

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

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

For NCRS use only

received FEB 29 1980

date entered

APR 21 1980

1. Name

historic Hamilton Town Hall

and/or common Hamilton City Hall

2. Location

street & number 175 S. 3rd Street _____ not for publication

city, town Hamilton _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st

state Montana code 30 county Ravalli code 081

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name City of Hamilton

street & number 175 S. 3rd Street

city, town Hamilton _____ vicinity of _____ state Montana 59840

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk and Recorder's Office, Ravalli County Courthouse

street & number 203 Bedford Street

city, town Hamilton _____ state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on the corner of Third and State Streets in Hamilton, Montana stands the Hamilton City Hall, a two story red brick structure. The building was constructed on a simple block plan. The Town Hall displayed external symmetry and internal comfort exhibiting the spirit of an orderly, prosperous community.

The original Town Hall was 40' wide by 75' long. The contract to begin construction was signed on July 12, 1906, and the building was completed in August, 1907. A small addition has been constructed on the west end and will be described later. The building rests on a foundation of dressed native stone, which extends 19" above grade. There is a full basement.

The building has a steep shingled hip roof with a moderately wide wood cornice supported by carved wood brackets approximately 16" on center. The windows are double-hung wood units, 1/1 glazed. The second floor windows all have rectangular transom lights. Both first and second floor windows have cut stone sills. Beneath the second floor window sills there is a continuous string course of corbelled brick. A row of soldier bricks caps each window head. Above the first floor east (front) windows there is a double band of brick moulding that once capped the two fire doors, one on either side of the entry/bell tower. The fire doors have been replaced with windows.

Centrally located on the east façade there is an entry-bell tower that projects slightly from the wall plane. A large semi-circular arch frames the front door which has side lights and a semi-circular transom light. A semi-circular decorative brick moulding accents the arched doorway. On the second floor level a blind semi-circular arch with similar brick moulding frames a double hung window having a rectangular transom light. The bell tower projects above the main roof of the building and is crowned with a slightly flared pyramidal shingled roof. The roof is supported at the corners by a square column flanked on either side by smaller circular columns.

Central hallways on both floors are connected by a wooden staircase. The interior walls and ceilings are plastered; the walls have a wainscoting. All of the interior paneled doors are framed in a wide ornate wood trim. The doors have transom lights.

Originally the Town Hall housed the fire wagons in the east end of the first floor. The library was located in the west end. Firemen's quarters and a club room were maintained in the east end of the second floor and the Council Chambers were in the west half. The basement contained a furnace, storerooms, and the municipal jail.

In 1940 the fire apparatus became mechanized. The west half of the main floor was converted into truck bays and three more bays in a one story were constructed at the west end of the City Hall. The front garage doors were made into single windows and the front double entrance doors were replaced with a single door flanked by narrow side lights.

The east half of the first floor has become office space, presently being used by the Mayor and the City Clerk. The firemen still maintain an office on the second floor, but the living quarters have been converted into office space. The Council Chambers have remained where they were originally and look much the same. The original furnishings are still in use. City Court was held in the upstairs quarters at one time but was moved with the Police Department into the new Ravalli County Courthouse.

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Continuation sheet

Item number 7

Page 1

The simple straight-forward symmetrical design was the creation of the noted architect A.J. Gibson of Missoula, Montana.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1906 **Builder/Architect** A.J. Gibson/W.T. Adair

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Built in 1906, the Hamilton Town Hall is significant as a fine example of early 20th century architecture and workmanship. The Town Hall represents an era of prosperity and integrity for the rapidly growing new county seat of Hamilton, Montana. In accordance with Criterion A of the National Register guidelines, the building served as the organizational center for local government and directly influenced the subsequent development of the downtown area. Designed by the prominent architect A.J. Gibson from Missoula, the Town Hall also meets criterion B and C. The Hamilton Town Hall demonstrates an important shift in the design aspects employed by Gibson in public buildings.

Financed through the sale of bonds, the Hamilton City Hall was put up for bidding numerous times while the plans and specifications were altered in an attempt to reduce building costs. Finally in 1906, the design by A.J. Gibson was approved by the Town Council and the building contract was awarded to W.T. Adair for \$10,415. The site, located in the center of Hamilton, was purchased from Dr. McGrath for \$1000 plus taxes.

Mr. Gibson was the noted architect of a number of public and private buildings in Montana: the Marcus Daly Mansion (1908) and the Ravalli County Courthouse (1900) in Hamilton; the State University Central Building, the High School, and the Missoula County Courthouse (1908–10) in Missoula; the Bass Mansion (1908) in Stevensville, to site only a few. The Ravalli Courthouse stands one block from the Hamilton Town Hall. In the Town Hall, Gibson resolved the apparent dichotomy between the Romanesque and the Beaux Art tendencies expressed in the Ravalli Courthouse. The Hamilton Town Hall was Gibson's first civic building following the courthouse and demonstrates Gibson's more assertive use of classical forms which was evident in his later designs.

Gibson served as supervising architect on the Hamilton Town Hall project and excavation was begun in the fall of 1906. Delays in the arrival of building materials, native cut stone and brick, impeded the progress of construction. Gibson periodically travelled from Missoula to Hamilton to check the high quality of workmanship. By September of 1907, the City Library and the firemen were able to move into their new quarters.

During January of 1910, the town of Hamilton had reached a population of 2,055 and as a result achieved the status of a Third Class City. Thus, the Town Hall became a City Hall.

Hamilton's Town Hall has been in continuous use since it was first occupied. The City Library no longer is housed within the building but is located directly west of the Town Hall in a building of similar design. The Masonic Temple, built in 1915, is another impressive building, indicative of the era. With the Ravalli County Courthouse one block away, the Hamilton Town Hall stands in a fine, integrated grouping of significant public buildings displaying early 20th century architecture and workmanship in quality material.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clerk's Minutes, Hamilton City Council Meetings, 1905-1907, Hamilton, Montana.
Ravalli Republic, Vol. XIX, Nos. 17043; Vol. XX, No. 9, 1906, 1907, Hamilton, Montana.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property .192 acres (8,400 sq. ft.)

ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Hamilton South

Quadrangle scale L. 24,000

UMT References

A

1	1	1
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

Zone	Easting	Northing

C

Zone	Easting	Northing

D

Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 15 and 17 of Block 31 of the original Hamilton Townsite, Hamilton, Montana.
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 25 T.6N., R.21W.

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

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thelma Taylor, City Planner & John N. DeHaas, Jr.

organization City of Hamilton date 2/27/80

street & number Box 709 telephone 363-2101

city or town Hamilton state Montana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

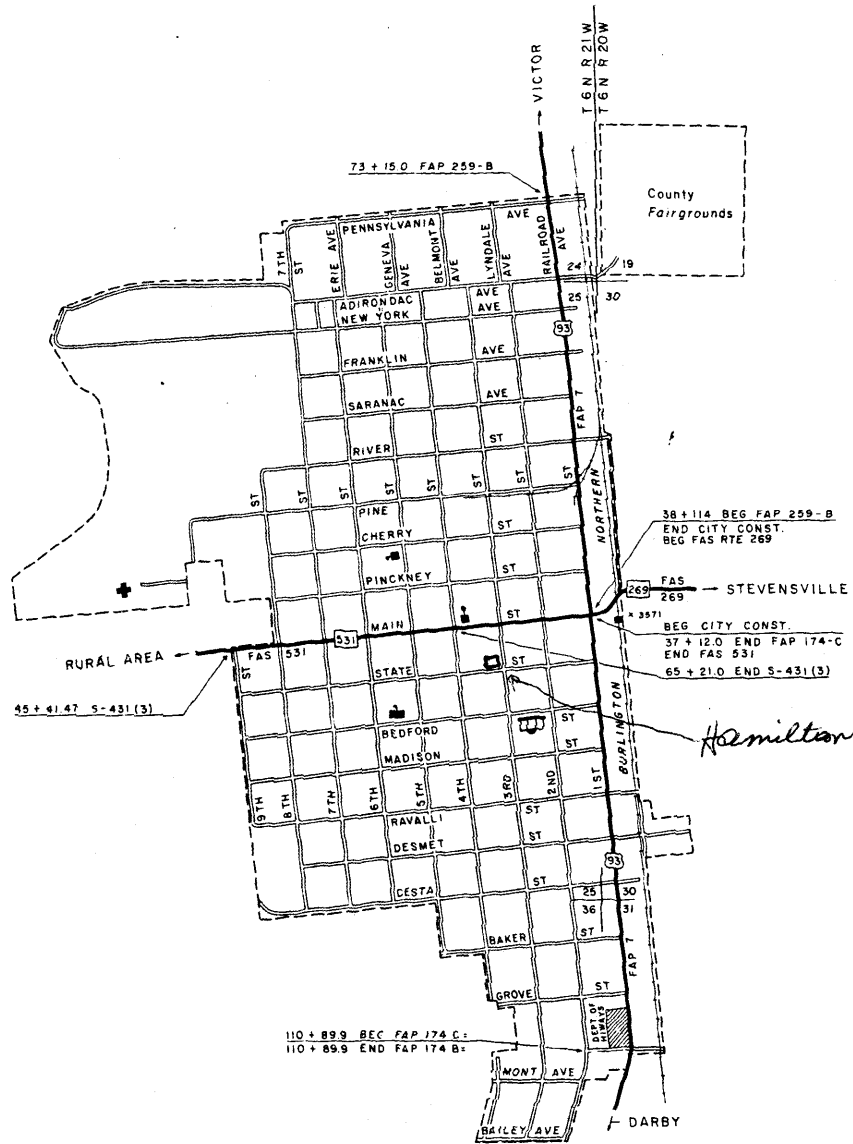
title Act SHPO date 2/28/80

For HCPS use only

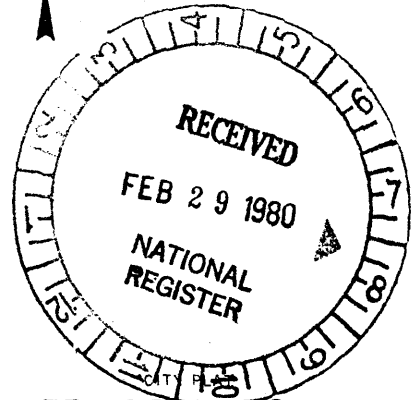
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for W. Ray Luce date 4/21/80
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: [Signature] date 4/15/80



- FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY SYSTEMS
- PROJECTED ROAD
- GRADED AND DRAINED ROAD
- GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD
- PAVED ROAD
- DIVIDED ROAD - TRAFFIC FLOW
- FAT FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM
- FAP FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM
- FAS FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
- INTERSTATE ROUTE MARKER
- U.S. NUMBERED ROUTE MARKER
- STATE ROUTE MARKER
- OTHER ROUTE MARKER
- CORPORATE BOUNDARY LINE
- NON-EXISTENT DEDICATED STREET
- CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
- RAILROAD AND STATION
- POST OFFICE
- COURT HOUSE
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- X 0000 ELEVATION
- City Hall



HAMILTON
RAVALLI COUNTY
MONTANA

1970 CENSUS 2,499

SCALE IN FEET
800 0 800 1600

REVISED DEC. 31, 1976

1964 & 1967 USGS BASE

Copies of this map are available for a nominal cost at the Montana Department of Highways—Helena, Montana 59601

APR 21 1980