

MONTANA HISTORICAL * ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

IDENTIFICATION

1 Reference #	Date: Summer 1980	
2 Photo # 8 and 9	Direction <input checked="" type="radio"/> N NE E SE S SW W <input checked="" type="radio"/> NW	CONTACT PHOTO
3 Historic Name: Lower Bridger School		
3a Common Name:		
4 Address: Bozeman, MT		
5 Program Area: Gallatin County	6 County Code 031	State Code 030
7 Legal Description: 200' x 200' lot, N boundary is right- of way of Bridger Road		
8 Owner & Address: Gallatin County Superintendent of Schools		
9 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private 301 West Main Street, Bozeman		

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

10 Year Built: 1887 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Factual <input type="checkbox"/> Estimate	11 Location <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Moved
12 Architect (if known):	
13 Builder/Original Owner (if known)	
14 Exterior Materials: <input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Brick <input type="checkbox"/> Stucco <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Log <input type="checkbox"/> Terra-cotta <input type="checkbox"/> Concrete <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shingle <input type="checkbox"/> Other Materials (specify):	
15 Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> In Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> No Longer Exists	
16 Retention of Original Design: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Major <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	
17 Present Use: Community Center	18 Original Use: School
19 Please describe the present general physical appearance of the structure and site. To the extent possible, please also describe changes that have occurred to the property over the years, noting the approximate dates at which they occurred. The original building, built in 1887, was a simple gable ended, frame structure with windows on both the east and west walls. In the early 1920's the two windows on the east wall were relocated on the west wall and an enclosed entry vestibule was added to the north side. The clapboard siding has been covered with white wood shingles. The modification to the building have not altered its integrity since they are elements which demonstrate the evolution of school house design. Located neat the front doot of the vestibule is a hand (cont. in sections 20c)	

SIGNIFICANCE

20a Reason for significance: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical Associations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architectural and Engineering design and appearance <input type="checkbox"/> Presence of historic or prehistoric information
20b Please justify the historical significance; noting important persons, events and/or historical patterns associated with structure, site and surrounding area. The Lower Bridger School represents the enclosed vestibule type (E) in the evolution of the school house. The addition of a vestibule signified a nother response to the need to protect the entrance from the harsh climate. The relocation of the windows to form a band of windows along one side only was influenced by a bulletin published by W. R. Plew of the State College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts (now Montana State University, Bozeman) in 1919. This publication recommended that the windows be placed on one side only to prevent cross lighting which was reputed to cause eye discomfort. This adapted form with the enclosed porch and the window band lighting became prototypical in the West through the 1910' and 1920's.

20c Please justify how the location, design, details, materials, and/or workmanship contribute to the property's significance.
operated well pump. To the south of the building are two outdoor privies.
The building is in good condition and is presently used as a community center.

20d Please note if the extant structure/site may demonstrate or yield information about its historic use or construction.

21 Neighborhood Context: Unrelated Compatible Integral element
 Major component of the neighborhood

21a If the structure/site contributes to the value of a larger grouping of structures and sites, please describe the visual or historic relationships that the individual structure/site has to that grouping.

22 Environmental/Economic threats to survival: Private Development Zoning
 Public Works Projects Vandalism Deterioration Other (specify):

23 Recognition in existing historical surveys:

24 Sources of Documentation: Annul Trustee Reports 1896-1934

SIGNIFICANCE continued

PREPARED BY:

25 Agency Prepared For:

26 Name/Address Dave Minor and Paul Bishop

Phone #

Date:

Organization: School of Architecture, MSU, Bozeman

27 Staff Evaluator: Date: Permission to Nominate Yes No

28 National Register Status: Listed Currently nominated
Appears to meet NR Criteria A B C D Does not appear to meet NR Criteria
Eligible Yes No As part of a district Yes No Individually Yes No

29 UTM References: Zone 112 Easting 505549 Northing 5060850

30 Please Return to: State Historic Preservation Office
Montana Historical Society
225 N. Roberts St.
Helena, Montana 59601

31 SHPO Comments:

STAFF USE ONLY