

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

14

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

FEB 09 2011

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Montana Highway 78

	not for publication
X	vicinity

city or town Red Lodge

state Montana code MT county Carbon code 009 zip code 59068

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 X statewide X local

Mark F. [Signature] / SHPO 1/31/2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

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

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

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Jon Edson / G. Beall 3-21-11
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Carbon County, MT

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery / mausoleum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY / cemetery / mausoleum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Prairie School

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE

walls: CONCRETE; STUCCO

roof: CONCRETE; METAL

other:

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Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is a 232-crypt community mausoleum constructed in the early 1920s for the citizens in and around the City of Red Lodge, Montana. It is located in the Red Lodge City Cemetery, approximately 1 mile west of the City of Red Lodge. The cemetery is sited on a flat grassy bench, locally known as the "West Bench" and displays minimal landscaping. The rugged Beartooth Mountains rise along the west side of the bench, providing the cemetery a dramatic backdrop. Montana Highway 78 defines the cemetery's eastern boundary. The mausoleum dominates the cemetery landscape and is surrounded in three directions by earthen graves. Ranching and farming are the primary land use activities in the area. An ever-increasing number of rural homes, however, have appeared near the cemetery in recent years.

Narrative Description

Mausoleums are freestanding buildings or structures constructed to entomb human remains for perpetuity, providing an alternative to earthen burials. Compartments for caskets at a mausoleum are known as crypts. Single-crypt mausoleums housing the remains of a single individual are common features of many cemeteries across the United States. Mausoleums built for two or a few more members of a single family are prevalent as well. Less frequent in number are large multi-crypt mausoleums that serve a community of individuals not necessarily associated by birth.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum sits in the older part of the Red Lodge City Cemetery. These grounds are next to Highway 78 and include a 4.9 acre Catholic Cemetery to the south and 6 acres of City Cemetery to the north. The city owns and maintains another 12 acres of cemetery along the west side of the older grounds. The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum stands just within the bounds of the Catholic Cemetery. The city, however, currently owns the mausoleum and the parcel on which it sits. The mausoleum is the largest structural feature in the cemetery. Only three other buildings exist, including two small single-crypt mausoleums and a city-owned shed. All other burials in the cemetery are graves, most of which are marked by headstones.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum was built by the Consolidated Mausoleums Company of Billings. Construction commenced in the fall of 1921, and the building was all but completed one year later, except for installment of some interior finishing materials and fixtures. It took another two years, or until the fall of 1924, before the interior work was completed. The building has seen very few changes, inside or out, over the years.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is of a modified cruciform plan, facing due east. The primary massing is a tall chapel, complete with a narthex or front foray and a nave, or the chapel proper. The nave is bordered on both side elevations (north and south) and on the rear (west) elevation by lower crypt wings (or three crypt wings total). This configuration establishes the mausoleum's front foray as the foot of the cross. Small receiving vaults occur on either side (one each) of the foray. Although an afterthought to the building's original design, they were both constructed before the mausoleum's final completion in the fall of 1924.

The mausoleum displays extremely substantial, monolithic reinforced concrete construction. The foundation is a solid mass standing 38" above grade and encompassing the building's 38" thick concrete slab floor. Exterior walls taper in width from 38" at the foundation to 30" at the top. The roofs of the chapel and the three crypt wings are also concrete. The chapel roof is a very low pitched gable formed by a series of slightly arched-topped girders, also made of reinforced concrete. A single, massive 12' wide girder covers the front (east) foray, while a series of five more slender (but still substantial) girders are in the chapel. The later support a series of contiguous concrete rafters. The three crypt wings have low-pitch shed roofs, each comprised of a series of contiguous concrete rafters. The roofs of the chapel and crypt wings were originally surfaced by copper sheeting. Most of that sheeting reportedly "disappeared" decades ago. The city recently removed the remaining pieces and resurfaced the roofs with a skim coat of concrete.¹

¹ Skip Boyer, City of Red Lodge Maintenance Shop, telephone interview with Mary McCormick, 18 August 2010.

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The chapel and two side wings of crypts (north and south) display front parapets. The front parapet at the chapel's gable roof has a long, low gabled step flanked on each side by flat walls. Parapets at the two crypt wings are flat and faced by a series of concrete bands of variable width and projection.

The front foray is adorned by a simple, temple front entry feature. The outer frame of the temple front consists of single, slender, plain concrete pilasters with a cross-beam above. The entry feature proper occupies the lower half of the frame. It has a deeply recessed doorway. Two Tuscan columns stand inside the recess, one at either side of the doorway. These columns visually support a concrete frieze incised with "PAX," the Latin term for peace or the "kiss of peace," as celebrated in the Catholic mass. Within the upper half of the frame are three, stained-glass clerestory windows.

The recessed front doorway holds a pair of massive bronze doors. These doors reportedly weigh around 200 pounds each and swing on ball-bearing hinges. Consolidated Mausoleums installed the doors well after construction of the building started but before the interior finishing work was completed in the fall of 1924. A pair of temporary paneled-wood doors served the building in the interim. Each of the bronze doors contains a ¾-light window which originally held leaded glass. The leaded glass, however, has been replaced with plate glass. The doors are fronted by a low concrete stoop. Squat pedestal urns for flowers frame the stoop, one at either side.

Stucco faces the exterior walls. The stucco finish at the front foray and crypts wings is a heavy, rough textured application, painted tan. It is contrasted by a smooth veneer of white stucco on the upper walls of the chapel, exposed above the three crypt wings.

As noted above, the mausoleum contains two small receiving vaults, one on either side of the front foray that were added for use as temporary storage facilities for caskets of the deceased prior to final entombment or burial. Measuring about 8' square each, the vaults are identical structures, made of reinforced concrete and veneered on the exterior by the same tan-colored, rough-textured heavy stucco found on the main walls of the mausoleum. They rest on concrete foundations and are topped by hipped roofs surfaced by standing seam copper sheeting. Roof eaves are boxed. A board frieze defines the wall - roof juncture. Each vault displays a pair of hollow metal doors on the side (i.e., north- or south-facing) wall. These doors provide the only means of accessing the interior of a vault and the loading of caskets.

The mausoleum houses 232 concrete crypts. Consolidated Mausoleums reportedly used 12,500 square feet of diamond-mesh steel reinforcement in their construction. The crypts are separated from the exterior walls by an air space of 12" or more. Each crypt presumably is of the standard size for the era, which had interior measurements of 2'2" wide, 2'8" a tall and 7'6" long (see Section 8). The crypts are divided into structural bays by reinforced concrete columns. There are two structural bays in the front foray, one on the north wall and the other the south. There are four side-opening crypts, stacked one upon the other in tiers, in both of those bays. Side-opening crypts are orientated so that a long, side wall instead of a short end wall opens into the mausoleum; these are considered the mausoleum's deluxe units. The mausoleum's remaining 202 crypts are divided among the three crypt wings. All of these crypts are arranged so that a short end wall instead of a long side wall opens into the chapel.

The north and south side wings each contain five bays of crypts. The outer two bays of the side wings are "chain" or "companion sections," comprised of six tiers of two crypts each (that is six stacked rows of two crypts each). The interior three bays alternatively each have six tiers of four crypts each. Crypts of six tiers such as these are unusual (see Section 8). The two central vertical rows of the center bay of each side wing are reserved for families. The mausoleum's short rear wing contains two bays, both consisting of five tiers of four crypts each.

The front of each crypt, facing into the mausoleum, originally displayed a removable faceplate allowing for the loading of caskets. After a casket installation, workers replaced the faceplate and hermetically sealed it to the crypt. One consulted source described the sealing of crypts by means of plastic asphalt applied with a high-pressure gun.²

A mechanical casket elevator, consisting of a long wooden platform in a tall metal frame on wheels, sits in the mausoleum's interior. The platform can be raised, lowered and tilted as needed for the placement of a casket into a crypt.

