

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form
(Property Name)
NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. Aug. 2002)

OMB No. 1024-0018
(Expires 12-31-2005)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

page 1

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Dayton Community Hall

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 410 Bridge Street not for publication
city or town Dayton vicinity _____
state Wyoming code WY county Sheridan code 033
zip code 82836

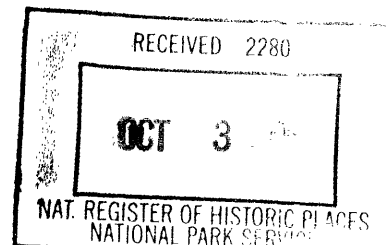
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Glenn Arif, SHPO
Signature of certifying official

10/12/05
Date

State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 2

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the
National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for
additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

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

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

Edmund H. Beall 11-25-05

[Handwritten signature]

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 3

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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5. Classification
=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district

- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Total

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 4

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the
National
Register _____

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if
property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

6. Function or Use

=====
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: Meeting hall
Recreation and Culture Auditorium; theater

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Social Sub: Meeting hall
Recreation and Culture Auditorium

=====
7. Description

=====
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 5

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete
roof asphalt shingles
walls log
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 6

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance 1936-1955

Significant Dates 1936

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 7

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of
the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing
this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)
has been

 requested.

 previously listed in the National Register

 previously determined eligible by the National Register

 designated a National Historic Landmark

 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

 State Historic Preservation Office

 Other State agency

 Federal agency

 Local government

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 8

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>13</u>	<u>32192</u>	<u>4971460</u>	3	_____	_____
2	___	_____	_____	4	_____	_____
	___	See continuation sheet.				

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Carol Swift; Lucille Alley; Pete Hager; Nancy Weidel

organization Dayton School Benefit Club

date August 26, 2005

street & number 410 Bridge Street

telephone (307) 655-2520

city or town Dayton state WY zip code 82836

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Page 9

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Dayton School Benefit Club

street & number 410 Bridge Street

telephone (307) 655-2520

city or town Dayton state WY zip code 82836

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11 Dayton Community Hall
Sheridan County WY

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The west side kitchen appendage was built sometime in the 1940s. It was constructed to accommodate the large wood-burning stove that was donated to the Hall by the nearby IXL Dude Ranch. The addition is approximately 3/4 of the length of the west wall. A single door and paired six over six slider windows are located on the northeast side and a paired six over six slider window on the southwest side of the appendage. A door on the primary west elevation that led from the Hall to the two outhouses (one remains) was boarded over sometime in the past, perhaps when plumbing was installed for the kitchen and indoor bathrooms in the mid-1950s.

The south side of the hall consists of five sets of paired twelve over twelve, double hung windows and two single lite hopper windows on the southwest side. This side of the building is seven feet from a post and rail fence that marks the property line.

The interior of the Hall consists of a large room to the east. A stage on the west side is accessed by four enclosed wooden steps. The kitchen is located at the rear of the building on the west side and two bathrooms are at the south side of the stage area. The log trusses are exposed in the main room which includes the large fireplace on the east side and simple enclosed wood benches built into the walls on the east and west sides. A partial basement is located beneath the stage and contains a coal furnace that is used to heat the building. The coal and wood burning stove in the kitchen is vented by a brick chimney on the west side of the roof.

The building has received modifications over the years besides the kitchen addition and enclosing the front porch. Plumbing and two bathrooms were installed in 1956. About thirty years ago, steel rods that connect the east and west walls were bolted beneath the floor and under the rafters to keep those walls from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12
Hall

Dayton Community

Sheridan County WY

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bowing. Outside posts were added to help support the log
structure at the same time.

