

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

4712

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dillon City Hall Historic District
Other names/site number: Dillon Municipal Building Historic District
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 125 N Idaho Street
City or town: Dillon State: Montana County: Beaverhead
Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

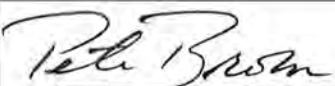
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X 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 X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

 Acting Montana State Historic Preservation Officer	<u>10/16/19</u> Date
Signature of certifying official/Title	
Montana State Historic Preservation Office	
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

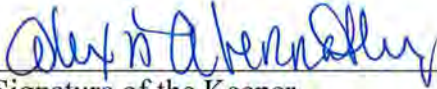
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4. National Park Service Certification

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 
Signature of the Keeper

12/2/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use:

Historic Functions

GOVERNMENT: city hall, fire station, police department, public works

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility, auditorium

Current Functions

GOVERNMENT: city hall, city court, public works

RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility, auditorium

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7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

WALLS: BRICK; CONCRETE; STONE, sandstone

FOUNDATION: CONCRETE

ROOF: ASPHALT, METAL

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Dillon City Hall Historic District is in the city of Dillon, elevation of 5,240 feet. The Beaverhead River straddles Dillon on its west side. Several mountains are visible from Dillon, including the Ruby Range to the east, the Blacktail Mountains to the south, and the Pioneer Mountains to the north and west. Continuing to serve the Dillon population of just over 4,000 people, the Dillon City Hall Historic District consists of four buildings associated with the governance, protection, and maintenance of the city.¹ The district is highlighted by the Fred F. Willson-designed city hall on the corner of North Idaho and East Center streets. The brick two-story building displays restrained Romanesque Revival style elements, elegant lines, and a functional, but simple floor plan meant to house a variety of municipal departments and public service areas including the Fire Department, Water Commissioner, Police Magistrate, Lockup, City Clerk, City Council Chambers, sleeping/living area for the fire fighters, and a multi-use stage and ballroom. Through the years, some changes to the floorplans have occurred to accommodate modern uses, especially on the first floor. Other buildings within the district include: the 1936/1937 WPA-built firehall referred to as the old City Shop and Storage Garage Building; a 1963 building that houses a water well for the city; and the City Shops Building, located west of the old City Shop and Storage Garage Building and 1963 well building.

¹ The City of Dillon is platted on a northeast – southwest grid, following the railroad right of way. For ease of description, and in keeping with notations on the original blueprints, in this nomination, the authors refer to the building's southeast elevation as the east (façade), the southwest as the south (second facade), the northwest as the west, and the northeast as the north (rear).

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Narrative Description

The Dillon City Hall Historic District is comprised of four buildings including the anchor Dillon City Hall building, designed by noted architect Fred F. Willson, the WPA-constructed firehall, storage, and women's lockup; the City Shops Building on the west edge of the district; and a building that houses City Water Well #3. The Dillon City Hall fronts both East Center Street and North Idaho Street. The WPA firehall, also referred to as the old City Shop and Storage Garage, also fronts North Idaho Street. The water well building and the City Shop Building to the west are partially obscured from the nearby streets by a concrete block wall, though an alley (that marks much of the western boundary of the district) does pass behind the rear of the City Shop Building. The district lies in the northwest section of the city.

Dillon City Hall (1914, one contributing building)

The Dillon City Hall is a large two-story rectangular-shaped building oriented slightly southwest-northeast and topped by a low-slope gable roof. Per the architect drawings, elevations are referred to as "north", "south", "east", and "west", with the south elevation facing East Center Street and the east elevation facing North Idaho Street. Constructed of light red and tan brick displaying a running bond pattern composed of offset stretchers, and resting on a concrete foundation that features a full basement intended for storage and mechanical space, it measures about 120 feet north-south by 36 feet east-west. While many of the ground floor doors and windows have been replaced through the years, the majority of the upper story lights remain; in addition, all window and door openings remain unchanged. Designed by Bozeman architect Fred F. Willson in a restrained Romanesque Revival style, Dillon City Hall serves as the anchor to the other buildings in the Dillon City Hall Historic District.

Exterior Description

East Elevation

Dillon City Hall presents two street front facades, the shorter facade (south elevation) facing East Central Street, and the long façade that stretches about half a block in length (east elevation) facing North Idaho Street. Both these facades feature light red brick. The east elevation displays one main central recessed bay flanked on each end by a projecting bay. A stepped brick parapet capped with concrete coping extends across the top of the elevation; the area immediately below the parapet topping the central bay contains three recessed panels. A few feet below the stepped parapet, and running the entire length of the elevation, occurs an elaborate multiple course cornice consisting of a row of soldier brick conscribed above and below by a row of stretcher bricks, beneath which occurs three rows of stretcher bricks, each stepped back slightly more than the row above. Below the rows of stretcher brick is a row of soldier coursing. Inset within the three rows of stretcher brick and the lower soldier coursing are consistently-placed vertical brick corbel accents that extend below the belt course several feet. A soldier-coursed water table runs about 2 feet above the ground surface across the entire length of the façade, except where interrupted by entries or windows.

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The south projecting bay features a single entry consisting of a one-light metal mandoor topped by a three-light transom. Immediately to the south is a nine-light/one-panel sidelight topped by a three-light window (leading to the original water commissioner's office). The ground floor openings of both this southern end bay and the northern end bay feature soldier-coursed flat arches. The entry is similar in configuration to the entry viewed in historic photos, although a photo from the early 1920s indicates the door opening once contained a wood multi-light/one-panel unit, undoubtedly made of wood. The second story holds three six-over-six double hung windows each topped by a seven-light fanlight; these windows provide(d) light to a room that historically served as a bedroom in the firehall, a staircase, and a hallway. Above and concribing the fanlights are projecting brick arch hood molds with a number of individual bricks arranged in a "keystone" pattern; the bottom of each window features a prominent concrete sill. Below the southern-most window and south of the entry are letters spelling "CITY OF DILLON CITY HALL" and a glass-enclosed signboard with local announcements.

The recessed central bay features an additional four smaller arched bays. Two entries provide access into the building; the southern-most leads into the historic location of the Council Chambers, and the northern door provides access to the City Clerk and Police Magistrate office. Both entries in the central bay consist of paired one-light mandooors topped with single-light transoms; however, the northern-most entry features much more recent hardware compared to its southern counterpart.

A handicap walkway, partially covered by a cloth canopy, provides access to the northern entry. Historic photos suggest the present configuration of the entries generally emulates their historic presentation. Two paired 32-light windows with concrete sills occur within the smaller recessed bays between the two entries providing light into the Council Chambers and City Clerk office. In the second story within each of the smaller bays are paired six-over-six double hung units topped with 24-light fanlights; these windows provide light to the auditorium. Projecting brick arch hood molds with oversized center keystones conscribe the fanlights. Concrete sills support the bottom of the windows. Raised brick accent panels grace the area between the upper windows and ground floor entries and windows.

The ground floor of the northern projecting bay holds paired nine-over-one fixed vinyl lights allowing light to penetrate into the original Police Magistrate's office, while the second story contains four small six-over-six double hung units with stone sills providing light to a dressing room and hallway.

South Elevation

Facing East Center Street, the south façade displays much of the same character and design elements of the east elevation including the stepped brick parapet (containing one large recessed panel), and elaborate cornice with associated detailing. The second story window configuration (four) displays the same light arrangement, projecting brick arch hood molds, and concrete sills as the east elevation. However, the windows are recessed to a greater depth than those on the east elevation and feature a slightly recessed surround contrasted to the projecting fanlight surround, consisting of bricks arranged in a stretcher bond to the sides and below the windows,

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shifting to an arch configuration around the transom itself. A row of header bricks provides definition between the recessed window brick surround and the projecting transom surround.

The ground floor holds two oversized vehicle entries with roll-up overhead three-light/multiple panel metal doors (originally accordion doors), and a one-light/one-panel metal mandoor flanked by one-light/one-panel sidelights topped with a transom consisting of a ribbon of three nine-light units. Immediately east of the entry is a large recessed decorative panel surmounted by a ribbon of three nine-light fixed windows. All of the ground story fenestration displays slightly modified soldier course flat arches with a number of individual bricks arranged in a “keystone” pattern. The brick facing that once adorned the central pier that separates the two vehicle entries has been removed, likely the result of vehicular damage in the past. The soldier-coursed water table found on the east façade continues, albeit sparsely due to the number and size of entries and a large recessed panel.

North Elevation

This elevation features little of the character of the east and south facades, instead presenting a more utilitarian appearance. The majority of the elevation was constructed using tan brick, the exception being the parapet constructed from mostly light red brick, and small section near the west edge featuring concrete. Light quoining occurs on the east corner but not the west corner. The west corner exhibits a fairly large section of light red brick that extends into the elevation several feet near the center of the wall. The first story construction features brick at the east side, and concrete block to the west – indicating the location of the original lockup,

Ground floor fenestration includes a replacement one-light metal mandoor with one-light transom approached by a small two-step concrete stoop centered on the elevation; the transom window has been reduced in size from its original configuration by a wood surround. A few feet to the east of the door is a one-over-one replacement double-hung vinyl window. Within the western concrete section of the elevation are three window openings with concrete sills covered with vertical bars. One of the openings is in-filled with brick while the other two retain the original window configuration, though the glass has likely been replaced.

Second story fenestration includes a metal replacement door with a large wood surround immediately above the ground floor door. The doorway historically held paired narrow doors. A metal grate staircase with open risers and metal handrail provides access to the door. A six-over-six double-hung window with concrete sill appears on each side of the door. Two windows of the same style split the second story, one above the other, near the west end of the wall. Except for the three windows held in the lower west corner concrete portion, all windows display segmentally arched lintels. An exterior staircase with metal hand rail under the three barred window openings provides access to the basement.

The very west corner of the building features an interior brick chimney topped with concrete coping that extends just above the height of the parapet. Electrical conduit is fastened to different sections of the wall.

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West Elevation

Similar to the north elevation, the west elevation presents a utilitarian character, with little ornamentation. In addition, a smaller brick building immediately to the west has obscured much of the elevation. A mixing of tan and light red brick was used in the elevation's construction, except for the lower 1/4 of the north end of the elevation where the brick is replaced by concrete block. Fenestration is limited to a single window in the second story in the south half of the wall that overlooks the flat roof of the neighboring building; this is a six-over-six double hung unit with a segmentally arched hood. A few feet of the elaborate cornice wraps around the south end of the building from the south elevation. Architect drawings and historic photographs indicate an interior corrugated-iron hose tower that extended from the basement to several feet above the roof line once punctuated the roof near the edge of the west elevation.

Interior Description of Dillon City Hall

Facility Access

The main access to the Dillon City Hall building is through the double doors at the 125 N. Idaho Street address entrance on the east side. The basement may be accessed from the Center Street entrance on the south side, the stairway under the grand stairs that lead to the second level, or more directly through the exterior wood staircase in the alley on the north side.

Access to City Court, the City Attorney's office and the ballroom is through the south entrance located at 31 E. Center Street. The water department garage doors are also located on this side of the building. Ballroom and stage access is through the Center Street entrance and up the grand stair. However, there is a non-ADA compliant, non-egress exit stair through the back of the stage to the alley.

Interior Walls

The interior portion of exterior walls are covered in lath and plaster, gypsum wall board, or wood paneling. Older walls original to the building retain their lath and plaster finish, while newer walls are gypsum wall board with wood paneling or paint. Rooms such as the vault or basement spaces have concrete walls, with either unpainted or painted finish. Interior spaces/walls on the first floor receive better maintenance than those on the second floor or basement. The second floor has several areas of cracked plaster or areas where plaster has pulled away from the lath completely, that require patching, repair, and paint.

Heating

The entire building was originally heated by a coal-fired steam boiler that distributed steam through a one pipe steam system to manually controlled radiators. The boiler has since been abandoned in place and replaced by a newer natural gas-fired steam boiler. Original Kewanee radiators are still used to heat the entire first floor, the hall on the second floor, and the dressing rooms east of the stage. Natural gas-fired unit heaters are used to heat the Water and Sewer Department shop as well as the second story auditorium and City Attorney office. The basement and the balcony rely on the transfer of heat from adjacent heated spaces.

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First Floor

Lobby/Ticket Booth

The present City Court reception area originally served as the Lobby and Ticket Booth for the auditorium. It controls access to the corridor connecting this space with the Council Chambers. Light fixtures have been replaced with florescent lighting and flooring in the lobby area has been updated to luxury vinyl tile (LVT) plank. Walls and ceiling are lath and plaster with a heavy texture. The richly stained oak wood trim remains in good shape. The entrance door on the east side of the building at 31 E. Center Street has been updated from the original and is a 36-inch wide hollow metal mandoor; a 4-inch by 16-inch wide stoop and step-down leads to the concrete sidewalk. The sidelights on each side of the door are updated to aluminum frame, with single pane glass. Most interior window framing retains the original wood with single pane glass. This interior space retains the original wood-framed single pane glass interior window inset into the old ticket booth, currently used for storage by the City Court. It is heavily trimmed in a richly stained oak.

