

4713

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Dean School
Other names/site number: 24ST0729
Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 1367 Nye Road
City or town: Dean State: MT County: Stillwater
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 A B C D

Pat Brown 10/16/19
Signature of certifying official/Title: Acting SHPO Date

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

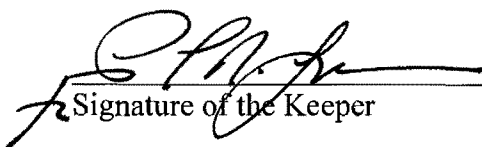
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4. National Park Service Certification

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:) _____


Signature of the Keeper

12/2/2019
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD, STONE, ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Dean School, built in 1915, is a distinctive wood frame one-story, one-room school building with attached teacherage situated in the small rural community of Dean, in southwest Montana. Dean consists of the schoolhouse, a few residences, and a vacant restaurant, surrounded by ranch land. It is located on the Nye Road (MT Highway 419), and west of the small town of Fishtail, Montana. The Dean Schoolhouse sits in the northern portion of the Fishtail Basin, a wide-open basin with its distinctive landmark of Fishtail Butte visible to the west and the Beartooth Mountains rising in the background to the south. Fishtail Basin is watered by Fishtail Creek and numerous smaller tributaries like Meadow Creek, which flows immediately south of the school property.

The Dean School exhibits simple, one-room school characteristics including a central entrance and ribbon of windows along the east wall. Its hipped roof deviates from the typical gable roof rural school, and is augmented by a belfry holding the original school bell that still rings today. The schoolhouse also has an attached teacherage. The interior classroom retains original elements including the blackboard, decorative metal ceiling, maple flooring, and wood doors and trim. The school site also includes an associated one-story frame outbuilding that once stored wood and coal, and occasionally used as a garage if the teacher owned a car.

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Narrative Description

The Dean School is located on the Nye Road, the primary east/west transportation corridor through southern Stillwater County. The school sits directly south (approximately 50 feet) of the Nye Road and is approached from the west by a faint drive off a north/south gravel ranch road. There is no landscaping, but the grass-covered school yard is well maintained. The school is bounded to the east by private fencing hidden by lilac bushes and to the west by the ranch road. Metal fence posts minus wire bound the yard to the south.

The Dean School stands as a nearly square, one-story, frame building measuring 40 feet north/south by 38 feet east/west. The building rests on a mortared sandstone foundation that conforms to variations in the ground level. The wood frame is composed of rough sawn full dimensional Douglas Fir. The wall framing is 2" x 4", the floor and ceiling joists are 2" x 8", and roof joists and rafters are 2" x 6", 2" x 8", and 2" x 10".¹

The school features multiple hipped roofs: the main school classroom unit's moderately steep hipped roof, the hip roof entry to the north, and the hip roof over the teacherage to the west. Recently installed asphalt shingles cover the roof and beadboard encloses the overhanging eaves. Projecting from the main north roof slope is a striking square pyramidal hip roof belfry, or bell tower, the roof of which flares towards its enclosed eaves. The north belfry wall holds paired louvers. The belfry displays the same siding and roofing material as the rest of the building.

The exterior school walls are clad with narrow cedar lapped (1/2" x 5") siding with a drip strip/molding and a bottom skirt board. All wall corners display plain corner boards and a continuous frieze board wraps around the building. Window fenestration includes original two-over-two and one-over-one double-hung wood frame windows.

Exterior-School

North Wall-façade

The façade of the building (north elevation) is symmetrical with a central projecting low-slope hipped roof porch entry flanked to either side by a single one-over-one double-hung window. The entrance is approached by recently rebuilt wood steps and deck. The entrance door consists of a modern wood flush door with three horizontal lights across the upper part. Open to the north, the porch measures 9 feet by 8 feet and sits on a low concrete foundation. The exterior siding and roof materials are the same as the rest of the building. Beadboard covers the interior porch walls and flat ceiling. A wood sign reading "DEAN SCHOOL 1914-1967" hangs from the front of the porch.

East Wall

The east wall holds the original ribbon of seven large, two-over-two, double-hung windows. The windows extend to the frieze board.

¹ Ken Joki, personal communication with Joan Brownell, Fishtail, MT, July 24, 2018.

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South Wall

There are no window openings along the south wall of the school classroom as the interior of this wall serves as the location of the blackboard. The west 14 feet of the south wall comprises the end wall of the teacherage, discussed below, and holds paired one-over-one double-hung windows.

West Wall

The west wall is composed of two sections: the west wall of the teacherage (see below) and the west wall of the main school building. Neither wall has any openings.

Exterior-Teacherage

The hipped roof teacherage is located on the west side of the school building. It measures approximately 22 feet (north/south) in length and 14 feet (east/west) in width. The intersecting roof projects from, and is lower than the roof covering the main school unit. While the teacherage has no openings on the west wall, paired one-over-one double-hung windows appear directly opposite one another on the north and south end walls. The north wall also holds a paneled metal door. A concrete handicapped ramp leads to this door from the north. A flat shed roof supported by vertical 3 x 3 posts on either side of the ramp and joined by wood railings covers the ramp.

Interior-School

Entry:

The front entrance opens into 9 x 9-foot entry flanked on either side by bathrooms. Originally, this space was completely open and served as the student's coatroom. When remodeled in the 1950s, the central portion was left open retaining its high ornate metal ceiling and original maple floor. The school bell rope still hangs from the center of the ceiling. The masonry chimney protrudes approximately 12 inches from the interior wall near its center.

To each side of the central entry, a 7 x 4-foot corridor along the classroom's north wall leads to the boys bathroom to the right (west) and the girls bathroom to the left (east). Pocket doors with stenciled lettering that read "Boys" or "Girls", respectively, access the bathrooms. These doors open into a 5 x 7-foot bathroom with a high ceiling and a one-over-one double-hung window providing natural lighting. The simple bathrooms contain a sink and toilet.

The walls of the entry and the corridor hold two rows of wood shelves with metal hooks underneath. One row is placed high on the wall for the older students and the second is lower on the wall for the younger children.

Two five-panel wood doors at opposite ends of the interior corridor open into the one-room classroom. Both doors exhibit low door knobs for the younger children.

Classroom

Numerous historic elements are displayed in the classroom that measures 24 feet east/west by 30 feet north/south. The high (11 feet) decorative metal ceiling (painted white) exhibits plain

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ceiling blocks while the ornate elaborate designs at the cornice ceiling/wall juncture are quite impressive. The lath and plaster walls are painted white. The wide (6-inch) baseboard has quarter round molding at the juncture with the floor. Chair-rail molding occurs four feet above the floor on the interior west and north wall. The original flooring, recently restored, is 2 x ¾-inch maple. The flooring bears burn marks from embers or sparks where the stove once stood; the stove pipe cover is centered high on the interior north wall.