The building is in excellent condition and demonstrates
remarkable integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship,
feeling and association. Pride of ownership is evident in the
overall excellent condition of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 13 Dayton Community Hall
Sheridan County WY

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Statement of Significance

The Dayton Community Hall is eligible for listing under Criterion A. The building, which has been in continuous use since 1936, embodies the tight-knit spirit of community that still exists in this small Wyoming town. Built as part of the national WPA relief effort during the Depression, the hall still functions as it was originally conceived - a "building for community gatherings". Just as it has in the past, the hall today hosts weddings, parties, dances, funeral dinners, reunions, special town meetings.

The town of Dayton is located at the foot of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Sheridan County, fifteen miles northwest of Sheridan. The Tongue River runs through town. Dayton reportedly began as a trading post on the Bozeman Trail, then became a stage stop between Custer, Montana on the Northern Pacific rail line, and Rock Creek, Wyoming along the Union Pacific line. Among the first settlers were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baker, who in 1882 left the site of Bed Tick, near Fort Fetterman, to establish a store in what is now Dayton. The following year, Mrs. Mary Shipp moved to the area from Fort McKinney and bought a stable from Baker which she remodeled into a restaurant and hotel.

The plat for Dayton was filed on March 23, 1885. Naming of the town became a simple matter of putting the names of all the local settlers into a hat and selecting one. Hence, Dayton received its name from one Joseph Dayton Thorne who later became a bank president in Sheridan. Although Dayton was bypassed by the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad which selected Sheridan as a division point in 1892, it did become the center of a tie industry as the railroad continued to build towards Billings, Montana.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 14 Dayton Community Hall
Sheridan County WY

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The local tie industry was pioneered first in 1892 by the Starbird and Hall Company who reportedly built the first five mile long flume above Dayton. About a year later, the McShane Tie Company of Omaha, Nebraska took over Starbird and greatly expanded the flume to over forty miles long. Logging the nearby Big Horn Mountains, the tie hacks skidded the ties down the flume where they floated on the Tongue River through Dayton to their destination of Ranchester, five miles down the river, to be loaded onto railroad cars.

Dayton's economy prospered by supplying hay, grain, meat, eggs, and potatoes to the McShane tie camps. The town and surrounding area became home to families of farmers, ranchers, loggers, as well as coal miners who worked at the nearby Monarch, Acme, and Dietz coal mines. The first substantial building in the town, Croghan Hall (now called the Dayton Mercantile), was built by 1883 and became well known for its second story dance floor. It also housed the first post office and served as the community center. The Congregational Church was constructed in 1904 across from the Dayton Community Hall and still stands today.

In 1906, the year of Dayton's incorporation, the Wyoming State Business Directory listed Dayton with a population of 225 and a variety of businesses including two hotels, a bank, a mercantile (building still stands), a livery stable, the church (with a female pastor), millinery (owned by Susan Wissler, Wyoming's first woman mayor); and a few saloons. Over the next thirty years, Dayton's population ebbed and flowed, tied to the vagaries of the tie industry and the nearby mines: 177 in 1915; 200 in 1920; 348 in 1930 and 348 in 1935, the year Works Progress Administration job #65-83-297, the building of the "Community Club Hall", was authorized.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 15
Hall

Dayton Community

Sheridan County WY

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The project application cited the need for "a building for community gatherings. Gymnasium for the school children. Stage for community plays. Meeting place for the town council." Croghan Hall, formerly the community gathering place, had become unsafe for such activities by 1935. Plans called for a log building thirty-six feet by eighty feet with a ten foot porch. The hall was estimated to serve 1000 people, "Population of Dayton (400) and adjacent territory (300) and those from Sheridan County in General (300) who will attend meetings a Club House."

According to a study conducted in 1925-1928 by the Agricultural Experiment Station at Bozeman, Montana, a community hall, separate from a school or church building, provided a community "a home of its own. While there might have been other places adequate for community meetings, it was felt that the number and variety of gatherings to be held and the increased community pride and consciousness awakened by a place that might be used exclusively for general community purposes more than warranted the erection of a community hall".

