



446

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Glacier County Courthouse

other names/site number 24GL1319

### 2. Location

street & number 512 East Main Street N/A not for publication

city or town Cut Bank N/A vicinity

state Montana code MT county Glacier code 035 zip code 59427

### 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

Mark T. Saunders/SHPD  
Signature of certifying official/Title

5/6/2013  
Date

MONTANA STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register  removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

For Edson W. Beall  
Signature of the Keeper

6.25.13  
Date of Action

Glacier County Courthouse  
 Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
 County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	private
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
1	1	<b>Total</b>

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

GOVERNMENT/courthouse

GOVERNMENT/correctional facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/PWA Modern

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other: TERRA COTTA

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Rising on a grassy lawn amid tall mature spruce trees and above Cut Bank's Main Street, the monumental Glacier County courthouse stands as a three-story, "T"-shaped, flat roofed, tan brick building on a poured concrete-wall foundation with a modern, irregularly-shaped, brick detention center addition across its rear (south) elevation. Designed by Angus McIver in 1938 and completed in November 1939, the courthouse artfully embodies the Public Works Administration (PWA) Modern/Stripped Classical style that became increasingly influential by the late 1930s - a time when many architects experimented with abstracted classical motifs combined with a reduction in architectural ornament. The building's planes of Great Falls brick are nearly devoid of classical ornamentation, which is limited to the punctuated regular rhythm of tall, elongated bays, chamfered terra cotta panels at the entry surround, and fluted terra cotta spandrels. Encompassing nearly a full city block along Main Street, each of the exterior elevations features a similar design: smooth walls pierced by elongated bays containing sets of windows. The building exhibits three stories, including a full daylight basement and two stories above. Historic photos reveal the sets of two and three original nine-over-nine double-hung wood-frame windows throughout the building. The county replaced these windows during the late 1970s or early 1980s with wood-frame, one-over-one, double-hung windows.

### Narrative Description

The Glacier County Courthouse stands in the town of Cut Bank in northwest Montana. Cut Bank, a town of 3500 people, rests at the intersection of the Great Plains and the Rocky Mountains, immediately east of Cut Bank Creek and 25 miles south of the US/Canada border. Fifty miles to the west, the Continental Divide rises from the plains providing a striking view. Immediately to the west, just across Cut Bank Creek, is the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, and further west lies Glacier National Park; the Reservation and the Park comprise the majority of the county land base.

#### Historic Courthouse (1939, one contributing building)

##### *North Elevation (façade)*

A wide concrete sidewalk lined with tall spruce trees leads from Main Street to a series of concrete steps with wrought iron handrails that in turn lead to the courthouse's raised three-story, central entry bay. The central bay steps out from the center of the elevation, revealing a recessed two-story entry surrounded by chamfered terra cotta panels. The striking dark texture of the wooden double doors' cast-iron kickplates and decorative hardware contrasts with the light tones of the pale tan brick walls and gray terra cotta panels. This central bay is a half-story higher than the rest of the building, and holds the interior staircase, with a mezzanine landing within its second story. Though partially obscured by 1970s-era wooden storms on the exterior that give the appearance of one-over-one double-hungs, the mezzanine windows retain original eighteen-light leaded sashes. The central sash is fixed, flanked by side-hinged casements with bronze hardware. Each of these windows features a stained glass pane centered in the upper nine lights. The terra cotta panels filling the space above the doors and below the windows are inscribed, reading "GLACIER COUNTY COURTHOUSE" with a row of six, small, five-pointed stars above and seven stars below the lettering. A stylized terra cotta eagle relief, wings outstretched, stands upon the entry's terra cotta surround, and above the eagle, centered high in the third-story level, cast iron numbers read "1938".<sup>1</sup> A single large, wrought iron light fixture protrudes from either side of the doorway. Also on either side of the centered entry, the bay steps down and back. Within each of these flanks, a narrow, fluted, terra cotta-paneled recess runs from the steps to the roofline, punctuated by single, non-original, narrow, one-over-one double-hungs at the second and third story. Originally, these windows were wood-frame nine-over-nine double-hungs. (see blueprint detail)

<sup>1</sup> Though the building displays the 1938 date above the entry, its completion and occupation date is 1939.

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

The north elevation's west and east wings step down from the entry bay and feature symmetrical fenestration, with two evenly-spaced recesses between wide pilasters; each recess contains fluted, terra cotta-paneled spandrels that hold the window openings. Each opening at the second and third stories holds pairs of one-over-one wood-frame double hung replacement windows with wooden storms, and narrow terra cotta sills. The first story (daylight basement) paired windows are shorter, featuring a small single-light, single-hung sash below a fixed, one-light sash. For security, iron bars cover the first story openings. Also at the first story, concrete sills protrude slightly from the concrete-wall watertable that surrounds the entire building.

#### *East (side) Elevation*

The original courthouse building's east elevation features four bays, and additional modern detention center wings extend from the south end. The northernmost bay represents the protruding section of the north elevation's entry bay. Within it, a single narrow fluted terra cotta-paneled recess holds a single, one-over-one double-hung wood-framed replacement window at both the second and third stories, and a single-hung one-over-one window at the first floor daylight basement level. The east elevation's prominent central bay contains three similar window recesses: paired windows at center and tripled windows to the north and south sides. Constructed of slightly lighter-colored brick, the elevation's south bays represent the courthouse's south wing, the base of the "T"-shaped floorplan. The north bay of this wing rises to nearly three and a half stories, accommodating the one-and-a-half-story third-floor courtroom, and containing two vertical recesses of soldier-coursed brick rather than terra cotta. There is a pair of one-over-one double-hung windows visible at the north side of the second story. The modern detention center addition obscures the windows at the south side. There are no windows at the first story, but at the third story, tall pairs of replacement double-hungs below very large one-light, fixed transoms fill the window openings. These vinyl-clad windows do not match the rest of the historic courthouse's fenestration. The top half-story extends slightly to the north within the main building's three-story central bay. This stepped-back half-wall contains two, wide, one-light, fixed windows toward its south end. Barely visible from the exterior, these windows provide light to the courtroom and third story corridor within. At the southernmost bay of the courthouse wing, a single terra cotta-paneled recess rises to the third story level above the one-story detention center addition. There, a single one-over-one double-hung replacement window fills the only opening.

#### *South (rear) Elevation*

The 2009 detention center addition obscures much of the historic courthouse's south elevation. The east wing's south elevation is intact, revealing two evenly-spaced terra cotta window recesses with paired wood-frame replacement windows at both the second and third stories. The first floor paired single-hung daylight basement windows display the design identical to those at the east and north elevations. There are no openings at the upper stories visible above the addition at the center bay's middle and east sides. The central bay's west side south elevation reveals two window recesses, the easternmost containing soldiered brick spandrels and paired wood-frame, double-hung windows at the second and third stories. The narrower westernmost channel features fluted terra cotta spandrels above and below the second and third story single double-hung windows. The first floor windows are barred wood-framed, single-hungs. The west wing's historic south elevation rises above the one-story detention center at its second and third story. It contains two terra cotta recesses, each with a pair of wood-frame, double-hung replacement windows at each story.

#### *West (side) Elevation*

The west elevation mirrors the east, with four bays, and additional modern detention center wings extend from the south end. The northernmost bay represents the protruding section of the north elevation's entry bay. Within it, a single narrow fluted terra cotta-paneled recess holds a single, one-over-one double-hung wood-framed replacement window at both the second and third stories, and a single-hung one-over-one window at the first floor daylight basement level. The prominent central bay contains three evenly-spaced terra cotta paneled window recesses, with paired windows at center and tripled windows to the north and south sides. The south bays represent the courthouse's south wing, the base of the "T"-shaped floorplan. Constructed of slightly lighter-colored brick, the north side of this wing rises to nearly three and a half stories, accommodating the one-and-one-half-story third-floor courtroom. The detention center addition obscures the wing's north bay at the first story. The second and third stories feature two soldier-coursed brick window recesses. The second story displays pairs of one-over-one double-hung windows wood-frame windows. Above, at the third story, tall pairs of

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

replacement double-hungs below very large one-light, fixed transoms fill the large openings. These vinyl-clad windows do not match the rest of the historic courthouse's fenestration. The top half-story extends slightly to the north within the main building's three-story bay. This stepped-back half-wall contains two, wide, one-light, fixed windows toward its south end. Barely visible from the exterior, these windows provide light to the courtroom and third floor corridor within. At the southernmost bay of the courthouse wing, a centered window channel features terra cotta spandrels above and below the third story single double-hung window. Soldiered brick fills the opening and lower panel at the second story.

#### *Interior*

The three stories of the historic courthouse retain many of the original materials described in contemporary newspaper accounts, including asphalt tile beneath carpeting in the offices, terrazzo floors and travertine baseboards in the corridors, and varnished red oak trim throughout. The doors all feature original bronze hardware and one-light functioning transoms. The third-floor courtrooms were remodeled in the late twentieth century, but vintage chrome-plated light fixtures remain. Modern paneling and acoustic tiles cover some walls and ceilings, respectively, but original plaster and pink travertine marble from Gardiner, Montana, likely remains underneath. The railings are especially intriguing, with wrought iron balusters, some with prickly pear detailing, and chrome handrails.

The original courthouse's interior floorplan remains largely intact, featuring a symmetrical layout one each story housing county services' offices on the first and second stories, and court offices on the third story. (See Additional Documentation for original floorplans.)

#### ***Detention Center Addition***

Designed by Stephen L'Heureux of L'Heureux Page Werner of Great Falls, the one-story, tan brick, modern (2009) detention center addition extends from the south and east sides of the historic portion, and fills the ell at the west elevation's center and south bays. The irregularly-shaped addition has a concrete wall foundation.

#### *South elevation*

The detention center's entrance is located at the south elevation of the one-story extension within the ell. It features a recessed single door entry at the west side, and a tiled channel containing multiple glass blocks within the window opening to the off-center to the west.

#### *West elevation*

The addition's west elevation features four bays. The northernmost bay fills the ell at the historic building's south wing, and features three tiled recesses, one at the north side, one off-center to the south, and another at the south end. The north and center channels each contain a pair of metal-clad one-over-one double-hungs. A vertically-oriented, louvered panel fills the opening in the southernmost channel. The next bay to the south is one-and-one-half stories, and extends from the middle of the historic courthouse's south central bay. It features a single metal entry door at its north side. The next bay to the south steps down and back to a single story, and features a covered flat-roofed brick entryway at its north end. The entry itself is a metal framed, one-light door surrounded by single metal-framed sidelights and a three-light transom. The west elevation's southernmost bay contains a metal pedestrian door to the north side, and two horizontal single-light, concrete-silled windows across to the south; the bay then angles to the southwest to accommodate a large metal overhead door.

#### *Southwest and Southeast Elevations*

The detention center's southwest elevation has no window or door openings. Proceeding east, the addition angles to the northeast, and this southeast elevation faces a concrete loading ramp. The southeast elevation is divided into three bays, a low, one-story northeast bay that features a single, one-light, concrete-silled window, a one-and-a-half-story central bay that contains two pairs of steel-framed windows, and the one-story southwest bay that contains a single, large, metal overhead door. The steel windows feature a single fixed light to the east side and a two-light window to the southwest. The west windows' single lower sashes are awnings.

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property

Glacier County, MT

County and State

#### *East elevation*

At the east elevation, the detention center steps out in three bays from the historic courthouse. At the bays' east elevation, openings are limited to a metal, narrow, overhead door in the north side of its northernmost bay, and a single, metal pedestrian door off-center to the north. The east elevation's south bay contains four low, horizontal, one-light, recessed windows with concrete sills.

