

## MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

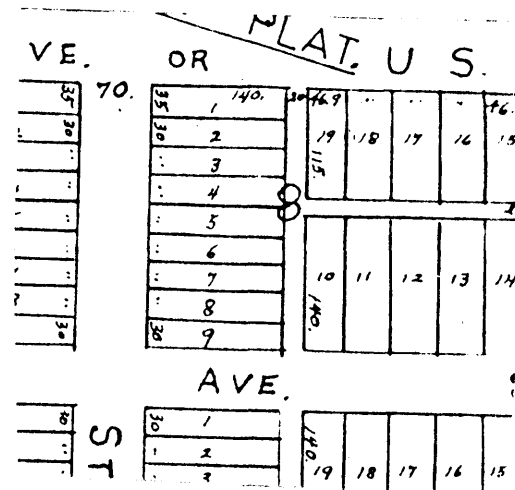
Legal Description: Original Plat Block 8 Lots 8 and 9  
 Address: Main Street, Joliet, Montana  
 Ownership: Name: Town of Joliet  
 Address: Joliet, Montana



Roll#4/Frame#5

Historic Name: Fire Hall  
 Common Name: City Hall  
 Date of Construction: Fire Hall built 1910,  
 moved, 1940's

Architect: Jack Howatt  
 Builder: Jack Howatt  
 Original Owner: Town of Joliet  
 Original Use: Fire hall  
 Present Use: City hall  
 Research Sources:  
 Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse  
 Plat Records: Original Plat  
 Tax Records: not available  
 Building Permits: not available  
 Sewer/Water Permits: not available  
 City Directories: not applicable  
 Sanborn Maps: 1907, 1912, 1927  
 Newspapers: Carbon County Journal



Location Map

## HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The structure is significant as an important element of the community. The erection of a Fire Hall marked a new plateau for the town of Joliet as a respectable, progressive community. The building continues to be a "living part of the community" as the city hall and community center. The original building has been moved from its' original setting but the movement of the structure has not reduced its' importance to the community. Although it was primarily built by the citizens of Joliet as a fire hall, a room was provided to function as the city council chamber and now the entire building serves this function. The movement and readaptive use of buildings is a common occurrence in Montana and should be considered as a component of the development of the town or homestead. The building was moved to be more centrally located at the center of town.

The building also represents a functional, frame, vernacular building type, designed by a local contractor.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Carbon County Journal reported in February, 1910 that the Joliet Volunteer Fire Department had decided to build a fire hall. Local contractor Jack Howatt's plans were accepted and to cost approximately \$1,000. A committee selected the site to be located directly behind the Rock Creek State Bank on Carbon Avenue. The building was to include a bedroom, equipment compartment, bell and hose tower and a large meeting room, to be

used as a council chamber. The foundation was laid by Jake Lowe and Dick Baker, local Joliet contractors and the building completed in June, 1910 with the placement of the fire bell.

The building served this purpose for many years. In the late 1940's, however, the building was moved by rollers to its present location to serve as the city hall.

The 1912 and 1927 Sanborn map identify this building as a one story wood frame fire hall or department at the original location behind the bank. A historic photograph of the Rock Creek State Bank shows the Fire Hall in its' original location.

#### **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

Placed on a poured concrete foundation, this rectangular wood frame structure has a daylight basement. A detached one story building, it is clad with white shiplap siding on three sides. Corner boards are present and a vertical wood batten divides the horizontal cladding in half on the side walls.

The gable roof is clipped on the west end to accommodate the bell tower. The roof details include flared eaves enclosed with beaded soffit, green asbestos shingles over the original wood shingles, bed molding and wood shingles in the gable ends. The bell tower is centered on the clipped gable end. It has a square shape and a low pyramidal hipped roof with flared eaves. The square tower is framed by corner boards and has vertical wood strips for detailing. Casement windows framed in a segmental arch enclose the four sides of the belfry. A clock face is positioned at the base of the tower.

The front facade is asymmetrical with an off center door with concrete stoop and a 1/1 doublehung window. Most of the fenestration is sliding casement but the north side wall retains the original doublehung window frames. There is also a door on the south side wall with a concrete stoop. The rear or east gable end has a shed addition clad with beveled shiplap siding and cornerboards.

Alterations include changes to fenestration by replacement and addition of doors and windows, enclosure of the belfry and asbestos shingles over the original wood shingles.

#### **INTEGRITY:**

The building has excellent integrity though not in its' original location.

#### **FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: Joan Louise Brownell  
Address: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office  
Red Lodge, Montana  
Date: August, 1985

#### **GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: less than one acre  
USGS Quad: Fromberg, Montana/7.5 minute/1956  
UTM's: 12/658680/5038580

Verbal Boundary: lots 8 and 9 of block 8 of the Original Townsite of Joliet.