The report further stated that "Dancing, at present, is the leading social and recreational pastime of the rural people...Parents deemed it more desirable for their children to dance in a hall in the local community than to go elsewhere for their recreation".

The project was estimated to cost \$2366 of federal funds and \$2376.45 of the sponsor's cost for a total of \$4742.45. The town of Dayton's expenses were primarily material and supplies, with the federal government picking up the labor costs. Perry S. Aber drew up the plans and specifications for the project. The project was expected to employ six carpenters at \$63 a month each, one

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 16
Hall

Dayton Community

Sheridan County WY

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stonemason also at \$63/month, one truck driver at \$50/month, and thirty-six unskilled laborers at \$44/month each. Three men employed as foremen and timekeeper were each to earn \$69/month. Expected starting date for the project was November 18, 1935 with completion by April 19, 1936.

A local woman, Susan Walling, donated the corner lot on which the hall would be built, with the stipulation that the building would be kept for use for the citizens of the community. Dayton resident and former mayor F. A. Keuney supervised the workforce that included local men Deke Stevenson, Whitey Howell, Ivan Daniels, W. P. Ratcliff, Harvey Gaster, Jack Wardlaw, Al Underwood, Sam and Bill Davis, Jake Achenbach, Harry Adams, and Wilbur Cooley. Lew Adams, a stonemason, built the rock fireplace.

Members of the local Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp F34W, Company 853, consisting of two hundred men, donated their time and labor in cutting down the indigenous lodge pole pines used in construction of the building. Work stopped during the winter but the hall was completed as planned in spring of 1936. An opening dance drew three hundred people and ticket sales helped purchase windows to complete the hall. Although other community halls existed in Sheridan County, Dayton's new hall was the largest and dances every Saturday night drew people from as far away as Clearmont, a town fifty miles away in eastern Sheridan County, and Montana communities. Dancing was a primary social activity and Saturday night dances were held for many years in the hall.

The hall also served other functions. It was the school gymnasium and basketball games were played there with the built in bench seating serving as bleachers. The local CCC also played basketball there. During World War II, the Dayton Benefit

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 17
Hall

Dayton Community

Sheridan County WY

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Club met in the building to knit wool clothing for servicemen which they sent to the local Red Cross. Lunch boxes for troop trains passing through Sheridan were prepared in the hall. Care packets for local servicemen serving in Vietnam were assembled there.

For several decades, city council met in the hall which was also used as a voting station and for political rallies. Besides recreational events, the school used it for years for dances, club meetings, plays, proms, and graduation ceremonies. The community held showers, weddings, and funeral dinners at the hall. Generations of Dayton youth learned to dance at the hall though weekly lessons taught by local women. During the late 1940s and early 1950s, the hall was used as a community movie theater. It also served as the local fallout shelter during the 1960s.

Three different entities have owned the hall. The town of Dayton owned it from 1936 until 1940 when it became the property of Sheridan School District #5 for the following ten years. The building has been owned since 1950 by the Dayton Benefit Club, a group of local women, who have lovingly maintained the building in its excellent condition for the past sixty years. Funds to maintain it come from bake sales, rentals for large groups (200-300 people) where dinner, prepared by the Club members, is served. The nearby Padlock Ranch holds their annual employee party for 200 people at the hall. Other events include family reunions; weddings, and funeral dinners.

The Dayton Community Hall has functioned for almost seventy years as it was originally planned by the WPA: as a "building for community gatherings". The building endures today as a symbol of Dayton's past and present and continues to be well maintained for its future.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 18 Dayton Community Hall
Sheridan County WY

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Major Bibliographical References

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 19 Dayton Community Hall
Sheridan County WY

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 20

Dayton Community Hall

Sheridan County WY

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Dayton Community Hall is located on lot 1, block 14 of the Dayton Original Town Addition. It is at the intersection of Bridge Street and Third Avenue.

NOTE ON PHOTOS

The photos are dated 1999 and the building has not changed since then.