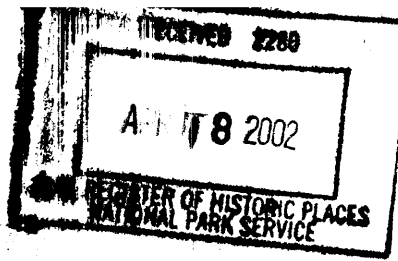


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Swan River Community Hall

other name/site number:

## 2. Location

street & number: 115 Swan River Rd.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Swan River

vicinity: N/A

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Flathead

code: 029

zip code: 59911

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.

*M. F. Baumer / SHPO*  
Signature of certifying official/Title

*4/12/2002*  
Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency or bureau

( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register  see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register  see continuation sheet
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*Osar K. Beall*  
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action  
*5/30/02*

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
Category of Property: Building	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	<u>—</u>	<u>0</u> sites
	<u>—</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<u>—</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: SOCIAL/meeting hall

Current Functions: SOCIAL/meeting hall

7. Description

**Architectural Classification:**  
LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MOVEMENTS  
Bungalow/Craftsman

**Materials:**  
foundation: CONCRETE  
walls: WOOD/Weatherboard, Shingle  
roof: METAL/Aluminum  
other: CONCRETE

Narrative Description

The Swan River Community Hall is located in the Swan River Community in the Flathead Valley of northwest Montana. The Hall sits at the southeast corner of the junction of State Route 83 and Echo Lake Road to the north and Swan River Road to the south. The crossroads is at the heart of the community, and also boasts the school to the north and the general store to the west. Built in 1932, the community hall is a one-story, rectangular, Bungalow style building with a gabled roof and historic gabled addition on the façade (west elevation). The hall also features a concrete foundation, drop lap siding, cedar shingles, a sheet metal roof over the original wood shingles, and a concrete block chimney. Two outhouses are also present off the southeast corner of the hall. The outhouses feature wooden siding and wooden shingled roofs. A gravel parking lot borders the north elevation of the hall.

**Swan River Community Hall** (contributing building)

The hall rests on a concrete foundation. A separate concrete foundation was constructed for the addition, which was built sometime between 1938 and 1945. A modern concrete access ramp runs from the centered entry to the northwest corner. Metal railings are located along the western edge of the ramp and the front of the addition. Modern, metal, six-panel double doors are centered in the west elevation. A simple gabled overhang with exposed rafter ends and supported by milled lumber brackets shelters the entry. One wood-frame nine-light, awning window is located on both the north and south sides of the façade. Each window is trimmed with rough milled 1X6 timbers, and has a modern, wooden flowerbox beneath. Above the gabled overhang is a hand painted sign, identifying the building as the SWAN RIVER COMMUNITY HALL. Directly above the level of the sign, the drop lap siding ends and common pattern cedar shingles begin, filling in the rest of the gable. On the original façade of the building, the cedar shingles also fill in the entire front gable end. On the addition, the overhanging roof is open to the sheathing planks. There is a simple 2X4 milled lumber fascia and exposed rough milled 2X6 rafters on the addition. The original façade features an overhang finished with 1X3 and 1X5 milled lumber. Near to the apex of the original front gable end there is a small louvered vent. The addition, the gabled overhang, and the original building feature a modern sheet metal roof that covers the original wood shingles.

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At the east elevation, two small concrete pads are located on the ground. One is centered along the wall and crumbling, indicating a central door was likely present in the past. The second concrete pad is newer and serves as a step up to a modern hollow core door, offset to the north of the elevation. The majority of the rear elevation is covered in modern vertical composite paneling, with modern horizontal siding in the gable end. There is a louvered vent high in the gable end. The overhang of the roof is partially finished with wide milled lumber planking and partially with 1X3 and 1X5 milled lumber, as on the west elevation. In 1976, a fire that began in the rear of the hall minimally impacted the integrity of the building. Damage from the blaze is only visible on the east (rear) elevation of the hall. On the south side of the east elevation there is a vertical section of original siding exposed. This is presumably the location of a stovepipe, and was protected from the fire.

