

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,
Arbor
1300 feet southwest of Powerhouse
Great Falls Vicinity
Cascade County
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-I

HAER
MONT
7-GREFA
2I-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,
ARBOR

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I. INTRODUCTION

Location: The arbor is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility on the Missouri River, two miles north of Great Falls, Montana. It is associated with the Clubhouse at the facility, which stands 1300 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The arbor contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District.

Quad: Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

UTM: Zone 12: 485060 Easting; 5264460 Northing

Date of Construction: c. 1925

Present Owner: The Montana Power Company

Present Use: Arbor

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 the state'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 Clubhouse contributes to the significance of the district for its association with construction of permanent operators' camps by the utility as a means to provide efficient operation and maintenance of their isolated power facilities. It also possesses unique, vernacular design and workmanship qualities.

Historian: Mary McCormick
Renewable Technologies, Inc.
Butte, Montana 59701
June 1996

II. HISTORY

The arbor was likely constructed soon after the Clubhouse (MT-95-H) at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility was completed in 1925. It along with the stone fountain (MT-95-J) graced the formally-landscaped lawn in front (south) of the Clubhouse building (see figure 1).

III. DESCRIPTION

The arbor is a pergola measuring 14'8" long x 5'8" wide x about 9' in height. Its vertical supports are wood posts on concrete footings, and its roof is composed of wood post girders and cross-rafters with tail-cut ends. Lattice and wood members in an electric bolt motif enclose both sides of the structure, while the center is open. A stone walkway with steps passes through the opening. It leads south to the fountain.

IV. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to remove the Clubhouse (MT-95-H) at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). It is unknown at this time if the arbor and the fountain (MT-95-J) associated with the Clubhouse will also be removed from the site. The Company has sponsored recording the resources to the standards of the Historic American Engineering Record.

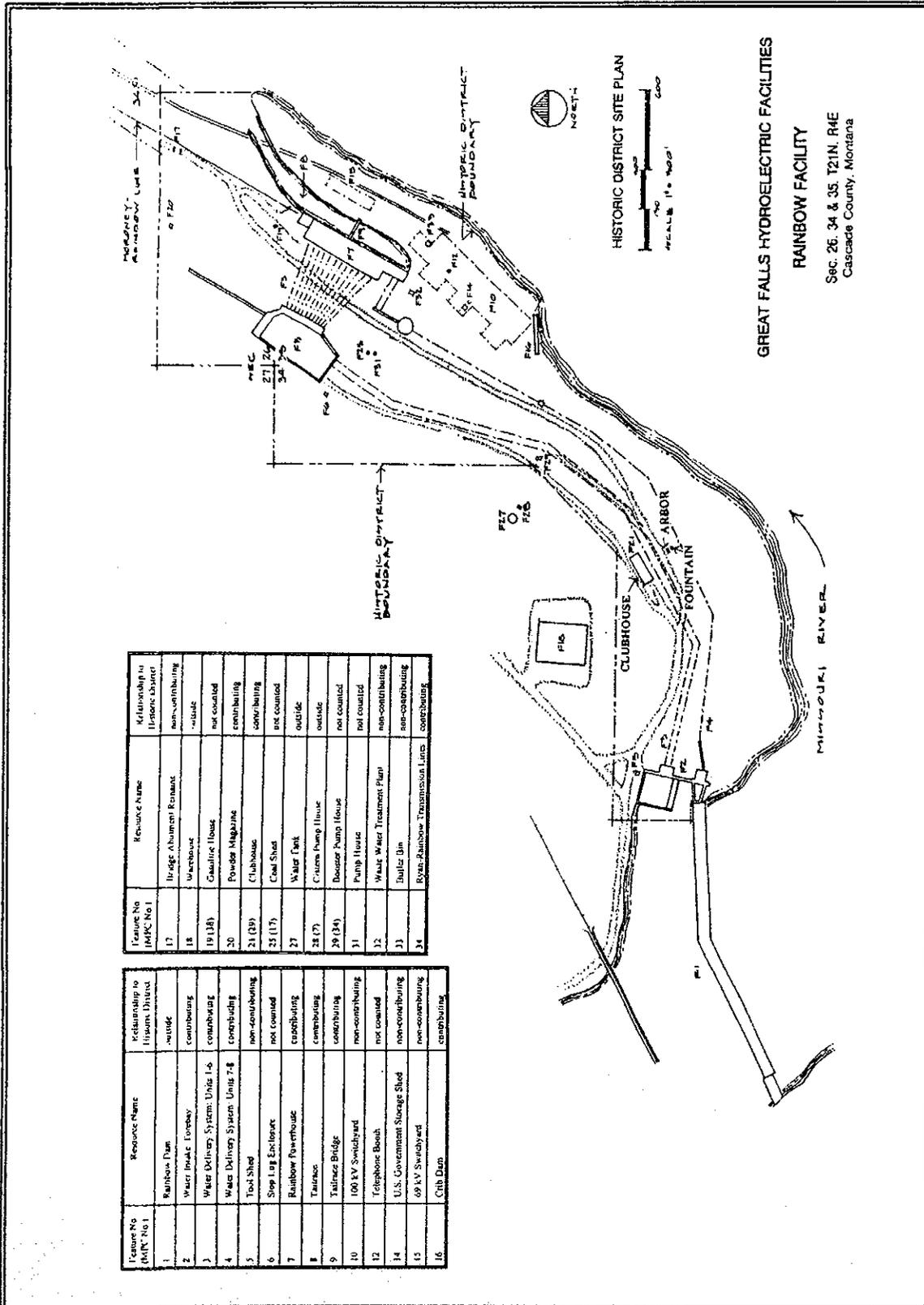


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility.