

*new*

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received OCT 12 1983  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Hanna Community Hall

and/or common Hanna Community Hall

**2. Location**

street & number Front Street, Block 1, Lot 7, Original Town not for publication

city, town Hanna vicinity of N/A

state Wyoming code 056 county Carbon code 007

**3. Classification**

| Category  | Ownership                                  | Status  | Present Use   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> occupied                     | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> private           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied        | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure              | <input type="checkbox"/> both              | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress             | <input type="checkbox"/> educational                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site                   | <b>Public Acquisition</b>                  | <b>Accessible</b>                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object                 | <input type="checkbox"/> in process        | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted              | <input type="checkbox"/> government                         |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial                         |
|   | <i>PA</i>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> no                           | <input type="checkbox"/> military                           |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> museum                             |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> park                               |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> private residence                  |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> religious                          |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                         |
|   |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation                     |
|   |  |   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: community center |

**4. Owner of Property**

name Hanna Community Council

street & number N/A

city, town Hanna vicinity of N/A state Wyoming 82327

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon County Courthouse

street & number Third and Pine Streets

city, town Rawlins state Wyoming 82301

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Wyoming Historical Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1980  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Wyoming Recreation Commission, 1920 Thomes Ave.

city, town Cheyenne state Wyoming 82002

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date 1891

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Hanna Community Hall located in the heart of Hanna, Wyoming, is a single story white clapboard structure consisting of two rectangles with the rectangle to the west being shorter in the rear. The south, west and east sides are covered by a hipped asphalt shingled roof with double gables in the rear. There are two chimneys located on the east side with another located at the top of the western hip. The main entrance is covered by a bracketed gabled overdoor containing a semi-circular arch. The windows are randomly spaced, rectangular, double hung 8 over 8 and 6 over 6 light. Even though the building needs to be painted currently, the Hanna Community Hall has retained its architectural integrity, and continues to serve the community as an important gathering place.

## 8. Significance

| Period                                    | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric      | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning     | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499        | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic    | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation           | <input type="checkbox"/> law                    | <input type="checkbox"/> science            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599        | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture            | <input type="checkbox"/> economics              | <input type="checkbox"/> literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699        | <input type="checkbox"/> architecture           | <input type="checkbox"/> education              | <input type="checkbox"/> military               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799        | <input type="checkbox"/> art                    | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                  | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899        | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce               | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy             | <input type="checkbox"/> theater            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications         | <input type="checkbox"/> industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government    | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> invention              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)    |

**Specific dates** 1921 – present      **Builder/Architect** John Linden

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed in 1895, the Hanna Community Hall has served the town of Hanna, Wyoming for nearly a century. Originally named Linden Hall, the building served as a saloon during the town's early, turbulent years as an energy boom town and then as a pool hall during prohibition and is the only structure remaining from this period. In the 1920's after the community had established some permanence this building became the social and cultural center for the tiny community by providing necessary social and recreational outlets for citizens isolated by environment and circumstance. The hall was and continues to be used for everything from city government meetings, church services, athletic events and classes to dances and parties and is associated with locally significant individuals such as John Linden and municipal officials. Apart from interior remodeling in 1931 and the removal of exterior storage additions not original to the structure (financed by the Union Pacific Coal Company), the Hanna Community Hall retains visual and historical integrity and is representative of the community spirit which has sustained American pioneers throughout our frontier history. Its use as a saloon in the early years of the energy boom town's beginning and its eventual role as a focal point for community activities are representative of typical downtown settlement patterns and is associated with the development of energy resources, which have made dramatic contributions and continue to influence the broad patterns of Wyoming, western and United States history.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE ADDENDUM

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

Quadrangle name Hanna, Wyoming

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

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| Zone |   |   | Easting |    |   |    |    | Northing |    |   |    |   |   |    |

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| Zone |  |  | Easting |  |  |  |  | Northing |  |  |  |  |  |  |

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The Hanna Community Hall is located on Lot 7, Block 1, in the original town of Hanna, Wyoming. The nomination boundaries conform to the legal description.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Muriel Kitching/William Hewitt

organization Wyoming Historical Society

date October 10, 1980

street & number University of Wyoming/Dept. of History telephone 307-766-5086

city or town Laramie

state Wyoming 82071

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Alvin J. Baston*

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9/28/83

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Bruce ...*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/26/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
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| date entered           |