The north elevation features horizontal drop lap siding with milled corner boards. Fenestration includes three, six-light, interior awning windows with rough milled 1X6 trim. Each window features a modern flower box. At the eastern end of the north elevation, a window opening has been infilled with drop lap siding. The exposed rafter ends along the north elevation are six-inch diameter poles. A gravel parking lot is located at the north side of the building.

The south elevation is very similar to the north elevation and features horizontal drop lap siding, three, six-light interior awning windows, exposed rafter poles, and an infilled window opening at the east end. The south elevation, however, lacks the modern flower boxes present on the north and west elevations.

The interior of the Swan River Community Hall is divided into several spaces. The historic addition on the front (west elevation) of the building contains three rooms. The exterior double doors open into a central hallway, from which there is access to the recently refinished kitchen to the south, and the main hall to the east. The north side of the addition consists of an unfinished storeroom, accessed only from a door in the main space of the hall. This storeroom is open to the ceiling architecture, and the original, unpainted horizontal drop-lap siding and cedar shingles of the hall building are exposed.

The main room of the hall features oak hardwood floors. Modern wood paneling covers the bottom three-fourths of the walls. The top fourth of the walls and the ceiling are covered with wallboard. Fluorescent lighting illuminates the room. The north wall of the main room contains a pass through to the kitchen area to the south, centered double doors, and an original, five-panel door to the north. The main room also features a stage at the east end of the building accessed by three stairs at the north side. Between these stairs and the north wall of the building is a narrow hallway that leads to two modern bathrooms located along the north wall and in the northeast corner. A door in the east end of the building, at the end of the narrow hallway, leads outside.

### **Outhouse #1** (contributing building)

Outhouse #1 is located off the southeast corner of the building. This two-hole privy features no foundation and horizontal drop lap siding. A single vertical plank door is located on the north elevation. There is a shed roof covered with wooden shingles.

### **Outhouse #2** (contributing building)

Outhouse #2 is located east of outhouse #1. Like the larger privy, this one-holer has no foundation and drop lap siding. A vertical single plank door is present on the west elevation. There is a gabled roof with wooden shingles.

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### **Integrity**

The exterior of the Swan River Community Hall retains a high level of integrity. Alterations to the building since the period of significance are limited to replacement siding at the rear elevation, and two original window openings being infilled. These changes were the result of a remodel that occurred after a fire in 1976. The original floorplan of the building has been minimally altered with the construction of two small bathrooms at the east end of the building in 1976, when the kitchen area was moved to the room at the southwest corner. A modern metal roof was also placed on the building, covering the deteriorating, but still intact original wood shingles beneath.

The location of the building at a major crossroads in the community still serves to maintain its prominent place in the lives of the Swan River residents. The simple Bungalow style building reflects the straightforwardness of the people who built it. The high level of craftsmanship seen in such details as the drop lap siding and gable end shingles show that great care went into the design and maintenance of this building. The alterations that have occurred to the Hall since the period of significance are minor and do not detract from the overall feeling of the Hall. The only major change to the building's exterior since its construction in 1932 was the addition of the front section of the building sometime between 1938 and 1945. This addition, however, is hardly remembered as an add-on by the residents of Swan River. In fact, few residents could recall the addition not being there. Indeed, the Swan River Community Hall retains integrity of location, setting, association, feeling, design, workmanship, and materials.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY,  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

Period(s) of Significance: 1932-1952

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1932, ca. 1940

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Joe Johnson, designer

## Narrative Statement of Significance

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### Summary

The Swan River Community Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. Historically significant for its association with the development and maintenance of the social life of Swan River residents, the Hall has served as a center for important community activities since its construction in 1932. As the years have passed some of these activities have changed, but the Hall continues to serve its purpose as a gathering and meeting place for this rural Montana community. Also unchanged is the dedication the residents of this community have to the maintenance and continued use of this Hall. Throughout its history, the Swan River Community Hall has both entertained and educated the people of this community with everything from basket socials and rollerskating to Grange and Farmer's Union meetings.

