁵ The acquisition corresponded nicely with the passage of the Smith-Lever Act of 1914, the vehicle Linfield wanted and needed to distribute the information out to the community. The Smith-Lever Act established a national Cooperative Extension Service that broadened outreach programs through land-grant universities to enlighten and inform farmers and ranchers regarding progress in agricultural practices and technologies, which resulted in dramatic agricultural productivity throughout the 20th century.⁸⁶ In Montana, the earliest county agents predated this federal legislation.⁸⁷ Fergus, Gallatin and Missoula counties were the first to establish agents. The entire program quickly expanded in 1917 to address the agricultural necessities of World War I. Eventually, nearly every Montana county retained at least one agent.

Facilities and Early Operations of the North Montana Branch Station at Fort Assinniboine

Upon the acquisition of the former fort, a station of nearly 100 military buildings of various proportions, many quite large, greeted the new occupants. Several buildings, due to their size or other factors, were not utilized by the experiment station. The lack of funding required the initial

⁸² Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pg. 29.

⁸³ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pgs. 34, 37.

⁸⁴ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. B-13.

⁸⁵ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pgs. 41, 42, 48.

⁸⁶ 38Stat 372 (63rd Congress, 2nd Session, Chapter 79), approved May 8, 1914. "Smith-Lever Act of 1914," National Archives Foundation, accessed August 16, 2017; <https://www.archivesfoundation.org/documents/smith-lever-act-1914/>.

⁸⁷ See "Historical Note," Montana State Extension Service Records, 1912-1970, Montana State University Manuscript Collection Accession # 00021, (Bozeman, MT: Montana State University), online <http://www.lib.montana.edu/collect/spcoll/findaid/acc00021.html>.

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station crews to inexpensively renovate or remodel their newly-acquired property to their specific needs. The first buildings occupied sat on the west end of the former parade ground and included an officer's row-house, two duplexes, the post library, guardhouse, sutler's store, and several smaller structures.⁸⁸

Operations at the newly dubbed "North Montana Branch Station," commenced almost immediately, supervised by George Morgan, who served as the superintendent until 1935; Morgan oversaw a rapidly growing number of programs associated with the station. Late 1914 witnessed ground breaking and fencing operations on about 100 acres. They broke more ground in June 1915 using a steam outfit, horse drawn six-foot plow, and a two-way plow, seeding winter wheat in the fall.

Early research focused on improving dry-land farming techniques. This entailed observing and recording climatic changes, rainfall, soil moisture content, and practicing crop rotation and new tillage methods. Examination and testing occurred to determine the best tools for specific farming practices. Efforts to identify the most productive time of year to plant crops, and the adaptability of a number of grains and oil seeds was also investigated. Morgan's own hobby research proved invaluable in identifying patterns of drought and climate changes through dendrochronology, the study of tree rings. The importance of shelter belts to inhibit erosion became fundamental; recognition of the use of planting trees around buildings and parallel roads occurred.⁸⁹

In addition to developing an agricultural school at the main station in Bozeman in 1914, Linfield established a similar school soon after on the Northern Montana Station near Havre.⁹⁰ These schools accepted eighth grade graduates interested in learning more about agricultural issues and practices, with courses beginning in October, after the harvest. The three-year program focused on elementary science and agricultural courses, with an optional fourth year available through college dedicated to foreign language and math. Abbreviated two-week courses, that varied year to year, were also offered in January to accommodate farmers who had difficulty being away from their farms.⁹¹

By 1921, the station's initial \$5,000 annual appropriation for research grew to \$16,400.⁹² As increases in appropriations occurred, the station buildings received needed attention, mostly to

⁸⁸ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. B-15.

⁸⁹ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. B-13-14; F.B. Linfield, "Annual Report of the Montana Agriculture Experiment Station," Volume 22 (Bozeman: Montana Agricultural College Experiment Station 1915), pgs. 234-235.

⁹⁰ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pgs. 41, 42, 48.

⁹¹ Peter Dennis McGorry, "The Montana Agricultural Experiment Station and Development of the Dry Farming Techniques: 1902-1920" (Master's Thesis, Montana State University, 1975), pgs. 47-48.

⁹² Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. B-13-14; F.B. Linfield, "Annual Report of the Montana

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the interiors. Repairs and updating included the addition of electricity to those buildings lacking, replacing and updating plumbing, repairing roofs, painting, and redoing interior finishes. Funding also was directed to other purposes. In the 1920s, the ice house area converted to a livestock holding facility consisting of wood-framed ship-lap clad buildings to aid in the research of breeding and managing livestock, such as sheep, cattle, and pigs. The station increased the original 1917 herd of 30 yearling Hereford heifers in 1922 after the addition of a livestock manager hired to expand the program. Research focused on the effects of feeding roughage alone versus mixing it with alfalfa to calves, yearlings, and two year olds. Other avenues of inquiry included feedlot testing of sires and progeny, methods of fattening cattle, identifying optimum times to graze crested wheat grass for optimum weight gain, and efficient ways to winter cattle.⁹³

In 1921, the station initiated the first of a series of educational summer camp programs. An associated flyer advertised the initial camp, a "Boys Camp for Farm Boys of North Central Montana." The camp promoted itself as a way for 150 boys, from six counties, to spend 10 days sharing inspired fun and practical instruction from county agents and workers from the Montana Extension Service.⁹⁴ A renovated 1880 soldiers' barracks served as housing. The 4-H and the Farmer's Union sponsored several camps thereafter. When sparks in a north-east chimney caught the barrack's roof on fire in 1954, it resulted in not only the complete loss of the building, but also the end of the lengthy camps.⁹⁵

In 1923, an informational pamphlet created by the experiment station highlighted their findings. It identified the bountiful "triangle" of Montana, land bordered to the west by Cut Bank, to the north by Canada, with the southern apex at Great Falls, and Havre as the eastern border. The guide, through statistical information and graphs, documented the rise and decline of homesteader applications, average crop yields, precipitation levels, the staggering number of land foreclosures in the area, a discussion of why farms failed, how to successfully manage a farm, and examples of successful farms.⁹⁶

While operations of the experiment station moved in a positive direction, state officials voiced their dismay at the condition of the remaining unused buildings. Several ideas were proffered to bring stability to the property, including repurposing the unused buildings as an insane asylum,

Agriculture Experiment Station," Volume 22 (Bozeman: Montana Agricultural College Experiment Station 1915), pgs. 234-235.

⁹³ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. B-14, 16-17; No Author, "Fort Assinniboine, In the Beginning...", Fort Assinniboine Clippings file, Havre Hill County Library Archives, n.d., pg. 6; "45th Annual Report of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, July 1, 1937 to June 20, 1938," (Bozeman: Montana State College, 1938), pg. 54; "24th Annual Report of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, for fiscal year ending June 30, 1918," (Bozeman: Montana State College, Bozeman, 1919), pg. 171.

⁹⁴ File on "Boys Camp," Northern Agricultural Research Center Library, Havre, MT.

⁹⁵ "Fort Assinniboine Barracks, One of State's Historic Landmarks, Burns, Was Constructed in 1883," *The Helena Independent Record*, July 2, 1954.

⁹⁶ M.L. Wilson, *Dry Farming in the Northcentral Montana Triangle* (Bozeman: Montana Extension Service and Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, 1923), pgs. 9, 14, 17-23, 29-34, 117-131.

