

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



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

**1. Name**

historic Granite County Jail

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number Kearney Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Philipsburg \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district Western

state Montana code 30 county Granite code 039

**3. Classification**

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

name Granite County

street & number Kearney Street

city, town Philipsburg \_\_\_ vicinity of state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Granite County Courthouse

street & number Kearney Street

city, town Philipsburg state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title None has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

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## 7. Description

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

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### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

North of the Granite County Courthouse and across the street stands the red brick Granite County Jail, built in 1896 and still in use. The east portion of the building has two stories while the west section is one-storied. The building has a hip-roof with wood shingles and a small decorative gable on the higher portion.

There are two entries, both on the south. The left entry has a medieval-appearing square tower about 45 feet high above the entry portico. The tower has small projecting square turrets with pyramidal roofs at its four corners. The roof of the tower is also pyramidal but flattened at the peak. There is a large brick semi-circular arch over the entrance. Above this is a horizontal stone panel with the carved word "Jail". The other entrance is a one-story porch with a similar arched opening and arches on either side. The roof of the porch is a low triangular pediment.

The building rests upon a granite foundation and is built back into the hillside. The windows are double hung. Those of the lower level have flat-arched heads and the second floor windows have horizontal heads. There is one semi-circular headed window in the entry tower. Other similar windows in the tower have been bricked in.

The main floor of the interior is divided into a Juvenile cell block, a Main cell block, small sitting rooms, a bathroom, kitchen and dining area. On the upper level there are three bedrooms and a small bathroom. The ceilings and walls are lath and plaster throughout, with pine trim. The floors are all hardwood, except in the kitchen and on the stairs.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1896 **Builder/Architect** F. Andrews, builder

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Granite County Courthouse and Jail testify to the high expectations of prosperity engendered by the citizens of Philipsburg during the late 19th Century. The county itself was carved from Missoula and Deerlodge counties in 1893 due to the fact that the people mistakenly assumed that the minerals would last forever and based their taxes on the mining industry. Philipsburg became the new county seat. The Jail was built in 1896, a time when Philipsburg was enjoying great prosperity as a mining center. The courthouse across the street was built 16 years later.

The town of Philipsburg was named after Philip Deidsheimer, superintendent of the Hope Mine Co. which developed the Cordova and Comstock lodes. The Cordova lode had been discovered by Hector Horton in 1865 and from it came the richest silver ore in the state of Montana. In 1887 the Great Northern Railroad laid tracks into Philipsburg and hauled ore to the smelting plants in Butte. The yields from the mines were phenomenal: the Bimetallic Mine alone is credited with a production worth over \$50,000,000.

The panic of 1893-4 put a damper on Philipsburg's silver mining operations. When the price of silver became even more depressed in 1905, many of the mining outfits that were still shiggling to clear a profit shut down for good.

However, the end of the silver boom did not spell the demise of Philipsburg as it had for the mountain slope towns of Granite, Whiskey Hill, and Black Pine surrounding Philipsburg. Rich resources of manganese used for dry cell batteries and an important element in the production of steel had yet to be fully developed. Sapphires mined near Philipsburg were being exported to Switzerland where they were cut for gems or used for the manufacture of industrial instruments. Also the railway inroads brought many homesteaders to the area, especially after the Enlarged Homestead Act passed in 1909 allowing each settler 320 acres. In time, the valley land proved too arid for successful farming. A severe drought in 1917 hastened the reversion of the land back to cattle raising.

The population of Philipsburg stabilized in the 1920's at a little over 1000. The town was founded on the highest expectations and has managed to weather drastic economic and social change from the booming mining days, through a homesteading rush, and the return of the land to cattle ranching. Philipsburg has retained its vitality and continues as the seat of the county government organization. The jail remains a functional county building still in use after 84 years of service.