The oak main stair to the auditorium is also accessed through this room. Original plans show an open stairwell with balusters dovetailed into the treads. The balusters have been encased in lath and plaster and the stairwell enclosed. The stair to the basement is also accessed via the Lobby.

Men's/Women's Bathroom/Corridor

The corridor originally served as part of the Water Commissioner office. It displays LVT plank flooring, painted gypsum wall board walls, and an acoustic ceiling tile (ACT) ceiling. The men's and women's bathrooms have older sheet vinyl on the floor and fiberglass reinforced polymer (FRP) on the walls with rubber base. The ceiling in the women's bathroom exhibits ACT and the ceiling in the men's room is painted gypsum wallboard, or lath and plaster. Sinks in both bathrooms appear to be original and the communal urinal in the men's room appears to be original.

Judge Chambers/Office

Originally serving as the Water Commissioner's office, this space now is the City Judge Chambers. A wall was built to create a hallway between the Lobby and Council Chambers. The ceiling has been lowered and fluorescent lighting installed. The office features updated LVT plank flooring, wood paneling walls, with an older ACT ceiling. The original exterior door is 42 inches wide and has a small step down from the floor level to concrete sidewalk level. The transom window above the door (and above the false ceiling) retains its original wood frame with the addition of an aluminum storm window. This is also true of the three-light window immediately to the south. The nine-light/one-panel sidelight beneath the three-light window has been updated to a double paned vinyl unit. The double sided oak desk used by the present judge is believed original to the building.

Council Chambers

The Council Chambers currently have updated 1/4-inch turn carpet tile. The painted gypsum wall board feature a wainscot below. The outside wall appears to be lath and plaster. The ACT

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ceiling is in great shape. The two exterior doors each measure 42 inches wide with a small step down from the floor level to the concrete sidewalk outside. The transoms above the doors retain their original wood framing though they now hold single pane glass windows. The two exterior windows that provide light into the chambers were updated to double pane vinyl. The oak council table and matching chairs are believed to be original.

City Office Corridor and Front Office

The present front office originally served as the City Clerk office. The wall that separated it from the historic Police Magistrate office was removed to create the front office for present City Hall quarters with access to the Mayor, Director of Operations, City Clerk offices, and Water and Sewer Department. False walls were installed to create the City Treasurer office. Walls consist of painted wood paneling with medium density fiberboard (MDF) trim. The exterior wall is lath and plaster. The front office and corridor have a LVT plank floor, while the city office, work room and staff side of the front office feature newer ¼-inch turned carpet tile. All ceilings are 2x2 ACT. The entrance doors consist of paired 36-inch wide updated aluminum units, which swing out. Transom window framing above the doors remains original with outer aluminum frame storm windows added. The City Treasurer office contains an interior window made of wood stops and single pane glass. The corridor's two exterior windows were updated to vinyl.

Vault

The vault remains virtually unchanged including the original script of the manufacturer on the door, "The Halls Safe Company, Cincinnati, O." The vault consists of a concrete floor, painted concrete walls and ceiling. Original wood shelving covers all walls to provide storage. The original canvas bound minutes of the first meeting of the City Council with Mayor B.F. White presiding, dated June 11, 1885, are stored in the vault along with most Council minutes from that time to the present. Leather and canvas bound city ordinance books, resolution books, and leather-bound Mountain View cemetery burial records dating from October 14, 1888 to the present are also kept in the vault. Other permanent records and files and the city's computer server are stored here as well.

Mayor's Office

The present Mayor's office occupies what was originally part of the Police Lockup. Entrance is via a ramp in a short hallway that rises 4 inches to the landing and false floor of the Mayor's office. The floor is covered with broadloom carpet, and walls with wood paneling wainscot and painted gypsum board above concrete. All ceilings are 2x4 ACT. A step leads down into the break room, also part of the Police Lockup and the storage rooms, which were old jail cells. No exterior windows appear in this office.

Director of Operations/City Clerk Office

The historic office that housed the Police Magistrate was divided with a painted wood paneling and trim false wall to include the present offices of the Director of Operations and the City Clerk. The exterior walls are lath and plaster, floors consist of newly-installed LVT plank flooring, and ceilings are 2x4 ACT. The original exterior window in the north wall of the Director of Operations office was replaced with a double hung vinyl unit. The original paired windows in

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the east wall of the City Clerk office were replaced with two exterior double hung vinyl units. The oak desk in the Director of Operations office is thought original to the building.

Back Room, Corridor and Toilet Room (men's)

The flooring in each of these rooms consists of old rolled vinyl that has exceeded its wearable life expectancy. All walls are either painted gypsum board, painted lath and plaster, or concrete. The ceiling is old 2x4 ACT. The north wall exterior metal replacement door measures 36 inches wide with no panic hardware. The transom window, now a single pane light, has been reduced in size from its original configuration by a wood surround. The sink and urinal appear to be original to the building, but the commode has been replaced.

Break Room

Originally part of the Police Lockup, this room now serves as a break room. The floor painted concrete floor is worn in some locations. Walls consist of wood paneling over 2x4 furring and the ceiling is 4x8 lay-in tile. A step leads up into the mayor's office and the door between the two rooms is a hollow core particle board unit. Two of the three exterior windows in the north wall remain, though one has been infilled with brick. The interior openings retain their original wood frames, though aluminum storm panes have been added on the inside. Original jail bars remain on the outside of the windows.

Water/City Work Office

Situated within the original fire department apparatus room, the Water/City Work Office sports new sheet vinyl flooring, a combination of painted gypsum wall board and wood paneling with painted wood trim for the walls, and a combination of 2x4 AC tile ceiling and painted gypsum board on the ceiling.

Water Department Lab

The current Water Department Lab also exists within the original apparatus room. It is a newer space with sheet vinyl flooring, and walls and ceiling of painted gypsum wall board. The door into the lab is a residential pre-hung exterior door with metal threshold.

Water Department Shop

Situated within the main area of the original Fire Department Apparatus Room, the Water Department Shop still retains the fire pole that connected the firemen's quarters on the second floor. An original staircase to the hose tower no longer exists. The Water Department Work Bay flooring is concrete while the walls and ceiling are lath and plaster. The walls and ceiling require attention due to water infiltration; some floor and ceiling plaster is completely missing or cracked. The shop is accessed by a door from the hall off the City Court lobby area, as well as one off the front office. Two overhead garage doors provide access to the water department storage bays for equipment.

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Basement

Boiler Room and Coal Storage

The boiler room and coal storage remain unchanged. This room sits directly below the Police Lockup/Break room. Walls, ceiling, and floor are concrete. Beneath the exterior stair lies the old utility tunnel leading to the city shop across the alley on the north side. This tunnel leaves the mechanical room exposed to the outside under the stringer of stairs at the top of the tunnel. The coal auger trench in the floor between the coal room and mechanical room remains and leads to the historic, no longer used, steam boiler.

Open Room/Range

The presentation of the Open Room/Range remains as it was historically, with painted concrete walls and an unpainted concrete floor. A portion of the ceiling is open exposing painted wood floor joists with bridging; the enclosed portion that features a ceiling consists of a poured-in-place concrete floor/ceiling that supports the former apparatus bay above. Some storage areas have been constructed within this area and are built of plywood over 2x4 studs. The area also contains a few degrading concrete column bases. Exposed aggregate between the concrete and the framing of the flooring/stairs to the first floor occurs near the south stairs. The stairs leading from the basement to the first floor are not enclosed and lack handrails. The stairs measure 45 inches wide from edge of concrete wall to edge of stair tread.

Second Floor

Stair/Hall

The staircase and associated hallway are located near the southeast corner of the building, along the east interior wall. Although worn and in need of a recoating of stain, the oak main staircase is in good shape. An accordion door at the base of the second flight of stairs is utilized during the winter for energy efficiency. The stairs measure 81 inches wide with 12 ¼-inch deep treads. The ceiling and walls are painted heavy texture plaster over lath. Several areas of damaged plaster occur where water infiltrated from various roof leaks and cracked the plaster. The floor in the hall is original oak that requires refinishing. An original Kewanee radiator heats this space. The stairwell and hallway hold two windows that retain their original interior wood framing and single panes.

City Attorney Reception

This room originally served as the Fireman's Room, which included the now-removed brass fire pole to the Apparatus Room. The walls are painted plaster over lath. A wood chair rail trim with plaster over lath occurs below. The three windows on the south wall within this office retain their original framing and single pane lights. The associated window arches are hidden above the false 2x4 ACT ceiling. The flooring is original oak wood that needs to be refinished.

City Attorney Office

This room originally served as the Library. The walls are painted bead board plaster over lath with a wood trim chair rail around the room. Below the chair rail is a wainscot of painted plaster. There were originally two built in darkly-stained oak book cases with leaded glass

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doors. One set has been refinished and the leaded doors repaired; the other was placed in storage. The wood floor remains in good shape. The single pane wood-framed window in the west wall remains. A frosted glass vinyl slider window is in an interior wall that separates the reception office.

Kitchen/Break Room

The kitchen/break room occupies the location of the original Fireman's Bedroom in the southeast corner. Aged sheet vinyl covers the floor and the walls are painted plaster over lath. The room features two exterior windows, one facing east on North Idaho Street and the other in the south wall facing East Central Street. Both retain their historic wood framing and single pane appearance. A small vertically-sliding window is in the wall separating this room from the reception area.

Bathroom

This room maintains its original historic association as a bathroom. It is located immediately north of the present kitchen/breakroom. The original sink remains but all other fixtures have been updated. Flooring is vinyl and the walls are painted plaster over lath. There is a wood chair rail trim with plaster finish above and below. One interior window with a high sill height allows light to transfer from the exterior windows in the stair to the east. This single pane window is original to the building.

Auditorium/Ballroom

Continuing to serve in its original capacity, the Grand Ballroom/Auditorium walls are painted plaster over lath, and 2x stud wainscot. The floor is oak and presents quite well but requires refinishing. The ceiling displays directly adhered suspended ceiling tile, attached to the original trusses by a wood frame system. The wood trim of the stage has been painted and quite a few nicks and dents are apparent. Original navy-blue velvet stage curtains and canvas backdrops hang at the front of the stage. The four windows that face east onto North Idaho Street retain their original interior wood framing and with single pane lights. Light fixtures in this room date to the original construction. Heat is from a natural gas fired ceiling mounted unit.

Stage/Side Stairs and Hallways

The stage and 36-inch wide stairs leading up from the second floor to the stage are made of wood with painted wood trim. The pine flooring on the stage is solid but needs refinishing. Footlights are set into the floor at the front of the stage. On the stage itself are two sets of 30-inch wide stairs leading up to the landings at the upper dressing rooms. At the back of the stage is the secondary exit leading to the original exterior metal grate fire escape landing and metal grate stair. The concrete lintel at the exterior door has a crack, though it appears solid; however, it is pulling away from the building. The exit door has been updated from the original to a 36-inch hollow metal door within an infill of wood framing. The two multi-light windows on each side of the door retain their original interior framing and single pane glass. Original Kiwanee radiators are present but have been disconnected so there is no direct heat on the stage.

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Stage Toilet

The stage toilet is in a small room. The sinks are located within the existing dressing rooms and appear to be original. The floor is wood and in good shape. There is significant damage to the walls and ceiling, which are made of painted plaster over lath, with painted wood trim.

Dressing Rooms and Evidence Room

Four dressing rooms, two stacked one over the other on each end of the north interior wall, that support the stage function remain virtually unchanged. The lower dressing room on the west side of the stage is now utilized for evidence storage by the Police Department and not accessible to the public. The upper dressing room on the west side is now utilized as file storage by the Police Department.

The lower dressing room on the east side displays rolled sheet vinyl flooring and painted plaster over lath walls. This dressing room also holds custom built cabinets in the back for storage. The ceiling is painted plaster over lath. The original wood framing for the window that looks east over North Idaho Street remains.

The upper dressing room on the east side retains its original wood floor in good condition; the walls are painted plaster over lath. The two windows associated with this room that overlook North Idaho Street retain their original wood framing and single pane glass. The ceiling in the upper dressing room is made of directly adhered ceiling tile, and shows evidence of a previous water leaks. As stated, each dressing room has its own original sink. These rooms are heated with original Kiwanee radiators.

Stair/Balcony

The balcony stair is accessed from the second floor hallway. They are stained wood and narrow. The walls and ceiling are painted plaster over lath. A couple areas display cracks or dents in the plaster of the walls and ceiling and some water damage.

The balcony consists of five stained wood steps whose rise increases in height from the front to the rear of the balcony. The stairs bisect this space, and are surrounded by a short guard rail. The front is formed by one truss lined with lath and plaster forming a low front rail. The back (south) is a framed wall with an opening leading to the roof of the building. There are small doors to either side for access to the restricted attic space on either side of the balcony. The walls and ceiling are painted plaster over lath. Major water damage to both the ceiling and walls is apparent resulting in the loss of large areas of the plaster. The wood framed ceiling infill with insulation installed around the original trusses is visible from the balcony.