Twenty-four feet across the entire south wall is a framed 4-foot blackboard and the ribbon of seven two-over-two double-hung windows extend almost the entire length (30 feet) of the classroom's east wall. The windows fill the wall, standing 32 inches above the floor.

Interior-Teacherage

Originally a wall stood between the classroom and the teacherage with a door providing access. After the school closed and the Dean Community Club obtained ownership, they removed this wall. The former teacherage is now used as a kitchen with a row of cabinets and counters across the west wall, and a center island. The kitchen has new flooring that replaced old linoleum and acoustical ceiling tiles lower the ceiling.

Outbuilding

A wood frame outbuilding, used for a variety of purposes over its lifetime including coal and wood storage, stands 33 feet due east from the southwest corner of the school. It sits on a low concrete foundation and measures 18 feet east/west by 27 feet north/south. It has a hipped roof with exposed rafter ends. Vertical beadboard covers the exterior and there are no openings in the walls. Double barn sliding doors face east. The shed has been reroofed and repainted in the past year. According to Peggy Joki, the interior of the building has plank floors on either side of the exposed ground center portion. The coal and wood (brought in by the community) would be stored on the sides and the center used by the teacher if she had a vehicle. The shed reportedly had been moved in from the railroad prior to 1944.²

Integrity

The Dean School retains a high degree of integrity that strongly conveys its historic appearance and character. The school sits in its original location. Although the immediate site has over the years lost two outhouses (a result of the move to indoor plumbing), the swing set, and a small horse barn, it still retains an outbuilding. The setting, feeling, and association also remain strong as the small community of Dean is basically unchanged and Fishtail Basin still reflects the same agricultural landscape it has since the school's construction.

The school also retains strong integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. It retains its original massing and roof configurations, including the bell tower. No significant exterior alterations to the building have occurred, except for the addition of the concrete handicapped ramp built after the period of significance. Such a ramp allows the aging ranching population to attend events, especially potlucks and pinochle.

² Peggy Joki, interview with Joan Brownell, Fishtail, MT, July 29, 2019; Susan Russell, interview with Peggy Joki and Rita Westrum, Limestone, MT, May 16, 2019.

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The Dean School recently experienced a major renovation including installation of 50-year asphalt shingles to replace the deteriorating asphalt shingles. Pete Brown, Historic Architecture Specialist of the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, was consulted and found the choice of shingles “feasible, long-lasting and historically appropriate given their visual similarities to a wood shingle roof.”³

The renovation included repainting the original school siding, which was found to be in excellent condition. All windows are also original and intact. The concrete porch foundation suggests the porch might be a later addition; however, its presence is known to date prior to 1944. Though not documented, the author believes that the porch was likely constructed soon after the opening of the school as the harsh weather and whipping Nye winds that permeate the area in the winter would strongly encourage the construction of such a porch.

The interior has experienced some changes but still strongly reflects its historic appearance and character. The classroom contains numerous original classic school historic features including the high metal ceilings, the maple flooring, the ribbon of windows, the lath and plaster walls, and the blackboard spanning an entire wall.

The entry originally was an open space. In the 1950s, boys and girls bathrooms were added, which changed the entry arrangement. Today, the interior walls display a tall shelf with rows of hooks underneath for the older students and a lower shelf and hooks for the younger children. The central entrance area, however, still exhibits the maple flooring and high metal ceiling with the rope attached to the school bell hanging from its center.

The removal of the wall between the classroom and the teacherage is the most noticeable interior modification that occurred after the Dean Community Club purchased the building in 1969. While the removal of the wall, which permitted the teacherage to be converted into a kitchen area, is unfortunate, it allowed the school to remain in use as a center to serve the community, keeping the school open and preserving the building itself.

³ Pete Brown, Letter to Montana History Foundation, January 11, 2018, on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

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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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1915-1967

Significant Dates

1915, 1967

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The 1915-constructed Dean Schoolhouse is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its educational importance to the community of Dean and the surrounding area. Stephanie Meeks of the National Trust for Historic Preservation spoke that the “proud rural heritage of Montana is reflected in its unparalleled collection of historic country schools.” She stressed the importance of “these modest buildings” that “tell the story of the generations of farmers and ranchers who gathered, and sent their children to be educated, in these small but crucial community centers.”⁴

The Dean School is historically significant at the local level, representing the importance of public education to small rural communities assuring their children received an adequate education. Built in the midst of the homesteading boom years, the Dean School has been the center of the community for over 100 years, and for over half of the twentieth century, the building served as a place of learning for the young people in the Dean community and surrounding area, as well as the gathering locus for the ranch families, hosting social and political events and serving as a meeting place for the area.

The importance of the school to the community still resonates today. The school had fallen into disrepair as the paint on the wood siding and the asphalt roofing were in a serious state of deterioration. Recognizing the dire situation, the Dean Community Club, the owners of the school building, made a plea for assistance resulting in the entire community helping with its rehabilitation, either by volunteering their time or donating funds to allow the project to proceed. The 2018 rehabilitation project restored the building to its earlier glory and provided a sense of pride to the community. The beloved historic schoolhouse now has a new lease on life and once again serves the community for educational and social events.

The Dean School is also equally significant under Criterion C at the local level for its architectural value. It stands as a well-preserved example of early 20th century school design, displaying elements of both the Craftsman architectural style and also elements of school design recommended in the 1919 W. R. Plew report for the Montana State Department of Health and Public Instruction. This report presented recommendations believed to assist learning for all aspects of school building construction for rural county schools. Although constructed in 1915, the Dean School represents a prototypical school building displaying several of these elements. The Dean School exterior features a centered entrance on the north wall flanked by one-over-one windows and a ribbon of windows filling the east wall. Interior elements as recommended include the chalkboard located behind the teacher’s desk filling the wall, and the placement of the windows high on the wall. While it varies from the basic one-room schoolhouse design due

⁴ Stephanie Meeks as quoted in “Historic Rural Schoolhouses of Montana,” <http://savingplaces.org/11-most-endangered-2013> (accessed June 22, 2019). When she spoke these words in 2013, the National Trust had just placed Historic Rural Schoolhouses of Montana on their 11 Most Endangered Historic Places list.

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to the inclusion of the teacherage, it does embody many of the philosophies set forth by W. R. Plew's 1919 report.

The period of significance begins in 1915, with the construction of the Dean Schoolhouse and ends in 1967. Although the school continued, and continues, to be important to the town and local community providing a place to gather for social and educational events, 1967 marks the year the school officially closed its doors as an educational facility due to its consolidation with the Fishtail School.

