

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received DEC 23 1986

date entered

JAN 22 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lincoln Community Hall

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number Highway 200 N/A not for publication

city, town Lincoln N/A vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Lewis & Clark code 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lincoln Community Hall Association

street & number Highway 200

city, town Lincoln N/A vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lewis and Clark County Courthouse

street & number Park St.

city, town Helena 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date n/a

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lincoln Community Hall is a one story, octagonally-shaped building with an eight-sided conical roof. A one story, gable roofed log addition, built in 1920, extends from the back of the Hall. A wood frame wing is attached to the east side of this addition and two small shed additions are located on the east and west walls. The Community Hall is located along Highway 200 in the unincorporated village of Lincoln, approximately 45 miles northwest of Helena at an elevation of 4,536 feet.

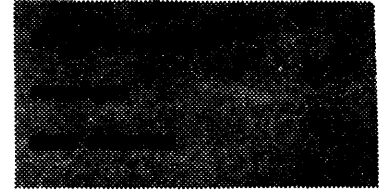
Built on a cement foundation, each side of the octagonal building is 24 feet long and has a horizontally sliding window with two six-light sashes. The unhewn, peeled logs have flat, overlapping joints. According to one of the builders, each log end "was bored and a piece of hardwood buggy wheel spoke was driven through the hole into the log below, so there could be no slipping of the joints when the weight of the roof came on the walls" (Great Falls Tribune, 28 October 1962). Chinking is concealed by narrow wooden strips nailed between the logs. The south-facing main entrance consists of two metal doors (which replaced the original doors in 1983) covered by a small, gable roofed board and batten vestibule. This replaced the original hip roofed porch in 1956 when Highway 200 was widened. The entire building is painted dull red. Asphalt shingles cover the original wood shingles.

Construction of the Community Hall was a team effort undertaken by numerous Lincoln area residents. In the 1962 Tribune article, Carter Rubottom, one of many people who assisted with the construction, offered a detailed description of how the building was erected:

Along about 1916, the folks around Lincoln decided to build a new community hall. An association was formed and plans began to take shape. We agreed to build it of logs, but the size and shape required a lot of discussion. I had been reading about round barns for livestock, so suggested a building of that form...Final plans were drawn up. We had a good carpenter, Tom Hensler, who lived on a small place in Sauerkraut Gulch and had time to supervise the work. The labor was largely donated. The site for the hall was donated [by Leonard Lambkin, local promoter of tourism in Lincoln and a portion of the site was purchased from William and Sarah Paulman]. Merchants in Helena, our nearest town and trading center, donated some money.

In the fall of 1916 we cut logs and decked them in the woods on Stonewall Creek, about five miles from the site of the hall. The cement foundations were poured before freezing weather. Ira Tuck and I offered to haul down the logs and by the time we started the snow was more than three feet deep in the hills...We hauled down 120 logs and then started the building. We dug a trench in the deep snow, exposing the foundation, then set up trestles and peeled the logs. We mortised the ends to make the joints. This was some job, as the logs were 27 feet long and at least 10 inches in diameter at the small end. The logs were rolled into place on the walls with ropes and skids, two men pulling from inside the building...By spring we had the walls up and the false ceiling in place. Tom Hensler built the roof trusses on the

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false ceiling. The main truss was built to extend across the building in the center and was formed of three thicknesses of 2 x 12 planks.

When it was ready to raise into position, I brought up my 1913 Buick car and a double block and rope used to stack hay. We fastened the ground block to a stump and the other block to the peak of the truss, which we raised as far as possible by hand and propped in position. I hooked the pull rope to the Buick and started down the road. The truss started up and I thought I was going to make it, when the anchor stump pulled out and the heavy truss fell back to the platform with a crash. I thought that would surely break the truss, but we were lucky and no damage was done. Little work was done during the following winter, except for sheeting and shingling the roof. Then in the fall of 1917 we fell to again and laid the floor during the cold weather.

The community hall was dedicated on February 22, 1918 with a large and festive dance attended by many people in and around Lincoln.

By 1920 Lambkin had donated another parcel of land on which to build the gable roofed log addition on the back of the main hall. This section was used originally as a kitchen/dining room and continues to serve this function today. The same type of sliding windows were incorporated on the 1920 addition.