Roof Framing

The existing roof system is comprised of a series of built-up trusses, 2x10 roof joists, and diagonal sheathing. The roof joists are spaced at 16-inches on center and span over the trusses, which are spaced approximately 13 to 16 feet apart. The roof trusses are a gambrel style of truss. The top chords are a built-up section consisting of six 2x12 members. Compression web

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members are built-up sections comprised of two 3x8 members. All lumber used for the trusses has been specified as Douglas Fir. Truss bottom chord and tension members consist of round bar, varying in size from 7/8-inch diameter to 1-5/8-inch diameter.

City Shop and Storage Garage (1937 – 1938, 1975, one contributing building)

The City Shop and Storage Garage sits north of the Dillon City Hall building facing North Idaho Street, and was constructed in two phases. The south half of the building was constructed of locally reclaimed sandstone and brick with funding from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1937, and originally used as a police garage, shop and storage, and as a women's ward. The city constructed the northern half in 1975 of concrete block. Red brick veneer covers both halves' east (front) elevation, and though distinct in detail, presents a unified whole with similar architectural language. The building is topped by a gently-sloped east-west metal-ribbed roof and rests on a concrete foundation.

East Elevation (WPA construction)

The main façade, which presents as a unified building at first glance, displays slight differences between the south and north halves. Both halves feature a moderate faux-gable parapet accented by a row of soldier course of bricks. A belt course of soldier bricks runs the length of the entire façade positioned immediately above the overhead doors serving to further unify the original southern half and newer northern half of the building. Brickwork above the belt course in the southern gable is a modified Flemish Garden Wall bond interspersed with two rows of header brick coursing; the northern gable features a stretcher bond configuration. Similar to the gable above it, the façade below the belt course in the southern portion of the building features a modified Flemish Garden Wall bond, without interspersed rows of header bricks. The northern portion of the facade below the belt course continues with a stretcher bond pattern. Slight brick color variation is also discernable between the two halves.

In the south half of the building's east elevation, from south to north, fenestration includes: an original 14-light wood-frame transom above a replacement overhead door constructed of 14 horizontal pieces of milled wood that give the appearance of lapped siding; an original eight-light/40-panel overhead door; and a solid panel mandoor set in a rectangular opening likely cut into the wall when the north half of the building was constructed. The north half of the east elevation holds three, four-light/20-panel overhead roller doors.

A metal plaque with embossed lettering showing "PUBLIC IMPROVEMENT WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION 1936-1937" is fastened to the wall between the two southern overhead doors.

South Elevation (WPA construction)

The original WPA half of the building displays a reversed "L" shape, with the WPA-era's northern bay about 16 feet deeper (from east to west) than the south bay. Because of this, the south elevation presents itself in two distinct sections: its west side constitutes the south elevation of the west end of the north bay, and its east side is the south elevation of the south bay. Both sections feature stone construction. Though dominated by rough-faced sandstone

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blocks set in a random ashlar pattern, a few feet of the east elevation's brick façade wraps around the southeast edge of the building onto the south elevation. Concrete coping caps the top of the sandstone at the roofline. The south elevation's east bay holds two five-panel wood doors. One nine-light fixed window is on each side of the doors. The doors and windows feature concrete lintels and the windows also display concrete sills.

Moving west, the south elevation of the WPA-era north bay (the "ell") displays a continuation of the stepped parapet seen on the 16-foot west elevation that connects the east and west portions. Little else is visible on this elevation because a small modern shed roof metal clad extension covers much of the wall.

West Elevation (WPA construction)

Like the south elevation, the WPA-era half of the building's west elevation features two bays. Its south side bay displays a stepped parapet and holds a single nine-light fixed window with a concrete lintel and sill. The north side bay lacks the parapet seen on the north and south elevations. Instead, the gradually sloped roof overhangs to create a deep eave that holds a rain gutter. Two 16-light fixed windows with concrete lintels and sills puncture the elevation's north bay.

North Elevation (WPA construction)

As noted above, the WPA-era half of the building features a north and south bay, and the north bay runs approximately 16 feet deeper (from east to west) than the rest of the building. As a result, the west side of that bay's north elevation is visible beyond the 1975 addition. It displays the stepped parapet design seen on the south elevation and south bay of the west elevation. The parapet continues stepping east as it connects to the east façade. Two 12-light fixed windows with stone headers and concrete sills are in the elevation.

West and North Elevations (1975 construction)

The 1975 addition's west elevation displays a very utilitarian appearance with the edge of a metal ribbed roof visible immediately above a plain metal fascia. The wall itself, lacking any sort of fenestration, is constructed of concrete block.

Also constructed of concrete block, the unfenestrated north elevation features a stepped parapet capped with metal coping.

City Well #3 Building (1963, one contributing building)

Constructed in 1963 and immediately north of the WPA City Shop and Storage Garage stands an almost-square concrete block building that shelters City Well #3. The building is topped by a slightly north-south sloped roof with a stepped parapet on the north, west, and east sides. A rain gutter runs across the bottom of the south roofline. It sits on a concrete foundation. Fenestration includes a one-light metal door and single-light in the south wall, and a two-light unit in the west wall.

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City Shops Building (c. 1937, 1945, and 1975, one contributing building)

Directly west and across from the WPA City Shops/Storage Garage and City Well #3 Building stands the ½-block long City Shops Building. Constructed in three phases, its northern end abuts East Helena Street, and its west face borders an alley. It sits on a concrete foundation. Built predominantly of concrete block, the rectangular City Shops Building faces east, and both ends feature an east-west stepped parapet topped with a ¼ concrete block cap. Two similar parapets rise above the roofline and mark the north and south walls of the original portion of the building. Each construction phase is further defined across the west elevation by a slight change in roof height. The center (original, c 1937) section has a roof height a few inches lower than that of the 1945 section located to the south, and several inches lower than the 1975-era section to the north. Each roof section displays slightly sloped metal ribbed roof meeting a plain metal fascia and split ventilated wood soffit along the west wall.

The east facade exhibits three construction efforts. The oldest central portion appears to have been constructed around the same time as the WPA City Shop/Storage Building directly to the east, circa 1937. The southern portion is believed constructed by the Civil Aeronautics Authority around 1945. The most recent and the most northern portion was constructed in 1975. Fenestration for the entire building is limited to the east elevation, which contains five 12-light/18-panel overhead wood doors, two 16-light overhead metal doors, and two wood mandors.

The west elevation of the building also displays the different episodes of construction. The oldest central portion of the west elevation features a section comprised of irregular stone standing about 6 feet tall; abutting the irregular stone wall to the south is a short 3 ½-foot tall section of wall built from extremely large concrete blocks. Smaller concrete blocks are used above both the irregular stone and large concrete block sections and for the remaining sections of the wall to the north and south, in addition to being used exclusively for the south elevation. The concrete blocks within each of the three different portions of the wall differ enough to indicate separate episodes of construction. While it is possible the stone and/or very large concrete block sections of the wall date to a circa 1937 construction, it is also possible one or the other is associated with an even earlier livery building that once occupied the lot.

Other Resources (not included in resource count)

A concrete block wall extends off the northeast end of the firehall to the corner of East Helena Street, where it turns west and fronts the almost-square city well building. A 20-foot break in the wall allows the passage of vehicles into the courtyard before the wall begins again, extending west to meet the northeast end of the City Shop Building.

Integrity

The buildings in the district display a high level of historic integrity. The resources retain integrity of location, setting, feeling, design, materials, workmanship, and association. All stand in their original location. The setting in the north edge of an historic area remains mostly the same since the buildings' construction further strengthening integrity of feeling and association.

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Materials, design, and workmanship of the buildings retain integrity and represent the architectural evolution of the district itself. As the city outgrew the original Dillon City Hall, other buildings were constructed to alleviate space issues. Although some doors and windows have been updated through the years, the buildings retain their original openings and character-defining decorative elements.

The greatest loss of integrity within the Dillon City Hall building relates to the ground/main floor. Although most interior walls remain in their original locations, the floor has undergone extensive partitioning over the years to allow a variety of services to occur. However, while the main floor displays modifications related to interior use, both the second story and the basement remain virtually intact, serving as virtual time-capsules to their original period construction.

The old City Shop and Storage Garage's 1975 addition melds well with the original southern half, in fact, so well that a casual observer might mistake the building as a single construction effort, its implementation provides enough visual cues to allow differentiating the two construction episodes. The two additions to City Shops Building west of the old City Shop and Storage Garage fall within the period of significance.

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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.)

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1914-1976

Significant Dates

1914, 1936-37, 1945, 1963, 1975, 1976

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Fred F. Willson
Pomeroy P. Vreeland
William Reed
F. G. Bayrd (WPA Shop)

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Every American city possesses a building that serves as the center of its government and community life. These city halls – because of their pivotal role in the lives of their cities – have become revered landmarks in many places. Their contributions to the development of their communities and American architecture cannot be overlooked.²

The Dillon City Hall Historic District is eligible for listing the National Register under Criterion A, at the local level, as an outstanding example of a multipurpose municipal building complex that served the city as both the center of government and public social life of the community. Bozeman architect Fred Willson designed the 1914 Dillon City Hall with spaces for the police magistrate, city lockup, fire station, water commissioner, an office for the city clerk, and a city council chamber. The building's plan also incorporated spaces for social and educational use, as a public auditorium and residential spaces for on-duty volunteer firemen graced the second story.

The building still maintains the auditorium space and vital city offices, including rooms associated with the city council and clerk, the city attorney and treasurer, city court, and public works offices. Additional resources within the district represent the expansion of government services through the twentieth century, and include: a 1936 – 1937 WPA-funded building that housed a shop, police garage, and women's ward; another shop building from the same era; and a 1963 well house. Mid-1970s additions to the shop buildings represent a continuity of use and expansion up to the end of the period of significance in 1976.

Also eligible under Criterion C, the city hall building reflects the early civic work of one of Montana's most influential and prolific architects, Fred Willson. The brick edifice displays hallmarks of the Romanesque Revival style, including rounded-arch windows, masonry construction, contrasting stone sills, and a decorative cornice and parapet. These elements are executed sparingly, in keeping with the city's relatively small size and restricted budget.

The period of significance extends from the date the building was completed in 1914, through 1976, when the police department moved to another facility, and one year beyond the final construction efforts related to building additions. Significant dates include 1914, the construction of the Dillon City Hall; 1936-1937, the erection of the WPA old City Shop and Storage Garage; 1945, the earliest addition to the City Shops Building on the west side of the district; 1963, the construction of City Well #3 Building; 1975, representing the additions that occurred to the existing buildings in the district; and 1976, when the city police and lockup moved from the complex.

² William L. Lebovich, *America's City Halls*, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), p. 9.

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Criterion Consideration G

The nomination justifies an extension of the period of significance to 1976 to recognize the significant use of the property by the city police and as the lockup, after which date, both the police and lockup moved from the complex. The period extends only briefly into the less than 50-year period and represents a logical termination point for the historic period.

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

Settlement of Beaverhead County

(Information from this subsection taken directly from Shannon Gilbert and John Boughton, "Henneberry Homestead National Register Nomination Form," on file at MT SHPO, Helena, MT, 2019.)

Beaverhead County has a rich and ancient past that extends far into prehistory. The archaeological record indicates that by approximately 9,000 to 8,000 years ago, people were inhabiting the region.³ Rock alignments, camps, tipi rings, bison kill sites, cairns, rock art, wickiups, rock shelters, quarries, hunting blinds, and lithic scatters provide evidence of prehistoric occupation of Beaverhead County by indigenous people. The archaeological data and oral histories provides evidence that several Indian tribes had a presence in the area at the time of Euro-American contact. The location of the region between several geographical areas, including the Northern Rockies, Great Basin, Plains, and Columbia Plateau made it an ideal area for intertribal trade, travel, and seasonal hunting. The Shoshone, Salish, Blackfeet, Nez Perce, and Crow all have traditional ties to the area.⁴

Lewis and Clark

In 1805 the Lewis and Clark Expedition made its way through Beaverhead County following the Beaverhead River along an Indian trail.⁵ At this point in the expedition Lewis and Clark were split into two groups and Clark's group camped near the confluence of Gallagher Creek and the Beaverhead River. Clark would make the return trip following the same route down the Beaverhead River the following year. The expedition also made note of Rattlesnake Cliff on the Beaverhead River and the enormous quantity of rattlesnakes that dened in its crevices. Furthermore, Camp Fortunate, located at the junction of Horse Prairie Creek and Red Rock Creek at the head of the Beaverhead River is noteworthy given that it was at this location that Lewis and Clark met up with the Lemhi Shoshone and obtained horses; it also is where canoes

³ Ken and Sherri Deaver, *An Archaeological Overview of Butte District Prehistory, Cultural Resource Series, Number 2* (Billings, MT: Bureau of Land Management, 1986), p. 5.