The mausoleum's interior finishing materials and fixtures are simple but of high quality. A grey Alaskan marble surfaces the walls and floors. The crypts are also surfaced by marble along with the columns defining the structural bays. Each column is fronted by a marble-veneered pedestal topped with a marble flower urn. The centrally located family sections of

² Morgan G. Farrell, "The Community Mausoleum," *Architectural Forum* 56 (April 1932), 378.

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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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1922 – 1924

Significant Dates

1922, 1924

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Consolidated Mausoleums Company

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1922 and ends in 1924, corresponding to the time that the Consolidated Mausoleums Company completed construction so that it could be placed in use and when the company completed the interior finishes.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum meets Criteria Consideration D as a significant representative of distinctive funerary architecture. The building continues to convey its historic appearance and express its design values.

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crypts are framed by low marble sidewalls, about three crypts tall each. Bronze nameplates memorialize most of the occupants of the crypts. Some of the nameplates display etched glass flower vases. "Slender copper flower pots" originally hung from the concrete ceiling in the nave; however, they were all removed decades ago by parties unknown.³

The three, stained glass clerestory windows at the front foray (as described above) are fairly elaborate. A winged angel nestling a Bible in one hand and raising a cross in the other is depicted in the largest center window. Cross-covered shields flank the angel, two on each side. The two smaller windows each display three cross-covered shields. The phrase "In Memory of Carbon County's World War Heroes" spans the lower portion of the three windows.

Clerestory windows pierce the upper exposed walls of the chapel above the three crypt wings. Those above the north and south crypt wings appear in single and triple settings. Single settings have one elongated horizontal window while triple settings are comprised of an elongated horizontal window between two, smaller square windows. With the exception of one, these side-wing clerestory windows are leaded glass detailed with plain panes of glass and stained glass patterned in stylized floral and circular geometric motifs. The exception is one of the small windows above the south wing which holds a single pane of plain glass only. There are three, small square windows above the rear crypt wing, all with plain glass.

Builders of the mausoleum provided a ventilating system for the release of moisture and fumes from the crypt bays. It consists of little more than small, screened vents at the location of the air spaces between the mausoleum's exterior walls and the crypt bays, as described above. The vents are set high in the exterior walls.

The mausoleum was built without a heating system, electrical service or running water. It still lacks such conveniences at present.

Integrity

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum retains all aspects of integrity. The mausoleum stands in its original location. The surrounding grounds continue to be a devoted cemetery, and the mausoleum is still its most prominent architectural feature. A scattering of modern homes can be view from the mausoleum, but the setting overall remains rural.

The mausoleum's integrity of design and materials is exceptional. Exterior changes are limited to the loss of the original copper sheeting from the roof of the chapel and the leaded-glass windows at the bronze front doors. The interior of the mausoleum is equally pristine, and continues to display all of its original finishing materials and fixtures, except for the copper flower pots that once hung from the ceiling.

³ Boyer interview.

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

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is significant at a statewide and local level and eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C as a very well preserved and rare example of a community mausoleum in Montana from the early twentieth century. Only two other community mausoleums are known to have been built in the state during the era, one in Billings and the other Great Falls. Of the three, only the Red Lodge and Billings facilities retain historic integrity.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum also has architectural significance as an important local expression of one of the few solely American architectural forms, the Prairie School Style. Components of the building reflective of the style include its form (i.e., a tall central mass flanked by lower subordinate wings), a heavy application of rough textured stucco on the exterior walls and horizontal rows of window rows.

Additionally, the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is an excellent example of the utilization of reinforced concrete in construction of such substantial buildings. Development and refinement of reinforced concrete as a building material soon after the turn of the century replaced cut stone as the primary construction material for above ground entombments. Its use lowered construction costs to the point that the building of large multiple crypt facilities became economically feasible. As a result, above ground entombment became an affordable option for the average American for the first time.

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum retains excellent integrity and is original in nearly every respect.

Developmental History/Additional Historic Context Information

Background to Red Lodge

An Apsaalooke (Crow) chief described southcentral Montana as “a good country because the Great Spirit had put it in exactly the right place.” The Mountain Crow, the largest division of the Apsaalooke people, came to live in northern Wyoming and southeastern Montana over 500 years ago or possibly earlier. The Mountain Crow ranged as far east as the Powder River and as far west as the Yellowstone River and depended on the availability of game and edible plants.⁴

Beginning with the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1851, the United States Government steadily reduced the bounds of the Crow homeland. That treaty designated Crow Territory to encompass all lands south of the Musselshell River between the headwaters of the Yellowstone River to the west, the headwaters of the Powder River to the east and the main ridge of the Wind River Mountains in Wyoming to the south.⁵ The discovery of gold in southwestern Montana in the early 1860s by non-Indians placed further pressure on the Crow. The second Fort Laramie Treaty in 1868 reduced Crow Territory by removing all lands in Wyoming, north of the Yellowstone River and the divide between the Big Horn and Rosebud rivers, restricting the Crow to approximately 8000 acres. An 1880 agreement approved by Congress in 1882 eliminated all Crow lands west of the Boulder River. Under this agreement, the Crow Tribe also ceded a wide strip of land that extended to the Clark’s Fork of the Yellowstone River encompassing the area surrounding present-day Red Lodge.⁶

The 1882 agreement opened the Red Lodge area to Euro-Americans. The first white settlers arrived within a few years, establishing small ranches on the grassy bench lands along Rocky Fork Creek. Entrepreneurs also began efforts to develop the region’s extensive coal deposits. The Rocky Fork Coal Company opened the first commercial mine at Red Lodge in 1887. Two years later, it constructed a short-line railway into the area and its mine, a route that soon came under the control of the great Northern Pacific Railway. These developments ushered in a period of growth for both the City of Red Lodge and the surrounding mining district. The boom at Red Lodge further escalated in the late 1890s when a subsidiary of the Northern Pacific took over the Rocky Fork Coal Company’s mines and Red Lodge coal became a major source of locomotive fuel for the railroad’s Montana operations.⁷

⁴ Little Big Horn College, “Apsaalooke Writing Tribal Histories Project,” accessed at <http://lib.lbhc.cc.mt.us/history>.

⁵ “Treaty of Ft. Laramie, 1851,” in Charles J. Kappler, ed. and comp. *Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties 2 vols.*, vol. 2 (Washington, D.C.: GPO, 1904), 594-596.

⁶ “Act of April 11, 1882,” Kappler, *Indian Affairs*, vol. 2, 1063-1064.

⁷ Shirley Zupan and Harry J. Owens, eds., *Red Lodge: Saga of a Western Area Revisited* (Red Lodge: Carbon County Historical Society, 1979; reprint Billings: Frontier Press, 1997), 20-22, 129-31; Jon Axline, “Something of a Nuisance Value: The Montana,

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European immigrants flocked to Red Lodge seeking employment in the coal mines. By 1900, the city of Red Lodge boasted over 2,000 residents, nearly half of which were foreign born, including representatives from Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Italy, Austria, Sweden, Finland, England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. Members of these various groups maintained strong ethnic ties, forming their own social and economic associations. By 1910, population at Red Lodge had more than doubled to around 5,000 and contained an immigrant mix of nearly 75 percent.⁸

The coal mining industry at Red Lodge continued to prosper into the late 1910s. Increased operational costs and a labor dispute, however, convinced the Northern Pacific to abandon its mines in the area in favor of surface coal operations at Colstrip in 1924. While certainly a blow, the local economy did not completely falter, sustained by mining activities elsewhere in the district and Red Lodge's historic role as the center of shipping, commercial and social activities for the surrounding agricultural communities. A much needed boost to the city followed in the mid- to late 1930s when the federal government completed construction of the Beartooth Scenic Highway. The new roadway opened Red Lodge to tourists traveling its majestic route between the town and Yellowstone National Park. The city's population held steady into the early 1940s, hovering around 3,000.⁹

