

**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 TRASK HALL

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 703 Fifth Avenue N/A not for publication
 city, town Deer Lodge N/A vicinity of congressional district First Western, MT
 state Montana code 030 county Powell code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Elementary School District #1
 street & number c/o Central Park Center
 city, town Deer Lodge N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Powell County Courthouse
 street & number 400 Block, Missouri Avenue
 city, town Deer Lodge state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no
 date federal state county local
 depository for survey records
 city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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

Trask Hall is a two story, brick classroom building erected in 1878 for the Montana Collegiate Institute. The structure consists of a central block measuring 55'6" x 24'8" (six bays by three) with a wing to the south measuring 35'6" x 28'8" (three bays by three). The building is 62' high when measured from the ground to the top of the louvered cupola which is set on the west end of the main ridgeline. The hipped roof is covered in wood shingles.

The brick walls are laid in common bond with six stretcher courses between each header course. Decorative corbelling below the roof line features one soldier course sandwiched between two sets of three rows of brick in Flemish bond. The bricks for Trask Hall were manufactured in Helena, Montana by the Kessler and Wormer Company.

The basement of the building is of coursed rough cut granite, quarried locally and known as "Cariboo granite or porphyry". Due to the slope of the building site, the beveled, cut stone water table ranges from three feet above the ground line on the east side to almost five feet on the northwest corner. The cut stone lintels over the doors and windows measure one foot in width, and the stone sills measure five inches. Originally there were six interior chimneys located at the corners of the building. The tops of the chimneys were removed after 1906, possibly in the year 1912 when changes were made in the heating system. Only a few feet of the chimney on the east side of the building remains visible on the exterior.

The masonry bearing walls of Trask Hall measure two feet in thickness in the basement, one and one half feet at the first floor level, and one foot at the second. Basement ceilings are seven feet in height and the first and second story ceilings are twelve feet in height. The basement is divided into four larger and several smaller rooms. There are 11 basement windows, each with three vertical, 9"x20" panes. An exterior door from the basement is placed beneath the main steps on the west side. The first floor is divided into three main rooms, a vestibule, and an open stairwell. The second floor originally had one large room, the assembly room (which has since been partitioned into two smaller rooms), a library measuring 9½' x 12', and a recitation room measuring 25'10" x 22'. The windows on the main two floors are 4/4 double hung wooden sash. The original exterior doors were four panel with larger panels in the top tier and transom lights above, matching the interior doors on the first and second levels. The exterior doors were replaced with wooden doors containing large single panes of glass. All interior doors are fitted with double action spring hinges.

Trask Hall remains in very good condition and has retained excellent architectural integrity. In addition to the minor alterations noted above, florescent light fixtures have been installed and the east side exterior stairs have been replaced with wooden steps and a wheel chair ramp.

Trask Hall was the first building to be constructed on a campus of six city blocks. A three story building to be used for a dormitory for 70 students was built to the north of Trask Hall in 1885. A second dormitory, also housing 70 students, was located to the south and completed in 1888. The heating plant/workshop was constructed to the east of Trask Hall before 1885. The south dormitory was removed before 1929 and the north one soon afterward. The gymnasium, built in 1912, still stands, although significantly altered, on the southwest corner of the original campus.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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	1878	Builder/Architect	H. DeWitt/Henry L. Gay, Chicago			

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Trask Hall is historically significant due to its primary position in higher education in the region and community, and its association with persons who have played prominent roles in local and regional history. Named for Alanson Trask of New York, who contributed six thousand dollars necessary to complete payment on the building, Trask Hall represents the first college in Montana, eleven years before Montana attained statehood and fifteen years before the state university system was established.

