
7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Erected in 1920-1921, the Rosebud County Deaconess Hospital, the first hospital in the County, provided the eastern territory of Montana with a medical facility for which it was in great need. With its 21 beds and surgery room, the service provided was well worth the tax increase created by the \$90,000.00 construction cost. The two story structure, with a daylight basement, has seen few changes in its appearance both externally and internally since its formal dedication on April 21, 1921.

The main floor is reached by walking a flight of exterior stairs through its classical entrance and finely detailed wood pediment into a ceramic tiled vestibule. The main floor consists of the reception/lobby area, the superintendents office, restrooms, kitchen facilities, eleven patient rooms, and a solarium with exposure to the east, south and west.

All operating facilities and remaining patient rooms are designed into the 4,000 square feet of the second floor. Laundry, storage, and mechanical hardware utilize the majority of remaining space in the basement. The floors are connected vertically through a ramp system nosing out of the east elevation.

Stone medallions are inset into the masonry between the main floor and second floor windows emphasizing the horizontal symmetry of the building. The shade created by the wood shingled hip roof creates a definite contrast with the red brick with raked joints layed in an English bond.

Changes in the exterior of the building, since its construction, are easily noted due to the contrast of materials available in the 1920's and today. These changes include spotted locations of unit air conditioners protruding from windows, aluminum storm windows attached to original double hung wood units, and an aluminum tubed fire exit on the south elevation. The changes in the addition are sympathetic to the original structure and do not compromise its integrity.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1919 **Builder/Architect** McIver, Cohagen & Marshall, Arch.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Rosebud County Deaconess Hospital, built in 1921 is significant for its historic associations with the settling of Rosebud County and Eastern Montana. Although the Architectural Design and the masonry construction were common for this time period in this sector of Montana, (viz. Georgian Revival), the structure's historical significance is stated in its function as one of the earliest medical facilities for the settlers of this rugged North West Country.

CRITERIA A - LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

Hospitals were constructed in Glendive, Montana and Miles City, Montana prior to 1920. Forsyth, Montana, the county seat of Rosebud County and location of the Rosebud County Deaconess Hospital is forty miles from Miles City. For the available modes of transportation in the early 1900's, forty miles meant a minimum of one full day's travel over rough Montana terrain.

Even in 1979 a trip of that distance and time means the difference of life and death. It is easy to comprehend the relief of Rosebud County settlers when they began to plan through the Methodist Church, a medical facility that would aid them in dealing with day-to-day emergencies.

In April of 1919, efforts of planning had begun to pay off. Two bonds, totaling \$90,000.00 were put before the people and approved. Four Montana Architects had been asked to submit plans and estimates to the County Commissioners. The Billings, Montana, Architectural Firm of McIver, Cohagen and Marshall was selected.

Plans having been prepared and bids let, construction for the facility began in the Spring of 1920. Within ten days after the hospital's formal opening on April 25, 1921, seven patients had been admitted for treatment and surgery. Documented emergencies of appendicitis, broken bones, and birth during these first few days reaffirmed to all the need of such a facility.

From the opening day the hospital served a dual function. One of a medical/emergency facility and second, one of a training school for nurses. This was the beginning of what would grow to become Rosebud County's present Hospital and Nursing home and represents one of the most complete facilities of its kind within Montana. The Rosebud County Deaconess Hospital, then, is symbolic of the professional maturity the county and state had attained with regard to medical care by the end of World War I.

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With the passing years the hospital was operated by many different organizations, and until 1959, was operated by the Lutheran Hospital and Homes Society of Fargo, North Dakota. It was during their administration that the Nursing Home Addition was connected to the North side of the original hospital and the combined complex was dedicated in 1958.

In 1959 the Rosebud Treasure Hospital Association was incorporated to give Rosebud County and neighboring Treasure County a completely home-owned and operated hospital and nursing home complex. It was at this time that citizens of both counties began to recognize a need for a replacement for the original hospital and on November 4, 1973 a new hospital was dedicated and ready for occupancy.

Rosebud County residents should be credited with keeping up with the times and health need of the community.

The original Rosebud County Hospital is presently being occupied by various county departments. It is the concern of the Rosebud County commissioners and citizens that this building remain as an active facility of their community. Future plans for the structure includes the renovation of a portion of the interior into a doctor's clinic keeping the facility a function of its original intent.

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3. Blueprints and Specs. by McIver, Cohagen and Marshall, Architects
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