Red Lodge City Cemetery

The locale of the Red Lodge City Cemetery has seen use as burial grounds by Euro Americans since the city's earliest years. At least a few graves existed by mid-summer of 1888. At that time, a surveyor for the federal government made note of the "small cemetery" and identified it as an approximately 1-acre parcel at the end of a road from Red Lodge. Among the earliest internments was Milo L. Macumber, Red Lodge's first doctor who died in late January 1888 at the age of 42. The cemetery held the graves of at least five more individuals by late 1890. An additional 18 burials occurred the following year, many of whom were children.¹⁰

The massive death toll of 1891 made clear the need for larger and more formal burial grounds at Red Lodge. The city government as well as the local Catholic parish, St. Agnes, both responded, purchasing cemetery lands by late 1893. The new city cemetery included the old grounds and 5 acres immediately to the south. The Catholic Cemetery, in turn, was a parcel just shy of 5 acres just south of the new city cemetery. Developments at the cemetery grounds proceeded in the fashion typical of day, with burial plots aligned in tidy, parallel rows, and headstones marking most graves.¹¹

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The Red Lodge City Cemetery adequately served the Red Lodge area the first two decades of the twentieth century. A significant water drainage problem, however, plagued some of its grounds. Heavy rains would pool and virtually transform the lands into a marshy swamp. Seepage out of a private irrigation ditch that ran just above (west of) the cemetery exacerbated the problem. For some, the potential that their bodies and those of their loved ones could possibly be subject to water decay made the mere thought of burial in the Red Lodge City Cemetery less than desirable.¹²

In the early Spring of 1921, the citizens of Red Lodge heard the first news of a bold new undertaking intended to improve conditions at the Red Lodge Cemetery --- construction of a large multi-crypt mausoleum for the general public. Consolidated Mausoleums Company of Billings made the announcement in the *Red Lodge Journal-Picket*, a weekly

Wyoming & Southern Railroad, 1905-1953," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 49 (Winter 1999): 48-63.

⁸ Zupan and Owens, *Saga of a Western Area*, 196-98; Bonnie Christensen, *Red Lodge and the Mythic West: Coal Miners to Cowboys* (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2002), 58; "Red Lodge, Montana: Historical Populations," accessed at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Lodge,_Montana.

⁹ Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value," "Red Lodge Commercial Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1986, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena; "Red Lodge, Montana: Historical Populations."

¹⁰ Scott J. Wagers, *A Class III Cultural Resource Inventory of 5.1 Miles of Montana Highway 78, Northwest of Red Lodge, Carbon County, Montana* (Billings: Ethnoscience, Inc., 2008), 6.22-6.23, submitted to the Montana Department of Transportation.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid., 6.24; "Start Construction Work," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

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newspaper, marking the beginnings of an aggressive ad campaign to garner interest in and support for the project. The company's activities at Red Lodge came as it neared completion of a 330-crypt mausoleum at Billing's Mountview Cemetery, the first communal building of its type in the state of Montana. Consolidated Mausoleums attributed the success of the Billings project to its mass appeal, offering both the rich and poor alike "above ground entombment at no greater costs than for an ordinary earth burial."¹³

A. L. "Al" Ranklin spearheaded Consolidated Mausoleums' effort to develop a community mausoleum at Red Lodge, having assumed the office of president of the company within a year or two after its formation in 1919. A native of Clarinda, Iowa, Ranklin had been involved in a variety of ventures prior to his tenure with Consolidated Mausoleums.¹⁴ As a young man, he participated in the Alaskan gold rush from the late 1890s to 1903. Ranklin left Alaska and returned to the states none the richer. During the next ten years, he opened a life insurance company in Oklahoma City and then what he later claimed to be Montana's first fire insurance company in Butte. While at Butte, he also became involved in a scheme for providing irrigation water to 25,000 acres near the city. In the early 1910s, Ranklin became a proponent of another potential irrigation project, this one in the Little Missouri River region of southeastern Montana. Managing construction of Billing's community mausoleum apparently marked the beginning of his career in the funeral business. Many years later, Ranklin declared that with that project "I settled down and became a citizen."¹⁵

Consolidated Mausoleums proposed to finance construction of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum by a tried and true method, the presale of crypts to the public. Ads in the *Journal-Picket* informed the public that work on the building would not commence until all of the crypts had been sold, but payments were not due until construction started. Prices varied depending on a crypt's location in a vertical row. Crypts at mid- to eye-level were the most expensive.¹⁶

On the 10th of August 1921, Consolidated Mausoleums announced that all the crypts as "originally planned" had been sold.¹⁷ Shortly thereafter, the company entered into a contract for deed with the pastor of St. Agnes Church for a 40' wide (north-south) by 85' long (east-west) parcel along northern edge of the Catholic Cemetery. The company fulfilled the contract and received title to the larger Catholic Cemetery parcel late that same fall. It also acquired a deed out right for an adjoining, although much narrower, strip of land in the City Cemetery.¹⁸

Construction of the mausoleum started in the first or second week of September. At that time, Ranklin provided a detailed description of the proposed building to the *Journal-Picket*. The mausoleum was to be about 40' by 85' and constructed entirely of reinforced concrete, including the roof. Current plans called for a capacity of "212 bodies." Consolidated Mausoleums, however, was seriously considering the option of enlarging the building. The crypts were to be arranged around a chapel where memorial and funeral services could be held and family and friends might visit their deceased loved ones. Rich finishing treatments and fixtures would appoint the chapel, including a pair of massive bronze entry doors, interior wall and floor coverings in marble and "beautiful Cathedral art glass" windows, among others. Total cost of construction was estimated at \$40,000.¹⁹

The company planned to complete the mausoleum's foundation that first fall, before shutting down work for the duration of the winter. Construction would not resume until the summer of 1922 when weather warm enough for the proper setting of concrete returned. Subscribers were expected to make good on their second payment during the winter lay off period. The third and final payment was due at completion of the roof, scheduled to occur by late summer of 1922.²⁰

¹³ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4.

¹⁴ Montana Secretary of State, "Consolidated Mausoleums Company," ID # D012328, Business Entity Search, accessed at [https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/besCertificate.cgi?action+detail&besearch](https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/besCertificate.cgi?action+detail&besearch;); "Ranklin," *Billings Gazette*, 17 March 1974.

¹⁵ "Dean of the Sourdoughs," *Billings Gazette*, 18 February 1968.

¹⁶ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4; 25 May 1921, 4; 13 July 1921, 6; hand drawn diagrams of various sections of mausoleum crypts, undated, in folder labeled "Red Lodge Mausoleum," on file at the City Clerk Office, Red Lodge City Hall [subsequent citation of documents in this folder will identify the folder and its location as: Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.]; W.C. Jenkins, "Post Cineres Gloriam Venit," *The National Magazine* 40 (July 1914), 645-66; Farrell, "The Community Mausoleum," 374.

¹⁷ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 10 August 1921, 6.

¹⁸ Carbon County Clerk and Recorder, Deed Book 31, p. 298; Deed Book 56, p. 322.