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an idea that died at the hands of locals and experiment station personnel. In 1925, a panel recommended demolition of the deteriorating structures, which allowed for the formation of the Assinniboine Brick and Lumber Company, between 1925 and 1939, many of the fort's buildings were dismantled and salvaged, with thousands of bricks reused in a number of Havre buildings, including the Northern Montana College campus.⁹⁷

Operations of the North Montana Branch Station Since the 1930s

During the 1930s and under the direction of superintendent M.A Bell, the station utilized funds to improve the condition of many of the remaining buildings and to construct additional livestock facilities. All of the apartments were repaired in 1934 and the beef barn received a new roof. The old cattle shed was demolished and replaced with a Works Progress Administration assisted shed in 1938, and a year later, forty calf stalls were added to the beef barn. Fred Wilson, superintendent between the two terms of Bell, and known for his study of re-seeding range land to crested wheat grass for spring grazing, undertook a major renovation and repair project of many of the station's buildings. The year 1941 witnessed further improvements; a four-plex received a furnace and steam heat system, the beef barn, pump house, and dairy barn were painted, a boiler and thirty-foot by sixty-foot-addition expanded the dairy barn, a stone garage was re-shingled and painted, a new one hundred and ninety-foot by thirty-foot machine shed and a forty-five foot by thirty-three foot shop were constructed, and the office completely reconditioned with refinished floor and walls and a new oil furnace and steam heat. In total, eight buildings and structures constructed from the 1920s to the 1950s remain from that period of the agricultural station.⁹⁸

The superintendents that followed Bell continued to improve on their predecessor's research programs to benefit farmers and ranchers of north-central Montana. Jack Sturn occupied the position beginning in 1949 until his death in 1956. His skill in promoting the experiment station's research resulted in developing a radio program that disseminated the station's results, including research in strip farming and stubble mulching. An interim superintendent held the position until Claude Windecker assumed control from 1958 to 1975. Under his administration, the "Bugle Heritage," a publication printed on a regular basis to share research results with the public was launched. The station expanded previous studies in soil erosion, tillage practices, seed variety testing, and crop adaptation and rotation. Trials held off-site in surrounding counties identified the effects of fertilizer on dry-land crops. During this time, chemical fallowing for the prevention of weeds in grain crops, hay crops, and grassland became a large component of the station's research program. The experiment station's livestock program also

⁹⁷ Ibid.; John Brumley (Ethos Consultants) and Kermit Edmonds, "Archaeological Investigations Conducted in Conjunction with the Interpretive Development of Fort Assinniboine (24HL239)," report for Montana Department of Transportation and United States Departments of Transportation and Federal Highway Administration, Havre, 2000, pg. 2.

⁹⁸ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pgs. E-34; No Author, "Fort Assinniboine, "In the Beginning...," Fort Assinniboine Clippings file, Havre Hill County Library Archives, n.d., pg. 3; No Author, Information for Montana State College Agriculture Advisory Council, Bozeman, March 2-3, 1944, Fort Assinniboine Plan for Preservation, Volume 1, n.p.

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greatly expanded in genetics testing and cattle performance. Specific lineage monitoring and control in polled and horned Herefords identified the best genetic cross for ideal weight gain, carcass quality, fertility, and milk producing ability. Weaned calves were fed different grain types and hay types to compare rates of gain in winter, and tracking calving records beginning with the first calf helped develop recommended practices for culling cows.⁹⁹

The research, beginning in 1915, conducted by the experiment station proved and continue to prove crucial to north-central Montana farmers and ranchers. Faced with continuing droughts and soil erosion, the research and recommended practices of the early years of crop rotation, tillage methods, the practice of leaving ground fallow, and improved farming techniques helped ensure the success of those homesteaders not forced to foreclose. As time went on, continued testing of different seed varieties and their viability, along with improved dry-land practices, greatly improved crop yields. Modern scientific experimentation expanded these areas and identified benefits of increased yields from chemical applications for weed control. Additionally, the studies of genetics in livestock, especially cattle, and methods of management including feeding for gain, milk efficiency, and management of wintering range cattle allow ranchers to improve the quality of marketable animals. The results of these farming and livestock studies, disseminated through youth education, printed media, and radio broadcast, aided in developing successful farming and ranching practices in north-central Montana for nearly 100 years.

Western Military Forts, 1877 to 1880—Architecture and Standardized Plans

Commanding General of the United States Army, William T. Sherman, made famous during the Civil War for his battle tactics and leadership, pursued the Army's efforts to eliminate the Native American "threat" to the settlement of the West, intent on solving the problem once and for all. The problem heightened from previous years as the Army engaged Native Americans, mostly the Sioux, in more than 200 battles from post-Civil War 1866 to 1875. His solution included an extensive plan in the west to construct posts to protect settlers, miners, and transportation routes, including major wagon roads and the newly laid western railroads. He intended to extend the original Army post footprint, dating pre- and immediately post-Civil War, that connected east to west and south to north, determined to build a "picket line of civilization" across the west. Funding previously funneled to serve the Reconstruction effort of the Confederate South ended in 1877 allowing redirection of appropriations. Sherman's recommendations to accomplish his goal, based on Army officer's reports, resulted in several Executive Orders establishing posts in Nebraska and the Dakota, Idaho, Wyoming, and Montana Territories from 1877 to 1880.¹⁰⁰

During this critical period, Congress authorized the appropriation of funds to construct ten posts intended to literally surround and effectively contain the Native American threat. The five

⁹⁹ No Author, "Fort Assinniboine, "In the Beginning...," Fort Assinniboine Clippings file, Havre Hill County Library Archives, n.d., pgs. 4-6.

¹⁰⁰ John Wunder, *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1989), pg. 1; Herbert M. Hart, *Old Forts of the Northwest* (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1963), pgs. 10, 11; James B. McCrellis, *Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1898), pgs. 49, 121-127, 216, 274; Robert A. Clouse and Elizabeth Knudson Steiner, *A Study of Historic Structures at Fort Snelling* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1998), pg. 28.

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constructed in the Montana Territory were Forts Keogh, Missoula and Custer in 1877, Fort Assinniboine in 1879, and Fort Maginnis in 1880. The Wyoming, Dakota Territories and Nebraska posts designated to stop the unauthorized movement of mostly the Sioux and Cheyenne included Wyoming's Fort McKinney in 1877, Fort Meade in 1878 in the South Dakota Territory and the Black Hills, Fort Robinson in 1878 and Fort Niobrara in 1879 in Nebraska, and Fort Sherman in 1878 in Idaho Territory. Pursuant to the original congressional actions and following legislation, these western posts received generous areas of land surrounding the buildings for military purposes. The post reserves, ranging in size from Fort Sherman's 989 acres to Fort Keogh's 57,600 acres, proved picayune compared to Fort Assinniboine's large original 220,000-acre reserve which later expanded to 704,000 acres, the largest military reserve in the West.¹⁰¹

As the frontier moved west of the Missouri River, post site plans evolved from the previously stockaded forts into open sites dominated by prominent rectangular (such as Fort Assinniboine) or diamond parade grounds (such as Fort Keogh), reflecting the Army's confidence in the success of their policy. The parade grounds were centered and surrounded by barracks, officer's housing, and administration buildings. Corrals, storage, hospital, guardhouses, shops, and other associated buildings were constructed apart from the parade grounds with the stables close to the housing. Buildings were built without the adobe, palisades, or blockhouses of earlier forts, and were more comfortable, replacing the stark atmosphere of the earlier time periods of military construction.¹⁰²

The Army's Quartermaster General Standardized Plans of the 1860s to the 1890s served as the design templates for buildings constructed at all military installations mostly through the Army Corps of Engineers and Quartermaster's Corps. Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs wrote in 1872, "(I) have now, I believe succeeded in developing a set of (building) plans for every military post...plans...at military posts in the west have been prepared and distributed."¹⁰³ In addition to Meigs, Army Corps of Engineers First Lt. Edward Maguire, Chief Engineer for the Department of the Dakotas, directed site surveys and drafting plans for the military posts of his region in the 1870s;¹⁰⁴ his role expanded in 1878 when he supervised the planning for two of the

¹⁰¹ Herbert M. Hart, *Old Forts of the Northwest*, Superior Publishing Company (Seattle: Superior Publishing Company, 1963), pgs. 10, 11, 165, 167, 169, 171, 175, 177, 179, 183-185; Larry Jones, "Fort Sherman, Idaho State Historical Society Reference Series, Number 355, n.p., 1979, pg. 1; James B. McCrellis, *Military Reserves, Military Parks, and National Cemeteries, Titles and Jurisdictions* (Washington D.C: Government Printing Office, 1898), pgs. 49,121-127, 216, 274.