### History of the Flathead Valley

Humans have occupied the Flathead Valley of Northwestern Montana for at least 12,000 years. Early inhabitants of the region hunted large game animals such as mammoth, musk ox, and bison. Later peoples subsisted on fish, local game hunted with the bow and arrow, and indigenous vegetative resources such as bitterroot, camas, and the cambium layer of trees.<sup>1</sup> At the time of Euroamerican contact, there were several populations of Native Americans living in western Montana, including the Salish, Kootenai, Kalispel, and the Pend d'Oreille.<sup>2</sup> The earliest contact between whites and Native Americans in the Flathead Valley occurred in the early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century primarily by way of trappers, adventurers, and prospectors. Due to the harsh winters and rugged terrain of the area, however, the Flathead Valley remained relatively unknown and unsettled by outsiders until the 1860s.<sup>3</sup>

With the discovery of gold in southern British Columbia in 1862, a route from Missoula, Montana north through the Flathead Valley along the west side of the Flathead Lake developed. Of the travelers bringing supplies and looking for riches, however, few stayed in the valley in these early years. The first permanent settlement in the Upper Flathead Valley was at Selish in 1881, five miles east of the present town of Somers. The first real influx of non-Indian settlers arrived with the completion of the Northern Pacific Railroad to Ravalli, north of Missoula, in 1883. Even with the railroad going as far as Ravalli, settlers still had to take a stage to the southern end of Flathead Lake at Polson. From there a steamboat carried people and supplies to Demersville. Finally, another stage ride would deliver settlers to their final destination in the Upper Flathead Valley. Due to this long journey, the flow of settlers and supplies into the Upper Flathead Valley remained a slow

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<sup>1</sup> Kathryn L. McKay, *Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation of the Bigfork- North and South Roadway Reconstruction Project* (May 2000) pp. 16-17.

<sup>2</sup> Flathead Culture Committee, *A Brief History of the Flathead Tribes* (Polson: Gull Printing, Inc., 1993) pp. 1-2.

<sup>3</sup> McKay, pp. 16-17.

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trickle through the 1880s. With the decision by Great Northern Railway to build a line through the Flathead Valley and on westwards in the early 1890s, traffic saw an increase. Passenger trains began running through Kalispell in August of 1892. The Great Northern Railway construction created markets for timber and other building supplies, created a source of employment for area settlers, and opened up distant markets to Flathead farmers and loggers. In addition, the Great Northern Railway actively promoted settlement in the Upper Flathead Valley in towns along its lines.<sup>4</sup>

Another factor that increased the settlement of the Flathead Valley came with the Dawes Act in 1887, which opened up lands not allotted to individual tribal members for settlement by the general public throughout the United States.<sup>5</sup> These "surplus" lands were taken from tribal control and opened to settlement in the Flathead Valley in 1910 with the Flathead Land Allotment Act of 1904.<sup>6</sup> As the railroad expanded and the availability of new lands opened up the Flathead Valley for new growth and exploration, families came to the Swan River Valley to carve out a living for themselves, eventually building a community that still prospers today.

### Swan River Community and Community Hall History

Five miles wide and five miles long, the Swan River Community takes its name from the river that flows out of Swan Lake to the south and meanders gently northward into the glacier-formed Flathead Lake. It is said that Swan River Valley residents grumbled considerably when downtown Bigfork and surroundings were brought under one postal designation; they had always felt themselves to be a community apart. Even the glacial history of the area tells us that the Swan River Valley was not formed by the great ice sheet that crept south two to three million years ago, creating Flathead Lake. Rather, an alpine glacier that, like the river, flowed north, shaped the present day Swan River Valley. Making a U-turn at the end of the Mission Mountains, this independent ice flow finally joined the larger glacier moving south.<sup>7</sup>

The origin of the name Swan is unknown. Some say the river was named after a man who lived in the valley. Others say that the name came from the large number of swans on the river and lakes.<sup>8</sup> According to late 19th century maps, the Swan River used to be called the Sweathouse; this name derived from the Blackfeet practice of constructing a ritual sweathouse close to the river at the end of their long journey over the mountains from the Plains.<sup>9</sup>

Settlers began moving into western Montana in some numbers after the Northern Pacific Railroad was built in 1883. In addition, the 1887 Dawes Act and the 1904 Flathead Land Allotment Act resulted in former tribal lands being made available to settlers. Soon the few hunters and trappers living in the Swan River Valley found themselves joined by a trickle of homesteaders intent on making the valley their home. In an 1893 survey, 30 home and cabin sites were recorded. Early Swan River pioneers were typically part-time farmers, but primarily hunters, fishermen and trappers. Most valued among their meager possessions were their guns, horses, axes and saws. Some were even lucky enough to have wives. It has been estimated that in the late 1800's and early 1900's there were ten men to every woman.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. pp. 17-20.