#### *North elevation*

The detention center's east side north elevation contains two, tall, single, vinyl-clad one-light fixed windows.

### **Sherriff's Office (2011, one noncontributing building)**

A wood frame, gable-roofed building stands at the northeast corner of the lot. Constructed in 2011, the building consists of a main story with a daylight basement garage. It rests on a concrete wall foundation, and features wide horizontal vinyl siding. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The main entrance faces east, accessed by a wood-frame ramp to the south and a centered wood-frame stair. Metal railings offer stability along both the ramp and the stoop, which led to a centered, six-panel metal clad door. South of the door is a pair of one-light vinyl casement windows, and there is a single one-light, square, vinyl-clad window opening to the north.

A large metal overhead garage door provides entry to the basement level story from the west side of the building's north elevation. Pedestrians gain entry through a metal-clad six panel door set just off-center to the west. Above, three window openings provide light to north elevation's main story. The easternmost opening contains a pair of one-light casements. The middle opening contains a single, square, one-light casement, while the westernmost opening features a fixed central light flanked by one-light casements.

The south elevation, at grade with the alley at the back end of the lot, features three window openings: two pairs of one-light casements spaced across the east side, and a one-light fixed window flanked by one-light casements to the west.

The basement level's west elevation contains a pedestrian door on the north side, and a single, square, vinyl-clad, one-light casement window to the south. A metal exterior stairway leads to the west elevation's upper story, where another six-panel metal clad door provides entry from the south side. South of the door is another square, vinyl-clad, one-light casement window. A ribbon of windows, with a central fixed pane flanked by single-light casements, provides light from the west elevation's north side.

### **Integrity**

The Glacier County Courthouse retains its integrity of location, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. Replacement of nearly all of the windows during the late twentieth century diminished its integrity of design and materials, as did the 2009 detention center addition to the south end of the building. Despite these changes, the original massing and façade articulation remain strongly evident. The building is a strong representation of local development and government through the mid-twentieth century, and displays many of the design elements associated with PWA Modern architecture. These associations remain clear, and the historic building's significance transcends the alterations to its exterior.

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

**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.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

1939-1960

**Significant Dates**

1939

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Angus McIver, Architect

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance, 1939-1960, begins with the courthouse's completion and occupancy continues through the community's mid-twentieth century period of growth. By 1960, the oil boom and associated enterprises waned, and the economy shifted to smaller-scale support services.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Glacier County Courthouse in Cut Bank, Montana stands as a significant representation of the development of the locality. Designed in 1938 and completed in 1939, it was built during a period of unprecedented prosperity in Cut Bank and the eastern side of the county, known as the Santa Rita Strip. At that time, while most of Montana and the nation experienced severe economic hardship, the area witnessed an oil boom that brought jobs, economic stability, and optimism. The building represents the county's confidence in their future, and hopeful pride in becoming the "Oil Capital of the World." The building served the community since its construction as a center of political activity for the county, and housed county political officers, staff, and court. For these reasons, it is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

The building gains additional significance under Criterion C for its representation of the PWA Modern/Stripped Classical style and its associations with Angus McIver, a prominent architect based in Great Falls during the mid and late twentieth century.<sup>2</sup> The Glacier County Courthouse stands as an excellent local example of the style that became increasingly influential by the late 1930s - a time when many architects experimented with abstracted classical motifs combined with a reduction in architectural ornament. The courthouse's planes of Great Falls brick are nearly devoid of classical ornamentation, limited to the punctuated regular rhythm of tall, elongated bays, chamfered terra cotta panels at the entry surround, and fluted terra cotta spandrels dividing the window bays between floors. The Glacier County Courthouse artfully embodies McIver's monumental civic works at mid-century.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

*Historic courthouses are more than architecturally grand buildings and old government offices. They're physical, tangible links to community and state heritage. Courthouses were the first permanent structures in many communities, and main streets and business districts grew and prospered in their shadows. Marriages, trials, elections, parades, festivals, campaign rallies and community celebrations are just some of the events linked to courthouse squares.*<sup>3</sup>

One of the most important, but least remarked upon, of America's architectural legacies can be found in thousands of county seats across the country -- the county courthouse. Designed and built with pride, they often became the community's landmark structure.

As Herbert Johnson & Ralph Andrist explain in their book, *Historic Courthouses of New York State*, "Because American local governing bodies have traditionally held their legislative and executive sessions in the county courthouse, and the activities of officials such as sheriffs, tax assessors, county clerks, and registrars of wills and deeds have also centered in the courthouse or its neighborhood, the county courthouse has been the focal point of local political and governmental life."<sup>4</sup> The authors further observe that "Courthouse architecture reflected the esteem in which law and local government were held. ... Courtrooms were graced with large windows and lofty ceilings, and those on the second floor were often reached by long and impressive staircases."<sup>5</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> McIver also designed the NR-listed Montana Veterans and Pioneers Memorial Building, which houses the Montana Historical Society in Helena (1953; NR Reference # 04001357).

<sup>3</sup> Texas Historical Commission, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program, "History of Texas Courthouses," <http://www.mcc.co.mercer.pa.us/renovation/texasrestoration.htm>, accessed April 17, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Herbert Johnson and Ralph Andrist, *Historic Courthouses of New York State: 18th and 19th Century Halls of Justice across the Empire State*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 1977), p. 14.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.



Glacier County Courthouse

Glacier County, MT

Name of Property

County and State

The county courthouse often centered the community, not just figuratively, but literally by either occupying the main square or fronting on it. As Richard V. Francaviglia notes in *Main Street Revisited: Time, Space, and Image Building in Small-Town America*,

In central county seats, roads often converged from at least four directions on the county courthouse. Very often a town speculator would donate a central block of property for the courthouse, and, in many centrally located towns, the business district grew around the courthouse. ... Just as zoning today can affect town morphology, so too could speculation. In many county seats, commercial properties were deliberately located facing the courthouse square, a recognition that the courthouse could serve as a magnet to commercial enterprises.

During the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Montana organized 56 counties, each with its own county seat and courthouse. The buildings span a spectrum, from the simple, wooden false-fronted Daniels County courthouse to grand multi-story granite and sandstone Revival style buildings, such as the Teton County Courthouse. These courthouses have served for decades as important landmarks and the center of local governance. The Glacier County Courthouse stands as one of the most impressive monuments to local government in the state of Montana.

**Nitawahsi – Blackfoot Homeland**

For centuries, the Ni-tsi-ta-pi-ksi, inhabited Nitawahsi, the name for the traditional territory that encompassed much of what is now northern Montana and north into southern Saskatchewan and Alberta.

This massive territory stretched from Ponokasi-sahta (Elk River, The North Saskatchewan River) south to Otahkoi-tah-tayi (the Yellowstone River). Its western boundary extended beyond the Rocky Mountains, and the eastern boundary extended further than the Omahski-spatsi-koyii (the Great Sand Hills in present Saskatchewan). Ihtsi-pai-tapi-yopa, the Creator or Essence of Life, gave this territory to the Kainai (Many Leaders, also called the Blood); the Pikani or Piegan (which includes the Amsskaapipikani [or Amskapi Pikuni] in Montana and the Apatosipikani in Southern Alberta); and the Sisika (Blackfoot, also called the Northern Blackfoot). Although these groups were not originally united in any official alliance, they did often support and help one another. Now these people are united by a formal political alliance (The Blackfoot Confederacy) which both the Canadian and United States governments recognize.<sup>6</sup>

We knew every detail of this land. Our people traveled constantly throughout it, and their trails were well marked across the grasslands. They lived by hunting game and collecting plants. By moving camp frequently, they were able to avoid depleting the resources in any one area. Our people knew the places where different plants grew and where game was plentiful. Their lives were nomadic, but their movements were not aimless; they always traveled with a purpose.<sup>7</sup>

Over the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the United States government campaigned to establish a strong presence in what would become Montana Territory, both for settlement and for transportation. Beginning with the Fort Laramie Treaty in 1851, the federal government began to negotiate boundaries for Indian nations, including the Blackfeet, and establish rights of way. In 1855, at Council Island in the Missouri Breaks, another treaty provided for smaller reservation boundaries, and granted the United States:

For the purpose of establishing travelling thoroughfares through their country...the United States may...construct roads of every description; establish lines of telegraph and military posts; use materials of every description found in the Indian country; build houses for agencies, missions, schools, farms, shops, mills, stations, and for

---

<sup>6</sup> Blackfoot Gallery Committee, Glenbow Museum, *Nitsitapiisinni: The Story of the Blackfoot People*, (Toronto: Firefly Books, 2001). See also Darryl Kipp, "Blackfoot" in *Encyclopedia of North American Indians* (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996) p. 74-76.

Glacier County Courthouse

Glacier County, MT

Name of Property

County and State

any other purpose for which they may be required, and permanently occupy as much land as may be necessary for the various purposes above enumerated...<sup>8</sup>

A treaty in 1864 further established railroad rights of way, and the reduction of Indian lands continued over the next several decades. The Executive Order of 1873 created the Great Northern Reservation for use by the Gros Ventres, Piegan, Bloods, Blackfeet, and River Crows. According to the TrailTribes.org website:

This new Great Northern Reservation, defined by an Act of Congress in 1874, was in part composed of territory assigned the Blackfeet by the Treaty of 1855. It did not, however, comprise all of that territory, for the U.S. government moved the southern boundary of the reservation 200 miles northward, opening lands to settlement without any compensation to the tribe.<sup>9</sup>

As non-Indian trappers and traders infiltrated their territory, the Blackfeet way of life changed significantly. By the mid-1800s, decimation of the buffalo, smallpox, and other scourges took their toll on the tribes' ability to retain their traditional lifeways and territory. The Starvation Winter of 1883 witnessed one to four Blackfeet deaths each day from malnutrition and associated causes, and the mortality continued at an alarming rate through early 1885. Some reports indicate that up to 600 of the 2,200 Blackfeet living in what was then Chouteau County died during this period.<sup>10</sup>

The buffalo had disappeared by 1880. A drought and a worldwide depression made it hard for us to be successful farmers. We were forced to rely on government rations for survival. This increased our dependency on the kinnoona (Indian Agent). It was another blow to our morale.<sup>11</sup>

The Sweet Grass Hills Treaty, enforced by an Act of Congress dated May 1, 1887, broke up the Great Northern Reservation, and restricted the Blackfeet to just the extreme western portion, reducing their territory by four-fifths.<sup>12</sup> The Agreement with the Blackfeet dated September 26, 1895 further diminished the tribe's land base, ceding the wide strip of land along the east front of the Rockies, from the Canadian border to the reservation's southern boundary. The agreement permitted non-Indian mineral exploration in the area. The Blackfeet retained hunting and gathering rights to that land.<sup>13</sup> When the United States formed Glacier National Park in 1910, it included the ceded area, but did not address the Blackfeet right to utilize their traditional homeland, and this issue remains contentious to this day.

### Great Northern Railroad Arrives<sup>14</sup>

In the autumn of 1890, Great Northern Railway crews reached the site of present day Cut Bank. While construction crews stopped to construct the wooden trestle over Cut Bank Creek, a small temporary railroad construction camp emerged. The Great Northern then established a station at Cut Bank, located on the west side of the trestle outside the Blackfeet Reservation boundary, and a small settlement grew up around it. By the summer of 1900, the Great Northern employed

<sup>7</sup> "Our Traditional Territory," Glenbow Museum website, [http://www.glenbow.org/blackfoot/EN/html/how\\_we\\_lived\\_with\\_the\\_land.htm](http://www.glenbow.org/blackfoot/EN/html/how_we_lived_with_the_land.htm), accessed April 17, 2013.