¹⁰² United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 33-36, 82; Fort Keogh map #B1078 and Fort Assinniboine map #B1056A, Montana Historical Society Archives, Map Collection, Helena.

¹⁰³ United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 3, 5, 33-36.

¹⁰⁴ On May 8th, 1876, Maguire received orders to join troops at Fort Abraham Lincoln, "...about to take the field against the hostile Sioux." Furnished with a four-mule ambulance to transport his equipment, men, and attached odometer, Maguire headed west with the 1208 men, including the 7th Cavalry led by Lt. General G.A. Custer. They continually built roads and bridges to accommodate their heavily laden train of wagons,

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largest Montana posts, Fort Keogh and Fort Assinniboine, designed as crucial instruments in the Army's policy of containment.¹⁰⁵

Smaller posts were abandoned from 1860 to 1890 and troops consolidated in larger, regional installations, such as Fort Assinniboine, with improved living standards, water, sewage, and heating systems incorporated into the new designs. The Secretary of War in 1893 noted that a goal of the War Department included constructing buildings of brick and stone or other lasting materials at the posts which gave a promise of permanency.¹⁰⁶

The Standardized Plans were uniform in mass, regularity of materials, and size. The plans, however, were not standard in design as they included several different variations of style and material use. These differing designs based in popular 19th Century aesthetics, incorporated elements of towers, parapets, wide porches, and other stylized architectural elements. The Quartermaster and staff, and hired professional architects sometimes used "Patten Books" to design hospitals, headquarters, administration buildings, officer's quarters, guardhouses, and gatehouses in the Victorian/Late Victorian and Colonial Revival styles. The Colonial and Romanesque Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles, and 2nd Empire style offered the basis of barracks and officer's quarters design. Standardized plans and frame construction are replicated in the 2nd Empire mansard-roofed officer's quarters at Forts Assinniboine, Meade, Keogh, and Maginnis, and in the Colonial Revival gambrel-roofed quarters at Forts McKinney and Missoula. Fort Custer's and a few Fort Maginnis's officer's quarters indicate the same massing and design, but with gable roofs. Variations of building styles often reflected the preferred architectural tastes of the post commander.¹⁰⁷

arriving at the Yellowstone River on June 11th. Custer advanced, engaging the Sioux and Cheyenne at the Little Big Horn River. Maguire, following with the heavy wagon train, arrived to view the horrific consequences of Custer's decision that ended with the Native American victory on June 26th. They spent two days burying the dead, which included enlisted men, officers, and civilian employees. A few weeks later, Maguire completed a battle site map and detailed report of the movement of troops and conclusions drawn from the resulting Army defeat. "Annual Report of Lt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1876," (Washington D.C: Government Printing Offices, 1876), pgs. 699-704; Fort Keogh map #B1078 and Fort Assinniboine map #B1056A, Montana Historical Society Archives, Map Collection, Helena.

¹⁰⁵ "United States Army, Report of the Chief of Engineers," Appendix OO, "Annual Report of Lt. Edward Maguire, Corps of Engineers, for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1876," (Washington D.C: Government Printing Offices, 1876), pgs. 699-704; Fort Keogh map #B1078 and Fort Assinniboine map #B1056A, Montana Historical Society Archives, Map Collection, Helena.

¹⁰⁶ United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 3, 5, 33-36.

¹⁰⁷ United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 3, 6, 31-38, 82, 121, 293; Mark Hufstetler, Draft NR nomination, "Fort Assinniboine," 1990, Section 8, pgs. 4-5; Jeffrey A. Johnson, "Border Patrols, Buffalo Soldiers, and Boredom: Fort Assinniboine, Montana 1879-1911" (Master's Thesis, Washington State University, 2000), pgs. 17-18; Nicholas P. Hardeman, "Stronghold of the Border- Fort Assinniboine, 1879-1911," *Montana Magazine of Western History* (Spring, 1979), pgs. 56-57; Montana State Historical Society Archives, Helena, Montana, Photo Collection, 946-914, H-389, 947-214, 947-345; Maurice Frink, *Photographer on an Army Mule*, (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965), n.pg.; "Fort Niobrara History," Nebraska State Historical

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In 1880, the Secretary of War, Alexander Ramsey and the Commanding General Sherman requested and received the authority to consolidate the smaller garrisons, and for the next ten to fifteen years reduce the number of posts, build more permanent buildings at selected posts, thereby effecting greater discipline and initially savings in tax payer's money. By 1884, the garrisoned posts numbered 119 with \$229,556 appropriated for the repair and construction of 100 plus buildings nationwide in 1885. By 1890, the same year of the last major conflicts with Native Americans known as the Ghost Wars, the appropriated funds amounted to \$400,000. That number shot to over 1.25 million dollars in 1891, as did the increased building of barracks, especially, and officers and non-commissioned quarters and general construction. One year later, the posts further reduced in number to 96, and dropped again to 80 in 1895. During the Spanish American War of 1898, construction slowed at the posts as most troops were moved to tent cities near southern ports readying for deployment to the Philippines.¹⁰⁸

During the 1880s to 1890s, one quarter (28) of the western posts were abandoned initiating major building projects at more strategic posts. These abandoned posts included Forts Maginnis, McKinney, Sherman, and Custer. The Secretary of War noted that the larger posts required permanent construction in more enduring materials, such as brick and stone. These posts, including Fort Assinniboine, experienced increased construction based on hundreds of standardized plans for officer's and non-commissioned officer's quarters, enlisted men's barracks, stables, telegraph offices, gyms, riding halls, and service and administration buildings. The Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Queen Anne, and Colonial Revival styles predominated in the standardized plans and were used into the first decade of the 20th century. Architectural features in these styles included dentil moldings, pediments, columns, dormers, and jack arches over windows. Barracks, usually two to three stories in height with two tier porches and a central block flanked on either side by wings, were often grouped facing the parade grounds. Their first floors were designed to serve the daily functions of the soldiers with a day room, library, washroom, kitchen, and mess room. The second floor housed the sleeping quarters. Situated behind the barracks were the long, gabled, rectangular stables with hay lofts, large gable end doors, and windows on the sides at the stalls. The guardhouses were generally one-story buildings and matched the stables, as did most of the associated buildings. Non-commissioned officers lived in single family residences or duplexes built behind the barracks. Officer's and bachelor's quarters were usually major buildings that exemplified more detailed contemporary trends in the military construction program. The style and location of the living quarters in relationship to their position on the parade grounds clearly demarcated division ranks.¹⁰⁹

Society, accessed February 23, 2016, nebraskahistory.org; Herbert Hart, *Old Forts of the Northwest* (Seattle: Superior Pub. Company, 1963), pgs. 163, 176.

¹⁰⁸ Robert A. Clouse and Elizabeth Knudson Steiner, *A Study of Historic Structures at Fort Snelling* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1998), pgs. 29-32; William H. Leckie, *The Buffalo Soldiers, A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967), pgs. 151-152.

¹⁰⁹ United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 5, 227, 236, 237, 270, 293, 336, 337; Don Miller and Stan Cohen, *Military and Trading Posts of Montana Including Sites in North Dakota, Wyoming, Alberta, and British Columbia* (Missoula: Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 1978), pg. 5.