Superintendent Clark Wright, who was Cornelius Hedges' successor, reported in 1877 that there were improvements in education in all the counties of the state. However, he gave Deer Lodge County the first place for interest shown in educational work and outlined the plans for the opening of the Montana Collegiate Institute at the county seat (Deer Lodge). Cornelius Hedges himself was on the Board of Trustees in 1889 while W.A. Clark served as President of the Board of Trustees. W. A. Clark had been a part of the original nucleus of the movement serving as vice-president of that group in 1878 with E.L. Irvine, president; Thomas Stuart, secretary; and H.H. Zenor, treasurer. Other well known citizens associated with the college included Conrad Kohrs, Samuel T. Hauser, D. McMillan, Don and Samuel Larabie, P. H. Poindexter, Theodore Brantley, and Miss Lizzie Woolfolk.

Standing on College Hill, Trask Hall has served as the cornerstone for a number of educational institutions in Deer Lodge since its inception as the Montana Collegiate Institute over one hundred years ago. The early school catalogues stressed the fact that education at the institution was open to both sexes on equal terms. In 1882, the Presbyterian Church bought the Institute. Under articles of incorporation approved by the Territorial Legislature, the name of the school was changed to College of Montana, in 1883, and continued to operate under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church until 1900. Competition from the five state institutions of higher learning established during the 1890's soon after Montana attained statehood, occasioned a decrease in student enrollment and the loss of a number of the College's teachers. Since that time, the college buildings at Deer Lodge have been leased to a private school for two years, have served as a temporary refuge for the Deer Lodge high school classes until its new buildings were completed in 1917 and, in 1921, were purchased by the School District #1 in Deer Lodge. Now used as an auxiliary services building, Trask Hall had housed the administrative offices of the School District until January 1979.

9. Major Bibliographical References

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA VOL. VI, Laura E. Howery, Ed., Helena, Independent Publishing Company, 1907.
NEW NORTH-WEST, Vol. 1-10 (1869-1891), Deer Lodge, Montana.
COLLEGE CATALOGS

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Deer Lodge, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	2	3	6	6	9	0	0	5	1	3	9	1	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

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D

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E

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F

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Verbal boundary description and justification

located at the intersection of Blocks 42, 43, 44, and 45 of Original Townsite, Deer Lodge, Montana. Nominated property measures 100 feet x 100 feet; centered upon the Trask Hall Building. T7N, R9W, Section 4

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steve Owens, Chairman, Thelma Shaw, June Getchell