<sup>8</sup> Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. II, Treaties. "Treaty with the Blackfeet, October 17, 1855." 11 Stat 657 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904) p. 737.

<sup>9</sup> "The Shrinking Reservation: 1865 Treaty." <http://www.trailtribes.org/greatfalls/shrinking-reservation.htm>, accessed April 1, 2013.

<sup>10</sup> Stanley Clay Wilmoth, "The Development of Blackfeet Politics and Multiethnic Categories: 1934-1984," PhD Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 1987, pp. 84-85.

<sup>11</sup> "The Shrinking Reservation: 1865 Treaty." <http://www.trailtribes.org/greatfalls/shrinking-reservation.htm>, accessed April 1, 2013.

<sup>12</sup> Charles J. Kappler, *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. I, Laws. "An act to ratify and confirm an agreement with the Gros Ventre, Piegan Blood, Blackfeet, and River Crow Indians in Montana, and for other purposes." Acts of Fiftieth Congress, First Session, 1888, Chapter 213 (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904) pp. 261-6; Wilmoth, pp. 87-88.

<sup>13</sup> 29 Stat. 353; Mark David Spence, *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1999) pp. 103-131.

<sup>14</sup> Nolkamper, et. al., "Cut Bank Municipal Airport and Army Air Force Base National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form," June 2007. On file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MT SHPO), Helena.

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property

Glacier County, MT

County and State

250 men at Cut Bank working on track improvements, working in the quarry, and building a new steel bridge to replace the original wooden structure. Rumors circulated the railroad planned on moving the roundhouse and division point from nearby Blackfoot to Cut Bank and expand the facility. The August 23, 1900 edition of the *Shelby News* announced the bridge's completion and that:

parties in Cut Bank state that the Great Northern Railway have a large force of men at work...grading side tracks preparing the ground for the erection of a roundhouse, etc., and that before many months end, the division will be changed from Blackfoot to Cut Bank. If this is true, and we have no reason to doubt it, Cut Bank will be one of the best little towns in Northern Montana.<sup>15</sup>

The Great Northern finished the 32-stall roundhouse, coal chute, hotel, and other facilities by December 1900 and Cut Bank's population grew to about 300. Two years later in February 1902, Choteau's *Montanian* described Cut Bank as: "quite a nice little town has sprung up there, and today, although scarcely two years old, it boasts of two hotels...two well-conducted merchandise establishments...three saloons...a livery stable...[and] a barbershop... The community also had a justice of the peace and post office."<sup>16</sup>

Besides being a railroad community, what would become eastern Glacier County served as a supply point for open range cattle and sheep ranches. Each June, a shearing plant with 20 shearing machines operated in Cut Bank, shearing between 40 and 50 thousand sheep in 1904 alone. Baltic, located just a mile east of Cut Bank, served as a shipping point for cattle and sheep. Cattle outfits would ship anywhere from a carload to a trainload of beef at a time from the Baltic stockyards.

Events in 1907 spurred more non-Indians to settle in what would become Glacier County. That year and through 1911, the U.S. government introduced the allotment process on the Blackfeet reservation. Established by the Dawes Act in 1887, allotment reversed the U.S. policy to treat the Indian reservation as property of the entire tribe, and instead, divided reservation land among individual Indians, each receiving 320 acres, held in trust by the government.

The opening of Indian lands to homesteading marked another period of transition. Fenced homesteads and ranches began to replace the open range cattle and sheep ranching industries. In addition to the influx of people from the Midwest, homesteading brought farm families with northern European backgrounds. These homesteaders hoped to create prosperous farms from the arid prairie, and depended upon Cut Bank merchants to supply their farms with lumber, household goods, and food. The economic prosperity and growth of the area spurred the construction of many masonry commercial buildings during these years.

By 1910, Cut Bank's population increased to 518. Agriculturally, however, the prosperous times didn't last. Beginning in 1917, area farm families struggled through long term drought and drops in grain prices. Unable to afford their taxes or repay their loans, many lost their farms or turned to railroad jobs to supplement their incomes. In 1919, when agricultural endeavors were failing, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation repealing the 1907 Blackfeet allotment act, returning surplus lands to the tribe. Still, the allotment process resulted in the loss of nearly half of the tribe's acreage.

### **Glacier County Established**

Chouteau County, one of the original nine Montana counties established in 1865, encompassed a large area including Blackfeet territory and the future location of Glacier National Park as well as the easternmost strip of land around Cut Bank. In 1893, Teton County formed from a portion of the larger Chouteau County. Continuing the trend of creating new counties from existing counties, the 1919 state legislature further divided Teton County, carving off its northern tier to create Glacier County. Soon after, a fight ensued over the county seat's location. Browning residents argued its location near the center of the county should be considered, and noted further that it stood as the county's oldest townsite. Browning also served as the Blackfeet Agency and the center of tribal government. Cut Bank residents stated its merits

<sup>15</sup> *Shelby News*, August 23, 1900, Shelby, MT.

<sup>16</sup> *Montanian*, February 1902, Choteau, MT.

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property

Glacier County, MT

County and State

included being the oldest incorporated town in the county, and that it constituted the county's taxpaying center. Though they made up a vast majority of the county's population, the Blackfeet did not vote in the election because voting rights were not extended to tribes until the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. After a contentious election, voters named Cut Bank the county seat.<sup>17</sup>

The county borders extend west to encompass Glacier National Park's eastern half, and include almost the entirety of the Blackfeet Reservation – nearly 3,000 square miles. For this reason, since its creation, the county's governance focuses on the easternmost strip of land from Cut Bank Creek to its eastern border along the Kipp Guide Meridian. Within the reservation boundaries, the tribe retains jurisdiction, running the local government and providing most services, including courts, child welfare, employment assistance, wildlife management, health care, education, land management, and senior services, as well as garbage collection and water systems. The westernmost portion of the county, within the boundaries of Glacier National Park, remains under federal jurisdiction.

### **Cut Bank Expands**

Through the years, the Great Northern gradually expanded and improved its railroad division point. By 1920, Cut Bank's population grew to 1,180, but the prosperity soon gave way to decline. On May 4, 1928, the Cut Bank *Pioneer Press* announced:

Whistle (at the roundhouse) will toot for the last time tomorrow (Saturday) promptly at 12:00. Preparations are going steadily ahead for the abandonment of the local terminal. Track is being taken up rapidly now. The "Beanery" (The GN Hotel) one of our ancient shrines, closed Wednesday and the management distributed dozens of delectable pies and other perishable things to patrons.<sup>18</sup>

Soon after this announcement, Cut Bank's population fell to 874 and many farmers lost their supplemental income earned from railroad employment. However, in the early 1920s, an oil and gas boom began north of Shelby, Montana, in the Kevin/Sunburst/Oilmont area. By 1928, oil exploration moved west toward Cut Bank, and production began in the summer of 1931. Many residents of Cut Bank celebrated the hope of economic prosperity's return with a community "Gas Day" celebration.

While most of America suffered through the Great Depression, Cut Bank grew and prospered during the 1930s. Many oil workers came north from the Oklahoma and Texas oilfields to work for the small wildcat companies operating in the eastern part of Glacier County. When they arrived, however, they found housing shortages. To accommodate the influx of workers, local contractors built houses or moved them in from the surrounding area. Oil camps, like Santa Rita, Adams, and Tipville, sprang up north of Cut Bank. Local farmers found work in the oilfields, augmenting their farm incomes.

During the 1930s, the population of Cut Bank rose from 847 to 2,509 by 1940. During the late 1930s and early 1940s, larger oil companies began buying out smaller ones. These companies began to invest in Cut Bank, building permanent facilities and bringing stable employment. Cut Bank advertised itself as the "Oil Capital of Montana," and strived to build prestigious new public buildings to reflect its new preeminence as an "oil city." The city tried to convince the Great Northern Railroad to build a new railroad station to emulate the city's prosperity. The railroad, struggling through the Great Depression, objected. Cut Bank settled for the railroad remodeling and modernizing its old Cut Bank station. As Cut Bank continued to prosper, local entrepreneurs looked for ways to improve the community's economic status; one way was to construct a new county courthouse.

### **A New Courthouse for Glacier County**

When chosen as the county seat in 1919, Cut Bank struggled with the downturn in the agricultural market, and had little public funding available to build a courthouse. The lack of funding necessitated locating the county offices in the two-story city hall/fire department building on Halvorson Street on the west end of town. As the county's population increased

---

<sup>17</sup> Glacier County Historical Society, *History of Glacier County, Montana*. (Dallas, Taylor Publishing Company, 1984), pp. 4-5.

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property

Glacier County, MT

County and State

through the 1930s, the size of the government grew commensurately, eventually squeezing out both the fire department and the city offices from the building. By 1937, it was obvious that the county staff and court required additional space, and a building befitting the community's rise to prominence in the oil industry.

The county began the petition process to secure bonds to finance construction, and in December 1937, the county commissioners inquired about Public Works Administration (PWA) grant funds for the ambitious project.<sup>19</sup> Created by Title II of the National Industrial Recovery Act on June 16, 1933, the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works, later known as the Public Works Administration (PWA), called for billions of federal dollars directed toward major construction projects throughout the country, from enormous dams to local civic buildings. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's administration intended this legislation to not only provide jobs, but also to stabilize the economy through the revival of American industry, and at the same time, improve the general public welfare. Over the following six years, the program provided funds for over 34,000 projects, including the vast majority of new schools built in the United States during the 1930s.<sup>20</sup>

Despite spending over \$6 billion dollars between its inception in 1933 and its closure in 1941, the PWA did not bolster the industrial economy, nor unemployment, to pre-depression levels. It did, however, provide the nation with many jobs for skilled workers, large construction contracts, and improved the country's power generation, sanitation, and civic infrastructure. Significantly, the PWA provided "the federal government with its first systematic network for the distribution of funds to localities, ensured that conservation would remain an element in the national discussion, and provided federal administrators with a broad amount of badly needed experience in public policy planning."<sup>21</sup>

Initially, the program provided for up to 30% of a project's cost, and could be used to cover labor and material expenses. In 1935, amendments to the program allowed the grants to be used for project management, architectural and engineering fees, and land acquisition. The grant application process was exhaustive and time consuming. In the case of county courthouses, the county auditor usually prepared the application, which was, in turn, submitted to the state or later, regional, PWA offices by the county board of supervisors.<sup>22</sup>

In May 1938, the Glacier County Commissioners submitted the preliminary questionnaires to request PWA funding. On July 15, the *Pioneer Press* reported the PWA approved the application and would provide nearly half of the construction costs. Two days later, 70 percent of county voters supported in favor of the bond to complete the building, and selected the site at the 500 block of East Main Street.<sup>23</sup> The PWA provided \$45,000, and the bond sale provided an additional \$65,000.

Moving quickly, Great Falls Architect Angus McIver submitted his drawing in October 1938, and the foundation was completed by December 23 that same year. On March 24, 1939, the county received the first installment of PWA funds, allowing the first floor slab to be poured.<sup>24</sup> As work progressed on the courthouse, the *Pioneer Press* reported other construction projects going in the city, including a bowling alley and new residences.<sup>25</sup>

Finally, in November 1939, the county opened the building to the public. The local newspaper reported:

---

<sup>18</sup> *Pioneer Press*, May 4, 1928, Cut Bank, MT.

