



Montana Department of Justice
Law Enforcement Academy
State-Owned Heritage Properties
Report

Reporting Period: 2022 - 2023

Report Prepared by:

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Executive Summary

The Montana Law Enforcement Academy is currently located northeast of Helena on the former campus of The Mountain View School for Girls (The Montana Vocational School for Girls). This campus covers approximately 22 acres and consists of 18 structures constructed between 1920 and 2020. The approximate total square footage for these buildings is 105,000. For this reporting period, approximately 1,600 students attended various classes utilizing many of the different buildings and structures of the Montana Law Enforcement Academy campus.

In accordance with the Montana Antiquities Act, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy is submitting the 2022 – 2023 Biennial Report. As required by Montana Code Annotated (MCA) 22-3-424(4): “an act requiring state agencies and the Montana University System to biennially report to the Preservation Review Board on the status and maintenance needs of agency heritage properties.”

MCA 22-3-424(4) outlines five reporting requirements state agencies must include in their report to the Preservation Board. The statute requires the following:

- A. A list of heritage properties managed by the agencies as those properties have been identified pursuant to this section;
- B. The status and condition of each heritage property;
- C. The stewardship efforts in which the agencies have engaged to maintain each heritage property and the cost of those activities;
- D. A prioritized list of the maintenance needs of the properties; and
- E. A record of the agencies’ compliance with subsections MCA 22-3-424(1) and (2).

History

The Montana State Vocational School for Girls was built in 1919. Prior to 1919, the state’s only correctional facility for girls was the State Reform School at Miles City. The majority of the State Reform School’s population was male. In 1917 the State Federation of Women’s Clubs and the Good Government Club, also a women’s group, began lobbying the state legislature for a separate facility for girls. Their efforts succeeded in 1919 when the legislature created the State Vocational School for Girls.

The Good Government Club, which ultimately evolved into the Montana League of Women Voters, included in its membership several women who had in 1914 led the successful effort to gain suffrage for Montana women. Jeanette Rankin, the first U.S. Congresswoman, and Dr. Maria Dean, one of the first women doctors in

Montana were prominent in the club. Dr. Dean, who led the fight to establish a separate school, had been an active suffragette for a number of years.

The 1919 Legislature authorized the school and provided funds to purchase the 400-acre Hebert Ranch in the Prickly Pear Valley near Helena as its site. Later that year six girls were moved to the school from Miles City and began residence in the log ranch house. The 400 acres of the ranch were used as a source of food revenue for the maintenance of the school, and as a source of work for the school's population which had expanded to 66 by 1922.



Agriculture and hygiene were the only classes offered at first, and the girls spent much of their time helping the facility become a self-sustaining agricultural venture. (Pictured left)

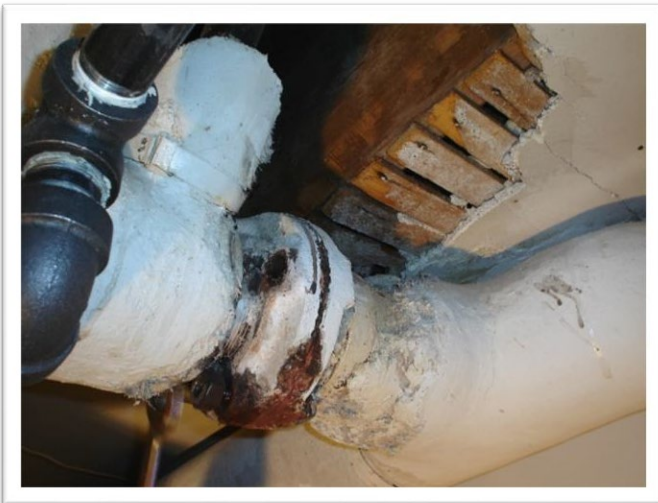
All major buildings built in the first years of the school exhibit the major features of the craftsman movement in architecture.