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

Introduction and Early History of the Area

Crow traditions tell of their people residing in the Montana-Wyoming area for generations including where the Dean School now stands. The 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty designated much of this same area as Crow Territory, but in 1868, the Crow lost millions of acres with the establishment of the Crow Indian Reservation. From 1875 to 1884, the second Crow Indian Agency operated on West Rosebud Creek, a few miles south of present-day Absarokee and approximately 14 miles west of the Dean School location. When the federal government relocated the Crow Agency further east in 1884, many white settlers came into the area, thinking the land would soon open for settlement. These early settlers became known as squatters since southern Stillwater County was not opened for settlement until October 15, 1892.⁵ The *Billings Gazette* in 1892 exclaimed, "the Stillwater, Rosebud, big and little and Fish Tail basin is pretty thoroughly staked out by someone."⁶

Necessary government surveys and the existence of pre-existing Indian allotments further delayed settlers from obtaining formal land patents within the Stillwater region on the newly ceded lands. Finally, the General Land Office (GLO) approved its survey in 1903 for T5S R16E where the Dean School is located.⁷

The surveyor's township description reads:

The alluvial lands along the streams are rich and productive, hay, grain and vegetables being grown thereon. The mountainous portion of the township is covered with a rich growth of bunch grass, affording pasturage for hundreds of head of cattle.

⁵ An 1890 agreement with the Crow, not ratified until 1892, reduced the Crow Reservation once again and established a new reservation boundary further east of the West Rosebud, thus opening up southern Stillwater County for settlement.

⁶ *The Billings Gazette*, October 27, 1892.

⁷ U.S. Surveyor General, 1903 General Land Office map T5S R16E, <http://www.glo.blm.gov> (accessed July 2, 2019).

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There is one settler in each of Secs. 6, 9, 11, 14 and 21; two in Sec, 4 and 24, and three in Sec. 13.⁸

By the time of the survey, many of the “squatters” were firmly established in the area.⁹ The GLO survey map shows extensive development along the creek bottoms, including houses, barns, stables, roads crisscrossing the township, irrigation ditches, fencelines and a “School House” in the NE1/4 of Section 13.¹⁰

Dean Community

The town of Dean and the surrounding community has experienced few changes over the years. Established in 1902, the postmistress Bessie Haskin named the post office after Dean Harris, an “exceptionally pretty” girl who lived in the area and was a friend to her daughter. Dean remained a small ranching community into the 1910s. While it experienced the homestead “boom” years, most of the new settlers had to be satisfied with farming and ranching the dry land hills surrounding Fishtail Basin since all the bottom lands had been taken up many years earlier. The drought and depression of the 1920s and 1930s affected the area, like all of southern Stillwater County, but a cursory review of the 1920, 1930, and 1940 U.S. Census indicates many ranching families persevered and held onto their lands during those hard years. The census for these years also indicates a significant jump in population, from 40 in 1920, to 80 in 1940, a rise associated with an increase in children.¹¹

Mining exhibited a peripheral effect on the Dean community. In 1920, Thomas “Chalk” Benbow built a wagon road from Dean south to his mining claims in the Beartooth Mountains where he discovered chromite. However, for several years (1940-1943) during World War II, the extraction of chrome at the Benbow Mine, and at the Mouat Mine further west pass Nye, caused a great deal of activity resulting in a brief rise in population and increased traffic on the Nye farm to market road. In 1941, the federal government constructed a “broad, hard-surfaced road” from Columbus, the rail shipping point to Dean, to expedite transporting materials. REA (Rural Electrification Administration) also came to Dean in 1941.

Another major occurrence in the area, especially to the locals, was in the late 1930s when Leland Longsberry established the Y-Bar at the juncture of the Nye Road and the Benbow Road in Dean. The Y-Bar expanded over the years and became a favorite watering hole for both locals and miners until it closed in the early 1960s.

Today, Dean is a quiet rural agricultural community, disturbed only by the traffic to the Sibanye-Stillwater Mine up the Stillwater River, and the recreational traffic from people who come to enjoy the beautiful pristine Beartooth Mountains.

⁸ U.S. Surveyor General, 1903 GLO survey notes for T5S R16E, Records Room, Montana Bureau of Land Management State Office, Billings, MT.

⁹ Often such individuals filed documents called ranch declaration at the county courthouse to declare their valid right to a certain property; however, no ranch declarations were found for this township.

¹⁰ U.S. Surveyor General, 1903 General Land Office map T5S R16E, www.glo.org (accessed July 2, 2019).

¹¹ U.S. Census 1920, 1930, 1940, Ancestry.com (accessed July 17, 2019).

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Schoolhouses in Dean, Montana

There are few buildings associated with the settlement of the American west more poignant than the one-room schoolhouse. Kingston Heath reflected that the schoolhouse “symbolized the earliest visual proof of a commitment to a better way of life for the families who ventured west.”¹² The presence of the schoolhouse represents a sense of permanence and the importance of education to early settlers.

The first public school districts in Montana Territory were established in 1864 and by 1901 there were 182 rural schools in Montana. The early schoolhouses were rough buildings, often of log construction, poorly lit and heated, with no running water. The first Dean School easily fits into this same category. Local settlers reportedly established the Dean School around 1894-1895, a few years after the area was open for settlement.¹³ A 1904 historic photograph shows a one-room log school building with a gable roof, a centered entry on the gable end, and two two-over-two double-hung windows on the east wall. The teacher, Archibald Adams, who held a teaching certificate, stands next to the school. Another historic photograph in front of the school (likely taken the same date) identifies Adams standing with his students, the children from local settlers like Harris, Haskin, Hudson, Weikel and Webb.¹⁴

In 1911, a petition of local residents to the county sought to define the boundaries of School District No. 18 to encompass approximately 50 square miles. An early description of the vast district reads:

Beginning at the head of Rock Creek in the mountains, thence following said creek down on the section line between sections 3 and 4 TWP 5 S. R. 16 E., thence north to the summit of the divide between Midnight Creek and Stillwater Creek, thence in a northeasterly direction to the mouth of Midnight Creek, thence east 2 ½ miles, thence 6 ½ miles [south], thence West ½ mile, thence south to the mountains.¹⁵

The Dean School sat in the southwest corner of the district in the most heavily populated area. The log school building served as the Dean School until it burned in March 1914. The teacher, Alice Schwenneker, wrote of her experience.

¹² Kingston Heath, “A Dying Heritage: One-room Schools of Gallatin County, Montana.” in Camille Wells, ed., *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* (Annapolis, Maryland: Vernacular Architecture Forum, 1982) 201.

¹³ At this time, this area was part of Carbon County. Stillwater County was not created until March 1913.

¹⁴ Photographs on file at Archive Collections, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT. The inscription on the back of one photograph reads “Here is where I went to school in 1894. My teacher Lizzie (John W. George) McDonald.”