⁴ Deaver and Deaver, 1986, pp.5; David Schwab, Mike Durglo, Joanne Bigcrane, and Mary Rogers, *A Preliminary Ethnographic Overview of Bureau of Land Management Lands Managed by the Dillon Field Office, Southwestern Montana* (Dillon, MT: Bureau of Land Management, Dillon Field Office, 2006), p. 1.

⁵ Kimberly Brown, *Historical Overview of the Dillon District* (Boulder, CO: Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, 1975), p.7; Gary E. Moulton, *The Journals of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, Volume 5, July 28 to November 1, 1805* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 1997), pp. 75, 110.

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and gear were stashed for the return trip. The Lewis and Clark Expedition had a lasting impact on regional and national history given its important observations and mapping of the country, accumulation of scientific specimens, and the enthusiastic descriptions of a profitable resource – fur.⁶ In the next 50 years, fur trappers and traders came to acquire beaver and other furbearers along the rivers and tributaries of the region. Among these men were John Colter and George Duillard, former Lewis and Clark Expedition members.⁷

Gold

In 1862, gold was discovered on Grasshopper Creek, a tributary of the Beaverhead River. The Grasshopper drainage yielded rich deposits of gold and silver and gave rise to the settlement of Bannack. The placer gold strikes led to a stampede by miners looking to strike it rich as gold deposits in California, Colorado, and Nevada declined. By 1863, the population of Bannack numbered 3,000 to 5,000 people, and in 1864 the town became the first territorial capital of the Montana Territory.⁸ Following the discovery of gold in Alder Gulch in 1863, the territorial capital moved to Virginia City. Bannack's placer era lasted until approximately 1875 and a later period of dredge mining occurred from 1895 to 1902.⁹ The discovery of gold in Bannack and Alder Gulch had a lasting impact on the settlement of Beaverhead County as it brought bankers, merchants, townsite development, stage coach operators and other entrepreneurs to the region. There were several mining claims in the Beaverhead Canyon, including the Dillon Stone Quarry Placer (Mineral Survey 1584) and the Silver Bow Quarry Placer (Mineral Survey 1585). These were claimed by Joseph Harper in 1885. Rock from these quarries was used in many of the homes in and around Dillon.

The Founding of Dillon

A Utah and Northern Railroad (later called the Union Pacific) branch line approached southwest Montana's mining towns from Utah and Idaho in 1880. Enterprising businessmen, including Benjamin Franklin "B.F." White, teamed to purchase the Deacon Ranch at the confluence of Blacktail Deer Creek and the Beaverhead River in Montana, and planned to sell the railroad a right of way through the property. At the same time, they platted the townsite of what would become Dillon, Montana. "But even before the formal transaction, the beginnings of Dillon had sprouted on Deacon's ranch. Eager merchants had already erected a few tents...; two young men named Sweet and Baldwin were operating a general store in their tent..."¹⁰ The townsite partners platted the streets and lots, and completed the ranch purchase on Monday, September

⁶ Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William L. Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle, WA: University of Washington Press, 1976), p. 40.

⁷ Brown, *Historical Overview of the Dillon District*, pp. 13-14.

⁸ Malone et. al. *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*, p. 99.

⁹ "Bannack Historical Context," Montana Department of Environmental Quality, online at <http://deq.mt.gov/Land/abandonedmines/linkdocs/4tech>, accessed February 21, 2019.

¹⁰ Stanley R. Davison and Rex C. Myers, "Terminus Town: Founding Dillon," *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, Autumn 1980 (Helena: Montana Historical Society Press, 1980), p. 23.

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13, 1880 at 11:30 am. By the end of the lot auction that afternoon, nearly all the prime locations had been sold. The railroad set up its winter camp in the locale.¹¹

Within just a few months, nearly 300 people inhabited the new town. First a string of wooden false-front buildings fronted the tracks, and within a few years more substantial buildings, enterprises, social venues, and civic institutions were in place. To ensure the town's ongoing survival once the railroad moved north, the city founders rallied political support to move the Beaverhead County seat from Bannack to Dillon during the Spring of 1881. The city incorporated in May 1885.¹² The local citizenry elected B.F. White mayor, and he and the city's six aldermen "labored almost incessantly for the improvement of the streets and any other changes which would add to the city."¹³

Over the next three decades, the city's municipal activities, including the city council, fire department, water department, and police department, operated out of several independent locations in town. Offices and meetings spaces were located within various commercial buildings. In 1890, the city hall occupied the second story of a brick commercial building at the south corner of Montana and Bannack Street, above a hardware store. Later, city offices filled the second story of the First National Bank on Montana Street.¹⁴

For most of Dillon's first decades, residents and business owners relied on their neighbors to form bucket brigades and used ditch water to quench fires in town. By 1890, the city established a fire limit downtown, within which only fireproof buildings could be constructed. They purchased a hook and ladder cart, but housing it and transportation were an issue.

The cart was housed by the Sebree Ferris & White Company in their lumber house. When it was wanted, the doors were broken open and it was run out while the property of the company was left exposed. Since that time it has adorned our streets, and when it was wanted last Saturday night only two ladders were found on it. Axes, lanterns and other necessary tools were found afterwards in various parts of the city. Some were taken by citizens and properly cared for that they might not be stolen. The ladders had taken legs and were found next day several blocks away. Now if this isn't enough to sicken any enterprising citizen we don't know what is. Such work is a shame and a disgrace to civilized government.¹⁵

¹¹ Davidson and Myers, p. 23; Jon Axline, "Hotel Andrus National Register Nomination," [Draft] 2019, on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT, p. 14.

¹² Frank Eliel, "History of Dillon," No date. Online at <https://www.beaverheadcountymuseum.org/Dillon.%20Montana%20history.htm>, accessed July 19, 2019; Beaverhead County History Book Association, *The History of Beaverhead County, Volume 1* (Dillon, MT: Beaverhead County Museum, 1990), p. 10; Axline, pp. 14-15.

¹³ "The Southern Metropolis: The Improvement Noticeable In and Around Dillon," *The Butte Weekly Miner*, December 26, 1885, p. 2.

¹⁴ *The Dillon Tribune*, November 5, 1897, p. 8 and *The Dillon Tribune*, December 8, 1899, p. 1. In 1897 and 1899, the city paid \$100 a year to rent the space.

¹⁵ "We Must Move On," *The Dillon Tribune*, April 25, 1890, p. 4.

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When the Corrine Hotel, one of the first businesses in the city, caught fire in February 1891, “two-thirds of the male population of the city were fighting the flames.”¹⁶ The hotel succumbed, and the incident again raised the issue of the need for better fire protection. Over the next decade, the city continued to depend on citizen volunteers, and the lack of a proper water system and transportation remained a problem: “At first, the department worked under great handicaps... draymen of the city hauled the firefighting apparatus to the scene of a blaze.”¹⁷ In 1899, the local newspaper lamented the lack of proper fire suppression facilities in the city:

The town is woefully in need of fire protection, and had the fire started the other night gotten under headway, with the fierce wind prevailing to fan it, the entire northern part of town would be now in ashes. Even an organized bucket brigade would be of some protection, but the town has not even that and most of the wells in the business section are in poor repair. Why not remedy this state of affairs?¹⁸

After years of relying on ditches, wells, and contracted services, the City of Dillon constructed a \$75,000 gravity-powered waterworks and hydrant system in 1904. The city water commissioner maintained an office in a small brick building at the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Glendale Street (41 South Railroad), where the relief valve was located. The 1905 Sanborn maps indicate main lines and hydrants placed at regular intervals in both the commercial and residential sections of the city. The newly-organized city volunteer fire department practiced with the new hydrant system for the first time in July 1904. By the next year, the city owned two hose carts and a hook and ladder truck, housed for \$30 a month at W.C. Orr’s Central Livery downtown. A fire bell on the roof sounded an alarm for the volunteer fire fighters to respond.¹⁹

During the waning decades of the 19th century, the law enforcement presence in Dillon included a U.S. marshal, the county sheriff and deputies, and the city marshal, and by the late 1880s, several police appointments. While the city marshal, and later chief of police and officers, patrolled the town, the police magistrate presided over the city court system, and the city attorney advised officials regarding local law. A brick county jail was constructed behind the county courthouse in 1888, and by 1897, the city rented the former First National Bank Building,

¹⁶ “Gone up in Smoke,” *The Dillon Tribune*, February 20, 1891, p. 5.

¹⁷ “Al Gruwell Dies after Illness of Long Period,” *The Dillon Examiner*, April 28, 1937, p. 4.

¹⁸ “Fire Bug Now in Town,” *The Dillon Tribune*, December 22, 1899, p. 8.

¹⁹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “City of Dillon,” [maps], 1890, Sheet 2; “Dillon and Vicinity,” *The Dillon Tribune*, December 9, 1904, p. 7; “Fire Laddies Make Initial Run,” *The Dillon Examiner*, July 6, 1904, p. 8; “Special Council Meeting,” *The Dillon Tribune*, February 12, 1904, Page 1; R.L. Polk and Co., *Dillon City Directory*, (Helena, MT: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1906), p. 18; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, “City of Dillon,” [maps], 1905, Sheets 3 and 6; *The Dillon Tribune*, March 8, 1907, p. 1; “Anderegg’s Office Robbed,” *The Dillon Tribune*, January 12, 1912, p. 9.

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a brick, one-story office with a jail addition located within the railroad right of way opposite the corner of Montana and Helena Streets.²⁰

The 1890s witnessed a 51 percent increase in Dillon's population from 1,012 to 1,530 by 1900. With additional people came more crime, and city officials and residents looked to new ways to keep the city safe:

In view of the many robberies that have lately been committed in the city, the council at tonight's meeting, should make arrangements for the employment of a night watchman. The best and cheapest way would be to put the chief of police on duty at night only... There is seldom any trouble in the day time, but if there should be the chief of police could be called or someone in the sheriff's office could attend to it. Many of the merchants believe that there should be better police protection-during the hours of the night, and particularly so at the present time, when there are so many unemployed men around town.²¹

Noticing the increase in population by the early 1890s, the city experimented with the new schedule in 1893, but placed the chief of police on daytime duty again in February 1894. The city subsequently hired a night watchman, a position elevated to patrolman by 1906. Three years later, the police department consisted of three employees: the chief, a captain, and a patrolman.²²

As city staff and services expanded through the late 19th century, discussion about building a dedicated city hall began in 1900:

Some of the leading citizens of Dillon are discussing the question of the erection of a city hall, and there is already some talk of making this one of the chief issues at the coming city election. Other cities of much less population than Dillon find a city hall not only self-supporting, but a paying proposition and there is no reason it should be otherwise in Dillon. The interest on the bonds would be more than paid by rents for office room, while the city would be provided with ample room for public meetings, public library and the city offices. The *Tribune* heartily seconds the motion for a city hall.²³

By 1907, the city rented a building within the Oregon Short Line railroad right of way that served as city hall. When railroad officials announced in March that they intended to demolish the building, the city council reviewed their options – including renovating the Kupfer Building

²⁰ "County Finances," *The Dillon Tribune*, March 16, 1888, p. 7; "The New City Government," *The Dillon Tribune*, May 5, 1893, p. 5; Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, "City of Dillon," [maps], 1897, Sheet 1. "Old Police Station Torn Down," *The Dillon Examiner*, December 15, 1915, New Buildings and Improvements Section, p. 3.

²¹ *The Dillon Examiner*, August 2, 1893, p. 2.

²² "After that Check," *The Dillon Tribune*, February 9, 1894, p. 7; "City Council," *The Dillon Tribune*, May 10, 1895, p. 5; R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1906, p. 26; R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, *Dillon City Directory*, (Helena, MT: R.L. Polk & Co. Publishers, 1909), p. 32.

²³ *The Dillon Tribune*, December 21, 1900, p. 4.

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at the corner of Montana and Helena Streets, or acquiring lots and building new.²⁴ They envisioned a building that would house a “city hall, city jail and quarters for the city fire department, one good, substantial building probably answering the purpose of the three needs.”²⁵ The discussion about where the new building should be built conflated with other issues, including the establishment of a city park, and the preservation of the Deacon cabin – the first building in Dillon.²⁶

Dialogue about the construction of a new city hall building continued through 1908 when the fire department again requested new facilities. The city council tabled the idea, but the conversation revived again two years later. *The Dillon Tribune* and *The Dillon Examiner* editors lamented that plans to build had been delayed so long, they feared that the opportunity to do so had passed, as the city’s property valuation had dropped and state law forbade cities from incurring substantial debt. Instead, the city had to make do with the current facility, described as a “miserable shack” and a “disgrace to the city.”²⁷

The endeavor began to move in a positive direction in 1911. A call for offers for land was published in the *Dillon Tribune* September 20, 1911. Four bids were received and opened at the October 4, 2011 meeting of the Council. The City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to purchase Mr. David Robb’s property at the corner of Center and Idaho Streets for \$4,450.00 on December 6, 2011. Mayor T.D. Olmsted left town the following day, bound for Chili, Illinois, to attend to his mother who became ill and then passed away. His trip prevented him from signing the resolution before he left. Upon his return, Mayor Olmsted said he intended to veto the resolution; however, the period of time allowable for such action had elapsed. The resolution therefore became active by being neither signed nor vetoed. It remains unsigned to this day in the City records. Though the original vote was unanimous, several aldermen questioned whether the lots represented the city’s best choice; the contention continued until June 5, 1912, when they settled upon the Robb lots after all.²⁸

Though local architect Carl M. Roode offered plans to the city, the council accepted Bozeman Architect Fred Willson’s design on February 24, 1914. Presented to the city by Pomeroy P. Vreeland, an associate in Willson’s firm, the practical brick Renaissance Revival building would consist of two stories. The fire, police, water, and city council spaces occupied the first floor,

²⁴ “Ready for Election,” *The Dillon Tribune*, March 8, 1907, p. 1.