Employing the honest expression of structural elements for decoration, the dormitories first stories were constructed in brick with exposed half-timber supports and stucco on their second stories. The interiors were marked by exposed beam ceilings, wainscoting, corner fireplace and built-in window seats. The first major building project at the school was Maria Dean Cottage (Spruce), completed in 1921. Stewart Hall (pictured below) was used for administrative offices and classrooms and stands out from the craftsman style cottages on campus. Stewart Hall is constructed entirely of brick and features three battlement windows on the second story. Collectively these buildings provide the best representation of craftsman style architecture in Montana.



All the major old buildings at the school lie in a continuous line set back from the county road which fronts the school on the south (see current Montana Law Enforcement Academy site plan page 11). The buildings overlook a wide expanse of lawn, which forms a central common. Prickly Pear Creek bisects the nicely landscaped common with two bridges crossing the creek connecting Adair (Aspen) and Maria Dean Hall (Spruce) with the rest of the campus.

In 1967, the State Legislature changed the school's name to Mountain View School for Girls. However, its essential role remained unchanged since 1919. It provided vocational and academic training for girls in a setting similar to that of the early state of its development. Until the 1950s, punishment included lockup or solitary confinement, deprivation of one of the three daily meals, loss of privileges such as letter writing, and physical chastisement. Matrons often made girls stand for long periods of time, sometimes with a piece of soap in their mouths.



In 1997, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy relocated to the former Mountain View School for Girls. At that time, the condition of the buildings was very poor and deteriorating due to the lack of attention and maintenance. The current Administration of the Montana Law Enforcement Academy has been and continues to diligently work to bring these buildings into a state of repair.

Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) Heritage Properties

Spruce



Spruce is a 12,660 square foot, two-story dormitory constructed in 1920. The MLEA uses Spruce as a dormitory for students and adjunct instructors. Prior to the remodel, the building had 24 single and multiple occupancy dormitory rooms, 1 lounge, 1 computer/game room and a laundry facility. In September 2019 remodeling efforts began to install a new HVAC system, re-enforce the foundation, replace outdated electrical and plumbing services, and install new carpet and paint. Multiple occupancy rooms were

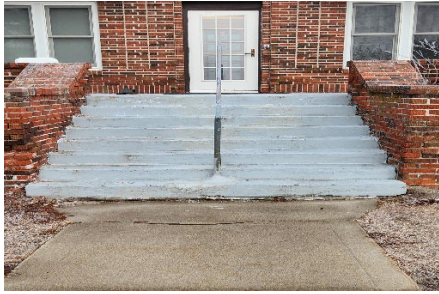
converted to single occupancy, bringing the total room count to 29. Work was completed in January 2020 at a cost of \$1,658,799. Recently the exterior concrete steps have continued to erode; measures have been taken to slow this and make temporary repairs. Within the next five or so years it is likely there will be a need to do a full replacement.

Aspen



Aspen is a 7,344 square foot, two-story dormitory constructed in 1926. Prior to the remodel, the building had 13 dormitory rooms, 1 lounge, 1 conference room and 1 custodian closet. Aspen was the first building to be remodeled and completed in September 2019 at a cost of \$1,020,201. Upgrades included a new HVAC system, improved plumbing and electrical services, reinforced foundation, bathroom remodeling, kitchenette built in the student lounge area and a laundry room added in the basement. The conference room was replaced with single occupancy rooms bringing the total to 23 rooms in the building. This building has also had a continued issue with exterior step erosion. The same measures have been implemented to slow the issues.

Image of step erosion



Maple



Maple is a 16,335 square foot, two-story dormitory building constructed in 1922. Prior to the remodel in 2020 there were 27 dormitory rooms, 5 administrative offices, 1 conference room, 1 computer room, 1 game room and 1 lounge. The basement of this dorm was closed to students but used for scenario training. In 2020 the building underwent a substantial remodel. HVAC, electrical and plumbing upgrades, foundation re-enforcement, new carpet and fresh paint were completed.

Upgraded dorm rooms, laundry room, and kitchenette were also added to improve the quality of life for students. Office space and multiple occupancy rooms were converted to single occupancy, bringing the new room total to 51. The total cost was \$2,329,950. The Maple dorm has since had minor issues with the heating and plumbing systems and standard repairs have been made to the structure during 2022 and 2023.