¹⁵ Gail B. Lambert, Certification of School District #18, September 2, 1926, Stillwater County Superintendent of Schools Records, Stillwater County Records, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT. When Stillwater became a county, it apparently retained the same numbering system and kept the designated School District numbers.

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It was March 31, 1914. I had ridden my horse "Fritz" from the Schwenneker Ranch that morning to the Dean School where I was a teacher. The school building was a log structure with a big old stove that had a stove pipe up through the roof.

That morning I tethered "Fritz" out on a long rope to graze; took my lunch inside and rang a little school bell. It was cold and as class started some of the children were huddled around the stove to get warm. All of a sudden one of them yelled "The roof's on fire, teacher!"

The next few minutes they were a busy bunch of kids as we moved everything out that could be saved: benches, books, school supplies, and ourselves.

Ross Pratton, one of the school trustees, came and suggested we could have school in his granary on what was later to become the Rickman place.¹⁶

The local newspaper reported on the fire.

Jack Fowler, the nearest neighbor, was the first to notice the roof ablaze. He then summoned other neighbors by phone and proceeded to the scene himself. Being in the morning, the fire had just been stoked up in the stove, but class had not started according to teacher Miss Alice Schwenneker. Fortunately the building was cleared of all its furniture, a couple of windows and a portion of the blackboard before it was completely destroyed. Classes were able to resume the next day, after everything was moved into a building on adjoining property.¹⁷

Building a New Schoolhouse

The loss of the school must have been devastating to the community. Susan Russell, who attended the Dean School, remembers her father talking about how important it was to re-build, as well as what an expense it was for the community. However, the entire community agreed it was absolutely necessary to have a school for the children.¹⁸

Little is known about the construction of the present school. The 1914 Trustees' Report for School District #18 reports the school was held in a frame building at a nearby ranch after the log schoolhouse burned. The report also indicates that construction of a new school had not yet begun as they had "not rec [received] Deed for site."¹⁹

¹⁶ Margaret Kirch Murphy, "The First Dean School in 1914," *Montana Free Press*, Vol. 5 No. 12, February 1994, 31-32.

¹⁷ *Columbus News*, "Looking back at 1914," date unknown, Archive Collections, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT.

¹⁸ Susan Russell, interview with Peggy Joki and Rita Westrum, Limestone, MT, May 16, 2019.

¹⁹ Trustees Annual Report of School District No. 18, For the School Year Ending August 31, 1914, Stillwater County Superintendent of Schools Records, Stillwater County Records, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT.

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The original log school location stood very near to the present schoolhouse. The 1903 GLO survey map for T5S R16E identifies “School House” in the NE1/4 of Section 13 on land occupied by J. P. Nall. However, Nall apparently did not file on a homestead. This allowed Orlando Haskin to file his homestead claim and successfully receive his land patent in 1911 for lands including the NE1/4 of Section 13.²⁰

Orlando Haskin reportedly came to Montana in the mid-1880s and settled in Dean “when there were only four settlers.” He left Montana for several years but returned in the early 1900s. His wife, Elizabeth (Bessie), became the first postmistress in Dean and they housed the post office in their home. She held this position until they left the area in 1915.²¹

In January 1915, Orlando and Bessie Haskin sold their homestead to Eli Dixon. Eli Dixon came to Stillwater County in 1911, following his two sons who arrived five years earlier. Mr. Dixon, who was not a farmer, lived and worked in both Columbus and Absarokee. Three days after the transaction with the Haskins, Mr. Dixon and his wife Laura Doane Dixon sold the same property to Mary L. Doane.²²

Mary Doane was the great aunt of Clarence B. Rich, long time Dean rancher, whose father Clarence G. arrived in Stillwater County in April 1915. C. B. Rich, in his memoir “*Memories of the Mountains*” tells the story of his parents arriving in Columbus and their horrendous trip to their new home in Fishtail Basin. He recounts the many locals who helped them along the way who all knew they were going to settle on the “Haskins Place”.²³

The Rich family history has always held that Clarence Rich donated the land for the school. Mary Doane apparently purchased the land for her great nephew Clarence and his wife and despite not yet holding title to the property, it was their land. This strongly suggests that Clarence and his great aunt Mary agreed to donate land for the Dean School together.²⁴

Almost simultaneously with the Rich’s arrival to Fishtail Basin in April 1915, Mary Doane donated approximately one acre in the NE1/4 NE1/4 of Section 13 to the Trustees of School District No. 18. Ranchers and farmers from the immediate Dean community served as school trustees. Mary Doane specified the property should be “well-fenced” and that “Said premises are

²⁰ U.S. Surveyor General, 1903 General Land Office map T5S R16E, <http://www.glo.blm.gov> (accessed July 2, 2019); U.S. General Land Office, T5S R16E, <http://www.glo.blm.gov> (accessed June 22, 2019).

²¹ His proper name is Haskin but is frequently shown as Haskins. Western Historical Publishing Company, *An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley* (Spokane, Washington: Western Historical Publishing Company, 1907), 495.

²² A relationship between Mary Doane and Laura Doane Dixon has not yet been discovered. Deed Books (Book 7, page 430; Book 7, 431), Clerk and Recorder’s Office, Stillwater County Courthouse, Columbus, MT; Jim Annin, *They Gazed at the Beartooths*, Vol. 1. (Billings, Montana: Reporter Printing & Supply, 1964) 132.

²³ C. B. Rich, *Memories of the Mountains* (Seeley Lake, Montana: Double Arrow Books, 1993), 17-29.

²⁴ Mary Doane sold the property to Clarence Rich in June 1921. By then, Clarence Rich had successfully completed a homestead patent for 320 acres for lands immediately north of the school. Deed Book 16, pp. 17-18.

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conveyed for school purposes only and if for the space of one year the parties of the second part or their successors in office shall cease to use the same for school purposes all will revert to the first party.”²⁵

Acquisition of the property a year after the 1914 fire now allowed the school district trustees to begin their efforts to construct a new school with the financial burden mostly on local residents. Although Trustees’ reports shed some light on the construction, some confusion also remains. The 1915 Trustees’ Annual Report states they built a new “frame” schoolhouse in the past year and shows the district expended \$366.95 “for new grounds and buildings (not repairs)” indicating construction of the new school had at least begun by this time.²⁶ The 1916 Trustees’ Report shows a capital outlay of \$915.75 for new grounds and buildings, suggesting construction continued in the fall of 1915 to complete the school building. It also states that they built a new school in the past year. The Dean School was one of six new schoolhouses built in 1915 in Stillwater County.²⁷

Serving the Community

From 1915 to 1967, the Dean School served the ranching community surrounding the town of Dean. The rural location of the school made it difficult to retain teachers, who usually stayed one or two years before moving on. Of the approximately 40 teachers who taught at the Dean School from 1913 on, only four stayed for a few years longer. Dearly beloved Mrs. Delores Haas held the longest tenure when she taught from 1954 until the school closed in 1967. The school population at Dean varied considerably over the years but averaged around 22-23 students, with all grades (1 to 8) being taught if necessary and at times with as few as one student in a grade. Class work followed a regular schedule each day and followed standardized lesson plans.²⁸

The remembrances of three woman who attended the Dean School (Margaret Kirch Murphy, Susan (Rich) Russell, and Connie (Kissler) Mill allow us to capture a glimpse of school days at the Dean School.