²⁵ “A Few Timely Remarks,” *The Dillon Tribune*, March 15, 1907, p. 4.

²⁶ “Tribune’s Suggestions Meets with Approval – A City Park Is Now Wanted,” *The Dillon Tribune*, February 15, 1907, p. 1. The Deacon cabin was log and located at the corner of Center and Washington Streets.

²⁷ “The Council Meeting,” *The Dillon Tribune*, January 10, 1908, p. 4; “It’s Out of the Question,” *The Dillon Tribune*, March 4, 1910, p. 4; “City Hall,” *The Dillon Examiner*, March 2, 1910, p. 4; *The Dillon Tribune*, January 7, 1910, p. 4.

²⁸ *The Dillon Tribune*, September 22, 1911, p. 5; “Notice,” *The Dillon Examiner*, September 20, 1911, p. 5; “Four People Offer Sites,” *The Dillon Tribune*, October 6, 1911, p. 1; “Many Sites for City Hall Offered,” *The Dillon Examiner*, October 11, 1911, p. 1; “City Council Buys Lot for City Hall,” *The Dillon Tribune*, December 8, 1911, p. 3; “Local Department,” *The Dillon Examiner*, December 20, 1911, p. 3; “Purchase of Robb Property at Issue,” *The Dillon Tribune*, March 8, 1912, p. 1; “Robb Lots Issue at City Election,” *The Dillon Tribune*, May 29, 1912, p. 1; and “A City Hall Site Secured,” *The Dillon Tribune*, June 7, 1912, p. 1.

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while a fireman's dormitory and public auditorium would fill the second. Residents welcomed the auditorium in particular, as "Dillonites...long waited for the day when the facilities of a modern theater would be placed at their disposal."²⁹ The auditorium's size accommodated up to 500 guests, and could be used as a ballroom and banquet space. The city was already familiar and pleased with Willson, as he recently had designed the new city high school and the training school building on the local college campus. Vreeland also supervised those projects.³⁰ The city proposed a four-mill levy to pay for the construction, which they initially estimated would cost \$15,000 - \$20,000.³¹

At their April 14, 1914 meeting, the city council opened the bids for the city hall construction, and chose local builder William Reed, who offered the lowest bid at \$27,930.00. Mr. Reed said he would begin construction immediately and the building would be completed and ready for occupancy in seventy-five days. Some alterations to the original plan and other minor circumstances accounted for delays, but work progressed through Fall 1914, and finished November 21, 1914. The December 9, 1914 issue of the *Dillon Tribune* announced that City Hall was complete and city officials had begun to move in. The building, described as "one of the finest and most conveniently appointed public buildings of its kind," featured "beautifully-grained Oregon fir" woodwork, an "imposing stairway," and "an airy and well-lighted council chamber." The total cost including purchasing the ground, architectural service and construction, and fixtures totaled approximately \$40,000.³²

City Hall Opens as Civic and Social Center

Hailed as the social event of the year, the local chapter of the Improved Order of Redmen held a grand ball in the ballroom on February 22, 1915 to celebrate the formal opening of the city hall building.³³ The local populace heralded the building as one of the finest city halls in the state and believed large and accommodating enough to meet all requirements of the city for years to come.³⁴ In keeping with a traditional role of many city halls throughout the country, the public entertainment spaces played an important part in the social culture of the community. The auditorium hosted annual events and special occasions that ranged from political speeches and fraternal meetings, to dances, athletic contests, and theater productions. The city's annual New Year's Eve celebration took place in the auditorium for decades and in 1915, it was used for boxing and wrestling contests during the Pow Wow (now Dillon Jaycee Rodeo). In 1934, speeches were held in the ballroom by Judge George M. Borquin and J. Ward Crosby who were running for U.S. Senate and Clerk of Supreme Court, respectively. Clothes were collected at city hall during the Russian War relief in 1944. For several years, the ballroom hosted dances as part

²⁹ "City Hall Plan about Ready," *The Dillon Examiner*, March 4, 1914, p. 1.

³⁰ "Training School Bonds Sold," *The Dillon Tribune*, March 21, 1913, p. 1; "City and County," *The Dillon Examiner*, June 18, 1913, p. 5.

³¹ "Council Wednesday Evening," *The Dillon Tribune*, September 6, 1912, p. 1.

³² "New City Hall Is About Completed," *The Dillon Tribune*, November 20, 1914, p. 1; "City Hall Is Now Complete," *The Dillon Examiner*, December 9, 1914, p. 1.

³³ "Social Events," *The Dillon Examiner*, February 10, 1915, p. 8.

³⁴ "The City Hall," *The Dillon Examiner*, December 15, 1915, New Buildings and Improvements Special Section, p. 1.

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of the annual County Fair and Rodeo. Council Chambers have been used by various clubs over the years including the Sportsman's Club, Vigilante Cooperative, and the local Bowling League.

Prominent among Dillon's social activities were those sponsored by the fire department in City Hall:

Dillon's fire department is not only a valuable asset to the safety and the protection of the city, but it takes an important part in the social life of the city. Each year the fire department gives one or more balls, their annual ball taking place in February of each year. In addition to dance the department has been instrumental in bringing to the city some of the best entertainers we have ever had, consisting of lectures, concerts and musicals.³⁵

Fire Department

The fire department moved their equipment in and occupied the dormitory spaces in city hall by the end of January 1915.

The members of the Volunteer Fire department held their regular monthly meeting last Thursday night at the city hall and took official possession of their new quarters. It was decided that Joe Wedum, Joe Murray, and Emery Dunn, all members of the fire department should occupy the sleeping quarters at the city hall provided for the department and it should be their duty to attend to all of the night calls and to see that the resident members of the department are aroused when fires occur in the night.³⁶

For most of the twentieth century, the fire department worked efficiently from their rooms in city hall, and continued to acquire new equipment. For example, the city purchased a new combination chemical and hose truck in 1921.³⁷ The city newspapers reported on fires across the city several times a month through the decades and often noted the prompt response of the department. In 1924, the city decided to invest in upgrades to the water system downtown to improve fire safety. By 1926, the fire chief lead a team of 32 volunteers. Twenty of the volunteers regularly responded to alarms, and at least one slept in the city hall quarters each night. They maintained three trucks and additional hoses, ladders, and other equipment.³⁸ Through the next three decades, the Dillon Fire Department continued to rely on its volunteers,

³⁵ "Of Interest to Everybody," *The Dillon Examiner*, December 15, 1915, p. 9.

³⁶ "Regular Meeting of Fire Department," *The Dillon Examiner*, January 13, 1915, p. 1; "Fire Boys Will Appreciate Books," *The Dillon Tribune*, December 11, 1914, p. 16.

³⁷ "Alarm of Fire," *The Dillon Tribune*, October 7, 1921, p. 1. "The Fire Department," *The Dillon Tribune*, December 15, 1916, Section Two, p. 20.

³⁸ "Lower Fire Insurance Rates Effective Here," *The Dillon Tribune*, December 31, 1926, p. 2.

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and had a good record of responding quickly and for the most part, with minimal fire losses.³⁹ An unusually high fire year was 1953, which also included a small blaze within city hall itself.⁴⁰

By 1970, the Dillon Fire Department shared space in city hall with the rural fire department – including the city’s three fire trucks and the rural department’s three engines. By the middle of the decade, space became so cramped that the city built an addition to the WPA-era shop behind city hall to accommodate the fire equipment. The three-bay extension and older shop – locally called the city’s second fire hall – provided additional space, but remained cramped:

The goal was to increase the space available for new equipment and provide additional doors to the street. We got the additional doors to the street but the space issue was a tough struggle with the City Water Engineer, Roger Pierce, who was determined to lose as little of his real estate as possible. The result was a new truck bay that would soon accept Dillon’s new 1978 engine only if it touched the rear wall. A person could barely walk around the front when the door was closed. All the rural equipment was lined up behind one door in the older portion of the building.⁴¹

In 1988, the city and the Beaverhead Rural Fire District worked together to solve the problem, and decided to construct a new fire hall to properly accommodate both departments. They committed to finance the massive metal-sided building, constructed on ten formerly vacant lots on North Idaho Street. The ribbon cutting took place on October 6, 1990.

It’s big. Even with all the trucks inside, there’s room for more. It’s light and airy, It’s well insulated and energy efficient. It’s big bays that take every piece of equipment they would care to put in it. There’s room for meetings and storage. In fact, it’s got just about everything a fireman could want in a fire hall.”⁴²

While each entity maintained its own equipment, they worked collaboratively and shared expenses. When the fire department left their “second” fire hall on the city hall property, it opened even more space for other city entities.

Law Enforcement in City Hall

Dillon’s police department and city attorney were the first of the city offices to occupy the Willson-designed city hall. They set up shop beginning December 3, 1914, moving their files and equipment in stages over the that week. They wasted no time making use of the new lockup, making arrests the first day: “The jail in the new city hall was initiated last night by the incarceration of three men who were arrested during the night for drunkenness and fighting.”⁴³

³⁹ “Dillon Is Claimant to Record Low Fire Loss,” *The Dillon Examiner*, April 3, 1935, p. 1; “O.T. Vandegrift Reports on Fire Situation,” *The Dillon Daily Tribune*, December 27, 1943, p. 1; “Extensive Fire Loss Noted in Dillon During Past Year,” *The Dillon Examiner*, February 3, 1954, p. 9.

⁴⁰ “Dillon Firemen Have Short Run to Blaze; City Hall Scorched,” *The Dillon Examiner*, March 25, 1953, p. 1.

⁴¹ “The History of Dillon’s Fire Halls,” *Dillon Tribune*, May 9, 2007, p. 7.

⁴² “Everything but the Pole,” *Dillon Tribune*, October 10, 1990, p. 2.

⁴³ *The Dillon Tribune*, December 04, 1914, p. 10.

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Another early occupant was Dillonite James McVane, arrested on December 15, for hitting a man over the head with a spittoon.⁴⁴ Following a statewide trend, the city's population increased through the 1910s; it began to drop off after 1920. Nonetheless, by 1926, the city's police department consisted of a chief and three officers.⁴⁵

In 1938, a new shop, garage, and women's ward building was ready for occupancy. Located on the former livery lots immediately north of the city hall building, the Works Progress Administration paid the local labor costs, while the city provided the building materials – including brick and stone repurposed from a recently-demolished part of a Normal School building. Designed by City Engineer F.G. Bayerd, the north side of the two-bay building provided storage space for the city's graders, trucks, and other equipment. The south side contained dedicated space for the police department's vehicles in addition to a "women's ward" to house female inmates separately from the male detainees.⁴⁶

As the twentieth century progressed, in addition to the often-dangerous work of criminal policing, the city police took on more responsibilities – from impounding unlicensed dogs to monitoring parking violations.⁴⁷ By the early 1970s, the need for more space, a dedicated police station, and upgraded jail facility became clear. A proposal to build a law enforcement annex behind the county courthouse offered a promising solution, and provided an opportunity for better cooperation between the city and county officers. Completed in 1976, the city rented office space and paid for detention services within the county-owned annex.⁴⁸

Though the police and detention aspects of law enforcement left the city hall property in 1976, the City Attorney and City Court remain in the building. Responsible for the review and enforcement of city ordinances, these offices and chambers occupy rooms on both the first and second stories. The spaces they now occupy functioned differently over the course of the early and mid-twentieth century, but were reconfigured after the police and fire departments left.

City Government and Infrastructure Functions

After 1976, the vacated lockup and police facilities provided room for other city offices to shift their workspaces. Since its 1914 construction, city council meetings – held monthly – have taken place in city hall's first floor council chamber, but the original design did not include an office for the mayor – as it was not a full-time position for most of the twentieth century. The city's decision to make the mayor position full-time coincided with the police department's

⁴⁴ "Police Department in New City Hall," *The Dillon Tribune*, December 04, 1914, p. 1; "In Trouble Again," *The Dillon Examiner*, December 16, 1914, p. 1.

⁴⁵ "Lower Fire Insurance Rates Effective Here," *The Dillon Tribune*, December 31, 1926, p. 2.

⁴⁶ F.E. Bayerd, "Shop and Storage Garage, WPA Project, City of Dillon, Montana," [Architectural Drawings], 1937, on file at City Clerk's Office, Dillon, MT; "City to Have New Storage Building," *The Dillon Tribune*, March 25, 1937, p. 1.