Cottonwood



Cottonwood is a one story 7,508 square foot dormitory constructed in 1960. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy continues to use Cottonwood as a dormitory for students and adjunct instructors. This building has 28 dormitory rooms, 1 training room, 1 security room/laundry drop off/pick up room and 1 office. No additional work has been done during this reporting period.

Administration



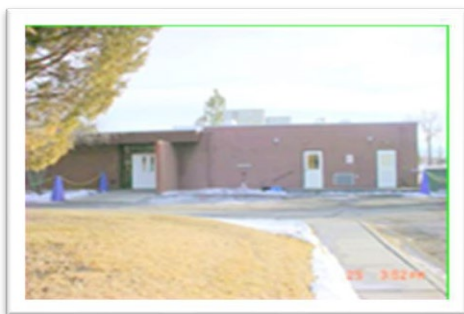
Originally constructed in 1924 as a School Building at The Montana Vocational School for Girls, it housed classrooms, an infirmary, clinic, laundry and offices. In 1997, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy took possession of the property. MLEA continues to use this building for training and administration. It consists of 10,249 square feet and houses 9 administrative offices, 3 classrooms, 1 conference room and 1 multipurpose room. No additional work has been done during this reporting period. This building is slated to receive a new heating and cooling system within the next 12 months.

Gymnasium



The Gymnasium/Auditorium was built at The Montana Vocational School for Girls in 1926. The Montana Vocational School for Girls used this building for physical fitness and entertainment purposes. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy uses the Gymnasium for physical fitness training and testing as well as ceremonies. It consists of 8,100 square feet; the physical fitness area and stage remain on the first floor while the basement has been converted into a weight room. In 2020 the floor was refinished at a cost of \$14,000. In May of 2023 the Gym suffered wind damage to the roofing system resulting in a \$5,000 repair. Additionally, the waste line from this building is degrading and is scheduled for a \$15,000 upgrade.

Cafeteria



Built in 1967, the cafeteria was designed to provide food services for the staff and students who attended the Mountainview School for Girls. The remodeled cafeteria now has seating capacity for 132 people. The cafeteria serves food for almost all students who attend courses at MLEA. The MLEA uses the outdoor covered area for graduations and activities.

Heritage Property Status and Conditions

Overall, the Heritage Properties on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy campus rank "Good" or "Fair" for Historic Integrity and Condition and "Satisfactory" for Status. Within the last four years the following projects were completed on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy to improve the condition of heritage properties:

1 – Gym roof maintenance and repair

In July of 2023 about a 300 sq ft section of the gymnasium roof underwent a repair due to wind damage. The cost of repair and maintenance was \$5,000.

2 – Administration Building

This building is approved for an \$850,000 heating and cooling upgrade. The project is underway and is currently in the pre-construction phase. The project is slated to be done mid-year 2024.

3 – Gym waste line repair

In the spring of 2023, we found that the almost 100-year-old waste line was degrading to the point of collapse. A small section of about 10 feet was repaired at that time at a cost of about \$2500. Follow-up inspections to include running a camera down the line was completed and located further areas of concern at a cost of about \$4000. The entire gym waste line is set for replacement in late January of 2024 at a cost of \$12,500.

Heritage Site Stewardship Efforts

The Montana Law Enforcement Academy is responsible for providing law enforcement, public safety officers and other qualified individuals with a means of securing training in the field of law enforcement and public safety. Through a wide range of basic and professional training programs, the Academy acts to raise the competence and proficiency of law enforcement and public safety officers. Training programs ranging in length from 4 hours to 12 weeks are conducted throughout the year. Professional development and outreach programs are provided by the Academy to address special needs for local agencies.