¹⁹ "Start Construction Work on Mausoleum," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

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Although early newspaper ads professed crypts would no longer be available once construction commenced, Consolidated Mausoleums continued its sales campaign in the *Picket-Journal* well into 1922. Extension of sales was likely fueled, in part, by the company's apparent desire to add more crypts to the building. At the same time though, many of the original 212 crypts had not yet been paid for. Religious and civic themes dominated the company's new ads, while the practical and sanitation aspects of entombment in a modern mausoleum continued to be emphasized.²¹ One such advertising statement read:

Entombment is sanctioned by all biblical teachings, law of sanitation, intellectual thought and sentiment of the heart. Endorsed and supported by nearly all of the business and professional interests of Red Lodge. Join the movement. Help to make your mausoleum a matter of civic pride to all citizens of Carbon County.²²

Derogatory comments, although veiled, about the water problems at the Red Lodge Cemetery also appeared periodically in the new ads. The likelihood that water seepage could and would eventually impact the structural integrity of the mausoleum as well, however, soon convinced the company to address the problem itself. Arrangements were made for relocating the irrigation ditch further back from the cemetery. Additionally, the company installed a system of drain tiles for collecting water runoff and conveying it away from cemetery grounds.²³

Laborers finished the mausoleum's roof in early October 1922. Although considerable interior work remained, not least of which included the installation of the marble wall panels and flooring, the first known entombment at the mausoleum occurred only a few short weeks later. The deceased was Dr. Alphaeus V. Fulhrer, one of Red Lodge's most prominent citizens. Fulhrer, a Canadian by birth, first came to Red Lodge in 1896. He found employment as a carpenter and remained in the city until 1900. At that time, Fulhrer headed east to attend dental school at the University of Buffalo, New York. Immediately following his graduation in May 1904, he married Margaret B. Eberly, returned with her to Red Lodge, and opened a dental office. Fulhrer's successful practice ended with his untimely death at the age of 42.²⁴

Almost two full years passed before Consolidated Mausoleums received and installed the final shipment of Alaskan grey marble in September 1924. This last piece of finishing work marked the building's completion, at long last. The company celebrated the occasion by opening the chapel to the public. Visitors observed leaded glass bronze doors at the main entry, "slender copper flower pans" hanging from the ceiling, large marble urns on marble posts, and tall marble ledges framing family crypts. With a "little scrutiny" a few also detected tracings of fanciful figures in the marble wall panels and flooring. Ranklin spoke to the accomplishment, noting that "no expense in time, trouble, material or expert workmanship was spared to make the structure permanent and impervious to the ravages of time."²⁵

Sometime between completion of the roof in October 1922 and the interior work in September 1924, the company added 20 more crypts, bringing the total number to 232.²⁶ Many of the original crypts, let alone the new ones, however, had still yet to be subscribed. The company advertised that a "limited number of crypts may yet be had at \$250 and up."²⁷

Although Consolidated Mausoleums owned the mausoleum and the property on which it stood, the company never intended to assume responsibility for operating the facility or maintaining the building. Instead, it encouraged individuals owning crypts to take advantage of a new state law that provided for the establishment of associations to manage public cemeteries. Towards this end, a representative group of crypt owners incorporated the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association (Red Lodge Mausoleum Association) in late 1923. All of the crypt owners automatically became voting members of the association. They elected a board of trustees to govern the association's affairs.²⁸

²¹ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 7 June 1922, 3; 5 July 1922, 3; 11 October 1922, 10.

²² *Ibid.*, 5 July 1922, 11.

²³ "Start Construction Work on Mausoleum," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 14 September 1921, 1.

²⁴ "New Mausoleum Has Distinctive Points," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 October 1922, 1; "Death of Well Known Dentist Shocks City," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 25 October 1922, 1.

²⁵ "Finish Construction of Local Mausoleum," *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 September 1924, 1.

²⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁷ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 18 September 1924, 3.

²⁸ Revised Codes of Montana, 1921, Section 6469-6502; Montana Secretary of State, "Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery

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As one of its first duties, the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association established a “permanent and perpetual endowment” for use to fund maintenance and repair projects at the mausoleum. The endowment was seeded by a small portion of the proceeds from the sale of crypts. For each crypt sold, no matter its cost, Consolidated Mausoleums turned over \$15 to the association. Additionally, the association was to receive a \$10 fee for sealing a crypt following an entombment, an expense that some owners may not have been aware of at the time they purchased a crypt.²⁹

The Red Lodge Mausoleum Association decided early on to take advantage of its endowment to fund an ambitious project, the addition of two receiving vaults to the still yet unfinished mausoleum. The receiving vaults were proposed for holding caskets of recently deceased persons whose entombment or burial had been delayed due to winter weather or other causes. Use of the vaults came at cost in the form of rent. Association members anticipated the rent fees as a long-term source of income. The vaults themselves cost \$1,600 to build, an amount which likely all but depleted the endowment for a time.³⁰

A few families were so impressed with the new mausoleum that they exhumed deceased relatives and re-interred their remains in a crypt. The activities of Charles C. Bowlen typified this movement. One of Red Lodge’s earliest and wealthiest citizens, who had made his fortune in the lumber business, Bowlen purchased a family section of crypts and moved his four deceased sons and father there. One son died at infancy in 1906, while the three older boys and their grandfather all passed in the late 1910s. In the ensuing years, several more members of Bowlen’s family came to rest in the mausoleum, including Bowlen himself, his second wife Elma, and at least three others, most likely children or grandchildren. The Bowlen section is the largest family grouping at the mausoleum today.³¹

As predicted by the Consolidated Mausoleums Company, the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum did not become the exclusive domain of the area’s most wealthy and prominent citizens, such as Dr. Fulhrer and the Bowlens. Coal miners, family farmers and members of other middle and lower working class professions found eternal rest here as well.³² Of the various ethnic communities in the Red Lodge area, the Italians favored the mausoleum in the most noteworthy numbers. Entombment within monuments erected above ground was a long-standing tradition in Italy, dating back to the days of the Roman Empire. Grand or humble, mausoleums for many Italians served as strong visual reminders of the importance in properly commemorating deceased family members.³³

Consolidated Mausoleums ultimately ended up with far more unsold crypts on its hands than expected at both Red Lodge and Billings. Many crypts likely had been reserved at one time, but the subscribers failed to make good on their payments. Ranklin kept the company active and himself gainfully employed for many years managing crypt sales at both cities. Additionally, he oversaw the handling of many of the entombment details at the Red Lodge facility, acting on the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association’s behalf. By his own account, Ranklin went “uncompensated” for many of those services. Between 1939 and late 1951, however, he was paid \$90 of endowment fund monies for administering 30 funerals. By then, a total of 163 crypts at the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum had been bought and paid for, leaving 69 available for sale.³⁴

Association,” ID # D014521, Business Entity Search, accessed at <https://app.mt.gov/cgi-bin/besCertificategi?action+detail&besearch>.

²⁹ *Red Lodge Picket-Journal*, 27 April 1921, 4; Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, “Trustee Account,” 18 October 1951 and A.L. Ranklin, correspondence to Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, ca. September 1960, both in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.

³⁰ Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, “Trustee Account,” 18 October 1951; Ranklin, correspondence to Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, ca. September 1960; photograph of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, ca. 1924, photographer unknown, original print on file at the Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, Red Lodge.

³¹ Zupan and Owens, *Saga of a Western Area*, 296, “Bowlen, Charles,” index card in subject files, Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, Red Lodge; Mary McCormick, personnel observations, Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, 27 July 2010.

³² Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum crypt lists, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office; Bert Dothit, Smith Funeral Chapel, Red Lodge, telephone interview with Mary McCormick, 11 August 2010.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ “Dean of the Sourdoughs,” *Billings Gazette*, 18 February 1968; “Ranklin,” *Billings Gazette*, 17 March 1974; Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, “Trustee Account,” 18 October 1951.

