

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88001120

Date Listed: 7/21/88

St. Benedict's Catholic School
Property Name

Musselshell
County

MT
State

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick Andrews

Signature of the Keeper

7/21/88

Date of Action

===== Amended Items in Nomination:

This building was owned by a religious institution and Criteria Exception A should have been selected on the nomination form. Pat Bick with the MT SHPO agreed to this technical correction on 7/21/88.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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JUN 21 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name St. Benedict's Catholic School
other names/site number Musselshell Valley Historical Museum

2. Location

street & number 524 First St. West n/a not for publication
city, town Roundup n/a vicinity
state Montana code 030 county Musselshell code 065 zip code 59072

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register n/a

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Marella Sheffy Date 6-9-88
Montana SHPO

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

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Patrick Andrews 7/27/88
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education - school

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickroof asphaltother

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

St. Benedict's Catholic School is a substantial, two-story, buff-colored brick building with a full daylight basement located within the west side residential neighborhood of Roundup, Montana. The building is basically rectangular in shape, and has a concrete foundation. The facade is symmetrically organized and consists of three bays, with the central bay recessed slightly. A concrete belt course runs at the first floor window sill level around the three main elevations. Another belt course at the second floor lintel level serves to define the parapet and the building is finished with concrete coping. A metal cap was installed over the coping to keep water from deteriorating the building. There is one large chimney, set off-center on the flat roof. Crosses set in the brick above the main and side entries serve as reminders of the original function of the building as a Catholic grade school. The name panel above the central entry now reads: "Musselshell Valley Historical Museum."

The windows and the main entrance are the most significant features of the school's design. The windows are wooden 6-over-1 double hung units set in a regular 3-3-3 pattern on the facade. The central entryway, accessed by concrete steps, has a 6-light, pointed arched transom over the double, 12-light, wooden doors set within a brick architrave, and is flanked by narrow 6-over-1 double hung units. Above the main entry at the second story level are three sets of 6-over-12 fixed units, which light the building's central hallway. The side entry on the north elevation is composed of double, 12-light, wooden doors with pairs of 15-light and 9-light windows above to light the interior stairway. There is also a doorway to the basement on the east (rear) elevation. The end walls are pierced by four, evenly spaced, 6-over-6 windows on both the first and second floors, while the rear (east) elevation has only two windows. The rhythm of the upper floor windows is repeated at the basement level with smaller, 3-over-1, double hung units. Window sills and flat-arched lintels are composed of header brick of a slightly darker buff color than the walls.

The interior walls are plastered and measure about 14" in thickness. Ceilings in the basement are 9' high, while those of the first and second floors are 12' high. The original floor plan of the school remains intact. Because most of the interior space of the building is now used for museum and art exhibits, many of the windows have been boarded over on the interior to limit natural lighting. In addition to preserving the exterior appearance of the building, the original moldings have also been preserved using this treatment.

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A wooden shed was recently built to the east side and is covered with board and batten siding. Although this addition is noncontributing, it clearly reads as a separate entity and does not significantly detract from the overall high level of historic architectural integrity of the school building.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1920-1933	1921
Social History		

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

John H. Grant, architect

Gilbert Gottfrey, builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

St. Benedict's Catholic School, built in 1920-21, is significant due to its association with the hundreds of European immigrants who came to the town of Roundup shortly after the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad established major coal mines here in 1907-08. This school served as an important focal point for the Catholic community, and helped preserve the Catholic heritage of the immigrant population as ethnic identities became less distinct in this new American environment. Erected during the last of the major building phase in the early history of Roundup, St. Benedict's is a substantial, two-story brick building of pleasing proportions. Roundup reached its peak of prosperity in about 1918 at the end of the First World War. The economic impact of the failure of dry land farming and the collapse of the local oil boom is reflected in the closure of all three banks in the community during the early 1920's. Coal production, the mainstay of the local economy, remain high throughout this period, employing from 800-850 men, as demonstrated by the ability of the mine workers from several European countries to support the construction and operation of a separate school for their children.

St. Benedict's embodies the distinctive characteristics of an early 20th century school building, and possesses excellent historic architectural integrity. A number of older citizens in Roundup attribute the design of the building to town's only architect-in-residence, John H. Grant, who was responsible for the design of numerous commercial and residential buildings in the community between 1910 and 1922, when he relocated to Portland, Oregon. The symmetrical organization of this two-story rectangular masonry block, with its recessed central entry bay marked by a brick architrave, side entrances, central corridor floor plan, and full daylight basement are all features common to period school construction. The historic six-over-one wooden double hung windows, the primary character-defining design element of the building, remain in place and in good condition, which is uncommon for Montana school buildings of this period. The historic windows of a majority of Eastern Montana schools have been subjected to insensitive weatherization efforts during the past 15 years that have resulted in wholesale window replacement or infilling of window openings.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"St. Benedict's Roundup School: 50 Years of Growth," Eastern Montana Catholic Register, Golden Jubilee Edition, published by Diocese of Great Falls, vol. XXX, no. 49, December 3, 1954, p. 66.

Roundup Register, Roundup, Montana, July 25, 1919, August 15, 1919, June 25, 1920, September 2, 1921.

Babcock, Bill and Elizabeth Wood, "Historic Resources Survey of the City of Roundup," unpublished manuscript, November, 1983, copy available at State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one

UTM References

A 12 688760 5146380
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The west 100' of lots 13 and 14 of block 12 of the First Addition of Roundup, Montana
NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 13, township 8N; Range 25 E

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes only that portion of lots 13 and 14 of block 12 of the First Addition upon which St. Benedict's Catholic School is situated. A pioneer log cabin was moved to the east end of these lots by the Musselshell Valley Historical Museum during the early 1980's. This cabin bears no historic relation to the school and is not included within the nominated property boundary.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dora E. Swanser
 organization Musselshell Valley Historical Museum date February 1988
 street & number 16531 Highway 12 West telephone (406) 323-1089
 city or town Roundup state Montana zip code 59072

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The Catholic parish in Roundup was established in 1908, and the local church was built in 1912. Under the director of Father Thomas Hennessy, pastor of the Catholic Church in Roundup from 1914-1929, work began on the school during the spring of 1920 and was completed by the fall of 1921. Five Sisters of Holy Humility of Mary, an itinerant group of nuns who had come to Roundup from Goldfield, Nevada in hopes of starting a hospital, were diverted to the task of teaching that first year. These sisters left after one school term for Rocky Mount, North Carolina to pursue their chosen vocation. A group of Ursuline Sisters arrived in Roundup in the fall of 1922 to take charge of the four classes, and 123 students. The sisters lived in the basement and boarded a number of children who lived in the surrounding rural area. Children of families with different religious affiliations attended St. Benedict's due to the more individualized attention children received. The Sisters of Charity of Providence assumed teaching duties in September, 1933, and were replaced by the Sisters of the Holy Family at Nazareth at few years later. The school remained open until May, 1950, when this last group of Sisters left Roundup and no replacement nuns were found.

For many years, church groups continued to use the school for a meeting place. In 1960, the Roundup School District leased the building for extra classroom space due to overcrowding in the public schools. The Musselshell Historical Museum assumed ownership of the building in 1972. The upper two floors of the building are now used for art and historical exhibits and the basement serves as a public meeting place and senior citizens' center.