

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received APR 2 1985
date entered MAY 10 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum

and/or common Old Administration Building

2. Location

street & number n/a— not for publication

city, town Boulder n/a vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Jefferson code 043

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

4. Owner of Property

name Department of Institutions

street & number 1539 Eleventh Avenue

city, town Helena n/a vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Boulder state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Montana Historical/Architectural survey of
title State Owned Buildings has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana Historical Society

city, town Helena state Montana

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum building is located on the grounds of the Boulder River Training School at Boulder, Montana. It lies near the entrance to the school, set back from the drive by a broad, landscaped lawn.

The brick building is three and one half stories tall, with 70x120' maximum dimensions, and is irregularly massed but generally rectangular in shape.

It melds Italianate and Renaissance Revival features, including a slightly pitched gable and hip roof, pedimented gable ends, and an arched balustraded loggia on the third level over the front entrance. The front facade is dominated by two stories of large, semi-circular arch windows with hood molds. The regular fenestration pattern is characteristic of Renaissance Revival architectural styling. The building is organized into four distinct horizontal planes by three belt courses encircling the building marking a raised basement, main floor, second floor, and attic story.

Other major decorative features are consistent with Italianate styling, including brick quoining on the building's four outer corners, a copper cornice with copper brackets, six symmetrically ordered two story pilasters on the front facade and four symmetrically ordered two story pilasters on the rear. There are three round lunettes on the fourth level at each end of the building and a band of square lunettes below the eaves along the front and rear facades.

The building sets on a granite block, half story basement, which is opened by spaced rectangular windows. The main entrance is on the second level and is served by a granite "T" shaped stairway. The entrance is flanked by two three and a half story hipped roof pavilions, and covered by a third story arched balustraded loggia. The front facade has four symmetrically ordered arched windows on its second level, eight at its third, and a band of square lunettes at the fourth. There are three lunettes at each opposite end of the front facade on the portion of the front facade set back from the protusions. The second and third levels' lunettes are rectangular, while those at the fourth level are round.

The pavillions' hipped roofs come off the main gable roof, which runs the length of the building, at right angles at points midway between the gable roof peak and the cornice. There is a brick chimney capped with two belt courses located at the peak of the main roof and slightly off center to the right as viewed from the front. The roof is covered with gray, composition shingles.

The end facades of the buildings have half circle arched second level entrances, each fronted by a half story porch. The second level of

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the end facades contains two rectangular windows, and the third level contains three arched windows. A round lunette is found in the roof's pedimented gable end.

The rear facade is largely composed of a three and a half story bay which runs nearly the length of the building. It is covered by an extension of the main roof line. It in turn contains a second, narrower three and a half story bay that is topped with a return end gabled dormer. The fenestration of the rear facade is similar to that of the front, with the exception of the gable ended bay, which contains two arched windows at the second level, three at the third and three rectangular windows at the fourth.

Although remodeled several times since its construction, the building's interior shows many of its original features, including cantilevered granite stairways, several maple floors, and a glazed tile fireplace. The ceiling in the first floor hallway is vaulted, and there is decorative brick work along its walls.

A 1902 addition to the building was removed ca. 1976, restoring the building to its original design. The exterior of the building has maintained its integrity; the only noticeable change is the absence of one of the original chimneys, which was paired with the existing chimney near the center of the building. The building has been used for storage for several years, but remains in fair condition.

The boundary of the nominated property is drawn to include the landscaped front lawn of the Asylum building. See the attached sketch map.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1893 **Builder/Architect** Charles Suite/John C. Paulsen

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum building is architecturally significant as one of the few remaining major buildings designed by regionally significant architect John C. Paulsen, and as one of Montana's best representations of Italianate style architecture. In addition, the Asylum building is historically significant for its associations with Montana's first efforts at caring for its handicapped youth. Territorial Governor Preston Leslie had requested the federal government to provide Montana Territory with an institution for the deaf and dumb in 1887. Although his efforts were unsuccessful, Congress granted the state 50,000 acres to raise funds for a deaf and dumb asylum when Montana gained statehood in 1889. However, due to tight budgets, the Asylum was not funded until 1893, when the legislature provided operating expenses and chose the town of Boulder as its site. The Asylum then held classes in a frame house in Boulder or in the upstairs of one of the town's stores until 1898, when the Asylum building was completed.

John C. Paulsen designed a number of Montana's prominent buildings during the last decade of the 19th century, including the Broadwater Hotel, Helena High School, and the first Montana Club, all of which have since been destroyed. In addition to the Deaf and Dumb Asylum, major Paulsen buildings remaining from that period include the "Main Halls" at Montana State University, Western Montana College and Montana Tech and the Jefferson County Courthouse in Boulder. Paulsen had built a number of important buildings in Boise, Idaho during the period as well, and had achieved a widespread reputation by the time of his sudden death in 1897.

Construction of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum building began in 1896. Due to funding problems, work on the building was frequently interrupted, and the building was not completed and occupied until the fall of 1898, over a year after architect Paulsen had passed away.