⁴⁷ "Will Impound Unlucky Dogs Sans License," *The Dillon Daily Tribune*, June 8, 1959, p. 1; "Even the Police Station Gets the Christmas Spirit," *Tribune-Examiner*, December 7, 1973, p. 1.

⁴⁸ "Plan Spring Start for New Law Annex," *Tribune-Examiner*, January 17, 1975, p. 1; "Police Offices May Be Moved," *Dillon Tribune Examiner*, April 19, 1983, p. 1.

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move to the annex in 1976. Mayor Ray Lynch, first elected mayor in 1971 after several years on the city council, sold his laundry/dry cleaning business in 1976 to take the helm full-time.⁴⁹ By the 1980s, the position reverted to part-time, but the mayor continues to maintain an office in order to meet with council members, city employees, and the public.⁵⁰ The mayor's office occupies part of the former lockup space.

Unlike the mayor, Dillon's water commissioner position has maintained an office in city hall since its construction. The water commissioner not only collected water payments from city residents, but also ensured that the entire system worked consistently and well enough for residential, commercial, and civic purposes. Relying on reservoirs outside the city limits, extensive piping systems, hydrants, and water quality monitoring equipment, the department played, and continues to play, an important part in the city's health. Over the decades, the commissioner sometimes also held the title of city engineer and/or street commissioner, responsible for overseeing street improvements and other maintenance functions. In addition to designing and overseeing infrastructure projects like roads and bridges, the city engineer also served as the city's building inspector.⁵¹ To accommodate these many responsibilities and the necessary equipment, the city engineer, water commissioner, street commissioner, and maintenance staff used space throughout city hall, the shops, and other buildings on the city hall lots. Like the fire and police departments, equipment was needed to conduct a variety of tasks; this included vehicles and other tools that necessitated the construction and expansion of storage facilities behind the original city hall building, including the 1963 well #3, the long stone and concrete block shops building built in several phases over the mid and late twentieth century, and the WPA-era shop/garage addition.⁵²

Historically, day-to-day city operations in Dillon fell to the city clerk, city treasurer, and city administrator/director of operations. The city clerk's office occupied a large space in the original city hall floorplan, and continues to work in offices on the first floor of the building. Tasked with duties associated with the city council and city administration, record keeping, reporting, city elections, and financial duties, the city clerk functions as the hub of city government – interacting with elected officials, appointees, staff, and the public. Though not always a position with an office in city hall, the city treasurer has been essential to Dillon's local government since its inception. Working with the city council's finance committee, the city treasurer oversees budget and financial operations, and maintains an office created in the original city clerk space. The director of operations has:

a big job. One that is in charge of many of the operations of the city, from water and sewer to streets, to taking care of city hall itself. It means supervising a crew that in the summertime can be over 20 people. It means working within a strict budget. It

⁴⁹ "Mayor Lynch...Total Involvement," *Tribune-Examiner*, September 15, 1978, p. 2.

⁵⁰ "Three Men File for Dillon Mayor Spot," *Dillon Tribune Examiner*, September 4, 1985, p. 5.

⁵¹ "Ordinance No. 268," *The Dillon Examiner*, July 8, 1953, p. 4.

⁵² Dillon City Council Minutes, October 7, 1970, on file at City Clerk's Office, Dillon, MT.

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means taking care of the major services of the city that mean so much to individuals...
from keeping the streets drivable to the potties flushing.⁵³

The offices and public spaces in city hall have shifted and been reconfigured as duties, positions, and services were introduced and changed over the twentieth century. The removal of the fire department – at least partially – during the late 1930s allowed for expanding programs to settle in the expansive areas formerly occupied as the fire hall. Another major interior remodel followed the removal of the police department and lockup in 1976. Though the use of city hall changed over the decades, it continues to play an important role in Dillon, as the place where city officials and staff interact with the public and provide essential services to the community.

Architectural Significance

Dillon's city hall building gains additional significance under Criterion C as an important local example of civic architecture featuring a practical rendering of the Romanesque Revival style, and for its association with architect Fred F. Willson. Across the country, city hall architecture has witnessed a number of phases and design intentions, often incorporating commercial or social spaces in addition to municipal concerns. Purpose-built American city halls range from grand, imposing buildings designed to intimidate the common citizen and insulate officials, to modest open-plan affairs meant to encourage transparency and public interaction with their government. Most, including the Dillon city hall, fall in between those extremes: substantial and decorative enough to instill public pride and convey confidence in a municipality's stability, yet modest enough to indicate fiscal responsibility. The buildings contain both public and private spaces – some accessible to the populace and others in confidential corners.⁵⁴

Dillon City Hall incorporates an important social space – the second story auditorium – into a multi-functional municipal building. Designed to bring a cultural center and the essential functions of local government under one roof, Willson's floorplan provided specialized zones within the building. Like several contemporaneous city halls in Montana, including Glendive (1914), Miles City (1910), and Hamilton (1907), much of the two-story space was reserved for the fire department. Garage bays with easy street access occupied part of the first story, often with dormitory rooms above. In Dillon's fire hall, access differed from the three listed above, however, in that the garage bays dominated the main façade, while the others had their garages on secondary elevations.

Rather than depend on a single grand entrance that led to different areas, Dillon city hall's street level offered direct access to each of the departments independently. Set within large, keystone, soldier-coursed flat arches, Willson designed the first story openings to be of uniform size and evenly-spaced across the elevations. While large accordion doors filled the fire station bays, the other openings were filled with pedestrian doors surrounded by transoms and

⁵³ "City's New Director of Operations Is Changing Seats, from One Side of the Table to the Other," *Dillon Tribune*, December 29, 2004, p. 1.

⁵⁴ Mary P. Ryan, "A Laudable Pride in the Whole of Us': City Halls and Civic Materialism," *The American Historical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 4 (Oct. 2000), pp. 1131-1170; William L. Lebovich, *America's City Halls*, (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1984), pp. 14-37.

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sidelights, or recessed decorative brick panels to give the illusion of balance. At the second story, Willson expressed Romanesque Revival influence more completely, introducing arched window openings topped with brick, round-arch hood molds. These provided style-defining references to arcades and weighty masonry. The window size and subtle changes to the window surrounds differentiated the multiple departments' zones within the elevations. At the roofline, a corbelled cornice and paneled, stepped parapet wall belied classical influences. Six-over-six double-hung windows, topped with fanlight transoms, introduced a delicate contrast to the substantial design.

Fred Willson, Architect

Biographical information taken directly from Kim Allen Scott, "Biographical Note, Fred F. Willson Papers, 1889-1956 Finding Aid," Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections, 2011, available online at <http://archiveswest.orbiscascade.org/ark:/80444/xv42187/pdf>.)

Willson's eye for detail and classical European influences, such as those displayed on Dillon City Hall, are hallmarks of his early independent career. One of General Lester S. Willson and Emma Weeks Willson's three sons, Fred Fielding Willson was born in Bozeman, Montana on November 11, 1877. He attended Bozeman public schools, the Bozeman Academy, and Montana State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. After his junior year at Montana State, he left to attend Columbia University in NYC where graduated with a B.A. in Architecture in 1902. Upon graduation, Willson returned to Montana and accepted a position with architect C.S. Haire in Helena, Montana. He worked in Helena for two years.

In November 1904, Willson went on an extended tour of Europe to further his architectural education. He visited several countries including France, Germany, Italy and Britain. His diaries during this period document his impressions of European architecture and daily life in Europe during the early 20th century. After returning to the U.S. in 1906, Willson worked briefly for the architecture firm Visscher and Burley in NYC. Willson moved back to Montana in late 1906 and went to work for Link and Haire in Butte. He was in charge of their office there for four years. Willson returned to Bozeman for good in January of 1910 and began to work as an architect under his own name. In 1928 he helped form the partnership of Shanley, Willson and Hugenin and remained in the partnership until 1932 when he again went to work for himself and remained working in this way until his death on August 13, 1956.

Willson established a name for himself as a skilled architect and is credited by many in the profession for influencing the look of Bozeman and other towns in Southwest Montana. He designed several buildings in Bozeman including the Gallatin County Court House, the Baxter Hotel and Hamilton Hall on the MSU campus. Willson also designed the NR-listed Belgrade City Hall (1912, NR listed 10/25/1982; NR Reference # 82000592), just two years before his Dillon City Hall commission. With P.P. Vreeland, Willson also was responsible for the training school building on Dillon's Normal School campus – which like the city hall was constructed in 1914. Over the next few decades, he contributed several other constructions to the city's built environment, including Barrett Hospital (1923, NR-listed 1/18/1985, NR Reference # 85000109), multiple edifices at the Normal School, warehouses, a bank, a school, a residence, and the grandstands at the county fairgrounds.

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Willson married Helen Fisher on October 15, 1913. They had three children, Lester, Virginia and Beverly. Willson was active in the local community and in professional organizations. He served as a member of the city council and later the city commission, was a member of the Montana State Board of Architectural Examiners for Licensing, a Masonic Lodge member, member of the local Elks club and served as the Regional Director of the American Institute of Architects.

Conclusion

The Dillon City Hall Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its associations with the development and execution of city services and administration for over one hundred years. Of the buildings in the district, only the Dillon City Hall building is eligible for listing under Criterion C. The Dillon City Hall building itself has served as an important civic and social space since its construction in 1914. The building hosted the city's social functions and housed city government offices and facilities throughout the twentieth century, continuing to do so today. Other city buildings have been added to the district allowing the city to better perform their civic duties.

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[Architectural Drawings] 1914. Montana Architectural Drawings. Collection Number 2143,
Drawing Set 077. Montana State University Library, Merrill G. Burlingame Special Collections
and Archives, Bozeman, MT.

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 less than 1 acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Center point of Dillon City Hall Historic District

Latitude: 45.218280

Longitude: -112.635740

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Center point of Dillon City Hall building

Latitude: 45.218040

Longitude: -112.635770

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

The Dillon City Hall Historic District is bordered by East Center Street to the south, North Idaho Street to the east, and East Helena Street to the north. The west boundary is demarcated by an unnamed alley connecting East Helena Street and East Center Street, that parallels the west wall of the City Shop Building to its southwest corner, where the boundary then turns east along the south wall of the City Shop Building and continues to the northwest corner of the Dillon City Hall, where it again turns south and parallels the Dillon City Hall to its junction with East Center Street.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all the buildings used by the City of Dillon for the fulfillment of their administrative duties located in the NW NE NW of S19 and the SW SE SW of S18 of T7S R8W.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Hampton, John Boughton
organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 1301 East Lockey, P.O. Box 201202
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620
e-mail: khampton@mt.gov; jboughton@mt.gov
telephone: (406) 444-7742; (406) 444-3647
date: 7/22/2019

and

name/title: Stacey Roundy
organization: City of Dillon
street & number: 125 North Idaho Street
city or town: Dillon state: MT zip code: 59725
e-mail: clerk@dillonmt.org
telephone: (406) 683-4245
date: 7/22/2019

Dillon City Hall Historic District
Name of Property

Beaverhead Co., Montana
County and State

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ____.