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The Spanish American War of 1898 resulted in the growth of the army from 25,000 to 65,000 troops causing a review of the remaining military installations to determine future expansion or liquidation measures. Of the sixty-five posts studied by a military review board, fifty-two were identified as permanent, thirteen as temporary, and seven as newly constructed. In 1903, the Quartermaster Corps increased the number of architects and draftsman working in the Construction Division and hired an expert architect to revise and create drawings, producing a prolific number of building plans. The same year, persuaded by the Secretary of War, Congress appropriated 5.5 million dollars for new construction to expand military posts. Two years later, the military construction budget exceeded 11 million dollars. From 1902 to 1905, the cost of construction rose 36 percent and by 1906 it rose 48 percent. In Montana, Forts Assinniboine, Missoula, and Keogh experienced new building expansion and renovations. Although the cost of new heating systems, sewer, electrical and gas systems, and the use of steel and concrete dramatically increased the military budgets, the result was much-improved living conditions and durability at the posts.¹¹⁰

Fort Assinniboine's Military Period Architecture

Over the course of Fort Assinniboine's military lifespan, at least one hundred and four buildings and structures were constructed. The soldiers, civilians, and officer's housing included five two-story enlisted men's barracks for ten companies, an Indian scout's/interpreter barracks, married enlisted men/laundress quarters, and fifteen mansard-roofed commissioned officer's quarters sporting fenced front and back yards. The large centered post parade ground was framed by the officer's quarters and u-shaped barracks, sidewalks, trees, and lamp posts. The post also hosted a guard house, administration building, printing office, water supply and heating systems, engine house, ice houses and root cellars, coal shed, saw mill, powder and oil magazines, warehouses, ordnance and Quartermaster storehouses, blacksmith and tin shops, a carpenter, saddler and wheelwright shop, and granaries. Ten large stables held a capacity of 300 animals in the two Quartermaster stables. The post also had corrals, wagon sheds, and associated out-buildings. Fort Assinniboine, constructed to be largely self-contained, featured other buildings including a huge sutler's store, bakery, restaurant, hospital and dead house, gym and band, amusement hall and bowling alley, bath house, chapel, school, laundry, and library. Huge gardens maintained mostly by the soldiers helped feed post personnel. The main construction effort, consisting of sixty-one buildings and structures, in accordance with General Sherman's plan of building and regionalizing permanent posts, was completed by 1884.¹¹¹

¹¹⁰ United States Army Corps of Engineers Seattle District, "Context Study of the United States Quartermaster General Standardized Plans 1866-1942," Technical Center of Expertise for Preservation of Structures and Buildings, 1997, pgs. 38-39; Robert A. Clouse and Elizabeth Knudson Steiner, *A Study of Historic Structures at Fort Snelling* (St. Paul: Minnesota Historical Society, 1998), pgs. 33; National Archives, Maryland, Reference Request, Records Group 77: Miscellaneous Fort Files Fort Assinniboine 1-42, Fort Keogh 1-59; Records Group 393: Fort Assinniboine 1-65, Fort Missoula 1-57, Fort Keogh 1-57; Records Group 92 Blueprint File Fort Keogh 1-138.

¹¹¹ "Returns From United States Military Forts, May 1879 to December 1891," Post Description by the Chief Engineer Office of the Department of Dakota, March 23, 1886, Montana Historical Society Archives, National Archives, Government Service Administration, Washington D.C., 1965, Roll 42; Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation

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The cost of construction, beginning in 1886 and continuing until 1889, proved negligible as soldiers provided most of the labor and appropriated materials to construct needed buildings inexpensively. During this period, soldiers were responsible for the construction of the Officer's Stables, Post Laundry, and Amusement Hall, which, according to a Quartermaster Report, stated that no government funds were utilized in its construction. The use of on-site troop labor for construction at the post was further reflected in the \$5.00 cost of construction of the Officers of the Guard Building and five Bath Houses for \$1.86 each.¹¹²

Regardless of the judicious use of the troopers' time and energy that displayed restrained use of governmental dollars, fiscal appropriations increased dramatically by the early 1890s, to over a million dollars for post improvements. Fort Assinniboine received its share resulting in additional post construction.¹¹³ The construction came to an end with the beginning of the Spanish American War, suspending such facility funding.

The last endeavor to revamp the post as an Army training base, made possible by appropriations in 1903 and 1905 and totaling \$16.5 million, produced some of the larger remaining extant structures at Fort Assinniboine. These buildings, constructed on concrete foundations with brick or stone walls, signaled a dedication to permanency of the role of the new base. The extant buildings of the period include the 50-prisoner Guard House, Double Non-Commissioned Officer's Quarters, Double Cavalry Stable Guard and Shop Building, Stable #4, and the stone foundation ice house.¹¹⁴

After the abandonment of the post, many of the buildings were demolished resulting in fourteen of the one hundred and four original buildings and structures remaining at the post. These include buildings that date to earlier than the Spanish American War and those constructed from 1902 to 1906. Despite the Army's grand plan to revitalize Fort Assinniboine, raising it to new heights, the post's military association ended, instead, with decommission.

Archaeological Significance

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

In addition to significance under Criteria A and C, Fort Assinniboine is significant under Criterion D. In July of 1996, Ethos Consultants, a Havre-based consulting firm, conducted limited subsurface fieldwork to initiate an interpretive development and archaeological research program.¹¹⁵ While the investigations were limited to areas near the double cavalry guard

Association, 1990), pgs. E-8-E-17; Fort Assinniboine Vertical File, retyped *1889 Report of Regimental Quartermaster, Augmented 1911; A Letter From the Sec. of War, Results of Preliminary Examination and Surveys of Sites for Military Posts, May 20, 1902* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1902).

¹¹² Fort Assinniboine Vertical File, retyped *1889 Report of Regimental Quartermaster, Augmented 1911; A Letter From the Sec. of War, Results of Preliminary Examination and Surveys of Sites for Military Posts, May 20, 1902* (Washington D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1902).

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ John Brumley and Kermit Edmonds, *Archaeological Investigations conducted in Conjunction with the Interpretive Development of Fort Assinniboine (24HL239)*, prepared for the Fort Assinniboine Preservation

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buildings and single cavalry stable at the north end of the parade ground, the testing yielded sufficient materials to indicate additional subsurface investigations around the fort would likely provide information important to the better-understanding of the fort, its history, and potentially its international relationship with its neighbor to the north.

Although a number of buildings at the fort have been lost over time, many of their original locations are known through foundations remains, historic maps, aerial photography, and from on-site pedestrian inventory. While tremendously unfortunate, the loss of the buildings does not constitute the end of a building's potential contribution to interpreting the history of the fort. Instead, the loss opens a different avenue of inquiry through archaeological investigation. Artifacts recovered during the 1996 testing program suggest a range of research possibilities. Some artifacts reflect building-oriented materials, such as brick, concrete, and window glass. Recovered horse tack and associated items corroborate the use of the guard houses and stable, and include rivets, buckles, rings, rosettes, and strap brackets that were once part of McClellan saddles, bridles, and/or harnesses. Other recovered materials inform on topics of a domestic nature, such as food remains (bone) and clothing fragments. Military artifacts, especially those related to firearms, were plentiful and include numerous blank .38 and .45 cartridges from Colt and Smith & Wesson revolvers, a type of ammunition specifically used to condition horses to the sound of firearms. Uniform buttons, lead balls, bullets, cartridge cases, and random pieces of firearms were also recovered indicating the actual reloading of blanks and live ammunition as well as firearms repair. Artifacts reflecting the consumer culture of the fort include plug tobacco discs, pipe stem fragments, and various types of beverage bottle fragments, domestic glazed ceramic-ware fragments, milk glass fragments, and a child's marble.¹¹⁶ Still other items, while identifiable at a basic level, remain uncertain without further investigation regarding their actual use in a larger context.