<sup>5</sup> 24 Stat. 388-91.

<sup>6</sup> *A Brief History of the Flathead Tribes*, pp. 14-15; 33 Stat. 302.

<sup>7</sup> Irving J. Witkind, "Giant Glacial Grooves at the North End of the Mission Range, Northwest Montana," Reprint from *Journal of Research, U.S. Geological Survey*, Vol. 6, No. 4, (August 1978) pp. 425-433.

<sup>8</sup> Swan River Homemakers Club, *Swan River: Echoes of the Past* (Bigfork: Bigfork Eagle Printing, 1993) p. 345.

<sup>9</sup> Art Whiney, oral interview with Charlotte French, October 11, 1996.

<sup>10</sup> *Swan River: Echoes of the Past*, p. 345.

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Around 1900, full-time farmers and their families, many of them Norwegian immigrants, came to the valley, buying out the original settlers or homesteading land of their own. In the short northwestern Montana growing season, potatoes, carrots, rutabagas and cabbages did well. The thick forest resources were used for building and fuel. Plentiful timber and a close-by waterway eventually led to a thriving logging enterprise that employed many of the locals.<sup>11</sup> By 1910 around 3,500 railroad cars of lumber left the Flathead Valley annually with trees harvested from all over the valley for one of the three major logging firms: the Northwestern Lumber Company; the state Lumber Company; and the John O'Brien Lumber Company.<sup>12</sup> Logs were skidded to the Swan River during winter months, then floated down to Flathead Lake and across to Somers on the route of the Great Northern Railroad. Art and Jack Whitney, lifetime residents of the area, remember watching their father guide logs down river when he was a 'river pig' on the Swan.

The logging boom didn't last, however, and in the 20's the number of families in the valley declined to the point that when the old schoolhouse burned down it was replaced with a one-room structure. The 30's brought an upswing in population as drought refugees from Eastern Montana and the Dakotas pushed west; many settled in the Swan Valley. A room was added to the schoolhouse to accommodate the growing number of children. In the early 40's, plentiful lumber and crops and a series of wet years brought prosperity to the valley. Farmers received 115% of parity in 1943. During and after World War II, the Swan Valley experienced much the same economic prosperity as was seen elsewhere in the United States at the time. The Christmas tree market, begun in the 30's, was proving so successful that as many as 3000 acres had been planted in the valley and surrounding areas twenty years later. A substantial number of area residents made their living by hoeing and planting on these huge acreages. When California and Arizona entered the competition with their faster-growing trees, however, big business pulled out of the Swan Valley and the boom petered out.<sup>13</sup> Today in the Swan River Valley there is still some logging along the Swan and a few farmers are still planting Christmas trees, but the present boom is in real estate, as residents of other states seek out the peace and inspiration to be found in this lovely river valley.

Through economic highs and lows, determined early settlers put down deep roots. Those who came in the Depression years added their strength and vitality to the community. Generation after generation has found ways to stay and make a living in this place where parents and grandparents and great-grandparents are buried. As a result, the Swan River Valley, even now, is a tightly knit community that takes enormous pleasure in its Community Hall, conceived by members of the Rod and Gun Club in 1915.<sup>14</sup> In 1920, local residents Louis and Karen Hendrickson sold an acre of land for the Hall to three members of the Rod and Gun Club for \$150.<sup>15</sup> Twelve years later, on March 23, 1932, the newly formed Board accepted Joe Johnson's floor plan for a community hall to be built on that site. The structure was to be 36 feet by 60 feet, with footing 18 inches wide and 10 inches deep. The foundation would be "8 inches thick above the footing at the highest point."<sup>16</sup> Timber was logged from State lands and other building materials came from the old Stanley gristmill and the old saw mill on Noisy Creek. Kalispell businesses also donated or discounted materials such as nails, windows, and doors. Local resident George Olson sawed white pine shingles at his shingle mill.<sup>17</sup>

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11 Ibid.