²⁵ Mary L. Doane lived in Bozeman and was the widow of Gustavus C. Doane of the U.S. Army. She was the daughter of Dr. A. J. Hunter who opened Hunter’s Hot Springs near Springdale, MT, and was briefly the agency physician at the second Crow Agency south of Absarokee. Deed Book 10, Page 114, Clerk and Recorder’s Office, Stillwater County Courthouse, Columbus, MT.

²⁶ The school year began September 1914 and ended August 1915. Trustees’ Annual Report of School District No. 18 Stillwater County, filed 29 September 1914; 4 October 1915; Stillwater County Archives, Columbus, MT. Unfortunately, the trustee reports were basically formulaic and did not encourage any explanations.

²⁷ Trustees’ Annual Report of School District No. 18, For the School Year Ending August 31, 1915 and Trustees’ Annual Report of School District No. 18, For the School Year Ending August 31, 1916, Stillwater County Superintendent of Schools Records, Stillwater County Records, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT; *Stillwater County Democrat*, “Six New School Houses Marks Steps of Progress,” November 6, 1915.

²⁸ List of Students and List of Teachers, Dean School Archives, Dean Community Club, Fishtail, MT. At one time, Stillwater County had 80 school districts with some having more than one school. Less than 10 schools stand today.

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Confirming the necessity of a single-room schoolhouse educating a number of different grade levels, Margaret Kirch Murphy was only five when she started school in 1937 and was the “only one in her class, with 8 grades in a one room classroom.” Every year the teacher “would work with the 8th graders to prepare them for the “State Examination” in order to qualify for high school.”²⁹

Susan (Rich) Russell attended grades 3 through 8 at the Dean School. When she started school in the fall of 1936, her teacher was Ethel Guthrie who taught 31 students in Grades 1-8 that year. Five students shared her 3rd grade class. When Margaret Murphy started school the next year, in 1937, she was the only one in her class, but all eight grades were being taught that year.³⁰

The Kirch children, who attended the Dean School, lived over what is today called the Dean Divide, “over three miles” away. They used several means of transportation to go to school including car, horseback, and by Shanks Mare (walking). Connie Kissler Mill, who attended the Dean School from the 2nd to 8th grade in the 1950s, remembers most kids walked to school “even if it was several miles” as “that was the way it was.”³¹

When the kids “entered the school, there was a place to hang your coats, hats and your overshoes or boots. The teacher had placed a wash basin for the children to wash their hands and face. A water jug was used to bring in the water from a pump.” Margaret Murphy remembered the wood stove at the back of the classroom while Connie Mill recalled a “big pot-bellied stove” that “burned coal which came from the coal mine at Red Lodge.” She recalled that they used both wood and coal to keep the stove going all day.³²

All three women felt they received an excellent education at the Dean School. Susan Russell said, “she has always felt privileged to have had such good teachers” and felt her “superb” teachers gave her an excellent education and prepared her well for high school. Margaret Murphy also stated she “had some wonderful teachers.”³³

Student attendance varied. Certain events factored in to the number of children attending the school. The operation of the Benbow Mine during World War II resulted in a sizable increase. Susan Russell mentioned how mining families moved in and out of the area and sometimes children stayed with local ranch families to finish their school year.³⁴

The teacher, besides teaching all grades and sometimes over 30 kids, “did it all; she cleaned, cooked, taught, and stoked the fire.” Attached to the school was the teacherage that “included a

²⁹ Margaret Kirch Murphy, “Memories of the 2nd Dean School, *Montana Free Press*, Vol. 5, No. 12, February 1994, 32-33.

³⁰ Russell interview; Murphy, “Memories of the 2nd Dean School.”

³¹ Murphy, “Memories of the 2nd Dean School”; Connie (Kissler) Mill, reminiscence on file, Dean School Archives, Dean Community Club, Fishtail, MT.

³² Mill, reminiscences; Murphy, “Memories of the 2nd Dean School.”

³³ Russell interview; Murphy, “Memories of 2nd Dean School”; Mill, reminiscences.

³⁴ Russell interview.

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bed, stove, table, chairs and a place for the teacher's things." Margaret Murphy recalls a tiny bedroom, a kitchen with a wood/coal stove, cupboard, table, two chairs and a rocking chair. One teacher, Ms. Blanche Haugen, lived in the teacherage during the week but went home to Fishtail on the weekends.³⁵

Of course, during recess and lunch, everyone enjoyed games played like Hide and Seek, Pump Pump Pull Away, Red Rover, Fox and Geese, Red Light-Green Light, Antee-Over, and Run-Sheep-Run. Margaret said that the games were often organized by an 8th grader and everyone played. They had a basketball court and Susan Russell's dad built a stile over the fence so the children could play baseball or football in the pasture. One year the boys flooded the pasture so they had an ice rink all winter by the school.³⁶

All the children, regardless of age, helped during the school day. The flag was raised every morning and taken down every night. "Older kids had to pump water and carry it into the school for everyone to use." All the students had to "concentrate on their own schoolwork" with the older children "expected to help the younger ones with their lessons, like listening to them read." The first day, "the children were asked to bring a tablet and a pencil" but after that the school supplied textbooks and materials.³⁷

Margaret Murphy and Connie Mill both mentioned Friday afternoons when it was time to clean up the school. The children swept the floor, brought in coal, washed the blackboards and put books in their place. Margaret's favorite job was to wash the blackboard and pound the erasers outside. She also remembered spreading "compound and sawdust on the floor before sweeping."³⁸

During the depression, the government began a "hot lunch" program mentioned by both Margaret Murphy and Susan Russell. Susan Russell thought it silly because they distributed milk and all of the ranch families owned their own milk cows. The government provided raisins and rice for a hot meal. Margaret Murphy did not like the food as it didn't taste like her mother's so she grew up "hating pea soup, cornbread, rice with raisins, and cocoa made with canned milk." While most brought their own lunch from home, the program did help supplement their diets during the lean years.³⁹

While the Dean School provided a place of education for the children in the community, the school also served as the community center in a myriad of ways. Susan Russell remembers the many dances and box socials held at the school, often to help support the school. A search of the *Billings Gazette* in the 1920s and 1930s reveals how important the school was for community events. These ranged from a bridal shower, a masquerade dance, a popularity dance, going away

³⁵ Murphy, "Memories of 2nd Dean School"; Mill, reminiscences; Russell interview.