Artifacts recovered during the 1996 subsurface investigations reflect their associations with the nearby buildings where the testing occurred, specifically the cavalry guard buildings and single cavalry stable. This strongly suggests a high likelihood that future archaeological investigations near or within other buildings (extant) or sites (including former building locations) will also reflect unique historic associations. Moreover, the easily definable footprints of non-extant buildings or structures allow an opportunity to investigate patterns of interior versus exterior use. Non-extant buildings include the Officer's Row Housing, the Married Men's Quarters, the Hospital, the Scout's Quarters, the Enlisted Men's Barracks, the Stables and Store Houses, and the Quarter Master's Stables, Civilian Employee Quarters, Blacksmith Shop and Quarters, Coal Shed, Carpenter and Saddle Shop, and NCS Quarters. Such artifact recovery could provide further defining information regarding the patterned use of the buildings, and the specific practices followed by the individuals associated with them.

Subsurface investigations also hold the potential to focus on specific times of the fort's history, such as the earliest period, when it served solely as an Army fort. The different periods of building construction at the fort are well documented, allowing in some cases, the opportunity to

Association, Inc. Hill County and the City of Havre in cooperation with the Montana Department of Transportation and the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, 2000.

¹¹⁶ Ibid pgs. 52, 57, 58, 62.

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firmly establish narrow temporal ranges for artifact identification. This could potentially identify meaningful changes in the use of material goods from Fort Assinniboine's earliest military base period compared to its use after 1903 as a training base.

The fort utilized both Native Americans and Metis as scouts. Archaeological investigations could shed light on the locations and role these groups occupied within the property. The importance of this service was reflected by the presence of a barracks devoted to Indian scouts/interpreters. To date, the exact location of the barracks that served this group remains unknown, providing the opportunity to identify the location through subsurface investigations. By extension, the use of archaeology can further refine the location and identity of many of the buildings known to have existed at the fort, but whose exact location has been lost over the years.

Similarly, the fort hosted the African American Buffalo Soldiers of the 24th and 25th Infantries, and Buffalo Soldier 10th Cavalry. Subsurface investigation in and around those barracks assigned to these groups could provide a plethora of information related to their time and experience at the fort, not only in terms of their military service, but also related to their private lives.

Information pertaining to early cross-border contact between the Dominion of Canada and the fort is limited, as is how those interactions impacted the Native populations whose narrow window of freely crossing the international border was quickly closing. Investigations could shed light on this little-known aspect of cross-border passage by Native Americans. Interactions between the American and Canadian militaries can also be reflected in the cultural material of Fort Assinniboine.

Importantly, to date, the location of the original fort dump(s) has yet to be precisely determined. A 1983 survey of the property identified possible trash dump areas (in addition to a potential brick-making area); however, these possible locations remain unconfirmed and a source of some local disagreement.¹¹⁷ One area identified that holds a higher degree of confidence sits southeast of the fort-proper, on the south side of Beaver Creek, just outside the defined National Register boundary. These areas could be tested to confirm or refute their identification as trash dumps. Investigations of the fort's dump(s) could yield significant insight regarding everyday life, eating habits, retention length of personal items, and other material culture issues. The physical evidence would greatly enhance written documentation on domestic issues. This information would not only prove useful in further interpretation of Fort Assinniboine, but also likely convey to similar property types in the West. Although materials in the dump(s) will undoubtedly display some mixing, the length of Fort Assiniboinne's occupation will result in general stratigraphy corresponding to the different periods of the fort's use. If a number of dumps are located and tested, the results may indicate specific dumps were employed at different times for specific types of materials.

Prior to the railroad's arrival and the founding of Havre in 1887, goods were ferried across the prairie via wagon or beast of burden—both slower and limiting in their ability to haul heavy

¹¹⁷ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. D-8.

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loads. The arrival of the railroad and simultaneous growth of Havre should have marked a watershed moment in terms of ease of access to different products and materials from outside the local area to the personnel at Fort Assinniboine. Unless the military maintained their pre-railroad consumption levels with little change in terms of increasing the variety of goods utilized, a proliferation of new or different products may be reflected in the later archaeological record. This could be most evident by investigations within the fort's dump(s) and later buildings.

The fort undoubtedly worked a garden. The exact location remains unknown but sources indicate it lay north of Beaver Creek, and east of the dam and ice house.¹¹⁸ The importance of identifying the fort's garden location rests with its association as being one of the very earliest Euro-American attempts at cultivation in northern Montana. Identifying its location archaeologically would provide one more piece to the overall puzzle of the fort's early layout.

In addition to subsurface investigations, a full-fledged intensive surface pedestrian archaeological inventory should occur to identify possible features associated with the fort, but not represented on any historic fort maps. Because period maps tended to plat only military-owned buildings, maps are often technically incomplete in representing the overall configuration and layout the property in its entirety. Features missing from period maps would include a number of civilian-owned and operated buildings that likely existed in the fort area.

Fort Assinniboine's archaeological resources, known to be present and abundant and with good context, can undoubtedly enhance our knowledge and understanding of the fort's role and importance on the larger stage of frontier history. The importance of archaeology to the interpretation of Fort Assinniboine was previously recognized by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office's State Archaeologist: "...interpretive use of the area would also multiply any criterion d values in the immediate vicinity."¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ Mark Hufstetler, "Fort Assinniboine, Montana: Historic and Architectural Overview" (Havre: Fort Assinniboine Preservation Association, 1990), pg. D-8.

¹¹⁹ Stan Wilmoth letter dated 4/3/2001 to Jon Axline, Montana Department of Transportation Historian. On file at the Montana State Historic Preservation office, Helena, MT.

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Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

Name of Property

County and State

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Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

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Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

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Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

Name of Property

County and State

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Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State

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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Entire Property 342.05

Acreage of Boundary Increase Area 182.05

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

	Latitude	Longitude
1	48.506896	-109.800473
2	48.510397	-109.790123
	Follow Beaver Creek	
3	48.509244	-109.789626
4	48.50891	-109.789623
	Follow Beaver Creek	
5	48.506919	-109.788434

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

Name of Property

County and State

6	48.506918	-109.787915
	Follow Beaver Creek	
7	48.506917	-109.787158
8	48.506927	-109.786366
	Follow Beaver Creek	
9	48.503613	-109.78314
	Follow Beaver Creek	
10	48.498091	-109.789455
11	48.496217	-109.78949
12	48.496338	-109.800457

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

The Fort Assinniboine Historic District boundary associated with this amended submission has increased from the original nomination. The Verbal Boundary Description and the nomination maps from the original Fort Assinniboine Historic District nomination place the boundary as encompassing the entire SW1/4 of Section 28, T32N R15E (the UTM's associated with the original nomination do not exactly correspond to the Verbal Boundary Description nor the associated nomination map). The boundary description for this amended submission is as follows. Assinniboine Road runs along the west and south section lines of Section 28, T32N, R15E, defining the west and south boundaries. Beginning at Assinniboine Road's intersection with Highway 87, the district boundary follows the road south to Section 28's southwest corner, where it and the road turn east. The boundary continues approximately 0.5 miles then turns north at the southeast corner of the SW1/4. The boundary runs north along the SW1/4's east side approximately 100 meters to its intersection with Beaver Creek, and roughly follows the meandering stream north to its intersection with Highway 87, excepting those parcels of land privately owned in the NW 1/4 NE 1/4 of Section 28. Here, the boundary turns west-southwest and follows Highway 87 to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary incorporates the buildings, structures, objects, and sites that contribute to the significance of Fort Assinniboine from its original construction in 1879 through the mid-twentieth century. The district also includes sufficient open land surrounding the features to convey the feeling of the open space originally associated with the fort, and later, the agricultural operations.

