

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED DEC 8 1978  
DATE ENTERED DEC 29 1978

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 DEER LODGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

U. S. ALTERNATE 10

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

ANACONDA

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

WESTERN MONTANA /

STATE

MONTANA

CODE

30

COUNTY

DEER LODGE

CODE

23

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

X BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

X GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

COUNTY OF DEER LODGE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

ANACONDA

VICINITY OF

STATE

MONTANA

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

DEER LODGE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

ANACONDA

STATE

MONTANA

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Deer Lodge County Courthouse occupies a commanding site to the south of the business district of Anaconda. It is located on a low hill at the southern end of Main Street. The stately three story stone structure has a lofty dome elevated above a two-tiered tower centrally positioned in the balanced composition of the building. The exterior walls are load bearing and are of a dressed sandstone, buff in color.

The steep hip roof is broken in line by the gabled roofs of the east and west wings which project slightly and by the main (north) entry projection. The corners project slightly, as does the rear wing, and these have hipped roofs. The central tower has two tiers, with the upper one being smaller than the lower. Both are penetrated by openings, arched, small circular or flat-headed. Stairs leading upward to the four point dome surmounted by a small cupola with a steep pyramidal roof are visible within the tower. On all four sides of the dome small dormer-like projections contain circular openings which look like they were designed to house clocks.

The majority of the window openings of the building are tall narrow double hung units with rectangular transom lights above. Single units and double window units are found on the two upper floors. The window units on the ground level have semi-circular heads.

The main entry on the north is framed in a large semi-circular arch springing from pseudo-ionic columns. Above this main arch is a large window opening set in a huge semi-circular arch. The base of this window unit is enhanced by a stone balustrade. There is also a rear or south doorway to the parking lot and garages beneath the courthouse. Also, an entryway on the east facade faces toward the county jail. This entry is framed by pseudo-Doric columns and small rectangular windows, one on each side.

Entering the building, one is faced by an ornate imperial staircase. The flanking stairways lead down to the ground level and the much wider central stairway leads upward to the "piano nobile" or main floor. The treads of the stairs are marble and the risers of cast iron with an anthemion motif. The stringers and the balustrade are of decorative cast iron. Noteworthy are the ornate square cast iron newel posts set at a 45° angle. These have an Adamesque character -- acanthus leaf capital with egg and dart cornice. Apparently lights capped the newel posts at one time. Similar newel posts are located at the top of the stairs and for the ornate staircase between the second and third levels. The bannisters of the staircases are of oak.

The floors are ceramic tile. Plastered walls and marble wainscot are found in the rotunda area and on the third level surrounding the balustraded circular opening of the floors. Doors, doorways and their trim are of oak. Above the oval opening on the third level, there is an octagonal dome contained within the attic space. The four corners of the rotunda on both levels have niches set at a 45° angle with semi-circular heads. These are flanked by Corinthian pilasters. The round opening to the lower floors has a wood railing supported by "s"-scroll cast iron strips.

# 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1898-1900 BUILDER/ARCHITECT DOLAN & HAMILL/BELL & KENT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first Deer Lodge County was created by the Idaho Territorial Legislature when this area was a part of Idaho. It was also one of the nine counties established by the Montana Territorial Legislature in 1865 when Montana was separated from Idaho. It's name came from the valley called by the Indians "Lodge of the White Tailed Deer."

The boundaries of Deer Lodge County have undergone numerous changes. Silver Bow, Granite and Powell Counties were created from portions of Deer Lodge, and parts of it were added to Lewis and Clark and to Flathead Counties. The first county seat of Deer Lodge County was at Silver Bow, but was changed to Deer Lodge City in 1867. The town of Anaconda was formed by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company in 1883. The new town grew rapidly and the county seat was moved from Deer Lodge to Anaconda in 1896.

Consideration for building a courthouse for Deer Lodge County began about 1897. The county commissioners purchased the site and hired architects Bell and Kent (Charles E. Bell and John N. Kent) of Helena to design a courthouse and a jail. Upon acceptance of the design, a bond issue was put before the voters of Deer Lodge County. It passed January 25, 1898. Construction began that spring and the building was finished in early 1900. Contractors for the building were Dolan and Hamill of Anaconda. Total cost of the courthouse and the adjacent jail reached slightly more than \$100,500.

The building is significant both for its impressive and stately architecture and for the three quarters of a century in which it has housed the county government of Deer Lodge County.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anaconda Standard (newspaper), February 11, 1900, p. 1

Progressive Men of Montana, n. d., pp.39-40

The Montana Almanac 1959-60, U. Of Montana, Missoula, pp. 143-4

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.1 Acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Anaconda, Montana QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 2	3 4 8 9 50	51 09 3 0 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the N. side by Eighth Street, on the E. side by Oak Street, on the W. by the Sheep Gulch Road, and on the S. by the 9th St. Extension.

## 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

JOHN N. DeHAAS, JR., ARCHITECT

ORGANIZATION

DATE NOVEMBER 17, 1978  
FEBRUARY 11, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

1021 S. TRACY

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

BOZEMAN

STATE

MONTANA

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

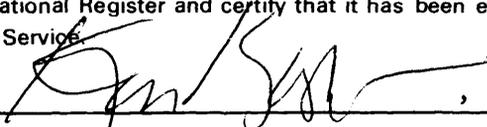
NATIONAL

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE



, KEN KORTE

TITLE

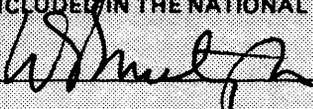
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

11/17/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER



DATE

12/29/78

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

William H. Graham

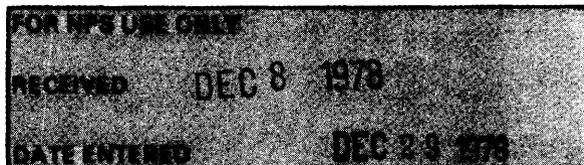
12-28-78

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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                                 Courthouse      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

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The eight part dome is not a true octagonal since the four major planes, oriented with the compass, are larger than the four smaller planes that rise above the corner niches. Simulated or painted ribs of the dome give the illusion of structural members. Between these pseudo-ribs for the four smaller planes or panels the seals of Deer Lodge County are painted on the surfaces. Three of the larger panels have paintings but the fourth, above the staircase, was left plain. The seals and paintings were executed in 1900 by the Associated Artists of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Repainting and touch-up work was done in 1973 by L. Kitchen.

The upper or third level contains the large courtroom on the east, with jury rooms, judge's chambers, court reporter and clerk's workrooms, etc., occupying the rest of the space. A spiral staircase joins the office of the Clerk of the Court on the second level beneath the courtroom with the courtroom.

This beautifully conceived and maintained courthouse, completed in 1900, is the work of the architectural firm of Bell and Kent of Helena, Montana. The same firm designed other courthouses in the state and numerous prominent buildings in Helena, including the state capitol building.