There have been numerous felonies in Granite County where the Accused has been held in the Granite County Jail at Philipsburg awaiting trial. But there are no records showing any event or person that might have changed the history of Philipsburg or the state of Montana.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

The Philipsburg Mail: numerous issues between 1927-1964  
The Anaconda Standard: December 15, 1907

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than 1 acre

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle name Philipsburg

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 7.5

UMT References

A 

1	2	3	2	3	6	0	0	5	1	3	3	4	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone				Easting				Northing						

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 1-5, Block 15 Philipsburg Town Site, Philipsburg, Granite County, Montana  
100 ft. x 157 ft.

T.7N., R.14 W. Sec. 25 SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$

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

state None code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Thomas J. Moss

organization County Commissioner

date

street & number Box B

telephone 406-859-3648

city or town Philipsburg

state Montana 59858

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

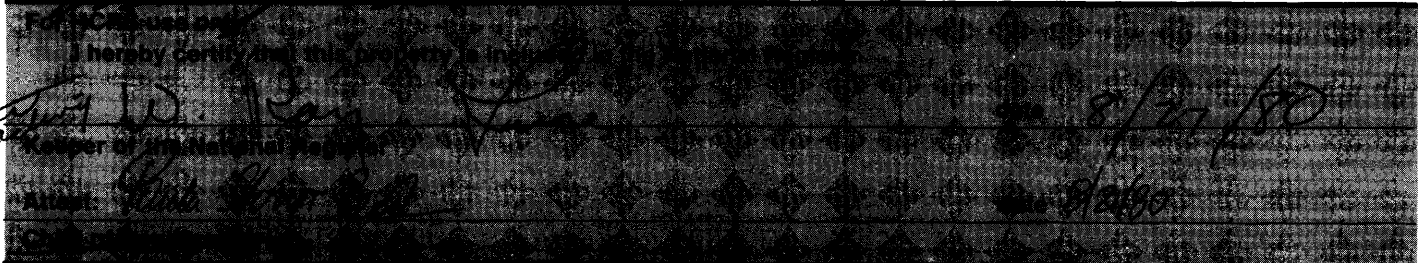
State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

Historic Site

date

5-29-80



**United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation sheet

Item number 8

Page 1

GRANITE COUNTY JAIL

The Granite County Jail is an important example of vernacular architecture displaying the influence of numerous stylistic impulses. The jail with attached sheriff's residence was constructed in locally fired brick with dressed and rough cut granite quarried from the nearby hills and used for the decorative baseline elements, window arches, lintels, and retaining wall. Designed and built by the local contractor, F. Andrews, the building incorporates elements drawn from a spectrum of architectural styles. A medieval tower rises above an arched portico on the jailhouse while a classical triangular pediment caps the arched entrance of the residential section. The general massing, fenestration, paneled interior chimneys, and the material contrast of texture and color denote a Queen-Anne influence. The roof is an unusual angular combination of a two story hipped gable with decorative starburst inset and a low-lying hipped flat-topped roof on the jail house part. The building retains full integrity of design, material, and setting. The two bricked over tower windows were treated as such in the original design. The roof has been resingled in cedar, retaining the buildings original fabric. The interior has seen only one change when in the 1920's the open-room jail was divided into cell blocks, separating the juvenile from adult offenders. The Granite County Jail was the first major public building to be constructed in the new county seat of Philipsburg, Montana and represents the importance placed upon the early establishment of a stable law enforcement system in this frontier mining town.

Correction: Please change the area of significance checked as "archeology-historic" to the category "architecture."