³⁶ Russell interview; Murphy, "Memories of 2nd Dean School."

³⁷ Ibid.; Mill, reminiscences.

³⁸ Murphy, "Memories of 2nd Dean School"; Mill, reminiscences.

³⁹ Charlotte Caldwell, *Visions and Voices: Montana's One-Room Schoolhouses* (Clyde Park, Montana: Barn Board Press, 2012) 278; Russell interview; Murphy, "Memories of 2nd Dean School."

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parties, and a meeting place for various organizations like the Stillwater Wheat Growers and Stillwater County Agricultural Conservation Association who also held their elections at the school. Many longtime residents remember school programs and dances. As the Dean School was the only public building in the area, it brought people together for many different occasions and reasons as the community center.⁴⁰

Continuing Use as a Community Center

After the Dean School closed in 1967 due to consolidation with the Fishtail School, members of the community incorporated the Dean Community Club in October 1969 and took ownership of the Dean School. Over twenty families originally became members. Since acquiring the school, the Dean Community Club continued the tradition of the school as community center, providing a place for the community to gather for various social and educational events, including potlucks, card parties, dances, lectures, fire training, and celebrations of birthdays and anniversaries.

Architectural Significance

One-room schools developed out of the vernacular building traditions of Anglo-American settlers. The same gable roofed, rectangular box with a temple-front orientation was used in churches, schools, town halls, and other public or semi-public buildings on the frontier. Its origins can be found in the simple proportions of the single-pen house. The schoolhouse's adoption of front gabled form was likely a functional consideration, allowing the main room to remain a single large volume with uniform window distribution. The symmetrical front-gabled box also probably appealed to citizens and builders because it evoked classical architecture. The gable-front schoolhouse remained a dominant form throughout Montana during the state's settlement period.⁴¹

The gable-front school began as a vernacular tradition and by the mid-nineteenth century architectural designs were constantly modified and updated. By the turn of the twentieth century, standard schoolhouse designs were well established and widely available to communities. However, Montana did not regulate school architecture design until 1919, after the construction of the Dean School.⁴²

The first public school districts in Montana Territory were established in 1866. The early schoolhouses were rough buildings, often of log construction, poorly lit and heated, with no running water. Compulsory attendance legislation was passed in 1887 although it was impractical, and often impossible, to enforce in rural areas. Records in 1901 indicate there were 182 rural schools in Montana, but that the average attendance stood at less than 8 children per school. In 1906, standardized courses of study for Montana elementary and secondary schools were adopted widely. A movement to replace early log school buildings with frame, brick, or

⁴⁰ Russell interview; *Billings Gazette*, various dates 1920-1930, <http://www.newspapers.com> (accessed July 17-18, 2019).

⁴¹ Taken from Architectural Historian Paul C. Diebold's excellent Indiana's Public Common and High Schools MPD, available online at: <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/adobepdf/schoolsmpdf.pdf> (accessed July 17, 2019).

⁴² Ibid.

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stone gained momentum through the early years of the 20th century. Under state school law, the secretary of the State Board of Health was mandated to issue “suggestive plans for rural school buildings.”⁴³

In 1919, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mary Trumper wrote:

With the rapid increase of population in Montana and the correspondingly large number of new school buildings being erected each year, it has become imperative that increased attention should be given to the furnishing of plans and specifications particularly for our smaller types of school buildings.⁴⁴

Superintendent Trumper introduced the work of architect W. R. Plew, Professor of Architectural and Civil Engineering at the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts at Bozeman, for over two years compiled a series of one and two room school buildings plans with “up to date suggestions regarding the best types of buildings and detail directions for their construction.” Designed between 1917-1919, the building plans incorporated such recommendations as site selection, natural fitness, size of grounds, sanitation, layout, and site beautification. For school interiors, optimal lighting, blackboard placement, heating, desk arrangements, and other suggestions were all discussed.⁴⁵

The Dean School, built in 1915, predates the 1919 Plew report but is a fine representation of the philosophy and design recommendations of the State Department of Health and Public Instruction. Although it took until 1919 for the actual recommendations to be widely distributed, many of the basic “best practice” tenets of architectural school design were already understood.

The Dean School stands as a modified Plan C1 school building displaying a “simple and plain” exterior, though it displays a hipped roof rather than a gable.⁴⁶ It strongly illustrates several design recommendations like a north/south orientation and a centered entry at the end wall flanked by single double-hung windows. The Dean School also incorporates a bank of large

⁴³ Kate Hampton, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (NRHP form), *Evaro School* listed May 1, 2003, NR #03000321 (Helena: Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MSHPO), 2001); Christine Brown, NRHP form, *Target Range Elementary School*, listed August 10, 2010, NR #11000526 (Helena: MSHPO, 2010); Kate Hampton, NRHP form, *Big Arm School* listed August 16, 2007, NR #07000816 (Helena: MSHPO 2007); Delia Hagen, NRHP form, *Eagle Butte School* listed January 28, 2009, NR #08001383 (Helena: MSHPO, 2008).

⁴⁴ W.R. Plew, “One and Two Room Rural School Buildings,” University of Montana Bulletin, State College Series No. 11, Bozeman, Montana, 1919, introduction.

⁴⁵ Kate Hampton, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (NRHP form), *Evaro School* listed May 1, 2003, NR #03000321 (Helena: Montana State Historic Preservation Office (MSHPO), 2001); Christine Brown, NRHP form, *Target Range Elementary School*, listed August 10, 2010, NR #11000526 (Helena: MSHPO, 2010); Kate Hampton, NRHP form, *Big Arm School* listed August 16, 2007, NR #07000816 (Helena: MSHPO 2007); Delia Hagen, NRHP form, *Eagle Butte School* listed January 28, 2009, NR #08001383 (Helena: MSHPO, 2008).

⁴⁶ Some of Plew’s forms did have hipped roofs but not with the central entry and band of windows so it seems that the Dean School represents a modified basic form.

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double-hung windows on the east wall, consistent with the belief against the detrimental effects of cross-lighting, ensuring the classroom would “be possible to flood the school room at some time during the day with bright sunlight.”⁴⁷ Although it deviates from the plan by the presence of the bell tower and the attached hip roofed teacherage across the west wall, the Plew report recognized that “for rural communities in Montana it is sometimes necessary that the district furnish a house for the teacher.”

While there were no cloakrooms in the Dean School entry, the classroom occupies most of the building and exhibits the band of large double-hung windows on the east wall standing within a foot of the ceiling as recommended. The full-length blackboard in the classroom surpasses the recommendations for blackboard size. The maple flooring also corresponds to suggested construction.