Maintenance Needs

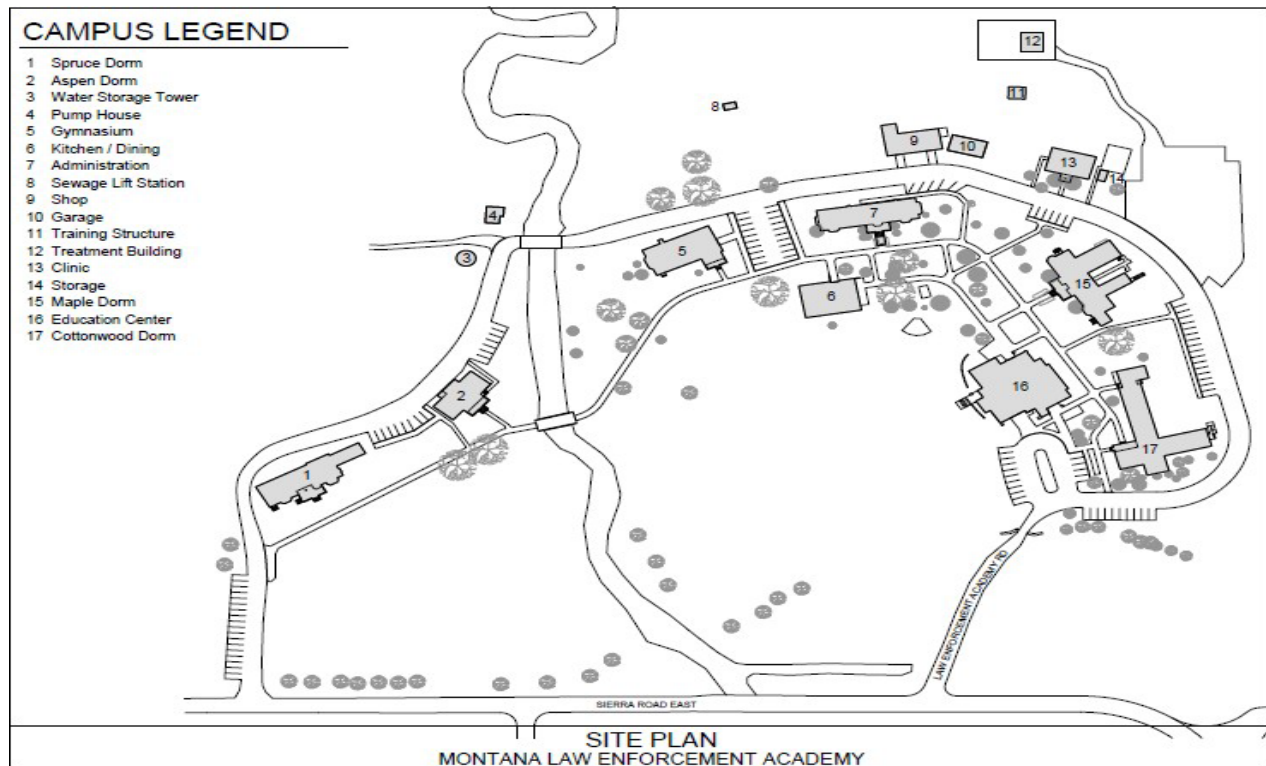
The primary preservation needs of the seven heritage property buildings at the Academy are issues of standard building utilization and maintenance. The exterior waste lines for Spruce, Aspen, Admin, and Maple will need to be replaced in the same fashion as the scheduled replacement of the Gym waste line. Aging boilers in the Administration building are being addressed. Cottonwood dormitory building will not be addressed as there is conversation around replacing the structure.

Agency Compliance

The current point-of-contact for the Montana Law Enforcement Academy is Joel Wendland, Executive Director. Joel can be reached at joel.wendland@mt.gov or 406-444-9950. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy does not have additional heritage policies or programs and relies on the Montana Antiquities Act for support of the heritage buildings.

During the 2022 – 2023 reporting period there were no adverse effects determined for heritage properties at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.