<sup>19</sup> *Pioneer Press*, June 24, 1938, Cut Bank, MT.

<sup>20</sup> The Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project, "Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt History: The Public Works Administration," George Washington University, <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/pwa.cfm>, accessed April 17, 2013.

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

<sup>22</sup> Marlys A. Svendsen, "PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa Multiple Properties Documentation Form," on file at the IA SHPO, Des Moines, IA, accessed 1/6/2012 on the National Register website: [pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/64500856.pdf](http://pdfhost.focus.nps.gov/docs/NRHP/Text/64500856.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> *Pioneer Press*, July 22, 1938, Cut Bank, MT.

<sup>24</sup> *Pioneer Press*, April 14, 1939, Cut Bank, MT.

<sup>25</sup> *Pioneer Press*, April 14, 1939, Cut Bank, MT.

Glacier County Courthouse

Glacier County, MT

Name of Property

County and State

Passersby have for weeks been admiring the outside appearance of Glacier County's new courthouse, built in a distinctively modern style of light colored Great Falls brick with terra cotta trim. The building is a three-story structure... It has a structural frame of reinforced concrete, with combination tile and concrete floors, making the building fire resisting throughout. The roof is pitch and gravel.

Those who visit the building on "open house" day and later will see attractively appointed offices, and harmonizing floors and walls.

All finished room floors throughout the building are asphalt tile, marbled as to pattern. Corridor floors are of terrazzo, laid in patterns and using brass dividing strips. Woodwork is of red oak and corridors are wainscoted with Montana travertine marble quarried from Gardner, Montana. Stair railings are of wrought iron and chrome-plated steel...

...Three decorative window panels... have brought forth much favorable complement from persons who have already visited the courthouse. These are of stained glass and depict the three major industries of Glacier County – grazing, farming, and oil.<sup>26</sup>

The courthouse soon became operational and served as the political and judicial hub for the county. Architect McIver designed the elegant courtroom itself, as well as judge's chambers and clerks of court offices, as august, orderly spaces that "convey the courts' seriousness of purpose and dedication to principle."<sup>27</sup> In addition to the courts, the courthouse served as center of county governance, where both elected officials and staff served members of the public as they conducted business with the county.

Cut Bank, due to its proximity to the Kevin-Sunburst oilfields, endured the Great Depression with more prosperity than other communities; it continued to thrive as a railroad, oil field support, agricultural, and commercial center in the late 1940s through the 1950s. Increased demand for petroleum products across the nation fueled the oil production economy in north central Montana immediately after World War II. This, together with a general trend in greater agricultural production through the mid-1950s resulted in a post-war economic and population "boom."

However, after 1951, the state's oil industry shifted from the north central fields to eastern Montana's Williston Basin and Powder River area fields, and Billings' refining center. By the late 1950s, growth subsided substantially. Despite the downturn of prosperity, county business continued to function out of the courthouse. The building stands as a great source of pride to the community – as an architectural landmark and a reminder of Cut Bank's ambitions to be the "Oil Capital of the World."

The building, as constructed in 1939, functions admirably and continues to serve the 13,624 people of Glacier County.<sup>28</sup> However, an increase in methamphetamine-related crime in the mid-1990s resulted in a spike in arrests and by 1996, it became clear that the "old jail" at 221 West Main Street, behind the city offices, was inadequate. That year, and three more times over the next decade, the commissioners encouraged county voters to support a bond to construct a new jail. The bond passed in 2006, and resulted in the construction of the detention center. L'Heureaux, Page Werner Architects of Great Falls designed the addition, completed in 2009, off the south elevation of the courthouse. Though some county functions are now housed in an annex building east of downtown, the courthouse still hosts the county commissioners, the clerk and recorder, and the tax assessors' offices, in addition to other county programs.

<sup>26</sup> *Pioneer Press*, November 11, 1939, Cut Bank, MT.

<sup>27</sup> Ray McDevitt, *Courthouses of California: An Illustrated History*, (Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2001), xi.

<sup>28</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, "Population as of June 2011," updated April 9, 2013, [www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=kf7tgg1uo9ude\\_&met\\_y=population&idim=county:30035&dl=en&hl=en&q=population+of+glacier+county,+mt](http://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=kf7tgg1uo9ude_&met_y=population&idim=county:30035&dl=en&hl=en&q=population+of+glacier+county,+mt), accessed April 17, 2013.

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

### Architectural Significance

Architectural historian David Gebhard coined the term PWA Modern style, also called "Stripped Classical," to describe the mostly civic and public architecture that characterized the Depression years. Mostly constructed from 1928 to 1941, but also found through the early 1950s, the style is seen in commercial and industrial buildings as well. Gebhard characterized it as follows: "These buildings were fundamentally classical and formal, with just enough Moderne detailing injected to convey a contemporary feeling as well as the traditional authority of the Classical."<sup>29</sup> The style displays a formal symmetry, often with hierarchical massing, limited decorative details, and an austere use of fine materials.<sup>30</sup>

Character-defining features that may occur on a PWA Modern building include a symmetrical, cubic massing with a hierarchal form. They often display flat roofs and parapets as well as formal entries, emphasized by wide surrounds or vertical towers. Stripped Classical buildings like the Glacier County Courthouse have symmetrical fenestration and limited horizontal or vertical decorative banding to accentuate building features. They use of fine cladding materials such as terra cotta to highlight important details. Pilasters or bas relief sculpture accent their smooth wall surfaces.<sup>31</sup>

Architectural Historian Carroll Van West describes the style:

The design inspiration for PWA Modern style came from several sources, including the Art Deco and Art Moderne movements of the late 1920s and early 1930s, and the patriotic iconography of New Deal agencies such as the National Recovery Administration. By mixing concrete, steel, local building materials, patriotic imagery, classical motifs, and the forms and details of modern architecture, PWA Modern blended the old and new so that buildings were visually modern yet still evoked the past.<sup>32</sup>

Angus Mclver's design for the Glacier County Courthouse embodies the principles of PWA Modern. Built predominantly of local materials – including Great Falls brick, its imposing entrance, channeled windows, and restrained classism result in it serving as an excellent local representation of the style.

### Angus Vaughn Mclver

Angus Vaughn Mclver has the distinction of being one of only two Montana architects elected to the status of "fellow" in the AIA. Mclver graduated from the Great Falls High School and the University of Michigan. Upon graduation in 1915, he opened offices in Great Falls in partnership with two other young men, Chandler Cohagen and W.V. Marshall. This partnership dissolved in 1917 when all three entered the armed services. "Mac" served as a first lieutenant attached to the 109<sup>th</sup> Engineers 34<sup>th</sup> Division and served in England and on the European continent. Out of service in 1919, Mclver returned to Montana. He again formed a partnership with Cohagen, and opened an office in Billings. Subsequently Mclver moved to Great Falls to oversee a branch office there. The partnership dissolved in 1937. Some years later the firm name became Mclver and Associates, but was changed again shortly thereafter when William Hess and Knute Haugsjaa entered the firm. Throughout his 40 year career in Montana, Mclver was innovative and kept up with design trends. His work spans from Neoclassical to Beaux Arts to International styles.

<sup>29</sup> David Gebhard, Eric Sandweiss, and Robert Winter, *The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*, Revised edition, (Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publisher, 1985), 578.

<sup>30</sup> Diana Painter, "Montana Post World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory," (Helena, MT: MT SHPO, 2011), p. 25, and online at <http://mhs.mt.gov/shpo/Montana%20Mid-Century%20Survey%20Report.pdf>, accessed April 17, 2013.

<sup>31</sup> Ibid.

<sup>32</sup> Carroll Van West, "Depression Architecture," in *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, David J. Wishart, ed., (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), p. 76.

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property

Glacier County, MT

County and State

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

### Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

- Blackfoot Gallery Committee, Glenbow Museum. *Nitsitapiisinni: The Story of the Blackfoot People*. Toronto: Firefly Books, 2001.
- Eleanor Roosevelt Papers Project. "Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt History: The Public Works Administration." George Washington University, <http://www.gwu.edu/~erpapers/teaching/glossary/pwa.cfm>, accessed April 17, 2013.
- Gebhard, David, Sandweiss, Eric, and Robert Winter. *The Guide to Architecture in San Francisco and Northern California*. Revised edition. Salt Lake City: Gibbs-Smith Publisher, 1985.
- Glacier County Historical Society. *History of Glacier County, Montana*. Dallas, Taylor Publishing Company, 1984.
- Glenbow Museum. "Our Traditional Territory." Glenbow Museum website, [http://www.glenbow.org/blackfoot/EN/html/how\\_we\\_lived\\_with\\_the\\_land.htm](http://www.glenbow.org/blackfoot/EN/html/how_we_lived_with_the_land.htm), accessed April 17, 2013.
- Kappler, Charles J. *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. I, Laws. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
- Kappler, Charles J. *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties*, Vol. II, Treaties. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904.
- Kipp, Darryl. "Blackfoot." in *Encyclopedia of North American Indians*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1996.
- Johnson, Herbert and Ralph Andrist. *Historic Courthouses of New York State: 18th and 19th Century Halls of Justice across the Empire State*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1977.
- McDevitt, Ray. *Courthouses of California: An Illustrated History*. Berkeley: Heyday Books, 2001.
- Montanian*, February 1902, Choteau, MT.
- National Park Service, "Eleanor Roosevelt Historic Site, Teaching Eleanor Roosevelt, Glossary: Public Works Administration." <http://www.nps.gov/archive/elro/glossary/pwa.htm>, accessed April 17, 2013.
- Nolkamper, Roy; Jacoby, Bob; Seglem, Dennis; and Kate Hampton. "Cut Bank Municipal Airport and Army Air Force Base National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form," June, 2007. On file at MT SHPO, Helena.
- Painter, Diana. "Montana Post World War II Architectural Survey and Inventory." On file at MT SHPO, Helena, MT, 2011.
- Pioneer Press*. 1937-1939, Cut Bank, MT.
- Shelby News*. August 23, 1900, Shelby, MT.
- Spence, Mark David. *Dispossessing the Wilderness: Indian Removal and the Making of the National Parks*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.
- Svendsen, Marlv A. "PWA-Era County Courthouses of Iowa Multiple Properties Documentation Form." on file at IA SHPO, Des Moines.
- Texas Historical Commission, Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program. "History of Texas Courthouses." <http://www.mcc.co.mercer.pa.us/renovation/texasrestoration.htm>, accessed April 17, 2013.
- TrailTribes.org. "The Shrinking Reservation: 1865 Treaty." <http://www.trailtribes.org/greatfalls/shrinking-reservation.htm>, accessed April 1, 2013.
- U.S. Census Bureau "Population as of June 2011" updated April 9, 2013. [http://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=kf7tgg1uo9ude\\_&met\\_y=population&idim=county:30035&dl=en&hl=en&q=population+of+glacier+county,+mt](http://www.google.com/publicdata/explore?ds=kf7tgg1uo9ude_&met_y=population&idim=county:30035&dl=en&hl=en&q=population+of+glacier+county,+mt), accessed April 17, 2013.
- West, Carroll Van. "Depression Architecture." in *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*, David J. Wishart, ed., Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.
- Wilmoth, Stanley Clay. "The Development of Blackfeet Politics and Multiethnic Categories: 1934-1984." PhD Dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 1987.
- Wishart, David J., ed. *Encyclopedia of the Great Plains*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004.



Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

**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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 2.273  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

NAD27  
1 12 402330 5387221 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing  
2 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Glacier County Courthouse occupies lots 1-6, parts of lots 7 and 10 and lots 11-15 in Block 21 of the Cut Bank Original Townsite. It is located in Township 33N Range 6W, SESWNE Section 12.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the building that has historically been known as the Glacier County Courthouse, the Detention Center Addition, the sheriff's office, and the associated grounds, all owned by Glacier County.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kate Hampton, Community Preservation Coordinator  
organization Montana State Historic Preservation Office date 4/17/2013  
street & number 1410 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue telephone (406) 444-7742  
city or town Helena state MT zip code 59620-1202  
e-mail khampton@mt.gov

Glacier County Courthouse  
Name of Property

Glacier County, MT  
County and State

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs:**

Please See Continuation Sheets

**Property Owner:**

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

name Glacier County  
street & number 512 East Main telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town Cut Bank state MT zip code 59427

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

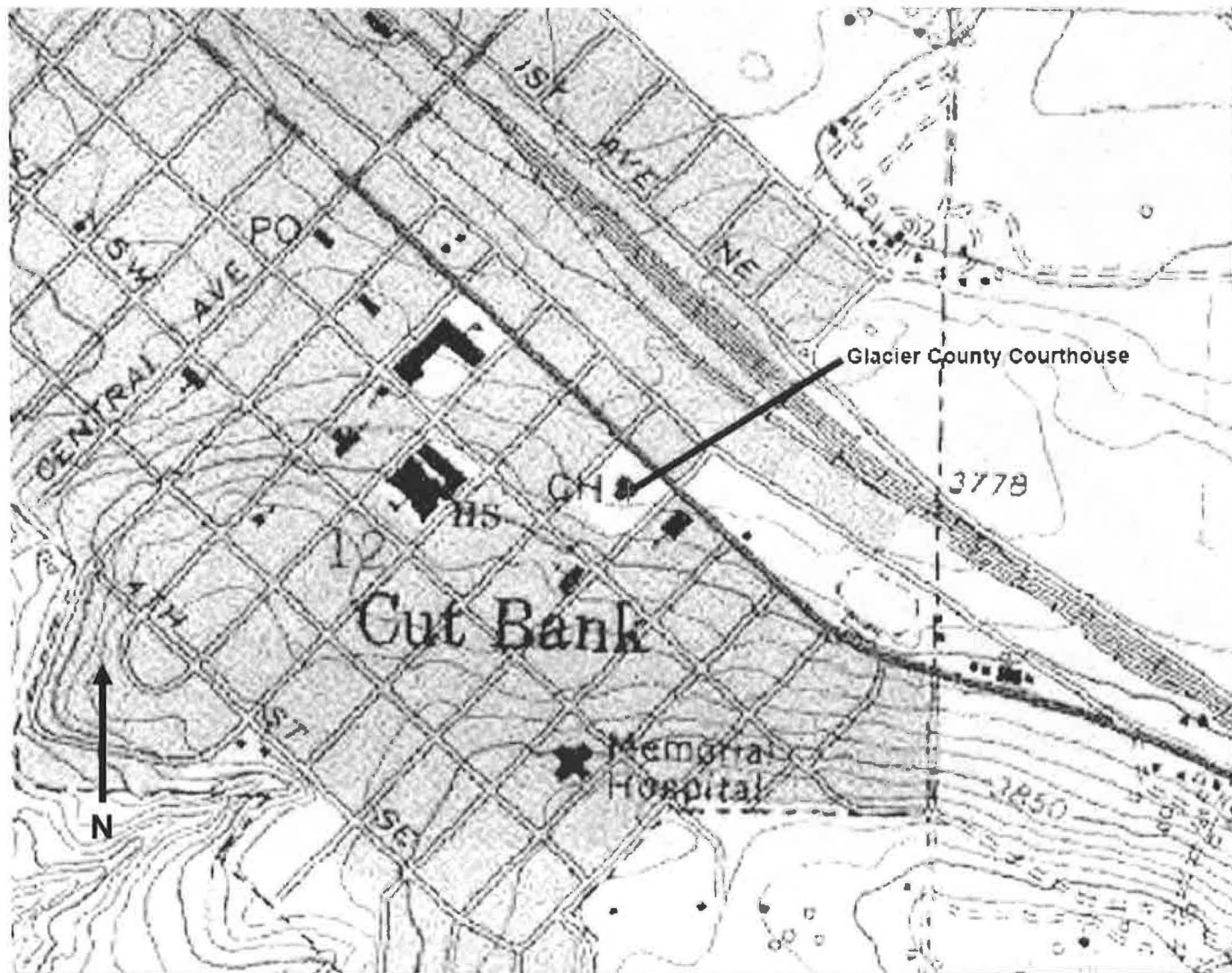
**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 19



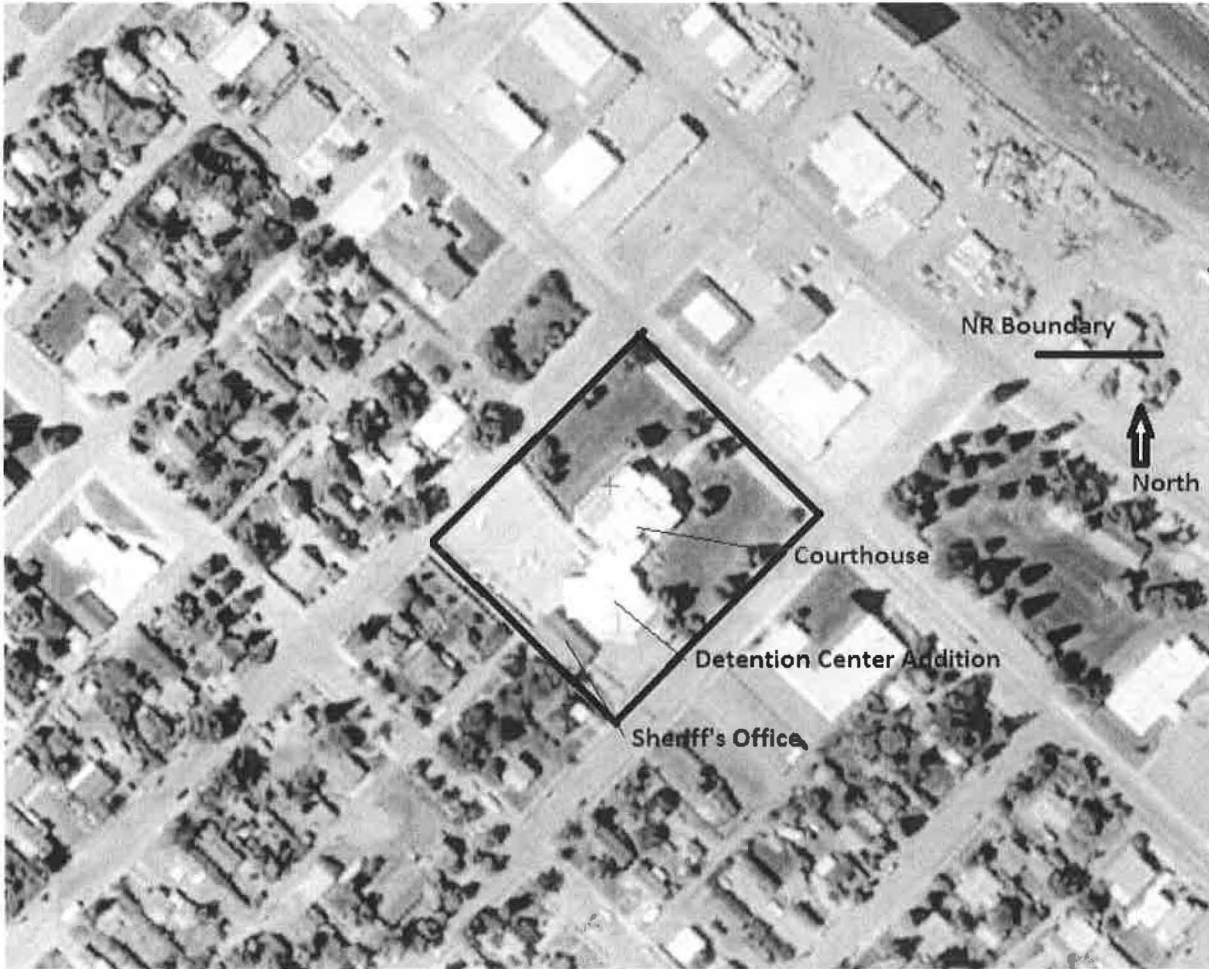
Location of the Glacier County Courthouse. Detail of 7.5' Cut Bank Quadrangle Map, 1966 (photo inspected 1980).

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 20



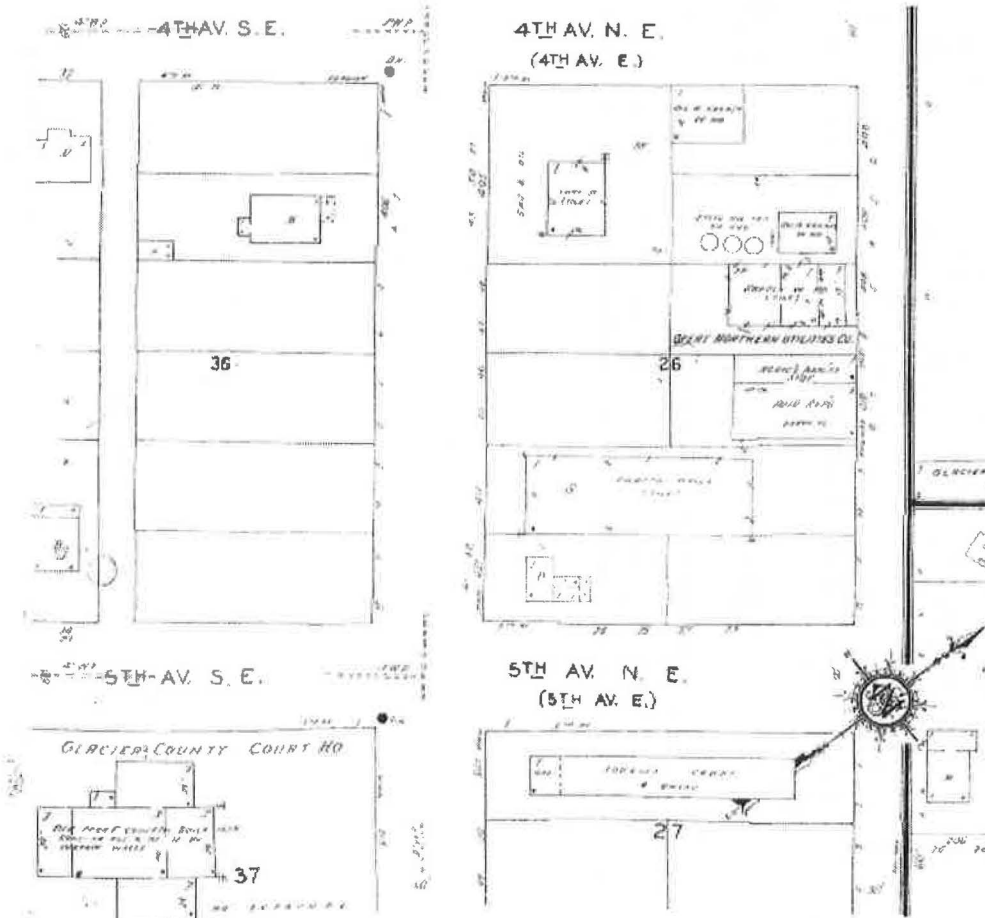
Cut Bank Aerial Photo/site map. Photo date: 2011.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 21