See continuation sheets

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 100 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

Dillon City Hall Historic District

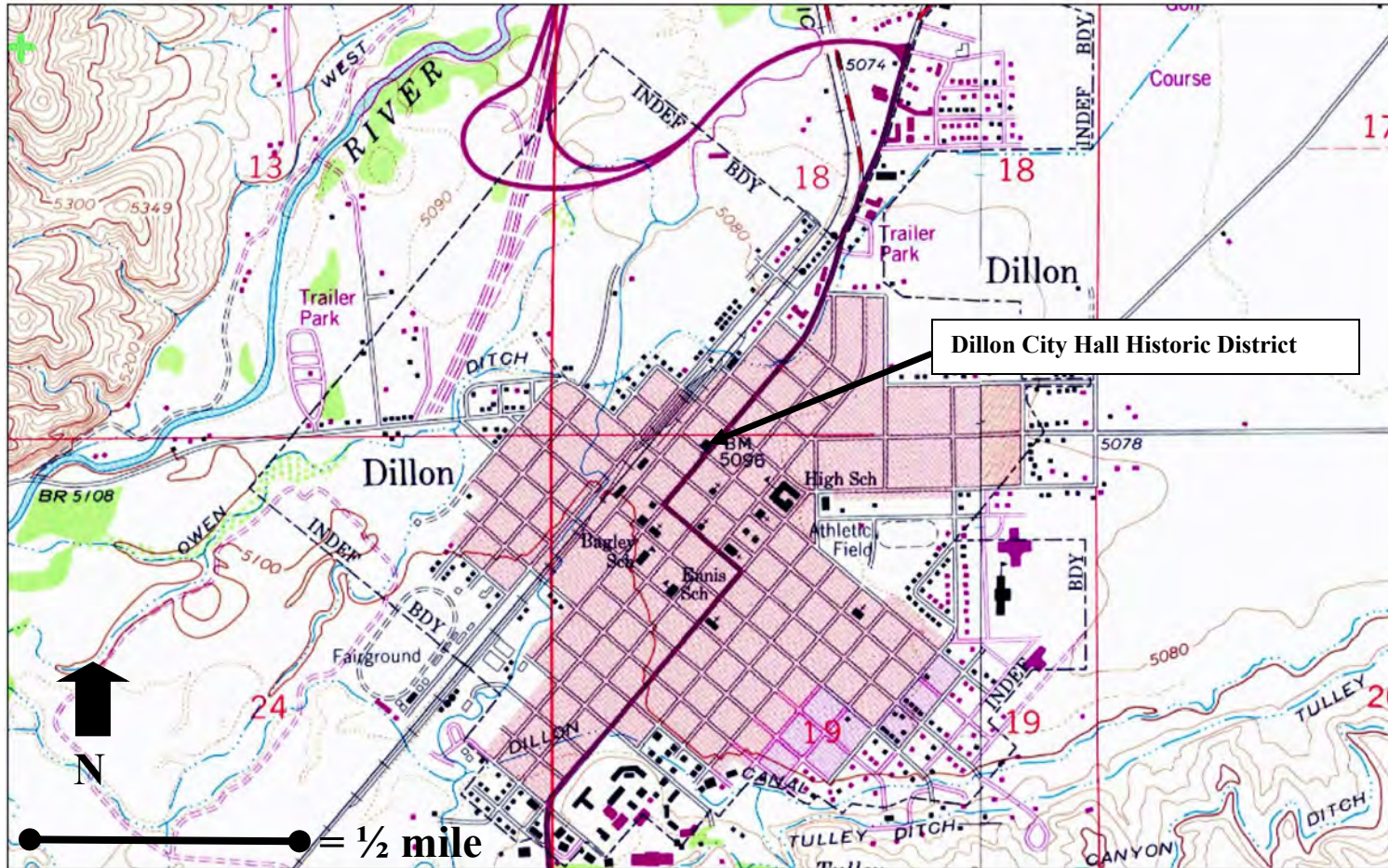
Name of Property
Beaverhead County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Map created using the Digital Atlas July 17, 2019
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Location of Dillon City Hall Historic District. Found on the Dillon West 7.5' quadrangle map. The district occurs in the both the SW 1/4 of Section 18 and NW 1/4 of Section 19, T7S R8W.

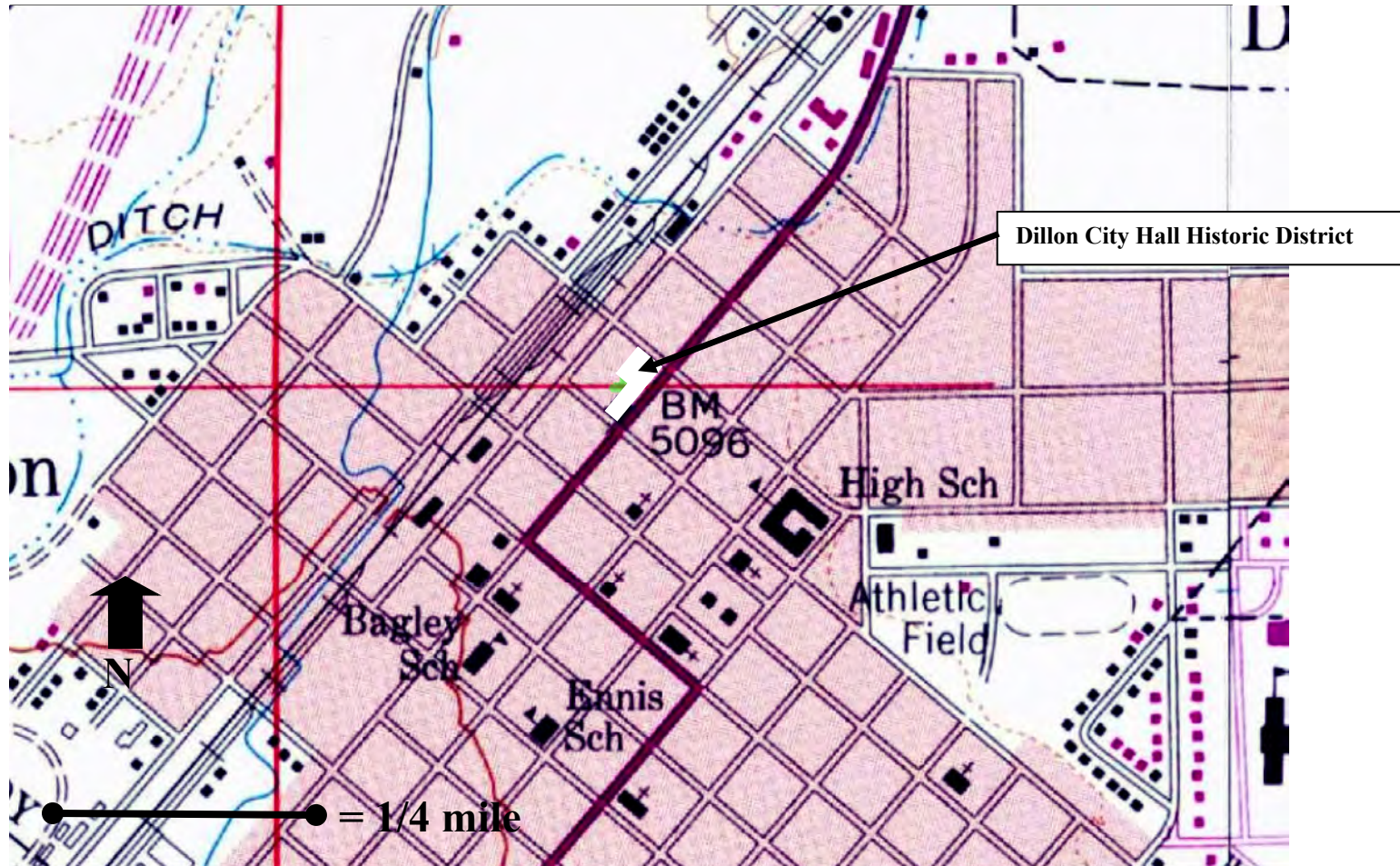
United States Department of the Interior
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Dillon City Hall Historic District
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Location of Dillon City Hall Historic District (indicated by white shading), close-up view. Found on the Dillon West 7.5' quadrangle map. The district occurs in the both the SW ¼ of Section 18 and NW ¼ of Section 19, T7S R8W. Center point of district = latitude 45.218280/longitude -112.635740. Center point of Dillon City Hall building = latitude 45.218040/longitude -112.635770.

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Map created using the Digital Atlas July 17, 2019
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Aerial image showing location of Dillon City Hall Historic District, center point and district boundary (dashed line). The district occurs in the both the SW ¼ of Section 18 and NW ¼ of Section 19, T7S R8W.

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Dillon City Hall Historic District

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Location of Dillon City Hall Historic District, boundary indicated by black lines, aerial image. The district occurs in the both the SW ¼ of Section 18 and NW ¼ of Section 19, T7S R8W.

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Dillon City Hall Historic District

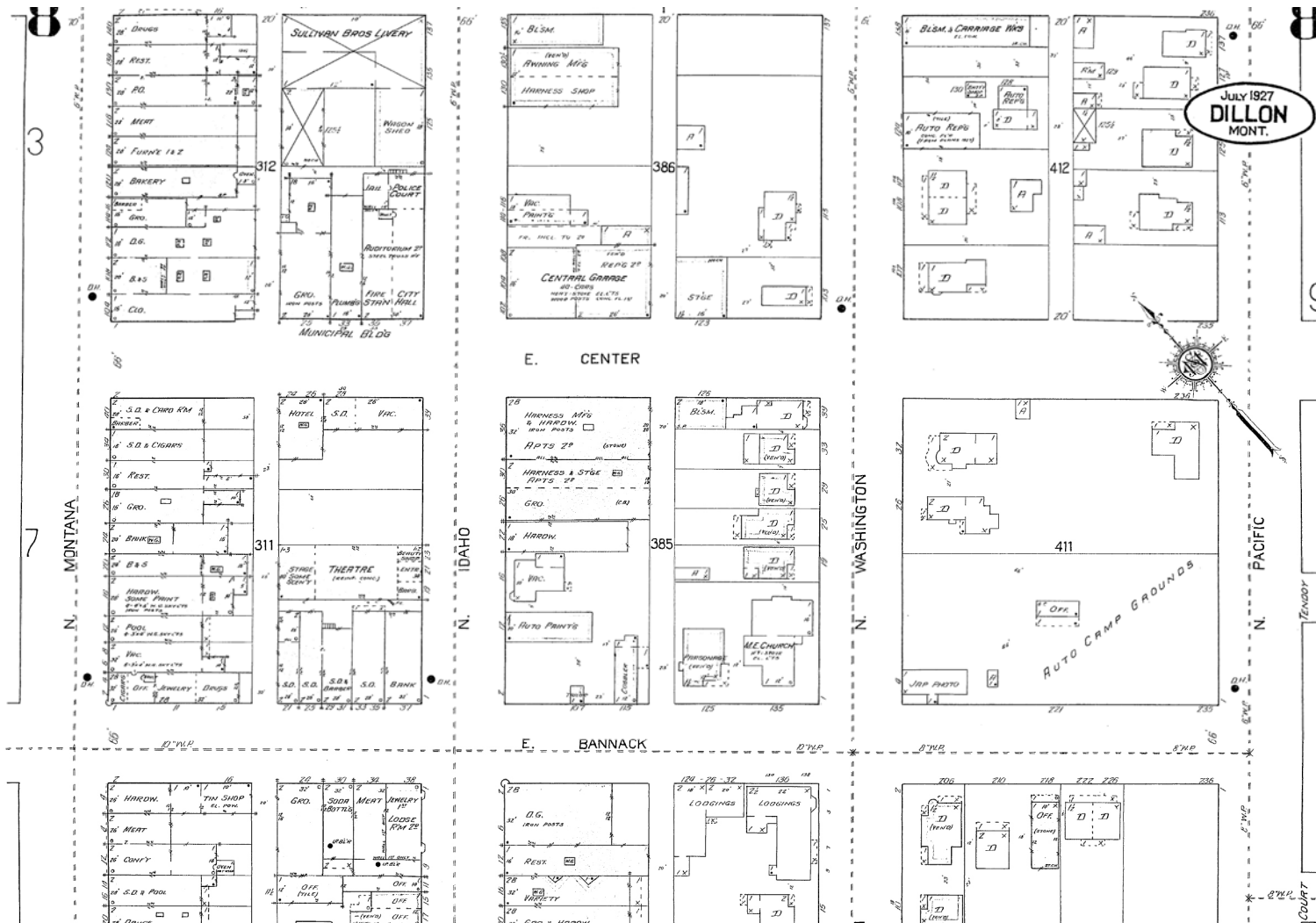
Name of Property
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Sanborn map, July 1927, showing location of Dillon City Hall Historic District, corner of East Center and North Idaho.

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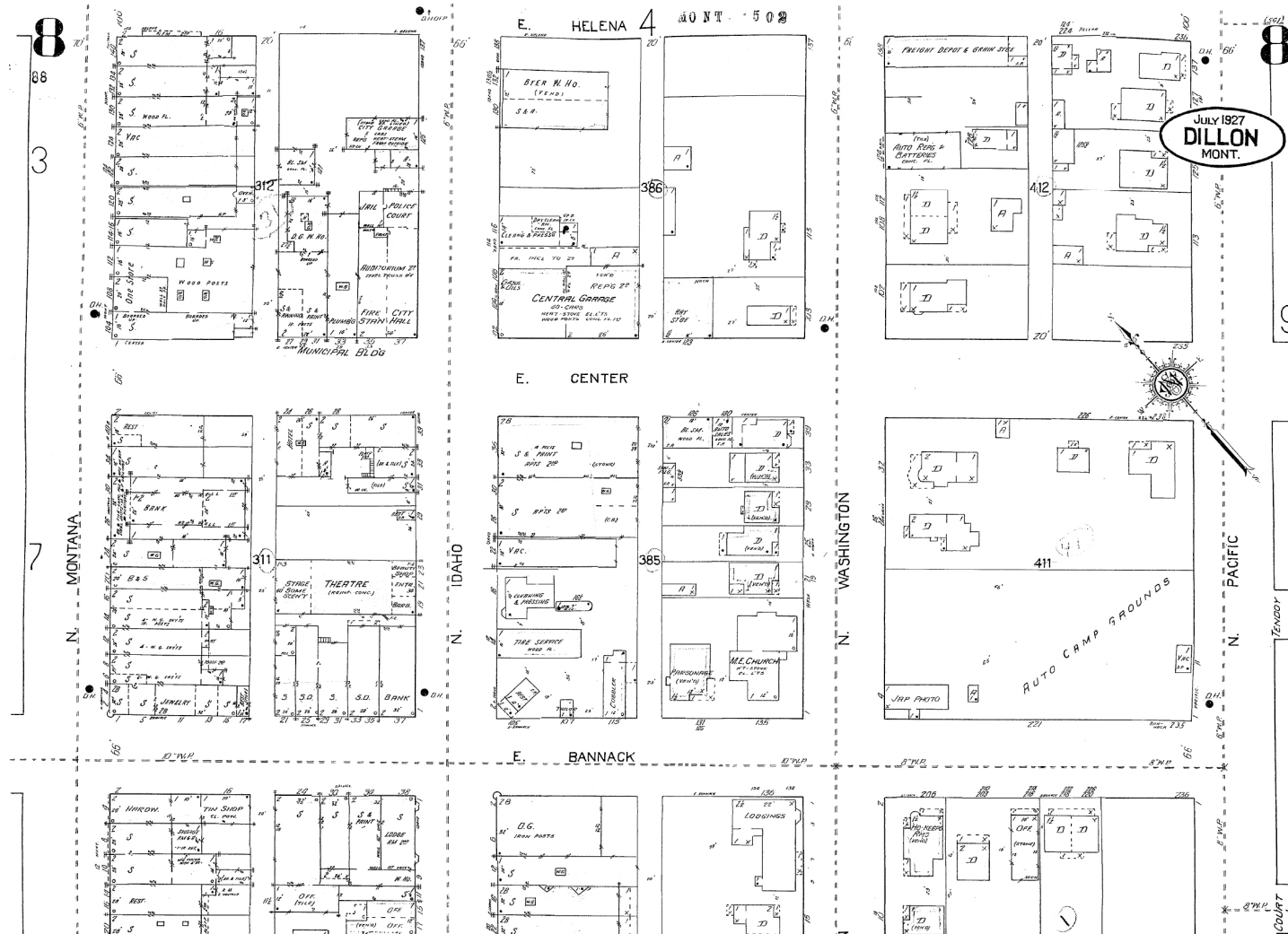
Dillon City Hall Historic District

Name of Property

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Sanborn map, July 1927-November 1940, showing location of Dillon City Hall Historic District, corner of East Center and North Idaho.