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In May 1973, Ranklin, then in his late 90s, met with several of the crypt owners to work out details for transferring ownership of the mausoleum and the land on which it stood to the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association. The parties agreed that, after another six crypts sold, Ranklin would deed ½ interest in the property to the association and the other ½ interest to Arnold Kautsky, the caretaker for the community mausoleum at Billings. In exchange for an ownership share, Kautsky would be available to the association for management advice, if needed. Upon Kautsky's passing, the association would acquire his ½ interest, giving it complete title to the property. At the meeting, Ranklin indicated a "stake" of as much as \$16,000 in unrealized crypts sales would likely accompany the final deed transfer and provide the association funds for much needed repairs to the mausoleum."³⁵

Less than a year later, in 1974 Ranklin died and ownership of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum passed to the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association and Arnold Kautsky, as planned. Only a few crypts sold in the ensuing years, however. By the time that Kautsky died in late 1996 and the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association acquired full ownership of the mausoleum, the trust account contained under \$4,000 and no renovations to the building had been completed. The association turned to the City Council of Red Lodge for relief. In August 1997, the Council passed a resolution to accept ownership of the mausoleum and the Red Lodge Mausoleum Association quit claimed all interest in the property to the City of Red Lodge. The city continues to own and maintain the mausoleum at present, but has disallowed the sale of crypts and additional entombments.³⁶

Community Mausoleum Architecture of the Early Twentieth Century

Construction and use of mausoleums traces back to antiquity. The Great Pyramids of the Egyptian Pharaohs, for example, are mausoleums. The term mausoleum, however, did not originate until completion of the tomb of Mausollos, a Perisan satrap of Caria (in present-day Turkey), in the fourth century BC. Designed by Greek architects, this massive above ground tomb became named one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Rulers throughout the Greco-Roman region soon adopted the practice. Some of the most grand examples of royalty tombs are Romanesque and Gothic cathedrals of medieval Europe. By time colonization of North America began in the seventeenth century, both individual and family mausoleums were popular with members of the landed classes. Although much smaller in size and scale than the grand mausoleums of royalty, these buildings still conveyed a sense of wealth and power, constructed of cut stone and designed and detailed to convey the appearance of a classical temple or a medieval church. The concept of the private mausoleum transferred from the Old World to the New. For the most part, however, only the affluent could afford the luxury.³⁷

The potential of above ground entombments for a larger and broader spectrum of American society waited the refinement and widespread acceptance of reinforced concrete as a building material. Soon after the turn of the twentieth century, architects and builders came to view reinforced concrete as a durable, strong and moisture-tight material, prerequisites for a mausoleum building which was expected to stand in perpetuity. At the same time, reinforced concrete had clearly proven far less costly to build with than stone masonry and far more flexible in formwork, including creation of box-like structures. Mausoleum builders in the United States applied reinforced concrete first to the construction of individual or small family crypts. In 1907, the National Mausoleum Association greatly expanded on the process, erecting an 80 crypt mausoleum at the small rural town of Ganges, Ohio. The crypts were of monolithic reinforced concrete construction and arranged on either side of a long reception hall intended for use in holding funerals and memorial services. The National Mausoleum Association offered the crypts for sale to the local citizenry, marking the beginnings of the community mausoleum movement.³⁸

³⁵ Minutes of meeting attended by Erwin Draper, Elmer Bowlen, Alda Ottero and A. L. Ranklin, 12 May 1973, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office.

³⁶ "Arnold 'Bud' H. Kautsky," *Billings Gazette*, 3 February 1997; "Minutes of Meetings of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum Cemetery Association, 4 August 1977, in Red Lodge Mausoleum folder, City Clerk Office; Carbon County Clerk and Recorder, Instrument file # 287534, 5 August 1997; Dothit, interview, 11 August 2010.

³⁷ Jenkins, "Post Cineres Glorim Venit," 637-43; Rusty Clark, *From Communal Graves to Community Mausoleums: A Short History of Urban Cemeteries*, April 28, 2009, accessed at http://storiescarvedinstone.com/cem_hist5.html; Douglas Keister, "A Brief History of the Community Mausoleum," accessed at <http://www.eastridgelawncemetery.com>

³⁸ Jenkins, "Post Cineres Glorim Venit," 644-45; "A Mausoleum of Reinforced Concrete," *Cement Age* 10, no 2 (February 1910).

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The introduction of the reinforced-concrete community mausoleum came at an opportune time for development. The Progressive Movement and its call for improving the human condition captured the attention of the American public. The abhorrent conditions of many cemeteries, especially in larger cities, due to years of neglect, overcrowded conditions, poor surface drainage and a variety of other factors, spread the concern for reform to the care of the dead as well as the living. Entombment in a safe, moisture-tight and otherwise sanitary above ground environment was proposed as the perfect solution for eliminating the ravages of decay of a traditional grave burial. At the same time, construction on a larger and less costly scale established the mausoleums as a viable alternative final resting place for the average working-class American. By 1914, a reported 130 cities and towns in the United States and Canada boasted a community mausoleum. The rate of new construction steadily increased into the 1920s.³⁹

For the most part, community mausoleums of the era shared some basic aspects of structural design. Builders most often erected the crypts first, or separate of the mausoleum building. Construction commenced with the laying of a thick concrete slab floor and the erection of a series of concrete columns which divided crypt areas into structural bays. Banks of crypts were then erected within each bay. A bank configuration had crypts (each measuring at the interior about 2' 2" wide, 2' 8" a tall and 7' 6" long) aligned long side-by-long side in horizontal rows of two to six units each, and the rows stacked one upon the other in two to five tiers. Stacks of more than five tiers were seldom constructed, due both to the additional structural support required and the inherent difficulties of visitors viewing the higher crypts. Most mausoleums also offered at least a few crypts that opened into the mausoleum at the long side of the compartment instead of a short end; these specialty crypts sold at a higher price. A varied assortment of side- and end-opening crypt layouts in a single facility came to characterize larger projects.⁴⁰

The mausoleum building proper was constructed around the crypts. Reinforced concrete construction was almost universal. Typically, an air space of 12" or more was provided between the crypts and exterior walls to offset moisture condensation. Materials used for exterior wall finishes included cut stone, brick and stucco, while interior walls and floors typically were veneered in marble. Bronze was the preferred material for doors, window sashes and frames, and other fixtures. Windows were few and usually rendered in stained glass.⁴¹

Some states and cities required mausoleums to have provisions for ventilating and draining crypts, although the mausoleum profession held a "sharp difference of opinion as to their necessity."⁴² The nation's first community mausoleum at Ganges, Ohio had a ventilation system. It apparently consisted of little more than valve-controlled ports set high in the building's exterior walls at the air spaces between the crypts. One of the more widely used ventilation methods for larger mausoleums placed air spaces between each vertical row of crypts and installed in each space one pipe for ventilation and second pipe for drainage. Ventilation pipes connected to the top of each crypt in the vertical row and ran up through the mausoleum's roof. Fans installed at the upper end of the pipes aided in their exhaustion outside. The air spaces also accommodated drainage pipes which, alternatively, connected to the bottom of each crypt and discharged into a sewer pipe.⁴³

While sharing basic aspects of crypt design and a heavy reliance on reinforced concrete construction, community mausoleums of the early twentieth century varied significantly in size and the amenities provided. Building size depended on the population of city and perceived local demand for a multiple crypt facility. Mausoleums in smaller city and towns averaged between 200 and 400 crypts, while by the early 1930s several major cities had facilities of 2000 crypts or more. In addition to a main chapel and public crypt wings, larger mausoleum typically incorporated one or more secluded smaller chapels, a selection of private crypt rooms, bathrooms, niches for ashes and, less commonly, a crematorium. The largest and most elaborate community facility of the era, the Grand Mausoleum at Glendale, California's Forest Lawn Cemetery,

³⁹ Jenkins, "Post Cineres Glorim Venit," 645; "Concrete Mausoleums," *Popular Mechanics* 14, no. 1 (July 1919), 18-19; "Five Community Mausoleums," *Architectural Forum* 56 (April 1932), 412-22.

⁴⁰ Farrell, "The Community Mausoleum," 374-76; for examples of multiple crypt arrangements in a single building see "Five Community Mausoleums," *Architectural Forum*, 413, 416 and 421.

⁴¹ Farrell, "The Community Mausoleum," 376-77.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 378.

