

MAR 27 1968

See photograph # 25, 26, 27

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Legal Description: Portion of W1/2
Section 14, T4S R22E

Address: Joliet, Montana
Ownership: Name: Carbon County
Address: Red Lodge, Montana

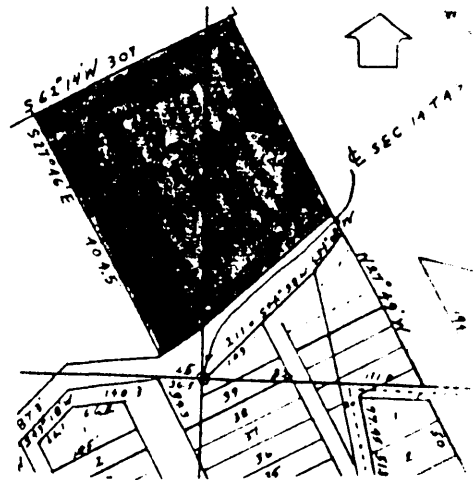


Roll#1/Frame#2

Historic Name: Joliet High School
Common Name: Joliet High School
Date of Construction: 1912, 1938
Architect: Weatherhead and Howatt
Builder: Frank Weatherhead, Jack Howatt
Original Owner: School District #7, Carbon County
Original Use: Joliet High School

Research Sources

Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse
Plat Records: 1968 plat map
Tax Records: not applicable
Building Permits: not available
Sewer/Water Permits: not available
City Directories: 1905-1922
Sanborn Maps: 1907, 1912, 1927
Newspapers: Carbon County Journal
Other: School District #7 School Board Minutes



HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Joliet High School is historically significant because the construction of this building in 1912 strengthened the ties between the community of Joliet and the surrounding agricultural area and reinforced the permanence of the town as a regional center. Although one room schoolhouses dotted the farm land throughout Montana during the early 20th Century, high school aged children most often attended a regional school located in the nearest town of substantial size, commonly the county seat. Although the population of Joliet never reached that of the Carbon County seat of Red Lodge located approximately 18 miles to the south, this relatively large regional high school was nevertheless built. Many of the area farmers and ranchers built or purchased winter homes in Joliet when their children reached high school age. The gymnasium, built as an addition to the school in 1938, as well as the alteration to the original entrance of the building also in 1938 by the construction of a central pavilion for additional classroom space, do not detract from the historical associations of the school building. The 1938 work was financed by the Public Works Administration and is compatible with the original structure in terms of both design and materials. The more recently constructed, detached elementary school is excluded from this nomination.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

As early as November of 1905, the Joliet Journal began to canvass for a high school, stating "it would be good for the people of Joliet and the surrounding country to unify and consolidate several of the small school districts, to build a high school." In November, 1907, the same paper again noted that "the necessity of a larger building has again become apparent and something will have to be done to relieve the situation in the matter of providing better school facilities. The original wood frame school house had been expanded in 1904 and was expanded again in 1907, but still proved unsatisfactory.

By March, 1911, the decision has been made for a new school building. According to the Carbon County Journal the school board had decided on a site for the proposed school building,

"comprised of a full block, 300 feet square which is considered ample for all future generations that will attend Joliet schools... situated on high ground, the buildings will overlook every part of the town and its occupants will have a good view of the valley, the grounds having a nice gentle slope will always be dry and the sanitary conditions should be almost perfect...good plan to have the school grounds as far away from the business part of town as possible and still be centrally located.. the new grounds will fill all of these requirements and more...far enough from the railroad to insure the teachers perfect quiet in the school during study hours."

In April, 1911, a Frank Weatherhead, a brick and stone mason from Billings submitted a proposal for the new school building and by August, Contractors Weatherhead and Jack Howatt, of Joliet had begun construction and expected to finish the job by the 15th of December. The local paper stated the school building will be the "most modern and economical building in the United States."

In 1912, the high school was accredited and the new building occupied.

In 1929, the school building was remodeled but it was difficult to ascertain what was done. It is possible the front stairs were enclosed at this time.

In 1937, the School Board applied to the Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works for a grant to aid in financing the construction of a gymnasium and an additional remodeling of the present school building. A bond was approved for \$16,000. C.C. Cohagan, an architect from Billings presented plans to the board of trustees in July, 1938. In August, 1938, the board accepted the low contract bid of \$28,925 of Lease and Leigland of Great Falls, Montana. By December, 1938, the gym had been completed.

In 1977, an elementary school building was constructed and a new addition is presently under construction. These buildings are separate from the original high school building and excluded from this nomination.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The original high school building rests on a 12' rubble stone concrete foundation or basement. This common bond brick building has a continuous sandstone belt course which separates the brick from the concrete and serves as a water table.

The facade or south wall is symmetrical with a projecting gable at the center. The gable projection has seven tall narrow windows at both elevations and is flanked by seven windows on either side at the upper elevation of the main mass. All window sills are sandstone. There is a wood frame gable vestibule at the west lower elevation and three wide windows at the east lower elevation. The projecting gable has exposed rafters with shaped ends. Across the facade a belt course crosses the cornice, accentuated by a corbelled stone detailing.

This belt course continues around the building but the corbelling only extends partially on the east and west wall. The east wall has a centered wood frame gable roof vestibule with wood shingles, and clapboard cladding framed by cornerboards. The

vestibule has double doors and the gable end features patterned shingles. It is flanked by 2 2/1 doublehung windows on the ground elevation of the central mass. The upper elevation on the east wall is asymmetrical, with a row of 9 tall windows framed by sandstone and a smaller rectangular panel also framed by sandstone.

The north or rear facade wall is symmetrical at the upper elevation, having 5 tall windows which alternate across the wall with four piers which originally accomodated the chimneys. The lower elevation has large multiple pane windows and a rear paneled door entrance.

Attached to the original building is a later addition(1938), designed as the gymnasium and connected to the west wall of the main mass. The entrance joins both buildings, distinguished by large metal double doors with adjacent side lights. The words "GYMNASIUM" are incised in a dressed stone panel capped by a soldier row and stone coping. The stone belt course continues from the original building, and is incorporated in the brick addition.

The gymnasium is a Flemish bond polychrome brick building. A continuous soldier row is situated beneath the windows. The cornice has a stone coping over a brick course that has symmetrically placed dressed stone detail within this space between the coping and the continous belt course. The north and south wall fenestration is symmetrical with 3 tall windows. The east wall fenestration is composed of a row of 8 paired multiple pane windows, all framed with sandstone blocks which alternate around the frame. The west wall has a square projection which houses the interior stage.

Alterations to the original school building include the enclosure of the original entrance, removal of belfry and the infill of most of the windows. Refer to historic photographs attached for historic change to building. The original school building had a massive central stairway with a classic entrance framed by four Doric columns. A wooden square open bell tower originally accentuated the entrance.

INTEGRITY:

The original appearance of the main school building is retained in design and material with the exception of the enclosure of the entrance and most of the windows. The original windows are intact underneath the plywood sheeting. The building is in its' original location and has maintained the setting and original feeling. The gymnasium is also the original construction and illustrates historic change.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Joan Louise Brownell
Address: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office
Red Lodge, Montana
Date: August, 1985

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: 2 acres

Verbal Boundaries: Approximately 140 feet nw from the ne corner of lot 1, block 11, original plat, Joliet; from this point 300 feet nw, 300 feet sw, 300 feet se and 300 feet ne to beginning point.

USGS Quad: Fromberg, Montana/7.5 minute/1956

UTM's: Zone 12 6 58 400 Easting
50 38 890 Northing