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In 1889, Union Pacific Coal Company employee Mark Hanna discovered a rich seam of coal along the transcontinental railroad line in Wyoming's Carbon County. Within a few months, the Union Pacific Railroad had completed a branch line to the site. Two mines were immediately put into operation, and a boom town named Hanna, sprang up almost overnight. An orderly pattern of streets and alleys was laid out, containing two concentrations of buildings, one near each of the mines. South of the Union Pacific tracks was Number One Camp, north was Number Two Camp; these camps comprised the town of Hanna. Although there were cattle ranches in the area, it was the mines which were responsible for Hanna's existence. The town became a melting pot, like the West itself, as the coal mines attracted immigrant miners from England, Sweden, Japan, Finland, and Italy.

In 1890, a Swedish carpenter, John Linden, built a saloon in the hills north of Hanna Basin; a year later, the Union Pacific Coal Company gave him permission to move his establishment into the town itself. Linden relocated the building to Hanna's Front Street, where most of the town's saloons were located. For the next two decades, Linden operated a bar and dance hall in the building. When the era of Prohibition began, Linden sold the structure to John Thomas, and it became a pool hall.

During these years, the town of Hanna thrived. Low-sulphur coal was in great demand, and, during these peak years, the Union Pacific operated mines produced 2,500 tons a day. But, twice during the early years of this century, tragedy visited Hanna. On June 30, 1903, the worst mine disaster in Wyoming history occurred when an explosion wracked the Number One Mine, killing 169 men. Five years later, on the afternoon of March 29, 1908, an explosion killed 18 men. That night, a second blast entombed 41 rescuers; 27 bodies were never recovered. Despite these disasters, the citizens of Hanna persevered.

In the 1920's, John Thomas was accidentally killed at a railroad crossing, and his pool hall became a community center. Scout groups, and First Aid Clubs, made up of Union Pacific employees, held meetings and monthly socials in the building. The hall soon housed a community library, and Hanna's African Methodist Episcopal Church began holding services in John Linden's former saloon. High school classes and basketball games were held in the hall. When the community's opera house was destroyed by fire in 1926, the Linden Hall was used as Hanna's movie theatre.

The Union Pacific Coal Company had always been concerned with maintaining community spirit in its company town. To that end, the Company provided Hanna with funds to remodel the Hall. Exterior changes were confined to the removal of a coal bin and several storage bins from the rear of the building; the remainder of the building's exterior remained unchanged. Interior changes consisted of the installation of a small kitchen, shelving for the community library,

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and new light fixtures. The refurbished Community Hall was dedicated on September 19, 1931. For the next half-century, the Hanna Community Hall was the site of hundreds of community events; dances and parties, weddings and funerals, Scout meetings and lodge meetings, and various community programs.

Hanna's future prospects dimmed considerably in 1954, when the Union Pacific Railroad, the biggest customer for the area's coal, replaced its coal-fired engines with diesel locomotives. Within months, the town's population dropped from 2,000 to 500, as the Union Pacific Coal Company closed its Number 4A mine. All the company's buildings were put up for sale, and most were moved to other towns and cities. The Hanna Community Council requested that the company leave the Community Hall in place, and subsequently, the building was deeded to the Town of Hanna for the sum of one dollar. In 1965, the Union Pacific turned over to Hanna the water rights and land titles for the town, and Hanna began to survive on its own.

The outlook for Hanna's future was brightened in the early 1970's, as the world-wide energy shortage created a renewed demand for Wyoming coal. The mines were reopened, and new strip mines were started. Union Pacific once again began to ship Hanna's coal; in 1980, the town's population stood at 2,800. The Hanna Community Hall continued to be a vital part of the life of the town. In the late 1970's, the Hall was occupied by the municipal government.

Throughout its history, the town of Hanna has had to contend with a cycle of boom and bust and continually the town has shown a determination to survive. Today, Hanna is once again experiencing the positive and negative aspects that a boom town must face. An increased population, largely transient in nature, is posing challenges, and traditional values are in danger. The town's historic cemetery for example, now lies in the shadow of a strip mine.

Since the 1920's the Hanna Community Hall has played a central role in the history of Hanna, and today it continues this service. Among the permanent residents of Hanna, most have memories of the historic community center; their lives have been touched by activities which took place there. More than any other building in Hanna, the Community Hall houses the spirit of the town, and is worthy of enrollment in the National Register.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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