⁴³ *Ibid.*; "Community Mausoleum Patent Decision," in *Monument Dealer's Manual*, O. H. Sample, ed (Chicago: Allied Arts Publishing Co., 1919), 27-29.

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housed 6,430 crypts and 3,163 niches. Small projects of limiting funding, however, often lacked bathrooms, heating and cooling systems and/or electric lights.⁴⁴

Regardless of size, community mausoleums of the early twentieth century were built to stand as local monuments to the dead. In common with private mausoleum projects, architects often looked to ancient temples and the great cathedrals of medieval Europe for inspiration. This most commonly was expressed by a reliance on cruciform or T-shape building plans, although ranging widely in complexity, symmetrical fenestration with the main entry centrally located, and/or placement of a prominent temple front feature at the main entry. Architects, otherwise, freely adapted prevalent architectural styles to the community mausoleum form. Facilities described in a 1932 edition of the *Architectural Forum* expressed this diversity, including the Art Deco Temple of Memories in Detroit, Michigan; a Beaux Arts edifice in Newark, New Jersey; a domed Renaissance Revival mausoleum in the Forest Hill Cemetery at Kansas City, Missouri; and the Great Mausoleum at Glendale, California, which was described as an "adaptation of the Italian Romanesque." The Gothic, Egyptian and Mission revivals were among other styles commonly employed.⁴⁵

The Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum is a local interpretation of another period architectural style, the Prairie School. The style emerged during the late nineteenth century from the design work of a group of Chicago architects seeking to create a uniquely American architectural expression. Inspiration for the style was largely drawn from the flat, open prairie landscape and natural materials of the American Midwest. The Prairie School found favor for new residential and commercial projects into the 1920s.⁴⁶

The Prairie Style did not, however, see widespread acceptance for community mausoleums, making the Red Lodge Community Mausoleum somewhat of an oddity. Some of the more distinctive attributes of the style displayed by the building included a tall central massing flanked by lower subordinate wings, horizontal rows of windows and an exterior wall veneer of rough textured stucco. The latter, for example, was a natural-looking material commonly utilized by prominent Prairie School architect, George Maher, and others. Although infrequently, some practitioners of the style adopted the temple front in building designs. In addition to the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, examples of Prairie School buildings with a temple front are the Merchant's Bank at Grinnell, Iowa, designed by the father of the Prairie School movement, Louis H. Sullivan, and Maher's Joseph Sears Elementary School at Kenilworth, Illinois.⁴⁷

Construction of new community mausoleums sharply declined with the deepening of the Great Depression in the early 1930s.⁴⁸ The practice revived after World War II but the garden design superceded the traditional building form in use for new mausoleum projects. As a means to minimize construction and maintenance costs, the garden structure reduced mausoleums to banks of crypts only, with visitation by the living limited to the exterior of the structure. Except for a finish of marble and the attachment of nameplates to crypts, garden mausoleums generally lacked adornment. They stand in sharp visual contrast to community mausoleum buildings of the early twentieth century.

Other Early-Twentieth-Century Community Mausoleums in Montana

⁴⁴ Farrell, "The Community Mausoleum," 377-79; "Five Community Mausoleums," *Architectural Forum*, 412-22; "Concrete Mausoleums," 18-19.

⁴⁵ "Five Community Mausoleums," *Architectural Forum*, 412-22; "Concrete Mausoleums," 18-19; Kay Holbo, "The Mausoleum," 34-35, accessed at <http://www.eugenemasoniccemetery.org>; David G. Stuart, "Old Mission Mausoleum," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, September 2008, on file Kansas State Historical Society, Wichita; Joseph P. Pavia, "Tacoma Mausoleum," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, February 2000, on file Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation, Olympia.

⁴⁶ Carl W. Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture: A History of Commercial and Public Buildings in the Chicago Area, 1875-1925* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1952), 181-82; Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984), 440; Brain A. Spencer, ed., *The Prairie School Tradition*, 2nd edition (New York: Whitney Library of Design, 1985), 8-11.

⁴⁷ Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture*, Figure 162 (no page number); McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, see photographs on pages 444-51; George W. Maher, "Houses Designed by George W. Maher" *House Beautiful* 14, no. 6 (November 1908), 131-132; "Merchants Bank, Grinnell, Iowa," <http://www.bluffton.edu/~sullivanm/iowa/grinnell/sullivan.html>.

⁴⁸ The decline of community mausoleum construction in the early 1930s was presumed by a lack of references to new mausoleum construction projects during the Great Depression years in the *Industrial Arts Index* and the *Readers' Guide to Periodic Literature*, and by various on-line searches.

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Research for this project strongly suggested that community mausoleum development in Montana occurred on a very limited basis during the early twentieth century. In addition to the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum, only two other facilities were identified, one at Billings and the other Great Falls.⁴⁹

The Billings Communal Mausoleum stands in the city's Mountview Cemetery. The Consolidated Mausoleums Company completed this 330-crypt reinforced concrete facility in 1921 or 1922, or around the time it started construction of the Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum. The company utilized a simple cruciform plan, comprised of a barrel-roofed chapel flanked on both sides by a long, flat-roofed crypt wing. The chapel features a modified temple front comprised of Tuscan columns and an entablature on both sides (one each) of a recessed entry. The two entablatures support either end of an arch parapet at the chapel's barrel roof. The entry has a pair of bronze doors and a stucco lintel etched with "PEACE." An arched stained-glass window highlighted the arch of the front parapet. Little or no other ornamentation is present, and exterior walls are finished by a smooth veneer stucco. The Billings Communal Mausoleum appears to remain in a largely as-built condition at present.⁵⁰

Designed by California architect Wallace H. Hubbert and located Great Falls' south side, the Hillcrest Lawn Mausoleum reflects a classical design. Though originally laden with decorative elements in the Beaux Arts style, including a semi-circular portico at the east (front) central bay entrance, elaborate statuary and Mediterranean-style landscaping, applied cast garlands at the corners, and balustraded parapets, the building stands now with relatively few embellishments. The dominant central bay's portico, as well as the entire original north wing, have been removed. Today, the one-story, expansive building consists of two main masses, the original central bay and south wing. Additions protrude from southwest and west sides. Entry doors on the east elevation feature deep, pedimented, pilastered surrounds, and the large window openings are set within deep, oversized cast concrete frames. Wade Hampton George began construction of this facility in the spring of 1928 and the building was completed around 1932. The additions occurred in 1942, 1974 and 1978. The mausoleum today has approximately 5000 units, one third of which are crypts and the remaining niches for columbaria.⁵¹

⁴⁹ Co-author Joan Brownell queried by phone Historic Preservation Officers and others in Helena, Missoula, Great Falls and Billings about the presence or lack thereof early twentieth century community mausoleums in their community, while Mary McCormick visited and inspected cemeteries in Butte. A listing of community mausoleums by state on an Ancestry.com free page was also consulted (this listing is an ongoing compilation with references presumably provided by users). The only mausoleum listed for Montana, however, was a small private family tomb in Helena.

⁵⁰ Descriptive details of the Billings Community Mausoleum were gleaned from a line drawing of the building published in the April 27, 1921 edition of the *Red Lodge Picket-Journal* and 2010 photographs.

⁵¹ Ken Lay, manager of the Hillcrest Lawn Memorial, Great Falls, telephone interview with Joan L. Brownell, 2 November 2010; "Cascade County JT Cemeteries Vol. 4 Hillcrest Mausoleum," Great Falls Genealogy Society, Great Falls, Montana.

