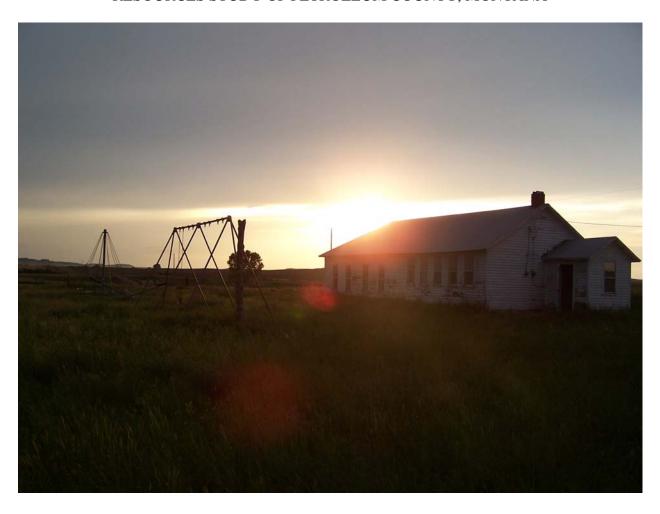
# HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN DEEP RURAL PLACES: A HISTORIC RESOURCES STUDY OF PETROLEUM COUNTY, MONTANA



### LAURA KRISTINE NOWLIN

## A TERMINAL PROJECT

Presented to the Historic Preservation Program of the University of Oregon in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Science

June 2008

"Historic Preservation in Deep Rural Places: A Historic Resources Study of Petroleum County, Montana," a terminal project prepared by Laura Kristine Nowlin in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master of Science degree in the Historic Preservation Program. This thesis has been approved and accepted by:

Michael Hibbard, Chair of the Examining Committee

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

Committee in Charge: Michael Hibbard, Chair

Elizabeth Carter

Joy Sears

© 2008 Laura Kristine Nowlin

#### An Abstract of the Terminal Project of

Laura Kristine Nowlin for the degree of Master of Science in the Historic Preservation Program to be taken June 2008

Title: HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN DEEP RURAL PLACES: A HISTORIC RESOURCES STUDY OF PETROLEUM COUNTY, MONTANA

Approved:	
	Michael Hibbard

The field of historic preservation, until recently, overlooked rural communities in its mission to preserve historic resources. While the preservation community begins to focus more on landscape preservation and rural areas, there still exists a lack of information and understanding of the places, the people and their needs. This terminal project addresses the issue of preservation in deep rural communities through a single indepth case study in the form of a Historic Resources Study of Petroleum County, Montana. This Historic Resources Study (HRS) has laid the groundwork for future preservation activities in Petroleum County in three ways. First, it presents a broad history of the area from which to gain knowledge of the local history and understanding of how and why the historic resources are there. Second, it supplies an identification and explanation of a selection of both rural and urban historic resources. Finally, it provides an overview of historic preservation and many of the programs that have been successful in rural places. In addition, it gives a list of recommendations for historic preservation action in Petroleum County and contributes to a heritage education program by providing a lesson plan for the Winnett High School.

#### **CURRICULUM VITAE**

NAME OF AUTHOR: Laura K. Nowlin

PLACE OF BIRTH: Lewistown, Montana

DATE OF BIRTH: May 24, 1984

#### GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE SCHOOLS ATTENDED:

University of Oregon

Montana State University, Bozeman

#### **DEGREES AWARDED:**

Master of Science, Historic Preservation, University of Oregon

Bachelor of Arts, History, 2006, Montana State University

#### AREAS OF SPECIAL INTEREST:

**Rural Preservation** 

Cultural Landscapes

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

John Yeon Graduate Research Fellow, University of Oregon September 2007 – June 2008

Museum Technician, Montana Heritage Commission June 2007 – September 2007

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

I wish to express sincere appreciation to my committee members, Professor Michael Hibbard, chair, and Elizabeth Carter and Joy Sears for their assistance in the preparation of this manuscript. I would like to thank my parents, James and Diana Brady, for their support and encouraging me to investigate the heritage of my home. In addition, special thanks are due to members of the Petroleum County community, Nancy and Ruth Freburg, Sue McKenna, Chris King, and Tom and Lu Pugrud, for their help, advice, and comments at various stages of my project. Also, a very special thanks is due to my great uncles, Jack and Dick Hanson, who have helped me on multiple history projects and are always willing to regale me with stories of the past. And finally, I want to acknowledge my husband, Levi, for his support, patience, and love while I pursued this part of my life.

Dedicated to my family, whose pioneering spirit has lasted through the generations, and to the people of Petroleum County; past, present, and future.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter Page

INTRODUCTION	
Historic Preservation in Deep Rural Places	1
Research Methodology	
Literature Review	
I. HISTORY OF PETROLEUM COUNTY	
Introduction to Petroleum County	
The First Occupants (prehistory – 1860)	
Early Settlement Attempts (1860s-1880s)	
Stockmen and the Open Range (1880s-1910s)	53
The Homesteading Era (1910s-1920s)	66
Oil and County-Busting (1920-1925)	84
The Great Depression (1930s)	94
The 1940s and After	
II. DISCUSSION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES	
Rural Historic Landscapes	112
Explanation of Historic Resources	118
Description of Historic Resources	
III. PRESERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	180
Overview of Historic Preservation	182
Overview of Historic Preservation Programs,	197
Organizations, and Initiatives	
Preservation Management Examples and	
Recommendations	
Recommendations for Petroleum County	
Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan	

IV. CONCLUSION	
APPENDICES	236
A. POST OFFICES OF PETROLEUM COUNTY	236
B. ORGANIZATION AND PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION	237
C. DOLLARS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION	239
D. NATIONAL REGISTER BROCHURE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF	248
HISTORIC PLACES	
E. SECRETARY OF INTERIOR STANDARDS FOR HISTORIC	249
PRESERVATION	
BIBLIOGRAPHY	253
TEACHING WITH HISTORIC PLACES LESSON PLAN	

## LIST OF MAPS

Map		Page
1.	. Historic Map of Petroleum County	37
2.	2. Original Homestead Claims in Petroleum County	68
3.	3. Historic Sites of Petroleum County	136
4.	L. Topographic Map of Winnett	156
5.	5. 1922 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map	157
6.	5. 1929 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map	158

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
1. Why Preserve?	. 188
2. Timeline of Important Dates in Historic Preservation	. 194
3. Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Conditions	. 204
4. Major Differences Between Urban and Rural Communities from a	208
Preservation Standpoint	