

# **Montana Law Enforcement Academy**

## **State-Owned Heritage Properties**

### **Biennial Report 2012 – 2013**

Report Prepared by:  
Beth Strandberg  
Administrative Officer  
Montana Law Enforcement Academy

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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 10 occupied structures constructed between 1920 and 2010. In calendar year 2013, approximately 1,009 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 2012 – 2013 Biennial Report. Since there are few records available on these buildings it is extremely difficult to make an accurate assessment of the historical significance and property description of these buildings.

## **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 schools population which had expanded to 66 by 1922.

With the exception of Stewart Hall (Administration Building), 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 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. The buildings overlook a wide expanse of lawn, which forms a central common. Prickly Pear Creek bisects the nicely landscaped common with two timbered bridges crossing the creek to connect 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.

In 1997, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy relocated to the former Mountain View School for Girls. At that time, the conditions of the buildings were 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 Heritage Properties**

PROPERTY NUMBER	PROPERTY NAME
	<b>Dormitories</b>
24LC0846	Spruce
	Aspen
	Maple
	Cottonwood
	<b>Education/Administration</b>
	Administration
	Gymnasium

**Spruce**

Spruce is a two story dormitory constructed in 1920. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) continues to use Spruce as a dormitory for students and adjunct instructors. Due to the deteriorating condition of this building, MLEA only uses the basement area for scenarios training. This building consists of 12,660 square feet with 24 dormitory rooms, 1 lounge, 1 computer/game room and a laundry facility.

## **Aspen**

Aspen is a two story dormitory constructed in 1926. MLEA continues to use Aspen as a dormitory for students. Due to the deteriorating condition of this building MLEA does not utilize the basement of this building. This building consists of 7,344 square feet with 13 dormitory rooms, 1 lounge, 1 conference room and 1 custodian closet.

## **Maple**

The Montana Vocational School for Girls had Maple, a two story dormitory, constructed in 1922. The Montana Law Enforcement Academy continues to use the second floor of this building as a dormitory and the first floor as administrative offices and common areas for the students to watch television and play games. This building consists of 16,335 square feet with 27 dormitory rooms, 5 administrative offices, 1 conference room, 1 computer room, 1 game room and 1 lounge. The basement of this dorm is also closed to students however used for various scenarios.

## **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 classroom, 1 security room/laundry drop off/pick up room and 1 office.

## **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.

## **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 (plays, shows).

The Montana Law Enforcement Academy uses the Gymnasium for physical fitness training and testing. 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.

## **Heritage Property Status and Conditions**

This is the first reporting on these buildings. Overall, the Heritage Properties on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy campus rank "Good" or "Fair" for Historic Integrity and Condition and "Satisfactory" for Status. During the 2012 – 2013 biennial reporting period the following projects were completed on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy:

Fire Suppression System  
Water Supply System Upgrade  
FEMA Seismic Hazard Mitigation Project

### **Fire Suppression System**

The fire suppression system project placed fire sprinkles throughout each of the dorms: **Spruce, Aspen, Maple and Cottonwood (24LC0846)**. A prior project had placed alarm devices in each residential room, common areas and basements. Control valves were installed in each of the basements.

### **Water Supply System Upgrade**

The Law Enforcement Academy is currently operating with an Artesian well-constructed in 1946.

During December 2012 bid proposals were accepted for the construction of a new well and pump house. Items included in the Bid proposal were: a Feasibility Study, Design, research of Water Rights Revisions, and cleaning and inspection of the 60,000 gallon water tank. These items were completed in August 2013; completion of the well and new pump house is scheduled for 2014.

### **FEMA Seismic Hazard Mitigation Project**

A Seismic Hazard Mitigation project was completed on the Gymnasium during 2013.

## **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 in order to address special needs for local agencies.

July 2004 through June 2014, the State of Montana and the Montana Law Enforcement Academy spent \$8,164,138 (includes two new buildings) in Campus/Infrastructure Improvements. This amount includes rebuilding the Gymnasium Foundation, Sierra Cottage Roof and Building Repair, Renovation to the first floor west wing of Spruce and exterior repairs to Spruce, Aspen, Administration and Maple. During this time period, the Montana Law Enforcement Academy constructed two new buildings on campus: the Waste Water Treatment System (\$1.3 million) and the MLEA – Ohs Education Center (\$3.75 million).

Following is a complete listing of the improvements to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy over the past 10 years:

**MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY  
CAMPUS/INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS  
JULY 2004 – JUNE 2014**

Electrical Distribution System Renovation	\$23,000.00
Gymnasium Foundation Rebuild	\$84,600.00
Sierra Cottage Roof and Building Repair	\$24,525.00
Cottonwood Boiler Replacement	\$7,750.00
Spruce Building - 1st Floor West Wing Renovation	\$65,000.00
Spruce / Aspen / Administration Buildings Boiler Upgrades	\$324,000.00
Spruce / Aspen / Administration / Maple Window Replacement	\$339,600.00
Waste Water Treatment System	\$1,300,000.00
Campus Fire Alarm System Upgrade	\$257,450.00
MLEA - Ohs Education Center	\$3,750,000.00
East Side Campus Roadway, Sidewalk, and West Side Parking Lot	\$237,600.00
Spruce / Aspen / Administration / Maple Building Exterior Repairs	\$450,000.00
Gymnasium Seismic Stabilization and Exterior	\$275,000.00
Campus Fire Suppression System	\$450,000.00
Water Supply System Upgrade	\$450,000.00
FEMA Seismic Hazard Mitigation Project	\$125,613.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$8,164,138.00</b>

The Department of Administration invested \$1,025,613 during 2012 – 2013 for improvements on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy campus. Projects completed: the Campus Fire Suppression System for each dorm, Spruce, Aspen, Maple and Cottonwood (\$450,000), the Water Supply System Upgrade (\$450,000) and the FEMA Seismic Hazard Mitigation Project (\$125,613).

## Maintenance Needs

The primary preservation needs of the 6 buildings at the Academy are issues of standard building utilization and maintenance. Due to the extensive deterioration of the foundation to Spruce it is ranked as the highest for preservation work. The other buildings are ranked in the following order: Maple, Aspen, Administration, and Cottonwood with the Gymnasium ranking last. Maintenance to all Academy buildings are incorporated into the planning and performed as necessary.

## Agency Compliance

The current point-of-contact for the Montana Law Enforcement Academy is Beth Strandberg, Administrative Officer. She may be reached at [bstrandberg@mt.gov](mailto:bstrandberg@mt.gov), 406-444-9969. 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 2012 – 2013 reporting period there were no adverse effects determined for heritage properties at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.

## Summary Table

PROPERTY NUMBER	PROPERTY	STATUS	CONDITION	STEWARDSHIP EFFORTS	RANKING
24LC0846	Spruce	Satisfactory	Good	\$112,500.00	1
	Maple	Satisfactory	Good	\$112,500.00	2
	Aspen	Satisfactory	Good	\$112,500.00	3
	Administration	Satisfactory	Fair		4
	Cottonwood	Satisfactory	Good	\$112,500.00	5
	Gymnasium	Satisfactory	Good	\$125,613.00	6