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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: **Carbon County Historical Society & Museum**

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than 1 acre _____
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.) NAD 87

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Zone Easting Northing

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

The boundary for the Red Lodge Community Mausoleum corresponds to the boundary of the cemetery parcel on which it sits. This parcel consists of adjoining tracts of the City and Catholic cemeteries which were consolidated under common ownership at the time that construction of the mausoleum commenced in 1922. It measures 45 feet north-south by 85 feet east-west. The boundary description is as follows:

The boundary for the mausoleum parcel begins at a point on the parcel's west boundary line. This point of beginning is tied to the northwest corner of Catholic Cemetery which is 70 feet due west, following along boundary between the Catholic and City cemeteries. From said point of beginning, the boundary runs 4 feet north along the parcel's west boundary, then east for 85 feet along the parcel's north boundary, then 45 feet south along the parcel's east boundary, then 85 feet west along the parcel's south boundary, then 41 feet north along the parcel's west boundary to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary coincides with tracts of cemetery land on which the mausoleum is located. Ownership of the tracts and the mausoleum building is common. The boundary description includes only the mausoleum proper, and not any surrounding land or buildings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary McCormick / Historian, Renewable Technologies, Inc. and Joan L. Brownell / Historian

organization

Carbon County Historical Society & Museum

date November 2010

street & number 224 Broadway Ave. N.

telephone 406-446-3667

city or town Red Lodge

state MT

zip code 59068

e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Carbon County, MT

Name of Property

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property:

City or Vicinity:

County:

State:

Photographer:

Date Photographed:

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of ____.

(please see Continuation Sheets)

Property Owner:

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

name City of Red Lodge

street & number 1 S. Platt

telephone 406- 446-1606

city or town Red Lodge

state MT

zip code 59068

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

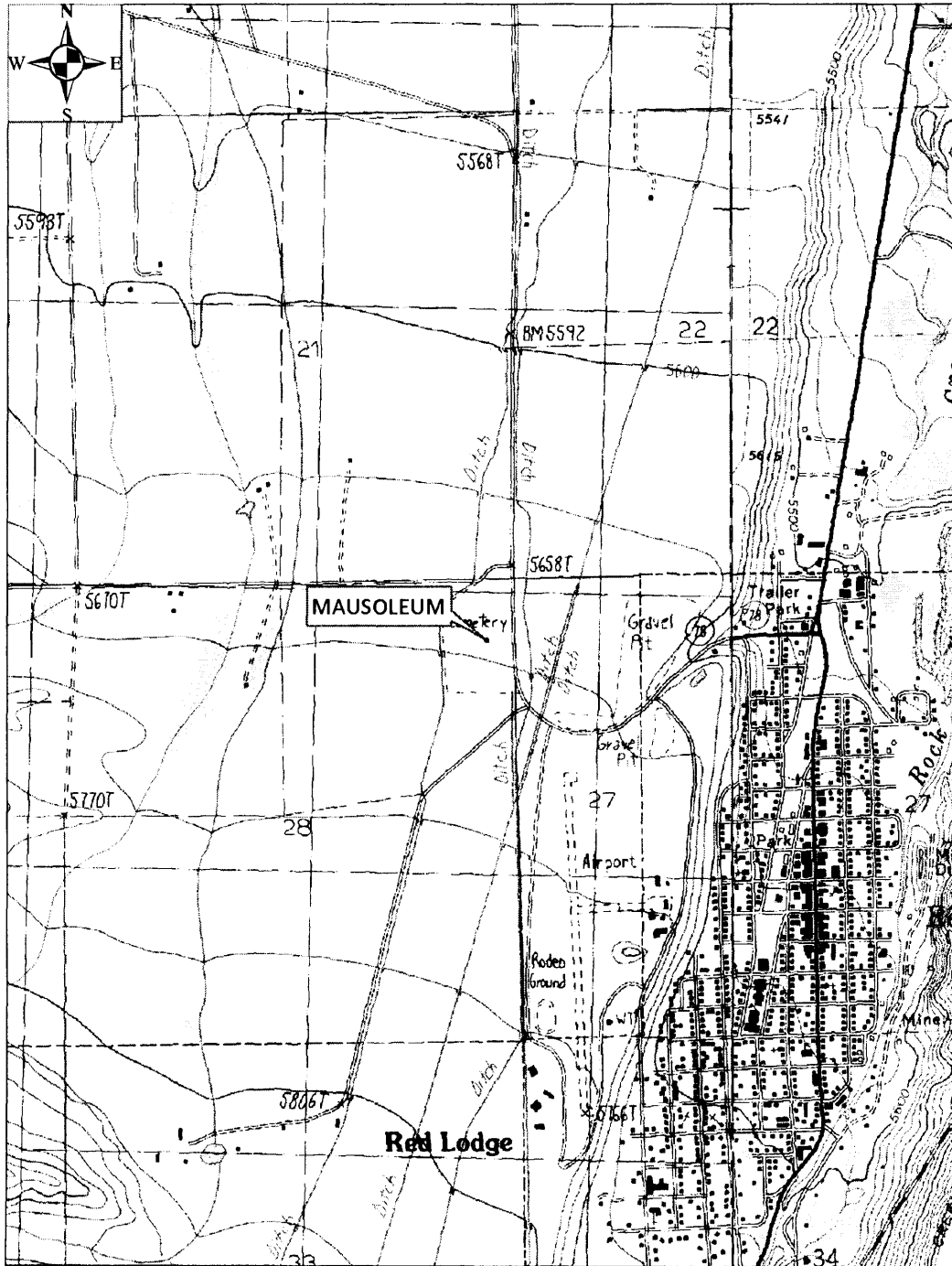
Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps and Additional Documentation Page 20

Maps and Additional Documentation



USGS TOPO: Red Lodge West (1983)

Topographic map showing location of Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum. From Red Lodge West (1983) 7.5' Quadrangle map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

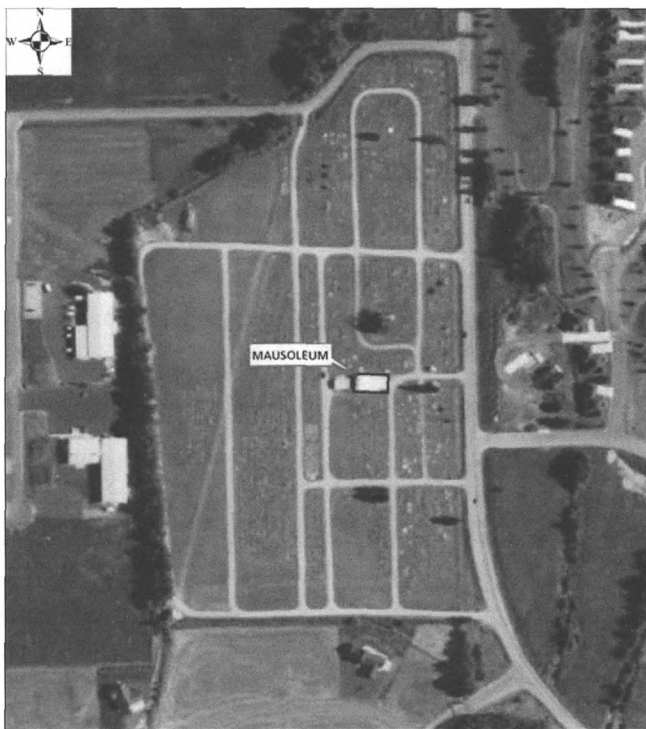
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number **Maps and Additional Documentation** _____ Page **21** _____



Aerial of Red Lodge City Cemetery showing location of Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