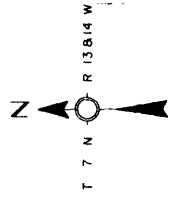
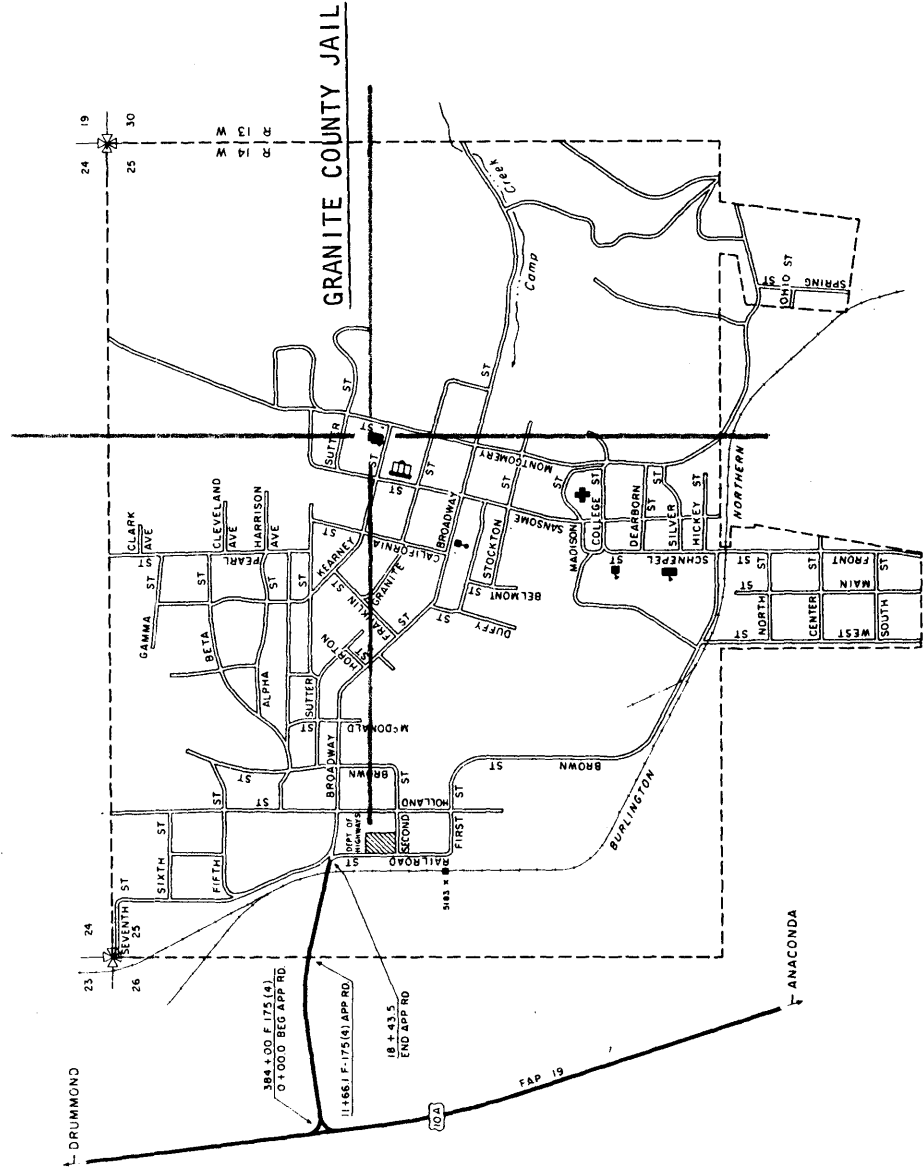
**LEGEND**

- Corporate Boundary Line
  - Central Business District
  - Non-existent Dedicated Street
  - Railroad and Station
  - Elevation
  - Court House
  - Post Office
  - Hospital
  - Elementary School
  - High School
- FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY SYSTEMS**
- FAI Federal Aid Interstate System
  - FAP Federal Aid Primary System
  - FAS Federal Aid Secondary System
  - US Highway Route Marker
  - State Highway Route Marker
  - Other Highway Route Marker
  - Projected Road
  - Graded and Drained Road
  - Gravel Road
  - Paved Road
  - Divided Road - Traffic Flow

**PHILLIPSBURG**  
 GRANITE COUNTY  
 MONTANA  
 1970 CENSUS 1,128



REVISED DEC 31, 1976



1971 USGS BASE

Copies of this map are available at nominal cost from the Montana Department of Highways - Helena, Montana 59601