While the initial nomination focused on the extant resources directly associated with the 2000' parade ground, the revised Boundary Increase fully incorporates the extent of all currently identified archaeological features as well as the historic fort/agricultural station support areas along Beaver Creek and in the open grazing fields north of the parade ground.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Candi Zion (Historian) and Becki Miller (3 Point Architects)

organization: _____

street & number: PO Box 122 Winifred, Mt 59489 and P.O. Box 214825, Gildford, MT 59525

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail jslive@itstriangle.com, bdmiller@itstriangle.com

telephone: (C. Zion) 406-462-5393 (B. Miller) 406.376.3230

date: November 2017

with assistance from:

name/title: Kate Hampton and John Boughton

organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office

street & number: 1301 E. Locky

city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620

e-mail khampton@mt.gov, jboughton@mt.gov

telephone: (406) 444-7742, (406) 444-3647

date: November 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

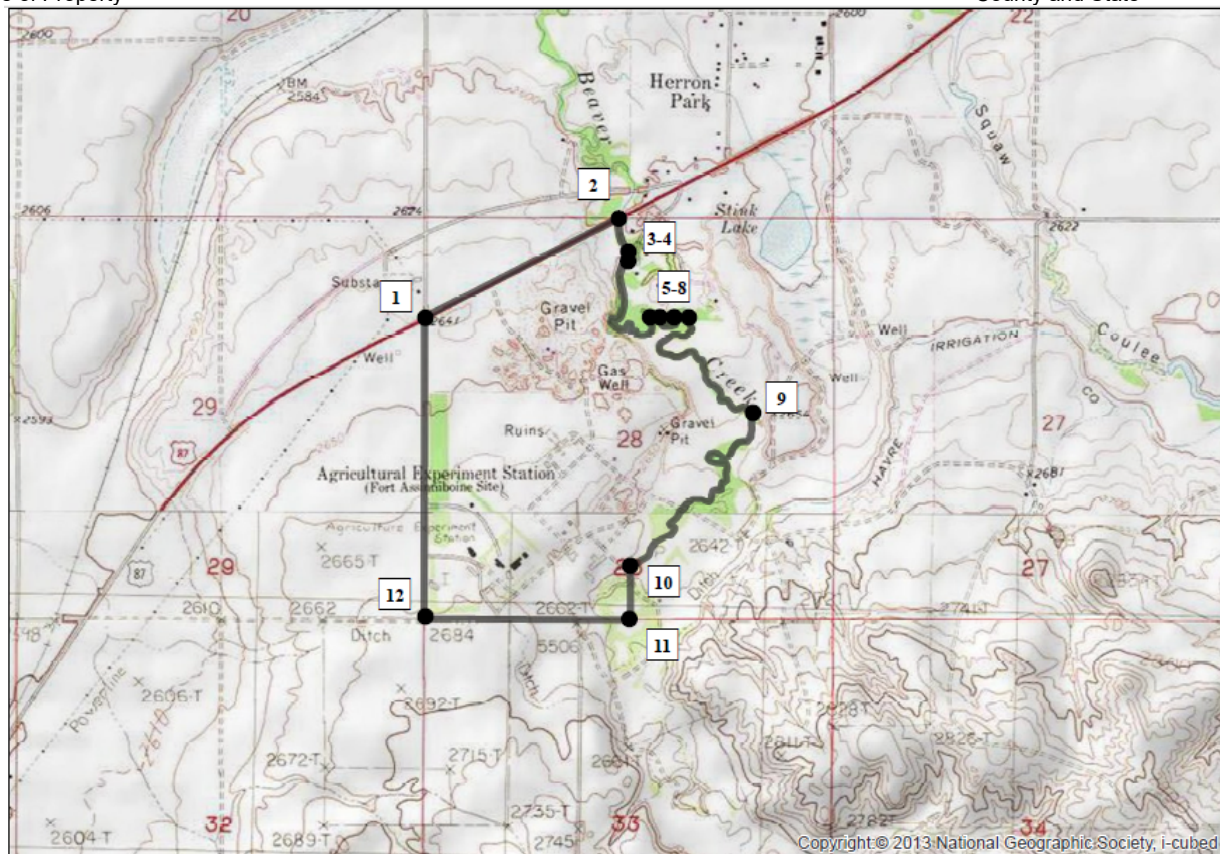
- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

Name of Property

County and State



Fort Assinniboine Historic District
Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation

T32N

R 15E

S 28

MT SHPO 11/21/2017

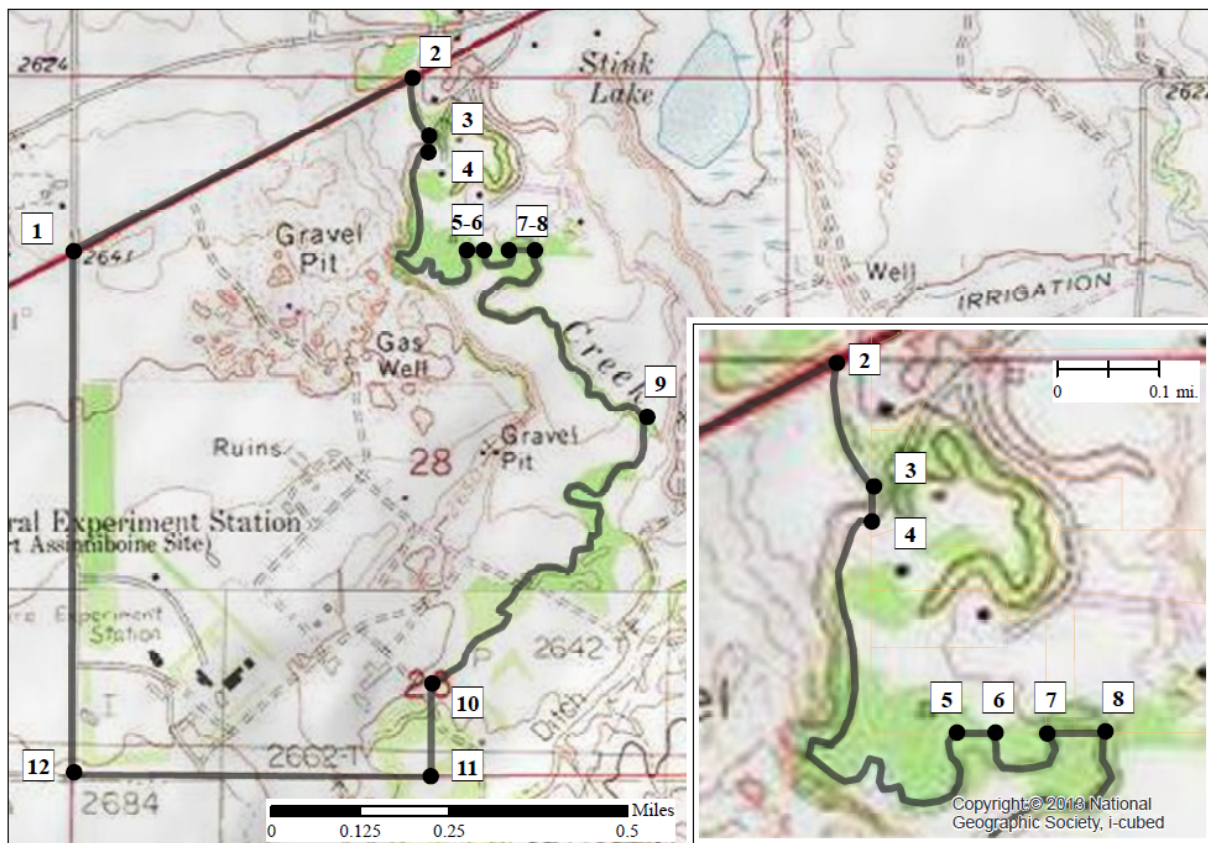
Fort Assinniboine Historic District (amended, boundary increase and additional documentation). Black line shows revised boundary. Found on the Laredo NE and Herron Park 7.5' quadrangle maps.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State



Fort Assinniboine Historic District
Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation

T32N
R 15E
S 28

MT SHPO 11/21/2017

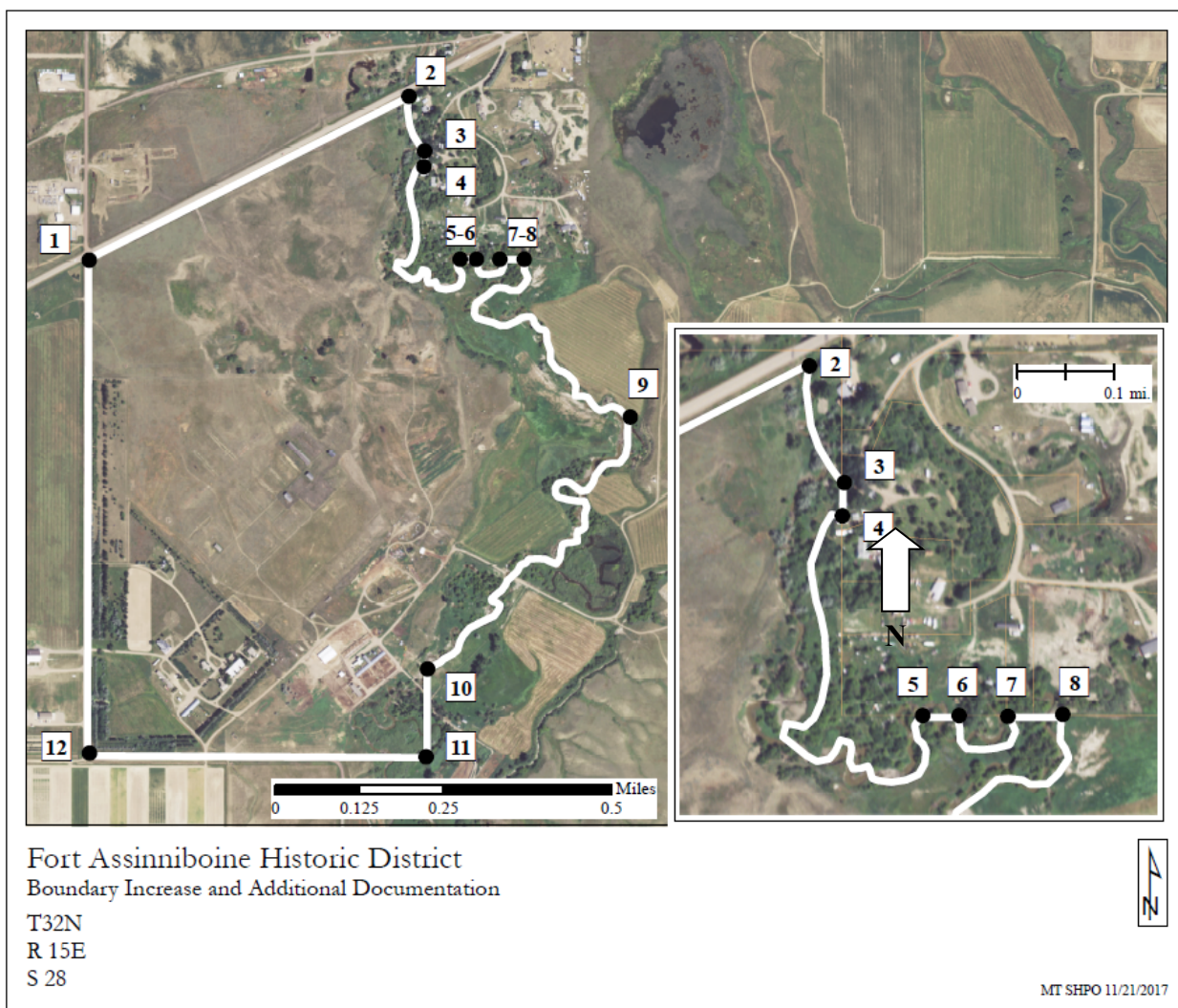
Detail: Fort Assinniboine Historic District (amended, boundary increase and additional documentation). Black line shows revised boundary. Found on the Laredo NE and Herron Park 7.5' quadrangle maps.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State



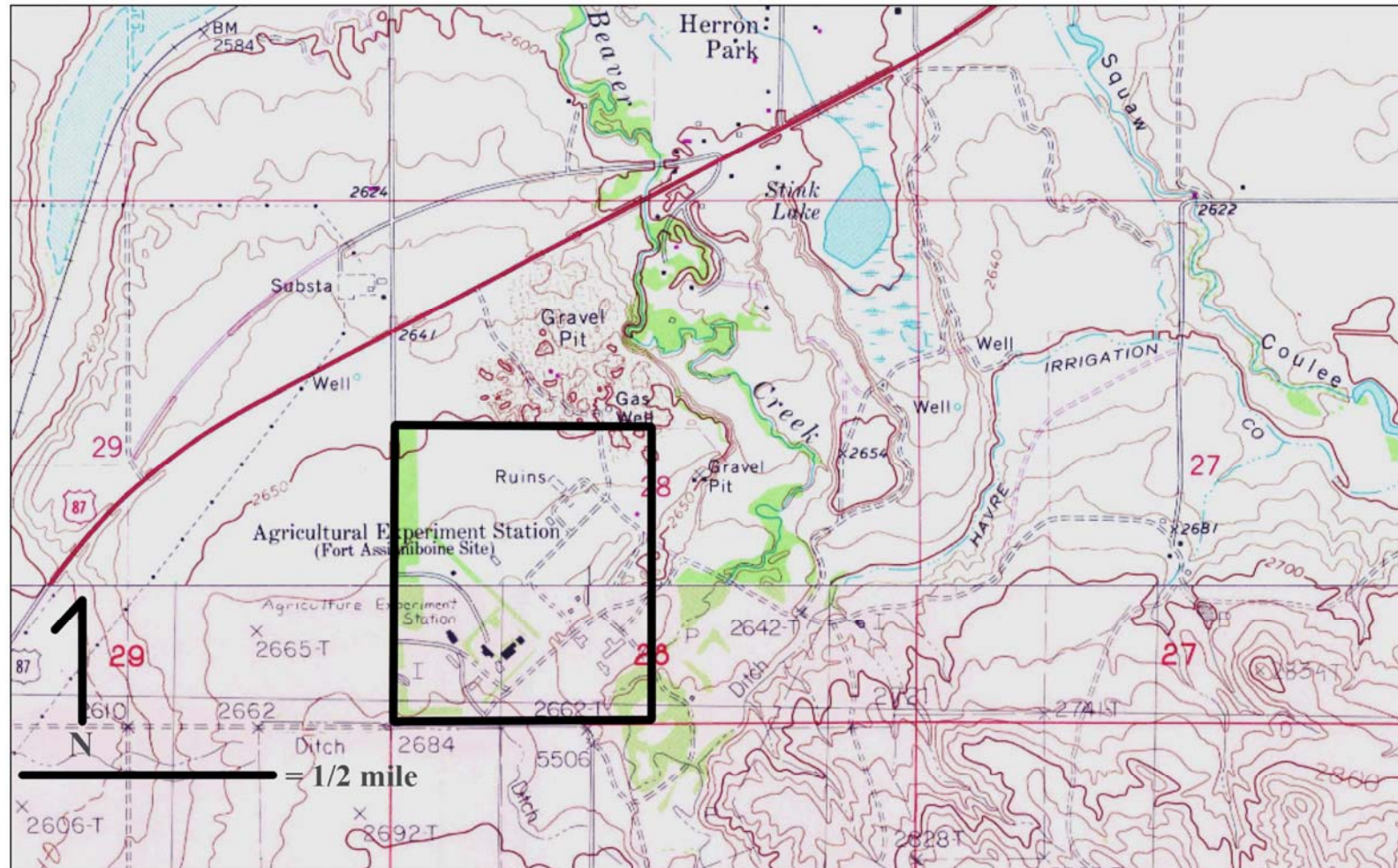
Aerial of Fort Assinniboine Historic District (amended). White line indicates amended district boundary.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State



