

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
Swimming Pool
600 feet west-southwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-E

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7-GREFA
2E-

PHOTOGRAPHS
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
National Park Service
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
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I. INTRODUCTION

- Location: The swimming pool is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The swimming pool is 600 feet west-south of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.
- Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.
- UTM: Zone 12: 485202 Easting; 5264750 Northing
- Date of Construction: c. 1935
- Present Owner: The Montana Power Company
40 East Broadway
Butte, Montana 59701
- Present Use: Swimming Pool
- Significance: The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. The swimming pool contributes to the significance of the district.
- Historian: Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
April 1995

II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The swimming pool is located in a natural swale behind the operators' camp at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (see figure 1). A railroad bed (later converted to a road) along the hillside behind the camp houses closed the mouth of the swale, creating a protected area, depressed from the surrounding terrain. Access to the pool is from the road via a set of wood steps. Employees at the Rainbow reportedly donated their time to construct the pool (c. 1935) with materials provided by Montana Power.

The pool measures 54'-0" x 20'-0". It is constructed with 8-inch thick concrete walls and a sloping concrete floor. Metal swimming pool ladders are located on the northeast and southwest sides, and a metal pool stairs is located on the north side. A "low" diving board is centered on the southeast side. The swimming pool is surrounded by a 5'-6" concrete deck or walk on the northeast, southwest, and northwest sides. The deck is wood at the southeast side. A 5-foot high ornamental wire fence surrounds the pool.

III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the swimming pool at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the structure.

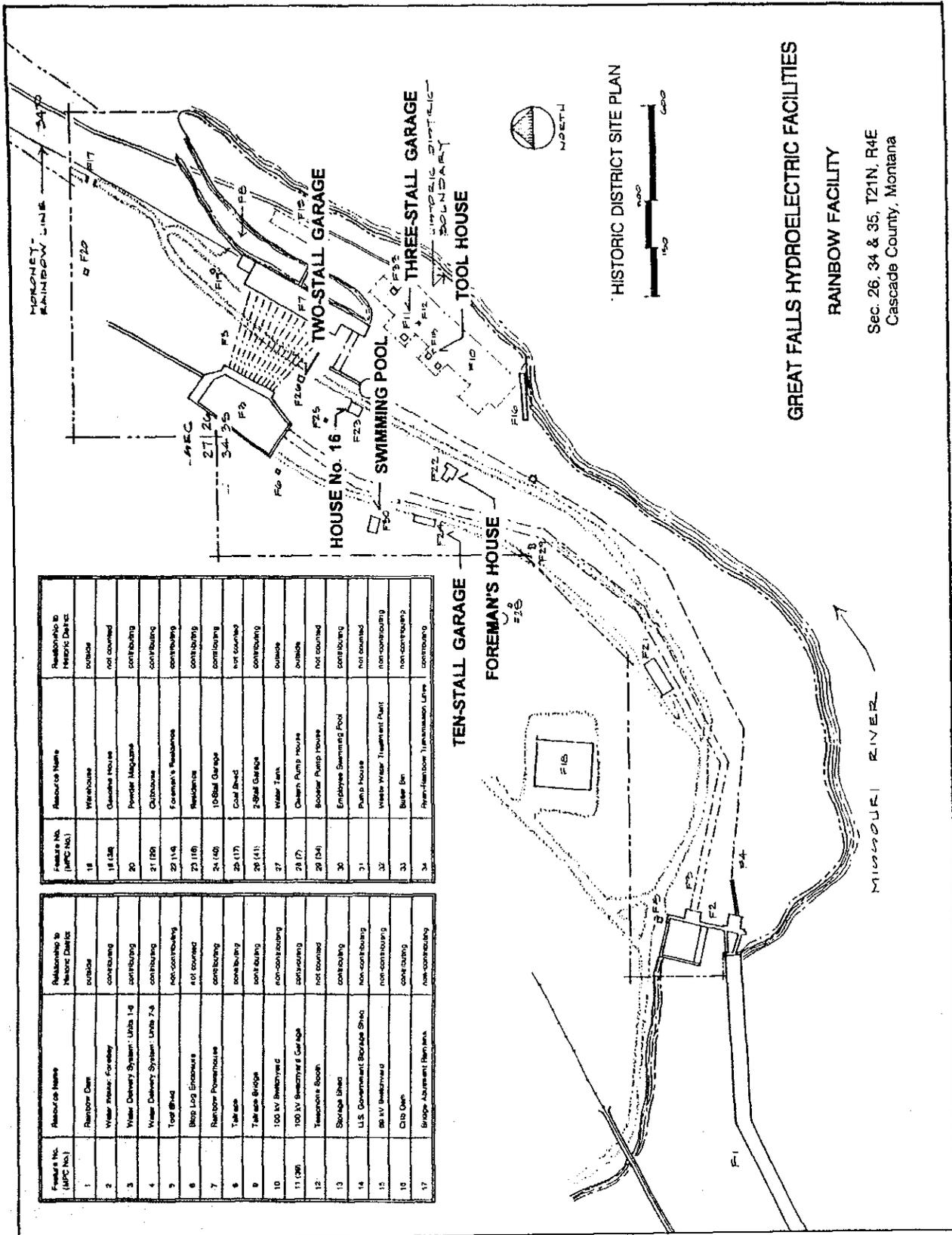


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.