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Historic Photo of Dillon City Hall, circa 1934

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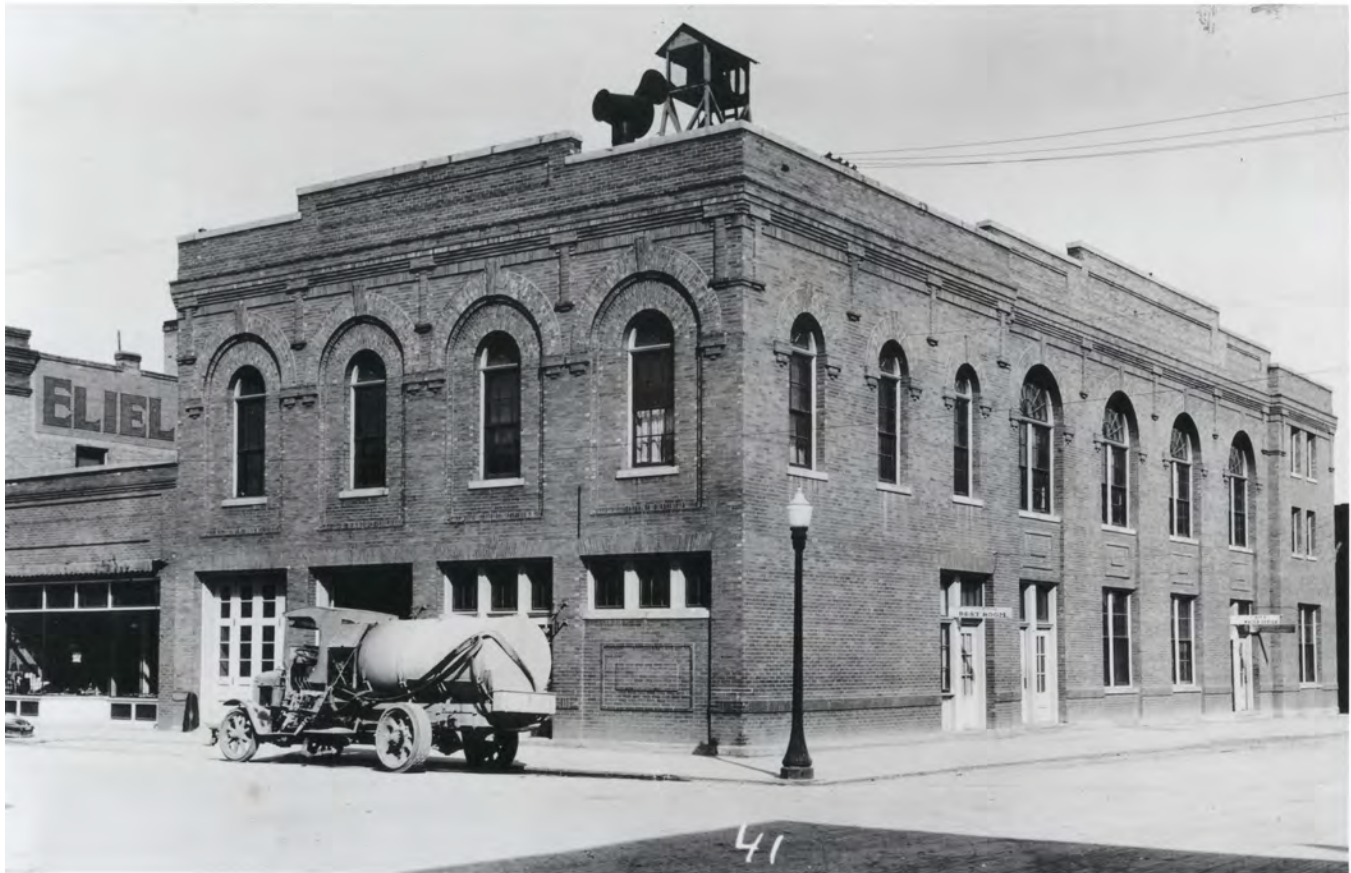
Beaverhead County, MT

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Historic Photo of Dillon City Hall, circa 1921-1937

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Interior Photographs



Dillon City Hall, ballroom

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Dillon City Hall, council room

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Dillon City Hall, judge's office

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Dillon City Hall, city court

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Dillon City Hall, lower staircase leading to main staircase to ballroom

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Dillon City Hall, main staircase to ballroom

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Dillon City Hall, second story landing

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Dillon City Hall, vault

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Dillon City Hall, boiler

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Dillon City Hall, basement, former shooting range.

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Dillon City Hall, historic meteorological and seismic instruments.

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Dillon City Hall, historic map lining interior wall of fire station.

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Dillon City Hall, historic electrical lines and alarm

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National Register Photographs

Photo Log

All images

Name of Property: Dillon City Hall Historic District

City or Vicinity: Dillon

County: Beaverhead

State: MT

Photographer: Stacey Roundy

Date Photographed: February 2019, May 2019, October 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of ___.



Overview of Dillon City Hall, view to the north, south and east elevations.

MT_BeaverheadCounty_DillonCityHallHistoricDistrict_0001

United States Department of the Interior
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Dillon City Hall Historic District

Name of Property

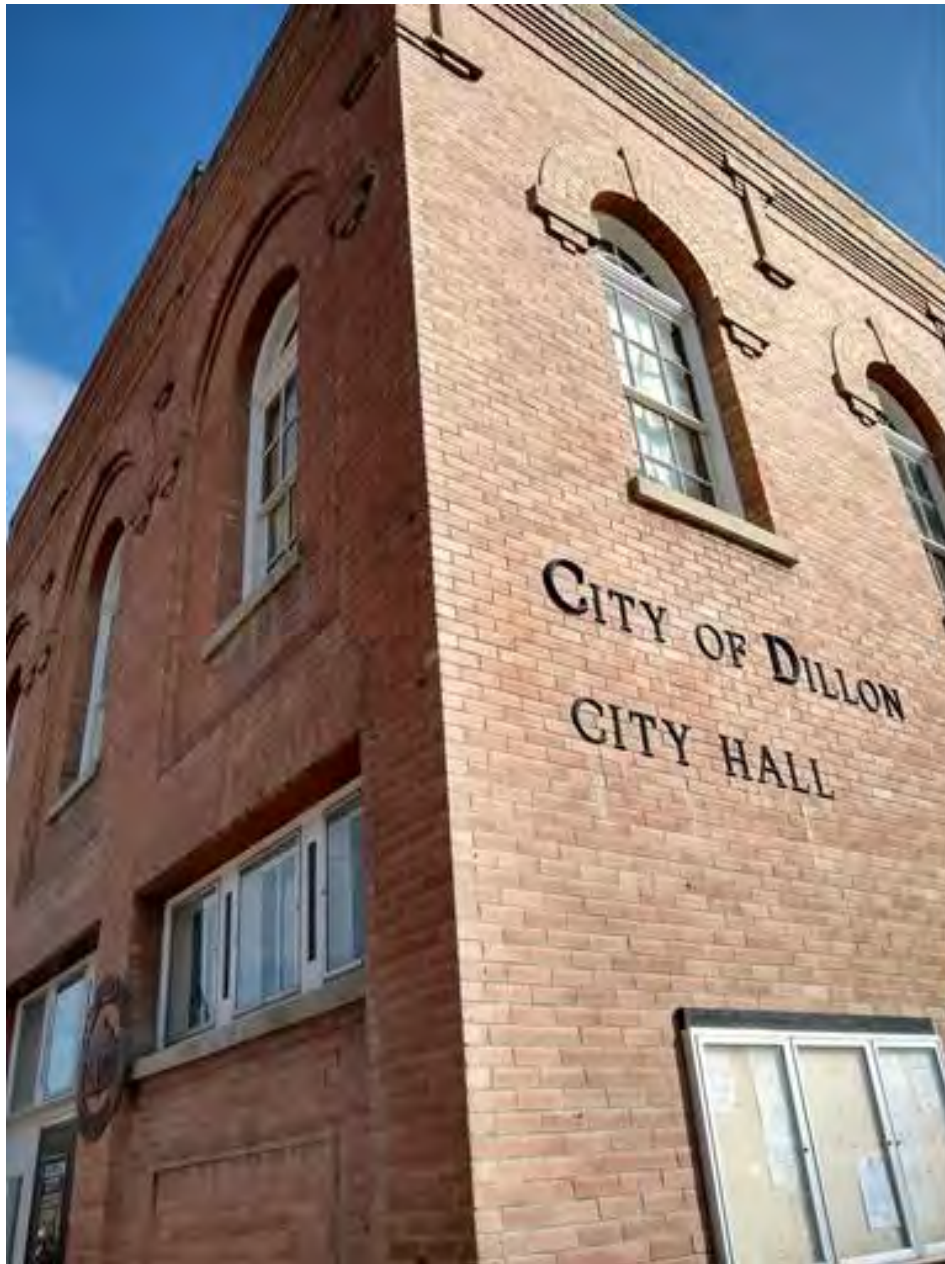
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Close-up of southeast corner of Dillon City Hall, view to the north, south and east elevations.
MT_BeaverheadCounty_DillonCityHallHistoricDistrict_0002

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Dillon City Hall, view to the west, north elevation.
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Dillon City Hall, view to the southeast, west elevation.
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Dillon City Hall, close-up of west elevation view to the southeast.
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Dillon City Hall, view to the south, north and west elevations.
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City Shop and Storage Garage, view to the northwest, east elevation.
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City Shop and Storage Garage, close-up of WPA plaque, view to the northwest, east elevation.
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City Shop and Storage Garage, view to the north, south elevation.
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City Shop and Storage Garage, view to the east, west and south elevations.
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City Shop and Storage Garage, view to the south, north and west elevations.

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City Shop and Storage Garage (right), view to the southeast, west elevation, and City Well #3 Building (right), south and west elevations.

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City Well #3 Building and concrete block wall, view to the southwest, north elevation.
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City Shops Building, view to the north, east elevation.
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City Shops Building and concrete wall, view to the west, east elevation.
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City Shops Building, view to the south, west elevation.
MT_BeaverheadCounty_DillonCityHallHistoricDistrict_0016



CITY OF DILLON
CITY HALL

SPOB
1994
LOUNGE

Battle Connections
555 777



CITY OF DILLON
CITY HALL





NO PARKING



NO
PARKING
LOADING
ZONE





CITY OF DILLON



PUBLIC
IMPROVEMENT
WORKS PROGRESS
ADMINISTRATION
1936-1937

















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 10/18/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 12/2/2019 Date of Weekly List: 12/6/2019

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/
Criteria

Reviewer Control Unit Discipline _____

Telephone _____ Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

October 15, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St., NW - Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley,

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

Andrus Hotel	Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana.
Dean School	Stillwater County, Montana
James McCrossin Cabin	Ravalli County, Montana
Dillon City Hall Historic District	Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nominations for the Andrus Hotel, the Dean School, the James McCrossin Cabin, and the Dillon City Hall Historic District for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting. The owners and public officials all concurred with listing the properties in the National Register. The Review Board unanimously recommended that these properties be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Peter Brown
Historic Architecture Specialist and Acting 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