Montana State Library - Digital Library
(406) 444-5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov | <http://msl.mt.gov>

Map created using the Digital Atlas February 9, 2018
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Fort Assinniboine Historic District, original 1989 National Register Boundary. Found on the Laredo NE and Herron Park 7.5' quadrangle maps.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Hill Co., Montana

Name of Property

County and State

- BUILDING LEGEND:**
NOTE: BUILDINGS NUMBERS CORRESPOND WITH
ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTIONS NOT MILITARY NUMBERS.
- 1 BACHELOR OFFICERS QTRS.
 - 2 DUPLEX OFFICERS QTRS.
 - 3 NC OFFICERS QTRS.
 - 4 POST LIBRARY
 - 5 GUARD HOUSE
 - 6 OFFICERS AMUSEMENT HALL
 - 7 POST EXCHANGE
 - 8 ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE
 - 9 STABLE #4 REC HALL
 - 10 DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP
 - 11 DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP
 - 12 DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP
 - 13 FIELD OFFICERS STABLE #1
 - 14 FIELD OFFICERS STABLE #2
 - 15 COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR
 - 16 COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR
 - 17 COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR
 - 18 ICEHOUSE
 - 19 FLAG STAFF
 - 20 FORT ASSINNIBOINE MONUMENT
 - 21 DAR MARKER
 - 23 CATTLE FEEDING SHED & HAY STORAGE
 - 24 MACHINE SHED
 - 26 PUMP HOUSE
 - 27 TWO STALL GARAGE
 - 28 VALVE HOUSE
 - 30 PESTICIDE STORAGE
 - 31 CALVING BARN
(REPLACED THE ORIGINAL DAIRY BARN #22)
 - 32 SCALE HOUSE
(REPLACED THE ORIGINAL SCALE HOUSE #25)
 - 33 FENCING SHED
 - 34 SUPPLEMENT HOUSE
 - 35 WEATHER STATION
 - 36 RUINS (OFFICER'S ROW HOUSING)
 - 37 RUINS (MARRIED MEN'S QUARTERS)
 - 38 RUINS (HOSPITAL)
 - 39 RUINS (SCOUT QUARTERS)
 - 40 RUINS (ENLISTED MEN'S BARRACKS)
 - 41 RUINS (STABLES AND STORE HOUSES)
 - 42 RUINS (Q.M. STABLES)
 - 43 RUINS (CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE QUARTERS)
 - 44 RUINS (BLACKSMITH QUARTERS)
 - 45 RUINS (BLACKSMITH SHOP)
 - 46 RUINS (COAL SHED)
 - 47 RUINS (CARPENTER AND SADDLE SHOP)
 - 48 RUINS (NCS QUARTERS)
 - 49 CEMETERY



Aerial of Fort Assinniboine Historic District (Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation) showing location of resources.

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill Co., Montana

County and State

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. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. 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

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

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

1 of ____.

See Continuation Sheets (below)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 84

Photo Log

All Photos, unless indicated otherwise:

Name of Property: Fort Assinniboine

City or Vicinity: Southwest of Havre

County: Hill State: Montana

Photographer: Becki Miller

Date Photographed: From October 2015 to June 2016

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

1 of ____.



BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS, NORTHWEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0001

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS, NORTHWEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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BACHELOR OFFICERS QUARTERS, SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST.
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DUPLEX OFFICERS QUARTERS, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0004

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 88



DUPLEX OFFICERS QUARTERS, SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST.
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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NC OFFICERS QTRS., EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property
Hill County, Montana
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 90



NC OFFICERS QTRS., SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0007

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboina (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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POST LIBRARY, EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0008

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

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Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 92



POST LIBRARY, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0009

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
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Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 93



GUARD HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0010

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 94



GUARD HOUSE, EAST ELEVATION, TO THE SOUTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0011

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 95



OFFICERS AMUSEMENT HALL, SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST.
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0012

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboine (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 96



OFFICERS AMUSEMENT HALL, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0013

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné (Boundary Increase and
Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 97



OFFICERS AMUSEMENT HALL, NORTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0014

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 98



POST EXCHANGE, EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0015

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 99



POST EXCHANGE, NORTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0016

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboina

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 100



ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE, EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST.
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0017

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

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Section number Additional Documentation: National Register Photographs Page 101



ORDINANCE STOREHOUSE, NORTH ELEV. VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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STABLE #4 RECREATION HALL, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0019

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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STABLE #4 RECREATION HALL, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0020

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboina

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP BLDG. (BLDG. #92, EAST GRANARY), WEST
ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0021

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboina

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP BLDG. (BLDG. #93, CENTER GRANARY),
SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0022

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DBL. CALVARY STABLE GUARD/SHOP BLDG.(BLDG. #94, WEST GRANARY), EAST
ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0023

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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FIELD OFFICERS STABLE #1 (BLDG. #50), SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE
NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0024

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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FIELD OFFICERS STABLE #2 (BLDG. #51), EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE
SOUTHWEST

MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0025

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR (#86, SOUTH), EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE
NORTHWEST.

MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0026

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR (#87, NORTH), EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE
NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0027

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboine

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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COMMISSARY ROOT CELLAR (#88, MIDDLE), EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE
NORTHWEST

MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0028

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

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ICEHOUSE, OVERVIEW, VIEW TO THE SOUTH
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0029

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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FLAGPOLE (LIBRARY IN BACKGROUND), VIEW TO THE SOUTH
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0030

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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FORT ASSINNIBOINE MONUMENT, VIEW TO THE EAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0031

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MARKER/BUFFALO SOLDIERS
INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE, OLD FORTS TRAIL INTERPRETIVE PLAQUE/NATIONAL
REGISTER SIGN, VIEW TO THE EAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0032

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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CATTLE FEEDING SHED WITH HAY STORAGE BARN IN BACKGROUND, VIEW TO
THE NORTHWEST

MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0033

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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HAY STORAGE BARN WITH CATTLE FEEDING SHED IN BACKGROUND, SOUTH
ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0034

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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MACHINE SHED/SHOP, NORTH ELEVATION. WEST HALF, VIEW TO THE
SOUTHEAST

MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0035

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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MACHINE SHED/SHOP, NORTH ELEVATION, EAST HALF, VIEW TO THE
SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0036

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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PUMP HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0037

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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TWO STALL GARAGE, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0038

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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TWO STALL GARAGE, NORTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0039

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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VALVE HOUSE W/ PIERS, NORTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0040

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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PESTICIDE BLDG., WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0041

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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CALVING BARN, WEST ELEVATION , VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0042

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboine

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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SCALE HOUSE, WEST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0043

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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FENCING SHED, EAST ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0044

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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SUPPLEMENT HOUSE, SOUTH ELEVATION, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0045

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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WEATHER STATION, VIEW TO THE SOUTH
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0046

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OFFICER'S QUARTERS RUINS, VIEW TO THE EAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0047

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OFFICER'S QUARTERS RUINS, VIEW TO THE SOUTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0048

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OFFICER'S QUARTERS RUINS, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0049

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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MARRIED MEN'S QUARTERS, RUINS, VIEW TO THE NORTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0050

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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MARRIED MEN'S QUARTERS, RUINS, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboine_0051

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet**

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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SCOUT'S QUARTERS, RUINS, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0052

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboina

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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ENLISTED MEN'S BARRACKS, RUINS, VIEW TO THE NORTHWEST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0053

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

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STABLES AND STOREHOUSE, RUINS, VIEW TO THE SOUTHEAST
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0054

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboina

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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POSSIBLE HEADSTONE FRAGMENT FOUND IN AREA OF CEMETERY
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboina_0055

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Fort Assinniboiné

Name of Property

Hill County, Montana

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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OVERVIEW OF CEMETERY AREA, VIEW TO THE NORTH
MT_HillCounty_FortAssinniboiné_0056

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.