12 McKay, p. 22.

13 *Swan River: Echoes of the Past*, p. 346.

14 *Minutes of the Swan River Community Hall*, March 5, 1953.

15 Frank H. Trippet, *History of Bigfork* (Kalispell: Trippet Publishers, 1956) pp. 59.

16 *Minutes*, March 23, 1932.

17 *Swan River: Echoes of the Past*, p. 347.

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Voting membership in the Hall was given to anyone contributing \$10 in either money or labor. The Hall by-laws, signed on May 3, 1933, state: "No subscriber shall be eligible to attend any meetings of the subscribers or for election as a member of the Board of Trustees unless he is a subscriber of at least ten dollars (\$10.00) in cash, or ten dollars (\$10.00) in such forms as shall be approved by the Board of Trustees."<sup>18</sup> The minutes of March 17, 1932 record the following: "Motion made, seconded and carried that committee exchange Widston Johnson's five day's donation for his 700 feet of siding." And again "Motion made that committee take Halvor Linden's offer of 5000 shingles instead of his \$10.00 cash donation. Motion carried."<sup>19</sup> And so it went, until the building was completed in 1933. A series of plays and dances also financed the project. The first play, "Adam and Eve," was given at the Swan River School in 1931; it was a huge success. The first dance was an open-air affair held on the new birch floor of the Hall in the summer of 1932, walls and a roof came later.<sup>20</sup> Both dances and plays continued as fundraisers and community entertainment for more than three decades.

From the time it opened, weddings, christenings, funerals, teas, and rummage sales were held under this community roof. As one area resident said, "If we didn't go to the Hall every week, something was wrong."<sup>21</sup> Initially, everything from PTA meetings, talent shows, dances, benefits, and auctions to Grange and Farmers' Union meetings took place in the Hall. Basket socials, a tradition now forgotten by many, were held at the Hall as well. Each young lady would decorate a picnic basket in secrecy. The baskets were then auctioned off to the young men of the community and each young man would have the picnic lunch with the basket's maker. It was all supposed to be secret, of course, but many young ladies would whisper to their beaux which basket was theirs. Plays were also a common event at the Hall. With the completion of the Hall and the stage inside, plays and talent shows were often held there for both fundraising and amusement. There was even a working curtain, provided by the Grange.<sup>22</sup> Indeed, in the spring of 2000 and 2001 the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders of the Swan River School revived this fundraising technique by putting on plays at the Hall and raising over \$300.<sup>23</sup>

In addition to the fundraising and entertainment to be found at the Hall, important community meetings and were held there, including weekly Grange meetings. Founded in 1867 by Minnesota farmer Oliver Hudson Kelley and six other men from the northeastern United States, the Grange was a fraternal organization of farmers open to both men and women. An important community organization in many rural communities throughout the United States, the Grange served economic, political, and social purposes for its many members. In Swan River, Grange meetings were held at the Community Hall for many years. For the use of the Hall, the Grange paid \$6.00 annually for electricity. The Grange also built a woodshed in the back (no longer extant), and the Farmers Union provided the water.<sup>24</sup>

As the years rolled on, the many activities held at the Hall changed with the times. Instead of basket socials, there was basketball, 4-H, Homemakers Club, and even dog training and ballet lessons. At the annual meeting on January 5, 1954, the Board considered roller-skating as an activity for the Hall. A committee was formed to look into possible insurance needs in April of the year, and by May 6<sup>th</sup> a special meeting was called to further discuss roller-skating. Joe Evensen made a motion that the roller-skating should start as soon as possible, which was seconded by Don Evansen and carried. Frank Fordick made a motion to have the Hall buy some skates at appraisal values, which was seconded by Eva Jo Gordon and

<sup>18</sup> *Minutes*, May 3, 1933.