The hipped roof form, rather than the basic gable, undoubtedly resulted from the popularity of the Craftsman style in the second decade of the twentieth century. In a study of nearby Gallatin County schoolhouses, the basic gable-end form of schoolhouses remained basically unchanged with minor variations. The roof modification is such a variation (called Building Type G) with its bungalow-style hipped roof while maintaining the basic elongated form and gable-ended entrance.⁴⁸ Other craftsman elements include the wide eaves and replacement of the roof dormer above the entrance with the bell tower.

The Dean School exterior underwent a major rehabilitation in 2018. The Dean Community Club, owners of the property, recognized the schoolhouse had fallen into disrepair and both the paint on the wood siding and the asphalt roof were in a deteriorated state. In 2018, volunteers completed all the prep work and professional painting and roofing contractors completed the project. The rehabilitation project will protect and preserve the historic appearance and character of the Dean School for future generations as it continues to serve as the community center.

⁴⁷ Plew, “One and Two Room Rural School Buildings,” 13.

⁴⁸ Heath, “A Dying Heritage: One-Room Schools of Gallatin County, Montana,” 204.

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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: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property less than one acre

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. School	Latitude: 45.404320	Longitude: -109.689960
2. Outbuilding	Latitude: 45.404250	Longitude: -109.690230

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

The property includes the two remaining historic buildings associated with the Dean School, the school and an outbuilding (latitudes/longitudes presented above). The property sits immediately south of MT Highway 419 and east of a dirt farm access road. See attached map Section 9 page 28; reference to the aerial view map confirms that boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property encompasses the historic Dean School and an outbuilding, the only remaining extant buildings associated with the operation of the school.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Joan Brownell

organization: Dean Community Club

street & number: P.O. Box 600

city or town: Fishtail state: MT zip code: 59028

e-mail: _____

telephone: _____

date: 8/5/2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

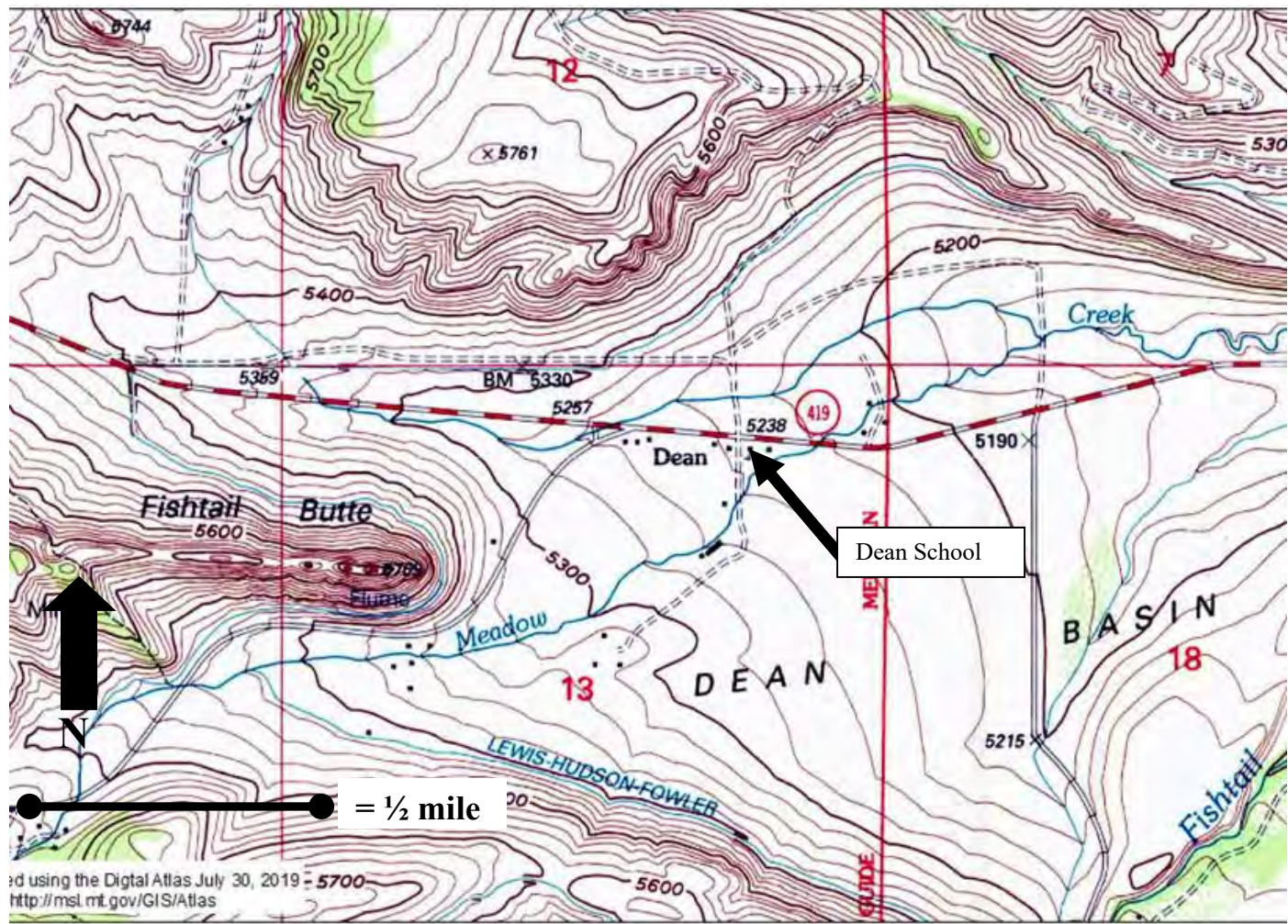
- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional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

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Map showing location of the Dean School. Found on the Beehive 7.5' quadrangle map. T5S R16E S13, School = Latitude 45.404320 Longitude -109.689960, outbuilding = Latitude 45.404250 Longitude -109.690230

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Aerial View showing location of the Dean School. T5S R16E S13, School = Latitude 45.404320 Longitude -109.689960, outbuilding = Latitude 45.404250 Longitude -109.690230