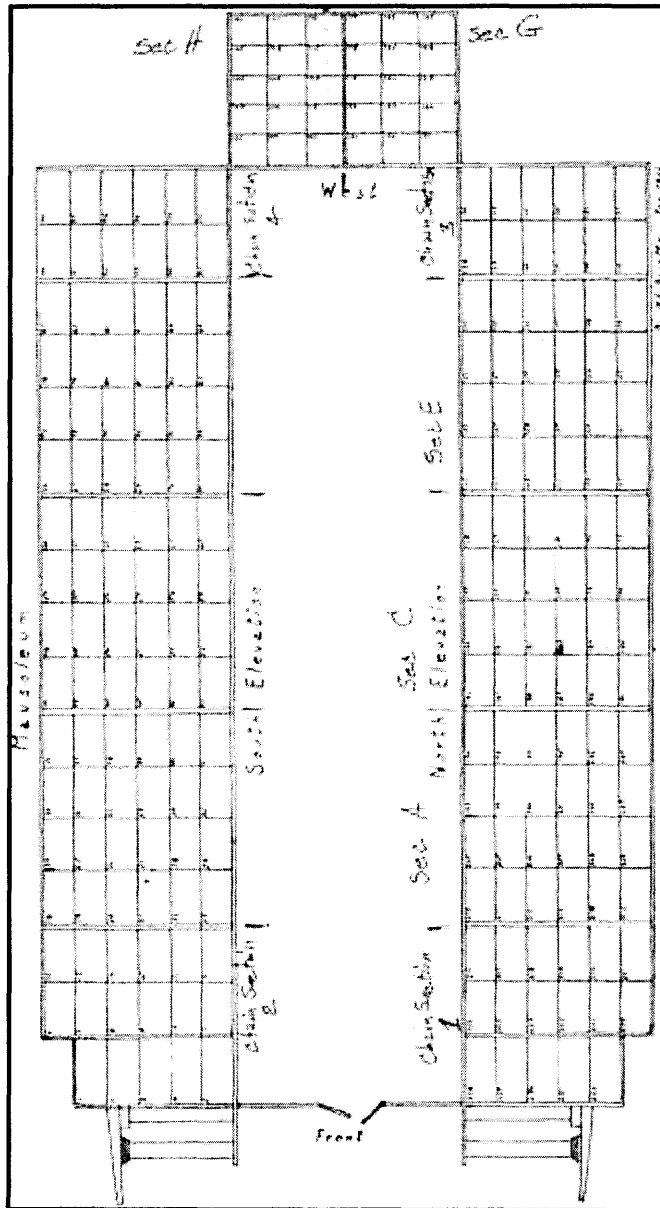
Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Maps and Additional Documentation Page 22

Sketch Plan
Date: November 1956
Location of Original: City Clerk Office, City of Red Lodge
11 S. Pratt, Red Lodge, MT 59068



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National Park Service

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Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

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Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 23

Photographs and Images of the Billings Communal Mausoleum, Mountview Cemetery, Billings, MT and the Hillcrest Lawn Mausoleum, Memorial Cemetery, Great Falls, MT



Name:	Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State:	Carbon, MT
Photographer:	Joan Brownell
Date of Photograph:	October 2010
Location of Original Digital File:	8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description:	<i>The Billings Communal Mausoleum, Mountview Cemetery, Billings, MT</i>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

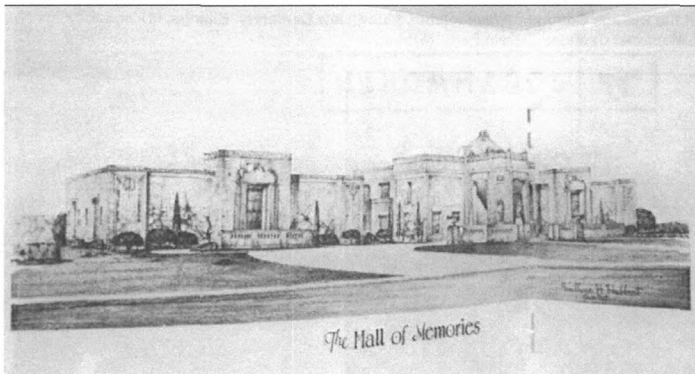
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 24



Name : Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
 County and State: Carbon, MT
 Photographer: NA (image from undated brochure owned by Dan Mc Donald, Great Falls, MT).
 Date of Photograph: NA
 Location of Original Digital File: PO Box 5021, Great Falls MT 59403
 Description: Hillcrest Lawn Mausoleum, Memorial Cemetery, Great Falls, MT

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photographs Page 25

National Register Photolog

The photos that accompany this nomination are printed on HP Premium Plus Photo Paper, using a Hewlett Packard 100 gray photo cartridge. This combination of paper and inks is included on the NR's list of "Acceptable Ink and Paper combinations for Digital Images." The images are also recorded on an archival Gold CD-R with a resolution at least 1200x1800 pixels, 300 dpi in "true color" 24-bit format.

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photograph: Ca. 1924
Location of Original Digital Files: Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, 224 Broadway Ave. N., Red Lodge, MT 59068

Description: Front façade, view to west-southwest.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0001

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Mausoleum at center background. View to southwest.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0002

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Front façade, view to west.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0003

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Front façade and south elevation, view to northwest.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0004

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: West and north elevations, view to southeast.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 26

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Interior, view to west
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0006

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Interior, view to east.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0007

Name : Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Stained glass clerestory windows at front façade, view to east.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0008

Name: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Stained glass clerestory windows on north elevation, view to south.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0009

United States Department of the Interior
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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 27

National Register Photographs



Name of Photographer:

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

County and State:

Carbon, MT

Photographer:

Unknown

Date of Photograph:

Ca. 1924

Location of Original Digital Files:
MT 59068

Carbon County Historical Society & Museum, 2 24 Broadway Ave. N., Red Lodge,

Description:

Front façade, view to west-southwest.

MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0001

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property

Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page _____ 28 _____



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Mausoleum at center background. View to southwest.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0002

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 29



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Front façade, view to west
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0003

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page _____ 30 _____



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Front façade and south elevation, view to northwest.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0004

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National Park Service

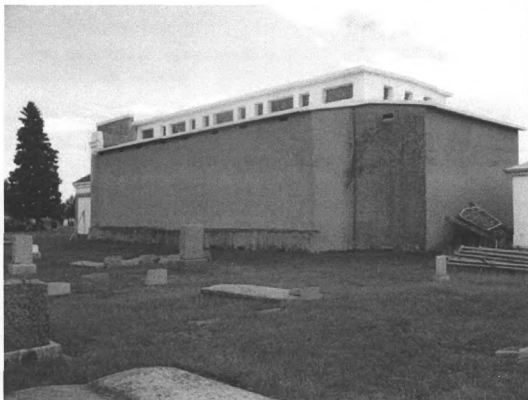
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 31 _____



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: West and north elevations, view to southeast.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0005

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 32



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Interior, view to west
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0006

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

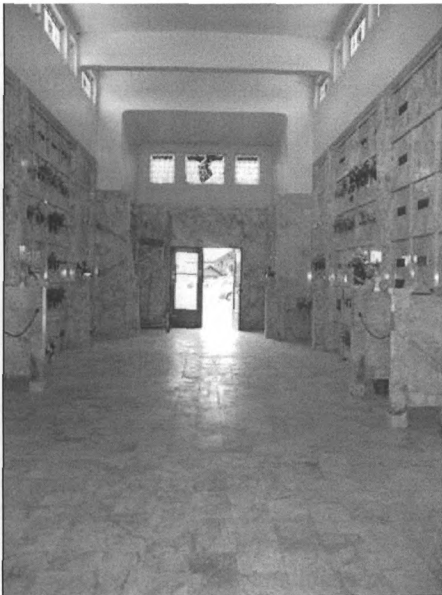
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 33 _____



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Interior, view to east.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0007

United States Department of the Interior
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Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT
County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 34



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Stained glass clerestory windows at front façade, view to east.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0008

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum

Name of Property
Carbon County, MT

County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 35



Name of Photographer: Red Lodge Communal Mausoleum
County and State: Carbon, MT
Photographer: Mary McCormick
Date of Photographs: July 2010
Location of Original Digital Files: 8 West Park Street #313, Butte, MT 59701
Description: Stained glass clerestory windows on north elevation, view to south.
MT_CarbonCounty_RedLodgeCommunalMausoleum_0009