<sup>19</sup> *Minutes*, March 17, 1932.

<sup>20</sup> *Swan River: Echoes of the Past*, p. 347.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>22</sup> *Minutes*, May 24, 1950.

<sup>23</sup> Kate Hampton and Erin Seymour, oral interview with Charlotte French, July 9, 2001.

<sup>24</sup> Charles P. Gilliam, "A Short History of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry: The National Grange," 1999, [http://www.geocities.com/cannongrange/cannon\\_nationalhistory.html](http://www.geocities.com/cannongrange/cannon_nationalhistory.html); *Minutes*, March 20, 1946.



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carried. Finally, Mrs. Sauber motioned for the first order of skates to be placed by May 24<sup>th</sup>, which was seconded by Russell Evansen and carried. This first order of skates was funded by five of the Board members and the Hall treasury. On June 14, 1954 a meeting was called to determine the price to skate at the Hall:

A motion was made and Second to skate on Thursday night from 8 to 11. A motion was made to and Second to charge 20 cents for the Skaters - who owned their own Skates. & 40 cents for rental skates. A committee of two were chosen for each week to Supervise the Hall.<sup>25</sup>

The activities of the Hall continuously changed to reflect the changing world outside of this small rural community. In fact, the Hall was one of the most important places for the people of Swan River to keep abreast of the changing world. At the same time, however, the original purpose of providing a community-gathering place was maintained.

Even though the Swan River Community Hall has been in continuous use for more than six decades, the years did not pass without some changes to the building. By 1938 the Board was already considering the need for an entry hall and storeroom. The minutes from December 6, 1938 state: "Another stove, chimney, and an entrance was discussed." Although the exact date of the addition is not known, by 1945 the minutes discuss painting the Hall. As the unpainted original façade can still be seen inside the storeroom on the northwest corner of the addition, we know that the addition predates the painting. The minutes for January 7, 1949 state: "Motion made by Dean Hulsing. Second by Mrs. O. Slethaug that southwest room be made into locker room for different organizations with personal property and keys to (be) kept with Hall key. Passed." In 1955, the southwest room of the addition became the storage room and rental area for the roller skates used at the Hall. Another major physical change for the building came in the fall of 1976, when the old wood-burning furnace in the back of the Hall caught fire, causing damage to a rear wall and charring floorboards near the stage. Discouraged, the Board briefly considered giving the building to the school across the street, but public sentiment ran so deep that repair and rebuilding were undertaken. At that time the kitchen was moved up to the southwest corner of the addition and two bathrooms were put into the rear of the building. Prior to this, the only bathrooms available were the two outhouses still seen off the southeast corner of the Hall today.<sup>26</sup>

Despite the major work that was required to repair the fire damage in the rear of the building, the Hall was lovingly brought back to working order. It continues today to serve as a community center and focus of activities. The structure is sound, but time wears away pieces and parts. When repairs are necessary, area residents come forward with money, labor, and support for this community home. Just as the Hall was built by the donations of labor and supplies from Swan River Community residents, the Hall is maintained today by that same spirit of community.

Clearly, The Swan River Community Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A. For seventy years, the Hall has served as a center for social activity in the small town. As the years have passed some of these activities have changed, but the Hall continues to serve its purpose as a gathering and meeting place for this rural Montana community. Also unchanged is the dedication the residents of this community have to the maintenance and continued use of this Hall. Throughout its history, the Swan River Community Hall has both entertained and educated the people of this community with everything from basket socials and rollerskating to Grange and Farmer's Union meetings.

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<sup>25</sup> *Minutes*, January 5, 1954, April 1954, May 6, 1954, June 14, 1954.

<sup>26</sup> *Minutes*, December 6, 1938; September 26, 1945; January 7, 1949; Charlotte French, telephone interview with Joyce Potts, June 2001.



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24 Stat. 388-91. The Dawes Act, 1887.

33 Stat. 302. The Flathead Land Allotment Act, 1904.

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Bigfork Orthophotquad detail, Flathead County, MT



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Bigfork Quadrangle detail, Flathead County, MT