A small shed used as a closet was added toward the front of the east side of the building by 1952. The long, clapboarded wood frame addition, also on the east wall, was put on in the 1960s to function as a stage and storage area for community theater performances. The shed on the west side of the building covers a former entrance which was closed at an undetermined date.

The interior of the octagon has exposed, unpainted log walls with plywood sheets from the floor to a height of about four feet. Narrow maple boards cover the floor and the ceiling is finished in wide, pine panels painted white. Fluorescent lights are placed at regular intervals around the perimeter of the inside. The raised stage is located in the northeast corner.

The rear kitchen/dining room has a suspended acoustical tile ceiling (added in c.1960), carpeting and fluorescent lights.

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 1918 **Builder/Architect** Tom Hensler and others, builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lincoln Community Hall is significant for its associative value with the numerous community members who assisted in its construction, and for its continued use in providing a central location for local and area residents to gather and attend recreational activities in a relatively remote area of what is today part of the Helena National Forest. Lincoln Community Hall is also important for its distinctive octagonal architectural design and use of indigenous building materials.

The original town of Lincoln, a bustling placer mining camp during the mid- to late-1860s, was located in Lincoln Gulch about three miles from the present community. By the early 1870s, after area miners had left the camp in search of new strikes, present-day Lincoln had been settled.

SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN SIGNIFICANCE

Initiated by an abundance of energetic residents, the 1918 Community Hall was erected in response to the need for a larger dance hall to replace an earlier structure that had fallen into disrepair. Using land donated by the prominent businessman Leonard Lambkin and led by Tom Hensler, a local carpenter, dozens of other Lincoln citizens contributed their labor and skills toward the construction of the octagonal building. Carter Rubottom, a local musician, and other members of his band donated their talent by organizing dances in order to raise money for the structure. A variety of other events provided by area women including "basket socials" and "raffled needlework" assisted with fundraising.

From the day it was built, the Community Hall has served as the location for a variety of activities in Lincoln. Dances have apparently been the most popular form of entertainment. According to Rubottom, after the hall was dedicated in 1918, "People came from miles away and we had a fine time [dancing]...we often had large crowds from Helena and Great Falls...At the close of the war, everyone was crazy to dance, and we held a weekly dance from about May 30 to Labor Day, with usually a three-night session over the Fourth of July. Sometimes we hired special music, but for the first three years our local talent furnished the music. We made enough money the first summer to build a large addition for a dining room" (Frontier Times vol. 48, no. 1, Dec.-Jan. 1974). Other events included a Christmas program presented by local school children, a home talent show which was held every February 22, and regular lunch and dinner parties. In later years, the building was outfitted for roller skating, used as a gymnasium and, in the 1960s, musical and theatrical plays were staged here.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Great Falls Tribune 28 October 1962.
Helena Independent Record 25 May 1952
Frontier Times vol. 48, no. 1, Dec.-Jan. 1974

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lincoln, MT

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	2	3	7	1	6	8	0	5	2	0	1	3	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 Beginning at point on the SW corner of Lot from which point the Quarter Corner between Sections 23 & 24, T14NR9W bears S. 50 05' W. 2012.6 feet; thence S.88 29; E. 100 feet; thence n.1 31' E. 150 feet; thence N.88 29' W.100 feet, thence S.1 31' W. 150 feet to the place of beginning.

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

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Koop/Survey Coordinator/National Register Assistant

organization Montana SHPO date 10 October 1986

street & number 225 N. Roberts telephone 406-444-7715

city or town Helena 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

Marella Sheff

title SHPO date Dec 10, 1986

For NPS use only

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

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

date 1-22-87

J. M. [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The use of an octagonal design for the Lincoln Community Hall was clearly based on Carter Rubottom's knowledge of round buildings. While the construction of community halls in small towns is common throughout Montana, the choice of an octagon shape for this type of building was used only here and for a tribal community center on the Crow Reservation and for the main exhibition hall at the Madison County Fairgrounds (listed in the National Register August 3, 1984). Few other structures of this design are known to exist in Montana, and only one other, a residence east of Helena in Lewis and Clark county, is listed in the National Register. The use of logs was a natural choice since timber was, and still is today, in wide abundance in the Lincoln area.

While the Lincoln Community Hall has been modernized, it retains good historic architectural integrity and appears very similar to when it was expanded in 1920. Despite declining use in recent years, the Community Hall continues to be the location for dances, social gatherings and other community events.