Detail, Cut Bank Sanborn Map, July 1943, Sheet One

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse

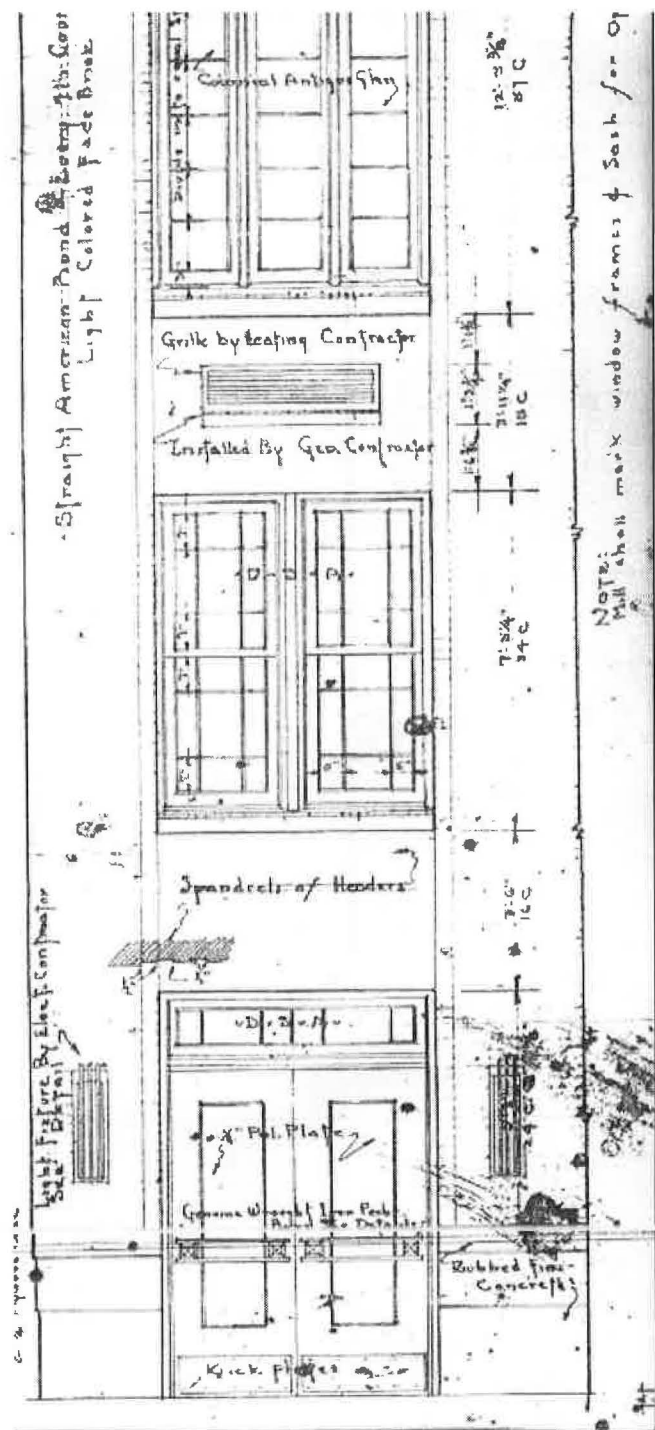
Name of Property  
Glacier County, Montana  
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 22



Detail of original courthouse entry plans. Original blueprints by Angus McIver, 1938. Blueprint scan courtesy of the Glacier County Historical Society.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

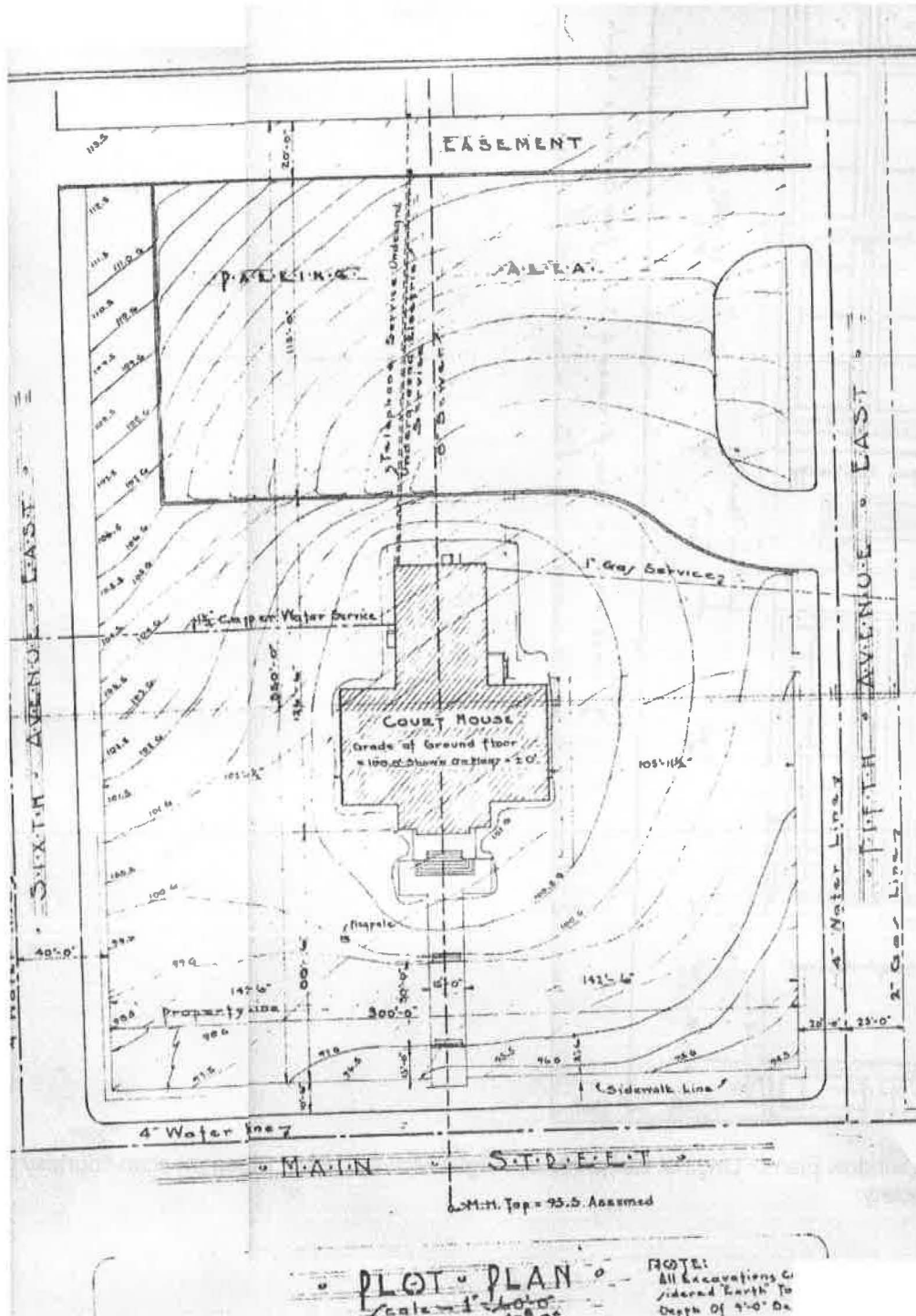
Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 24

Original Floorplans  
Site Plan





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property  
Glacier County, Montana  
County and State

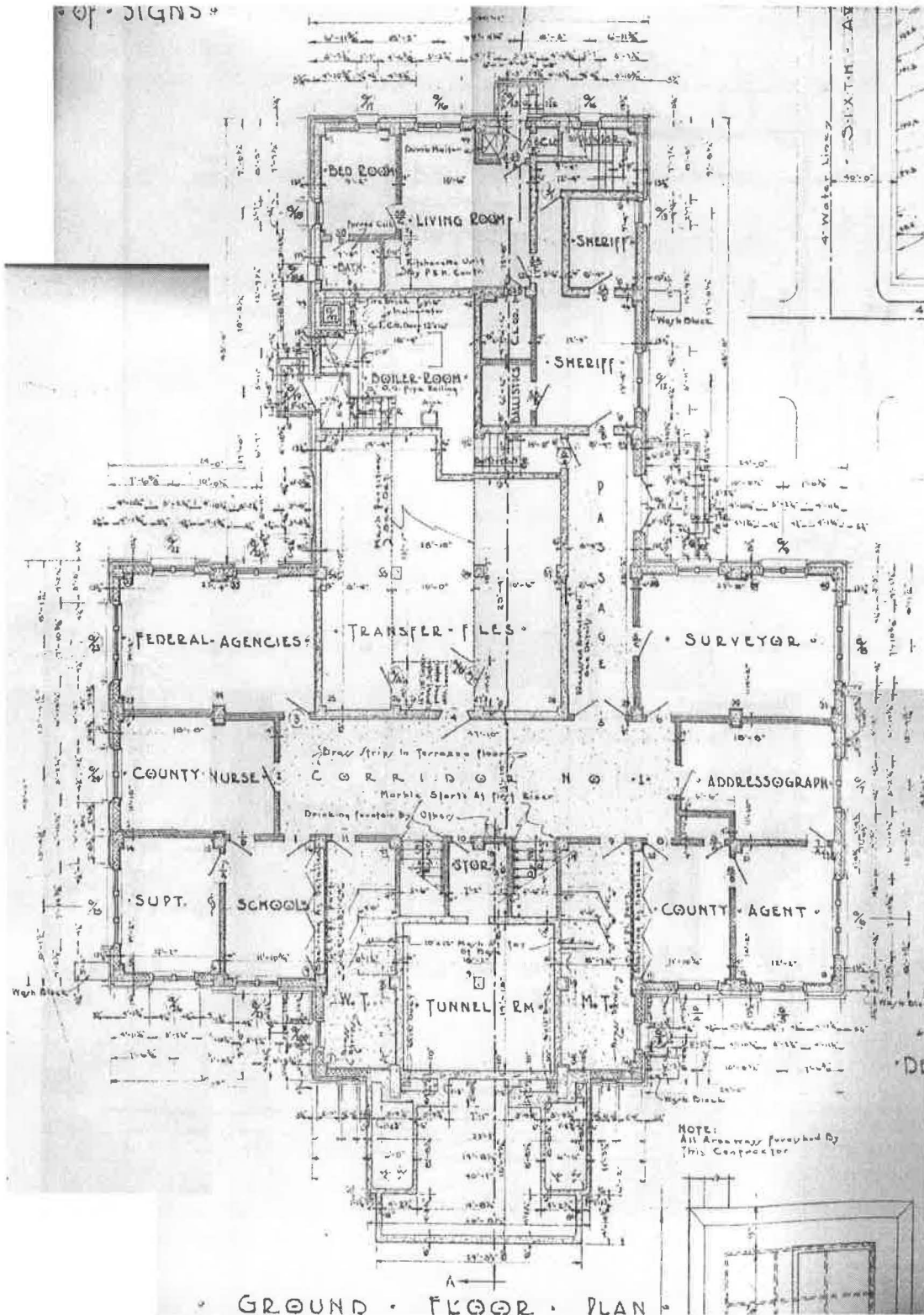
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 25

