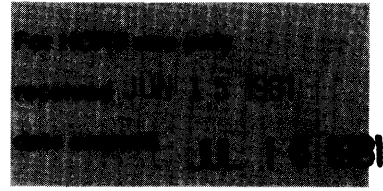


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Silver Bow County Poor Farm Hospital

and/or common National Center for Appropriate Technology

**2. Location**

street & number 3040 Continental Drive        not for publication

city, town Butte        vicinity of        congressional district 1

state Montana code 030 county Silver Bow code 093

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Butte-Silver Bow

street & number Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse

city, town Butte        vicinity of        state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Clerk & Recorder

street & number Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse

city, town Butte        vicinity of        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               vicinity of        state

## 7. Description

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

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

The Silver Bow County Poor Farm Hospital is a 2-1/2 story brick structure on an elevated base. It is a rectangular building sitting parallel to Continental Drive on the east side of the street. The hospital is set back from the street by a landscaped yard. Parking lots and driveways surround the rest of the building and behind the back parking lot is a field which once was the site of other poor farm buildings and gardens and is now the site of recently built experimental buildings of the National Center for Appropriate Technology. Only the hospital and the front yard are being nominated.

The hospital is built in three main sections: the central (original) section and virtually identical additions built onto the north and south ends. The central section, built in 1902, is brick bearing wall construction on a granite base. The red brick is layed up in American bond and features terra cotta string courses in rope and egg and dart designs. The symmetric front facade features a brick arched entry porch to the first floor, which is original, and a glass enclosed porch above, which was built in the late 1930's. The rear, or east, facade has a wood porch which was built by the Works Progress Administration and which replaced the original wood porch. Window openings have granite sills and brick jack arch heads. The wood shingled roof is a multi-ridge hipped roof with gables over the front and rear entries. Each gable end has a set of windows in the Palladian motiff. The roof is punctured by corbelled brick chimneys and hipped dormers.

In 1917-18 the north wing was built. The south wing had been built several years before. The basement walls of the additions are concrete, rather than granite, but the additions match the original building in brick, string courses, window openings, hipped roof and dormers. The north wing has a small brick arched entry porch on its north side which is original to the wing. The south wing has a wood frame garage and glass enclosed porch on its south side. These frame additions were built shortly after World War II.

The original portion of the building had boiler room, laundry, storage, kitchen, and dining room in the basement; offices, patients' rooms, and small wards on the first floor; operating room, patients' rooms, and small wards on the second floor; and wards in the attic. The original operating room, located in the northeast corner of the second floor, had a skylight which is still in place but has been covered. The rooms are arranged along a double-loaded corridor. Originally, vertical access was provided by a central stairway and an adjacent dumb waiter. The south wing included an additional set of stairs, larger dining room in the basement, bathrooms on the first and second floors, a new dumb waiter, and larger wards on the first, second and attic floors. The north wing included an additional set of stairs, laboratory and new boiler room in the basement, new operating room on the first floor, and large wards on the second and attic floors.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet    One

Item number    7

Page    Two

When the hospital was constructed, its ventilation system was boasted. The elements of this system are still in place, although they have been sealed off. Each room had a vent in the wall below each window. Air from these vents passed into the building, beneath the floor, through another vent in the baseboard of the corridor wall, and into the room. This supply of fresh air was drawn into the building by the force of the chimney effect of the exhaust vent. The exhaust vent was located in the brick chimney next to the boiler flue. Warming of the exhaust air by the boiler flue enhanced the chimney effect. Exhaust air was drawn into the exhaust vent by means of operable louvers in the corridor ceilings. Both the north and south wings also were equipped with vent stacks which drew air from the corridors and the larger wards.

Numerous alterations were made in the building while it was a hospital. As noted above, glass enclosed proches were added in the west and south. Tubular fire escapes were added on both the east and west sides at the south end. A passenger/freight elevator was installed at the location of the original central staircase. An elevator tower sits on the roof. When the hospital was adapted to the office facility of the National Center for Appropriate Technology, no exterior changes were made and only minor interior changes were made. Some old bathrooms were removed and new bathrooms installed. Some old room partitions were removed and vestibules and closets added. The building has been re-wired and today meets all codes.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" 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** 1902 **Builder/Architect** C.S. Haire, Architect

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

Specific Dates 1902 Builder/Architect C.S. Haire, Architect

The Silver Bow County Poor Farm Hospital, built in 1902, is significant as a representative of the development of Poor Farms around the state of Montana. It is the only known remaining Poor Farm structure in the state. In addition, the building was designed by C.S. Haire of the Helena firm, Link & Haire, Montana's most prominent architectural firm.