organization Powell Co. Museum & Arts Foundation

date November 1981

street & number 604 Missouri Avenue

telephone 846-2120

city or town Deer Lodge

state Montana 59722

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

Marcella Day

title

Deputy SHPO

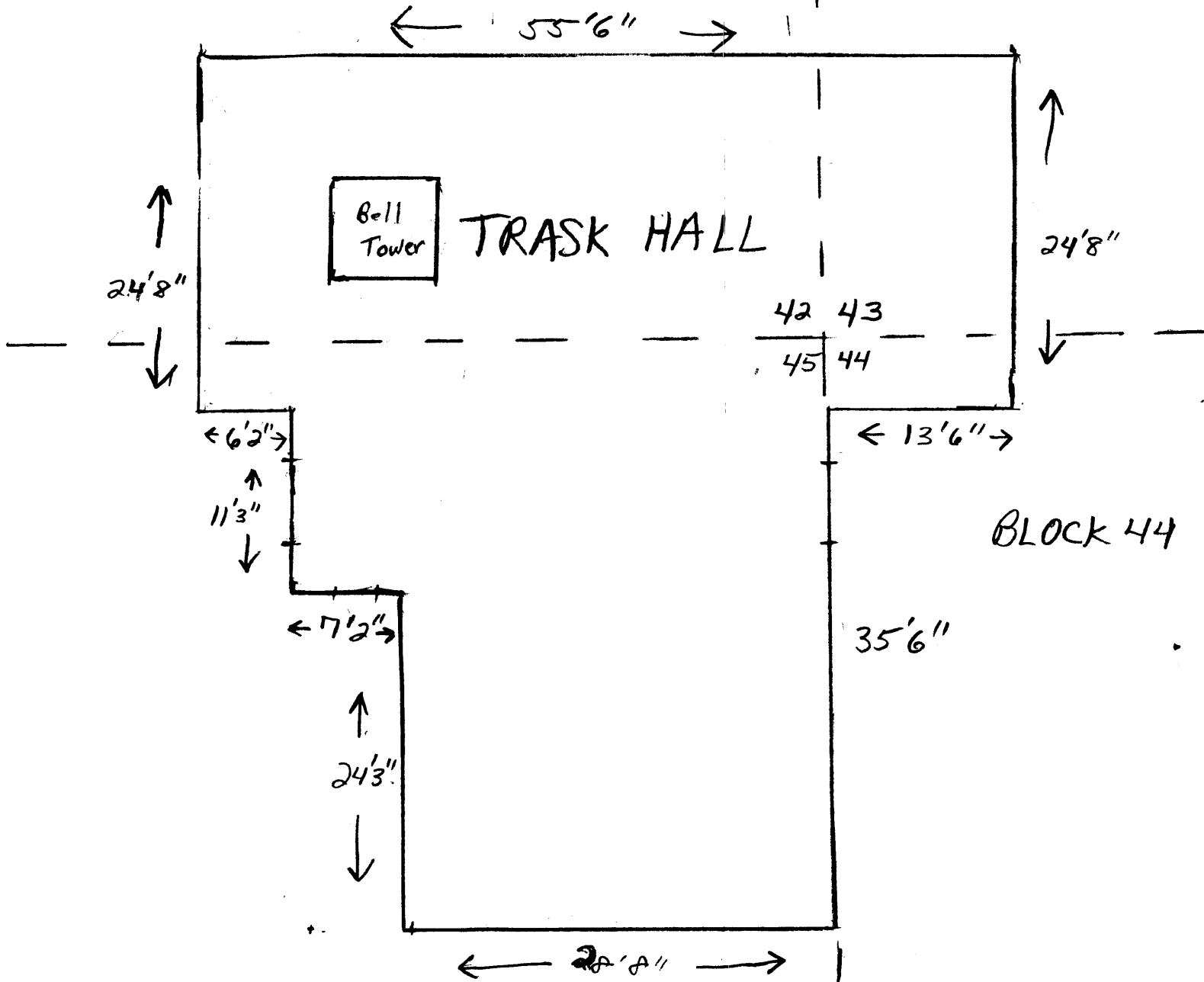
date

3-10-82

BLOCK 42

N ↑

BLOCK 43



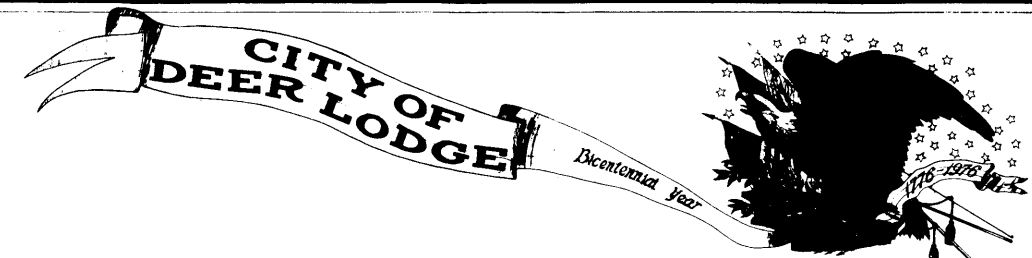
BLOCK 45

Original Townsite
Deer Lodge, Montana

Scale: 1 □ = 2 feet

OFFICIAL MAP OF
DEER LODGE, MONTANA 59722
SCALE: 1"=400' MAY 1976

Certificate of Acceptance
This map was prepared and accepted as the
OFFICIAL MAP OF THE CITY OF DEER LODGE, MONTANA
by the City Council on the 5th day of May 1976



TRASK HALL
703 Fifth Avenue
Deer Lodge, MT
Located at the intersection of
blocks 42,43,44,and 45 of
the Original Townsite platt of
Deer Lodge, Montana

INTERSTATE HIGHWAY 90

JAC 200
Map of Deer Lodge