

HISTORIC NAME: Beall Park Community Center  
ADDRESS: 409 N. Bozeman  
LEGAL BOUNDARY: A square of land in the center of the east side of Beall Park, measuring 200' by 200', centered on the building; eastern boundary is the right-of-way of North Bozeman Ave.  
OWNER'S NAME: City of Bozeman  
OWNER ADDRESS: P.O. Box 640, Bozeman, MT  
SPECIFIC DATE: 1927  
ARCHITECT: W.R. Plew  
BUILDER: Unknown  
ORIGINAL OWNER: Unknown  
ORIGINAL USE: recreation center  
PRESENT USE: arts center  
UTM REFERENCE: 12/4097350/5058700  
ACREAGE: less than one  
U.S.G.S. QUAD: Bozeman, 1953



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
Applicable Criteria: C  
Number of Contributing Properties: 1

The Beall Park Community Center, the focal point of Beall Park, is an excellent example of the Craftsman style, and is the most significant of the few examples of the work of local architect W.R. Plew. Plew was a civil engineer who initiated course in architecture at Montana State College, which led to the establishment of a Department and later a School of Architecture. It is likely that Plew received this architectural license under the "grandfather" clause. He was one of the few architects working in early 20th Century Bozeman aside from Fred F. Willson. Willson had a virtual monopoly in his field during his career, which lasted from 1910 to 1956. Ironically, the three known examples of Plew's work in Bozeman: this building, and two residences, 1004 S. Willson and 120 W. Cleveland, located within the Bon Ton Historic District, display considerably more originality than Willson's work.

The building was donated to the city by Mrs. Ella T. Martin as a community recreation center. Her husband, E. Broox Martin, became a prominent Bozeman entrepreneur shortly after the turn of the century, and built some of the Main Street blocks still in existence including the Lovelace Building at 14 W. Main, located within the Main Street Historic District.

The Bozeman nursery school had been housed in the building from the 1950's until 1983, when it folded. In that year, the Community Art Center won use of the building, chosen from four competing projects.

Although the interior of the building has unfortunately been completely remodeled, the cobblestone and fieldstone exterior remains in original condition.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This detached, one-and-one-half story structure is rectangular in plan and has an enclosed clipped-gable projecting entry with arched opening centrally located on the front facade. There is a bracketed gable overdoor above this entry and the one on the south elevation. Windows are eight-over-eight double-hung with segmental stone arches. The bearing wall construction is fieldstone with cobblestone on the bottom and rests on a rubble foundation. A concrete belt course encircles the building between the cobblestone and fieldstone wall finishes. The gable roof has clipped ends and is covered by green asphalt shingles. There are overhanging eaves and exposed rafters and a central fieldstone chimney. The axis of the roof is parallel to the street.

A concrete ramp for handicap access was added to the south side of the building rising to the existing cobblestone terrace on that elevation in 1986. This ramp was sensitively designed and harmonizes well with the building's architecture.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Bozeman Daily Chronicle, December 13, 1983, p.4

Bozeman Daily Chronicle, November 27, 1983, p.1

FORM PREPARED BY: James R. McDonald, P.C. (1983-84); Matthew Cohen (1985-86 revision); Patricia Bick (1987 revision), State Historic Preservation Office, 225 No. Roberts, Helena, Montana 59620 (406) 444-7715