## First Floor



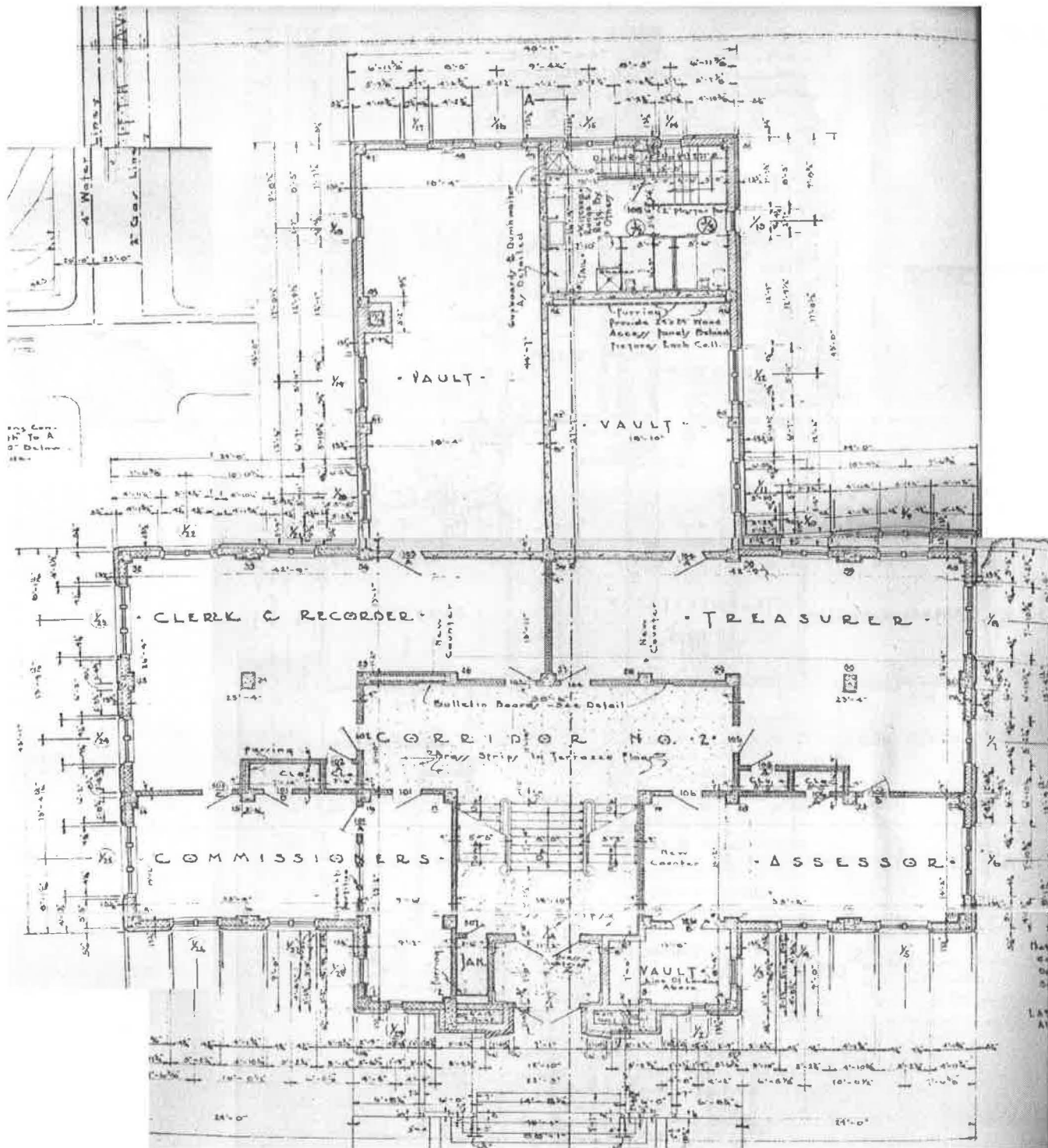
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 26

## Second Floor



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

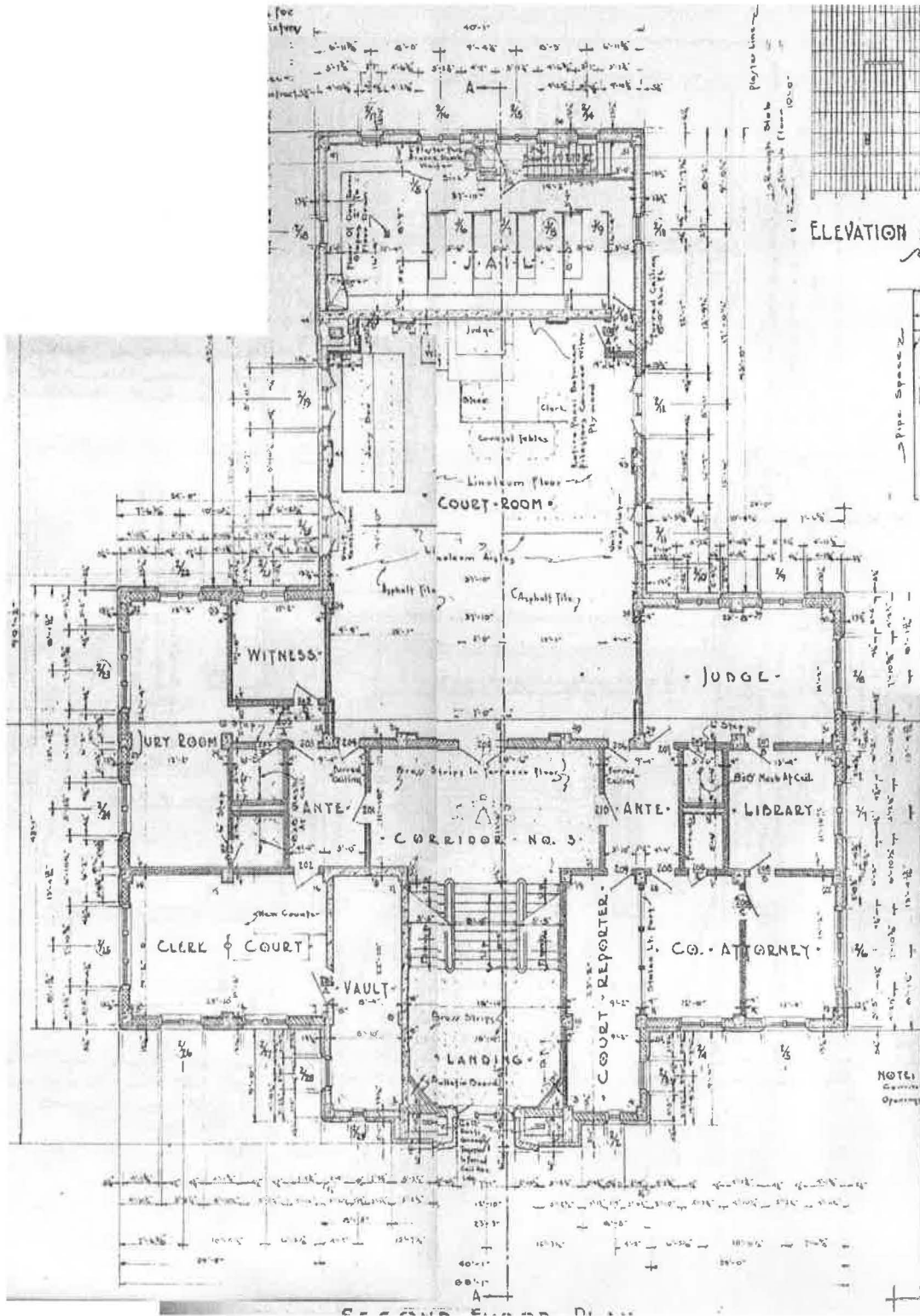
# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation

Page 27

### Third Floor





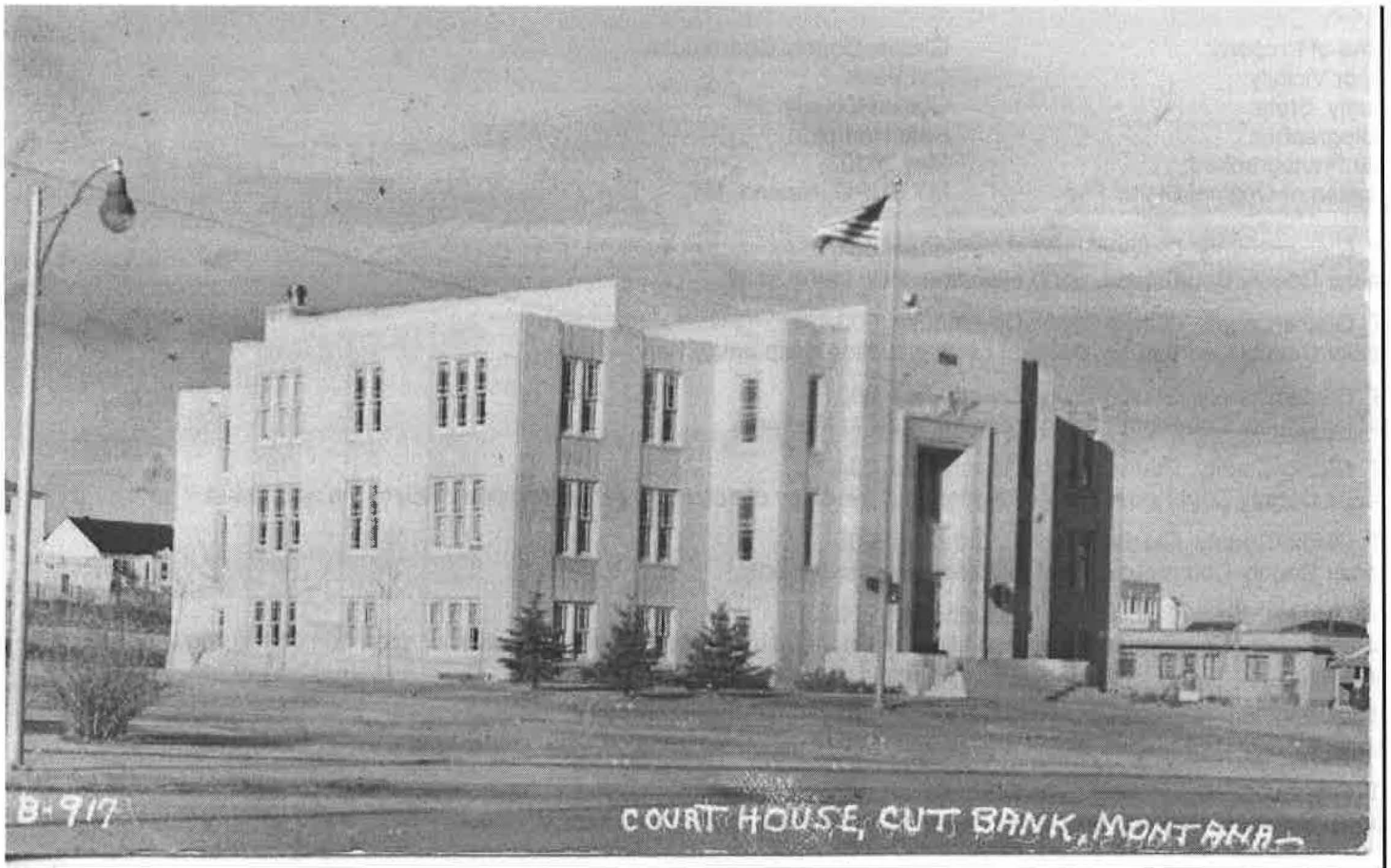
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Photographs Page 29

**Historic Photographs**



Glacier County Courthouse, circa 1945. North and east elevations, view to the southwest. Courtesy Glacier County Historical Society.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number      Photographs      Page      30     

**National Register Photolog**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs:

Name of Property: Glacier County Courthouse  
 City or Vicinity: Cut Bank  
 County, State: Glacier County, MT  
 Photographer: Kate Hampton  
 Date Photographed: May 2010  
 Location of Original Digital File: MT SHPO, Helena, MT

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_001  
 Glacier County Courthouse, north elevation, view to the south.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_002  
 Glacier County Courthouse, detail of north elevation main entry, view to south.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_003  
 Glacier County Courthouse, east elevation, view to the west.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_004  
 Glacier County Courthouse, east elevation and overview of detention center addition, view to the southwest.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_005  
 Glacier County Courthouse, west elevation, view to the east.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_006  
 Glacier County Courthouse, south elevation of historic courthouse and west elevation of detention center, view to the northwest.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_007  
 Glacier County Courthouse, south elevation of detention center addition, view to the west.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_008  
 Description of Photograph and View: Glacier County Courthouse, east and southeast elevations of detention center addition, view to the northwest.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_009  
 Glacier County Courthouse, east and north elevations of detention center addition, view to the south-southwest.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_010  
 Glacier County Courthouse, interior of courtroom, view to the south.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_011  
 Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of second floor corridor, view to the east.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_012  
 Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of second floor corridor, view to the east.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_013  
 Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of mezzanine from third floor, view to the north.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_014  
 Sheriff's office, east and north elevations, view to the southwest.

MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_015  
 Sheriff's office, west and south elevations, view to the northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 31



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_001  
Glacier County Courthouse, north elevation, view to the south. MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_001



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_002  
Glacier County Courthouse, detail of north elevation main entry, view to south.

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

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number      Photographs      Page      32     



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_003  
Glacier County Courthouse, east elevation, view to the west.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_004  
Glacier County Courthouse, east elevation and overview of detention center addition, view to the southwest.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 33



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_005  
Glacier County Courthouse, west elevation, view to the east.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_006  
Glacier County Courthouse, south elevation of historic courthouse and west elevation of detention center, view to the northeast.

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

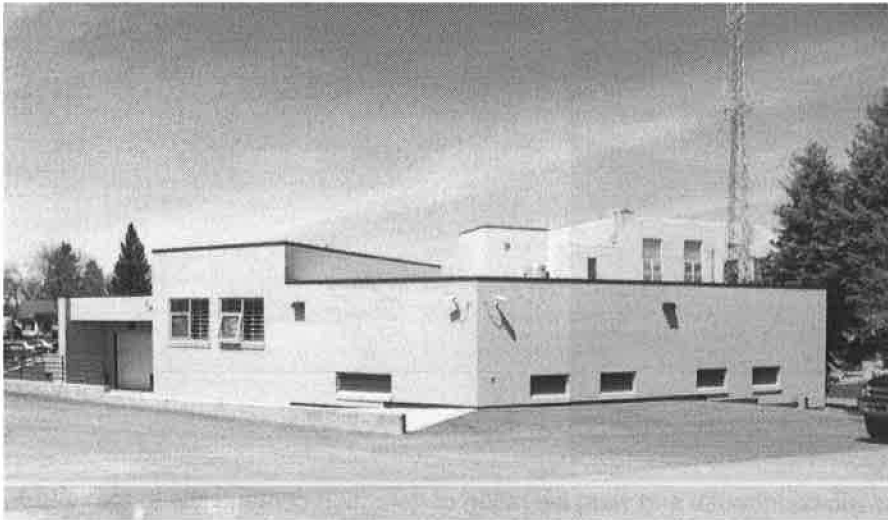
Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 34



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_007  
Glacier County Courthouse, south elevation of detention center addition, view to the west.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_008  
Glacier County Courthouse, east and southeast elevations of detention center addition, view to the northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse

Name of Property  
Glacier County, Montana  
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 35



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_009  
Glacier County Courthouse, east and north elevations of detention center addition, view to the south-southwest.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_010  
Glacier County Courthouse, interior of courtroom, view to the south.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 36



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_011  
Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of stairwell from entry doors, view to the southwest.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_012  
Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of second floor corridor, view to the east.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photographs      Page      37     



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_013  
Glacier County Courthouse, interior detail of mezzanine from third floor, view to the north.



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_014  
Sheriff's office, east and north elevations, view to the southwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Glacier County Courthouse
Name of Property
Glacier County, Montana
County and State
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

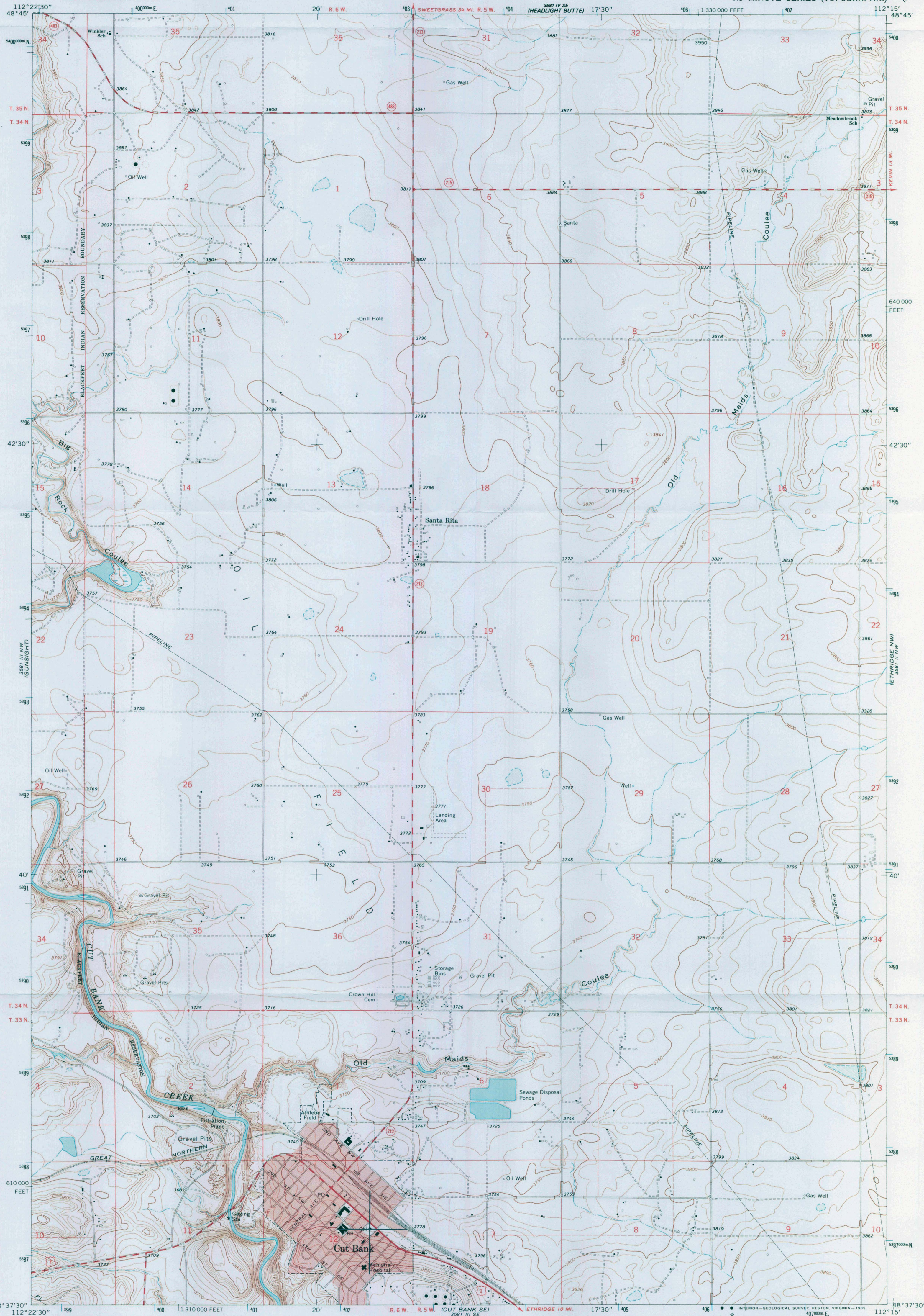
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs \_\_\_\_\_ Page 38



MT\_GlacierCounty\_GlacierCountyCourthouse\_015  
Sheriff's office, west and south elevations, view to the northeast.

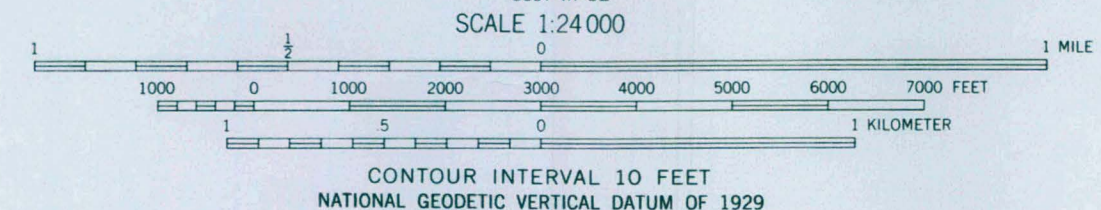
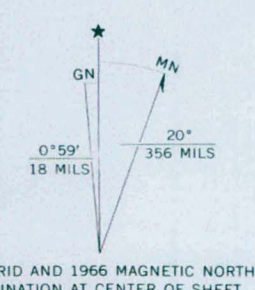
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

CUT BANK QUADRANGLE  
MONTANA-GLACIER CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Glacier County Courthouse  
Glacier County, MT  
UTM Zone 12  
NAD 27  
402330E 538721N

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966.  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American Datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Montana coordinate system,  
north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 12, shown in blue  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings  
are shown  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines  
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983  
move the projection lines 9 meters north and  
64 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
U.S. Route	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Map photoinspected 1980  
No major culture or drainage changes observed

CUT BANK, MONT.  
48112-F3-TF-024  
1966  
PHOTOINSPECTED 1980  
DMA 3581 III NE-SERIES V894

RETURN TO:  
USGS HISTORICAL MAP ARCHIVES

CUT BANK  
ISBN # 0607300620 MT 024  
TF  
\$78.60/500623



1938



1938



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
GLACIER  
COUNTY  
COURT HOUSE  
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★











GLACIER COUNTY  
DETENTION CENTER













LEWIS & FLOWER

TREASURER











UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Glacier County Courthouse

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Glacier

DATE RECEIVED: 5/10/13      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/07/13  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/24/13      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/26/13  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000446

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6.25.13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

Big Sky. Big Land. Big History.  
**Montana**  
**Historical Society**



*Historic Preservation  
Museum  
Outreach & Interpretation  
Publications  
Research Center*

May 6, 2013

Carol Shull, Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye St. NW  
8<sup>th</sup> Floor (MS 2280)  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull,

Enclosed please find the following nomination for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

**The Glacier County Courthouse in Cut Bank, Glacier County, Montana**

Please be advised that I submit the enclosed nomination under your revised procedures. I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting and received no notarized objections to the nomination from the property owners of record. The Review Board unanimously recommended that this property be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Baumler, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

225 North Roberts Street  
P.O. Box 201201  
Helena, MT 59620-1201  
(406) 444-2694  
(406) 444-2696 FAX  
montanahistoricalsociety.org