The three and a half story Asylum was built with locally made red brick and locally cut granite, and was trimmed with what is probably Montana copper. It is one of the best remaining examples of Paulsen's work in the State. It exhibits a melding of Italianate and Renaissance revival features, both of which are uncommon in Montana. These features include a slightly pitched gable and hipped roof, pedimented gable

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Annual Reports for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind, 1895-1916, Montana Historical Society
2. Dodge, Larry: A Historical Brief of Montana's Services for the Mentally Retarded".
3. (Unpublished paper) Spence, Clark C.: Territorial Politics in Montana, 1864-1889, Univ. of Ill. Press, 1925

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 4 acres

Quadrangle name Boulder

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UTM References

A

1	2
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4	1	2	1	0	0
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5	1	2	0	1	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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 Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John Westenberg

organization State Historic Preservation Office date 1980

street & number 225 North Roberts Street telephone (406)444-4584

city or town Helena state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Marcella Steyer*

title SHPO date 2-15-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

William B. Bushong date 5/10/85

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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ends, and arched balustraded loggia over the front entrance and two stories of large, semi-circular arched windows that dominate its front facade.

In 1903, the legislature changed the name of the institution to the Montana School for the Deaf and Dumb. The first mentally retarded youths were admitted to the school in that year as well, and their numbers grew for a number of years there until the 1930's, when the vast majority of the residents at the school were the mentally retarded. In 1937 the Deaf and Dumb training programs were moved to Great Falls. Throughout the changes at the school, the original Asylum building served as a center of activities, being used at various times to house offices, classrooms and as a dormitory. In the first years after its construction it served all three functions simultaneously.

The building has maintained its integrity over the years, and the recent demolition of a 1902 addition has restored it to its original Paulsen design. The building has been used as a storage space for the past several years. The roof and gutter system has fallen into disrepair causing extensive water damage to the interior during the past three years. The buildings is in fair condition and continues to act as a landmark at the school.

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The boundary of the Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum can be described as follows: from the northwest corner of the building follow a line two hundred eight feet due north to the point of beginning. From the point of beginning follow a row of trees one hundred feet due east, then follow a line two hundred fifty feet due south to a sidewalk that parallels the rear length of the asylum building. Follow the sidewalk three hundred feet southwest to the main road serving the Boulder River School and Hospital. Follow the northeast shoulder of the road fifty five feet west, then northwest for three hundred feet, then north for sixty feet, then one hundred feet north northeast, then a line due east for two hundred seventy feet, along a row of trees, to the point of beginning.

The boundary is drawn to include the Asylum Building's landscaped lawn.

The nomination is in T6N, R3W, NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 33.

TOWN OF BOULDER

Boulder River School and Hospital

DR. SKINNER'S OFFICE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

HOMES

GREY HOUSE ITU → 53

DOCTOR'S RESIDENCE 50

WAREHOUSE 20

OLD FORT PARK

MERRY GO ROUND

GLASS ROOM
LUMBER STORAGE
CARPENTER SHOP

22

SHOP 30

Garages

STORAGE 34

33 TIRE STORAGE

JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL FIELD

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING 102

103

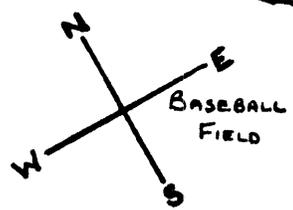
SCHOOL TRANSFER

55

RED HOUSE ITU

TENNIS COURT

HOSPITAL
LAB
DINING 16AB
DINING 16B



BASEBALL FIELD

BOULDER RIVER →

Foot Bridge

VEHICLE BRIDGE

LPG CABINS 57 to 66

PROPOSED PLAYGROUND AREA

MONTANA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

63

67

WHITE HOUSE ITU

CTG. 10
CTG. 11
CTG. 12
CTG. 13
CTG. 14
CTG. 15

Power House 54
OLD LAUNDRY (STORAGE)

LAUNDRY 24

GARAGE 69

ETG. 5

CANTEEN
BARBER
LABORATORY
BOOKS
LIBRARY

2nd floor
STAMP DEVELOPMENT
MENTAL INSURANCE
TRAINING

CANARY KITCHEN
DINING 25

SCHOOL TITLE 2
SPEECH & COMMUNI-CANOUS

RESIDENT SUPPORT DEPT.
WOOD FINISHING
UPHOLSTERY SHOP
SEWING ROOM
DRESSMAKING
RECREATION

CTG. 3

8

HABILITATION DEPARTMENT,
RESIDENT SERVICES DEPARTMENT,
PSYCHOLOGY

Deaf and Dumb Asylum
Boulder, Montana
Jefferson County

Nominated property outlined in red.

U.S. 281 to Whitehall →

UNITED STATES
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

HELENA 29 MI.
JEFFERSON CITY 11 MI.

BUTTE 32 MI.
BASIN 58 MI.