Montana Law Enforcement Academy Site Plan





MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Highway Patrol Headquarters, Boulder, MT
Building #100
STATE-OWNED HERITAGE PROPERTIES REPORT
REPORTING PERIOD 2022-2023



REPORT TO THE MONTANA PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD
REPORT PREPARED BY MAJOR CHAN BARRY
FEBRUARY 2024

Summary

The Montana Department of Justice (DOJ) presents this biennial report to the Montana Preservation Review Board as required by Montana Code Annotated (MCA) § 22-3-424(4), providing:

- (a) a list of the heritage properties managed by the agencies as those properties have been identified pursuant to this section;
- (b) the status and condition of each heritage property;
- (c) the stewardship efforts in which the agencies have engaged to maintain each heritage property and the cost of those activities;
- (d) a prioritized list of the maintenance needs for the properties; and
- (e) a record of the agencies' compliance with subsections (1) and (2).

A. List of Heritage Properties Managed by DOJ

On April 12, 2021, Governor Gianforte issued an Executive Order formally transferring administrative and management responsibility for specified land from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to the Department of Justice.

The property transferred from DPHHS to DOJ is located in Boulder, Montana, and is formerly known as the Montana Developmental Center (MDC). Pursuant to the April 9, 2021 Agreement for the Formal Transfer of Administrative and Management Responsibility for Specified Land from the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services to the Montana Department of Justice (Transfer Agreement), DOJ is responsible for all maintenance and repair of (i) the Property (buildings and grounds) and (ii) the entire former Montana Developmental Center campus (building and grounds) including, but not limited to the property that DPHHS administers and manages for its Intensive Behavior Center.

The property currently houses the Montana Highway Patrol Headquarters (MHP). MHP moved into the property in August 2021. Within the property, there is one heritage property, which is formerly known as the Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum.

Building #100, Montana Highway Patrol Headquarters, Boulder, MT

History.

Building #100 is formerly known as the Montana Deaf and Dumb Asylum and was also commonly known as the Old Administration Building. The construction of this building began in 1896 and was completed in 1898. This building was placed on the Register of Historic Places in May of 1985.

Building #100 is architecturally significant as one of the few remaining major buildings designed by regionally significant architect John C. Paulsen, and as one of Montana's best representations of Italianate style architecture. It exhibits a melding of Italianate and Renaissance revival features, both of which are uncommon in Montana. (See, National Register of Historic Places, attached hereto).



Damage caused by a windstorm in January 2021. The chimney cover was blown off and several bricks have been damaged.



Repaired and reconstructed chimney.

B. Status and condition of property.

This property is in poor condition. The building is vacant and secured from public access. There is no electricity nor running water, and the building is not used in any way. In January 2021, a severe windstorm occurred blowing the chimney cover off and causing multiple chimney bricks to become dislodged.

Repairs to the roof and chimney were completed in Spring 2022, to prevent any further damage from occurring.

C. Stewardship Efforts made by DOJ

Since DOJ has taken over the management responsibilities of this property in August 2021, the following improvements have been made:

1. A roof replacement was completed in Spring 2022. The total project cost was \$61,750.00 Funding was received through the State of Montana, Risk Management & Tort Defense as a covered loss claim. The damage occurred during the period when DPHHS had responsibility for managing the building.
2. The chimney repair was also completed in Spring 2022. The total project cost was \$8250.00. Funding was received through the State of Montana, Risk Management & Tort Defense as a covered loss claim. The damage occurred during the period when DPHHS had responsibility for managing the building.

D. Maintenance Needs

Because this building is currently unoccupied, there are no maintenance needs. However, if DOJ determines it will utilize this building in the future, maintenance needs will need to be addressed.

E. A Record of the Agencies' Compliance with Subsections 22-3-424 (4) MCA

22-3-424 (4) MCA outlines five reporting requirements state agencies must include in their report to the Preservation Board. The statute requires the following:

- A. A list of heritage properties managed by the agencies as those properties have been identified pursuant to this section
- B. The status and condition of each heritage property
- C. The stewardship efforts in which the agencies have engaged to maintain each heritage property and the cost of those activities
- D. A prioritized list of the maintenance needs for the properties

E. A Record of the agencies' compliance with subsections MCA 22-3-424 (1) and (2)

This is the second reporting period since DOJ has taken responsibility for Building #100. Prior heritage property stewardship reports were filed by the Department of Health and Human Services.