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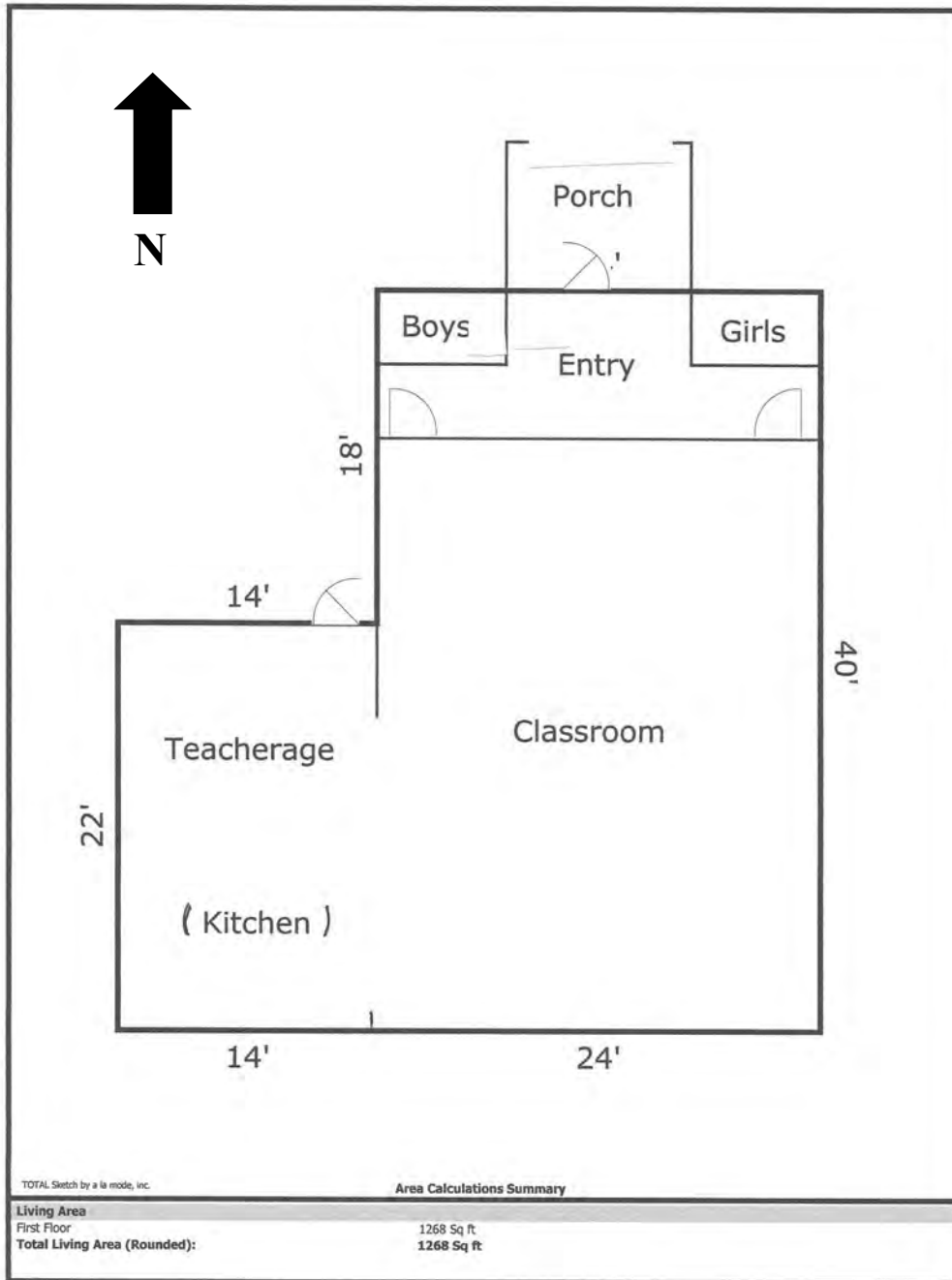
1903 GLO Map showing location of original Dean School.

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Floorplan of Dean School

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Children at play with Garage in backyard, circa 1944. View to the west. Dean Community Club, Fishtail, MT.

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Dean School, East and North elevations with a local furry visitor, circa 1944. Dean Community Club, Fishtail, MT.

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Original Dean School constructed from logs, 1904. Archive Collections, Museum of the Beartooths, Columbus, MT.

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Dean School, Interior of classroom, view to the south.

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Dean School, Interior of classroom, view to the east.

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National Register Photographs

Photo Log

All Photographs:

Name of Property: Dean School

City or Vicinity: Dean

County: Stillwater

State: MT

Photographer: Joan Brownell

Date Photographed: July 2019

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:



Description: Overview of Dean School, view to the south.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0001

Dean School
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Description: Overview of Dean School, view to the south.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0002

Dean School
Name of Property

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Description: Dean School, North elevation, view to the south.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0003

Dean School

Stillwater Co., MT

Name of Property

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Description: Dean School, North and West elevations, view to the southeast.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0004

Dean School
Name of Property

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Description: Dean School, South and East elevations, view to the northwest.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0005

Dean School

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Name of Property

County and State



Description: Dean School, East elevation, view to the west.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0006

Dean School
Name of Property

Stillwater Co., MT
County and State



Description: Dean School, West and South elevations, view to the northeast.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0007

Dean School

Stillwater Co., MT

Name of Property

County and State



Description: Dean School Garage, East elevation, view to the west.
MT_StillwaterCounty_DeanSchool_0008







DEAN SCHOOL
1914 ~ 1967

DEAN COMMUNITY CLUB



DEAN SCHOOL
1914 - 1967

DEAN COMMUNITY CLUB









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination
Property Name: Dean School
Multiple Name: _____
State & County: MONTANA, Stillwater

Date Received: 10/18/2019 Date of Pending List: 11/12/2019 Date of 16th Day: 11/27/2019 Date of 45th Day: 12/2/2019 Date of Weekly List: _____

Reference number: SG100004713
Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 12/2/2019 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: The Dean School is locally significant and meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of Education and Architecture. Built in 1915, the one-story, wood-frame building is an excellent local example of early twentieth century, one-room schoolhouse design. The attached teacherage highlights the often isolated nature of such rural schools. Built in the midst of the region's homesteading era, the building reflects the important role placed by residents on public education for small rural communities, while also serving as a prominent social and cultural meeting place for local ranching families.

Recommendation/ Criteria: Accept NR Criteria A and C

Reviewer Paul Lusignan Discipline Historian
Telephone (202)354-2229 Date 12/2/2019

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

October 15, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley, Keeper, National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1849 C St., NW - Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240



Dear Ms. Beasley,

Enclosed please find the following nominations for your consideration for listing in the National Register of Historic Places:

Andrus Hotel	Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana.
Dean School	Stillwater County, Montana
James McCrossin Cabin	Ravalli County, Montana
Dillon City Hall Historic District	Dillon, Beaverhead County, Montana

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the National Register nominations for the Andrus Hotel, the Dean School, the James McCrossin Cabin, and the Dillon City Hall Historic District for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

I notified the owners and public officials in excess of 30 days prior to the Preservation Review Board meeting. The owners and public officials all concurred with listing the properties in the National Register. The Review Board unanimously recommended that these properties be nominated and I concur with its recommendation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter Brown
Historic Architecture Specialist and Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

Enclosure

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