During Montana's territorial period the counties were directed to care for the poor and empowered to construct hospitals, establish poor farms, and grant relief. These provisions were carried into statehood as the 1889 Constitution directed the counties to "provide as may be prescribed by law for those inhabitants, who by reason of age, infirmity, a misfortune, may have claims upon the sympathy of society." Until the construction of the Poor Farm Hospital in 1902, Silver Bow County maintained a poor farm and a nearby "pest house" (a quarantine house, the foundation of which can still be found 2,000 feet to the NE) and hired the services of a nurse and a doctor. Hospitals during that period were privately owned and operated, either by churches or other private individuals. Hospital care for the poor was contracted out to the three private hospitals in the county. The fact that Silver Bow County would build a public hospital attests to its large size and its high percentage of poor and foreign born.

At the turn of the 20th Century, Silver Bow County was the largest in the state. Silver Bow County also had the largest percentage of foreign born of any county in the state and the largest percentage of people with foreign born parents of any county in the state. Furthermore, Silver Bow County had the highest percentage of its population admitted to its Poor Farm and of those admitted, over half were foreign born, a much higher percentage than the state average. The fact that Silver Bow County led the state in these statistics can be attributed to the mining activity in Butte, the county seat. At the turn of the century, the Butte Hill was the largest producer of copper in the world. A large number of immigrants from Ireland, England, Canada, Scandinavia, Eastern and Southern Europe, China and Mexico were attracted to Butte to work in the mines and mine-related business. Underground mining is very dangerous and helps to explain why a large number of those serviced by the Silver Bow Hospital were admitted with seemingly mining-related injuries.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet #3

# 10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Homestake MT

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

## UMT References

A 

1	2	3	84	9	0	5	5	0	9	3	7	8	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** West boundary is right-of-way of Continental Drive. South boundary is right-of-way of Floral Ave. The property being nominated includes the hospital building and the landscaped front yard. It is a total area of land about 210 ft. (NS) by 155 ft. (EW) along the east side of the 3000 block of Continental Drive.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fredric L. Quivik, Building Recycling Specialist

organization National Center for Appropriate Technology date July 24, 1980

street & number P.O. Box 3838 telephone 406/494-4572

city or town Butte state MT

# 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 Marcelle Sheffy

title Deputy SHPO date 12-15-80

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Bushman date 7-16-80

for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet

Two

Item number 8

Page Two

In 1901, St. James Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital, and the Murray and Freund Hospital, all of Butte, submitted bids to provide emergency hospital care to the poor. Murray and Freund was awarded the contract. That same year, the county commissioners asked C.S. Haire of the Helena architectural firm, Link & Haire, to submit plans and specifications for a new hospital comparable to that which had recently been built in Helena. (Lewis & Clark County, the county seat of which is Helena, had the second largest poor farm in the state during that period.) The firm, Link & Haire, designed many of Butte's most prominent buildings including the County Courthouse, the Masonic Temple, and Silver Bow Homes, a 1930's public housing project.

Butte architect M.D. Kerns was selected as supervisor of construction, Shackleton & Whiteway was awarded the contract for construction for \$9863.00, and construction began in September of 1901. In July of 1902 construction was complete and the building accepted by the county. Roughly a decade later the south wing was constructed. The north wing was designed by Butte architect, John E. Seaquist.

The Silver Bow County Poor Farm continued to operate until the mid-1930's when state laws changed the care for the poor to our current system of welfare. The hospital, however, continued as the county's welfare hospital until a new county hospital was built in 1956. At that time the old county hospital became the county nursing home and was used in that capacity until a new county nursing home was built adjoining the new county hospital in 1975. The old county hospital sat vacant for two years until it was leased to the National Center for Appropriate Technology as its national headquarters. Today, the building is fully occupied with offices, library, shops and laboratories.

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 15 1981

date entered JUL 16 1981

Continuation sheet Three

Item number 9

Page Two

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census. Census of the United States, 1910, U.S. Government Printing Office.
- Dept. of Commerce, Bureau of Census. Paupers in Almshouses, 1910, U.S. Government Printing Office.
- Haire, C.S. architect's blue prints, 1901, prints kept at the Special Collections, Montana State University Library, Bozeman, Montana.
- Historical Records Survey, WPA, Inventory of County Archives of Montana, "#47 Silver Bow Co.", July, 1939, copy at the Montana State University Library, Bozeman, Montana.
- Seaquist, John E., architects' blue prints, 1917, prints kept at the Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Butte, Montana.
- Silver Bow County Commissioners Records, July 13, 17, 24, September 6, 1901, July 13, 1902, records kept at the Clerk & Records Office, Butte-Silver Bow Courthouse, Butte, Montana.
- Silver Bow County, Record of Poor Farm Admittance 1903-1906, Butte-Silver Bow Archives, Butte, Montana.
- Sullivan, Dan L., Silver Bow County Hospital Administrator, 1935-1960, oral interview November 7, 1979.