

ROCK CREEK HISTORIC SITES VISIT

HOGBACK AND MORGAN CASE HOMESTEADS AND ROCK CREEK GUARD STATION

LOLO NATIONAL FOREST, GRANITE COUNTY, MONTANA

C. Milo McLeod, Forest Archeologist, Lolo National Forest (Retired)

The Rock Creek Historical Tour begins with a 20 minute presentation entitled **“Secrets of Two Historic Montana Homesteads, Lolo National Forest, Granite County, Montana”** by C. Milo McLeod, Forest Archeologist, Lolo NF, (Retired). This presentation was first presented at the 88th Annual Meeting for the Society of American Archeology meetings in Portland Oregon in April 2023. It was presented within a symposium for *Public Sites on Public Land*.



*Restored Hogback Homestead, 2023.
For Rent \$75 per night*

In 1979 the Lolo NF acquired 360 acres of private land (two original 160 acre homesteads later consolidated to 360 acres) in the Upper Rock Creek drainage, Granite County Montana with funds from the Land and Water Conservation fund. The lands were acquired primarily for their wildlife, scenic and recreation values. However the two homesteads each held remnants of the original homestead dwellings. Initially the District Ranger wanted to remove the structures and erase the human presence from the land. The new GS 5 seasonal Archeologist informed the Ranger that an evaluation for the National Register of Historic Places needed to be completed as well as other compliance tasks.

Therefore the buildings were not removed but allowed to remain on site and slowly rot away. Ten years later with a new Ranger and staff and an attitudinal adjustment, a decision to restore the Hogback and later the Morgan Case homestead happened.

First, rehabilitating the Hogback Homestead as a cabin rental required conducting data recovery for a pre-contact archeological site for areas of impact such as the access road, vault toilet and drain field. The artifacts demonstrated a continual occupation of the area continually for the past 10.000 years! The Hogback Homestead and the sub-surface archeological site are both eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.



*Restored Morgan Case Homestead, 2023
For Rent \$75 per night*

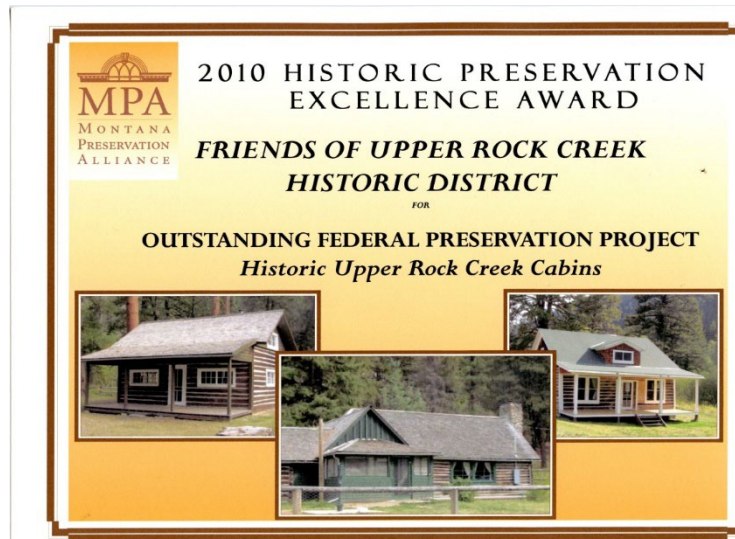
Second, the re-construction of the Morgan Case Homestead, documented the first occupant as a Black, female who had moved west after the Civil War. Annie Morgan, a known healer, practiced a West African healing tradition known as Hoo Doo. Artifacts relating to the practice of the Hoo doo healing tradition were found behind the door jamb at the Morgan Case Homestead in 2007 shortly before completion. The Morgan Case Homestead is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rock Creek Guard Station is a one and a half story hand hewn log house listed on the Nation Register of Historic Places. Constructer in 1911 it served as a Guard Station for Upper Rock Creek for the Bonita Ranger District, Lolo National Forest. Today it continues as a guard station during the summer months for the Rock Creek Guard.

Transportation and lunch costs are yet to be decided.

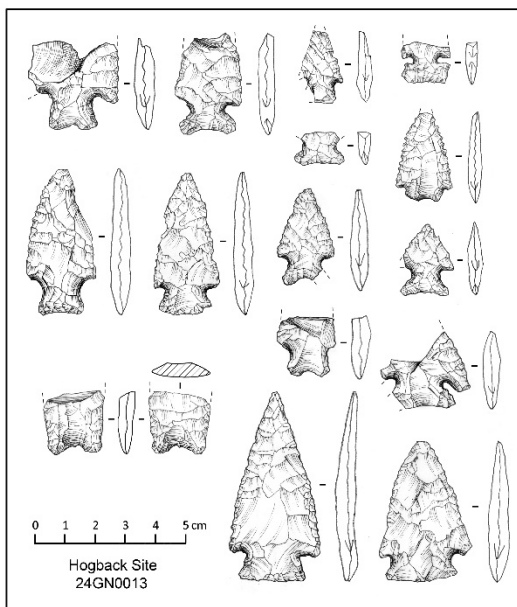


Rock Creek Guard station, granite County MT



Award to the Friends of Upper Rock Creek Historic district for helping preserve

The Hogback and Morqan Case Homesteads and Rock Creek Guard Station



Pre-contact stone artifacts from the Hogback Homestead



Annie Morgan's Hoo Doo tool kit found behind west door jamb

at the Morgan Case homestead, 2007, Granite Co, MT