

# **Montana Law Enforcement Academy**

## **State-Owned Heritage Properties**

### **Biennial Report 2014 – 2015**

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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 2015, approximately 1,018 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 2014 – 2015 Biennial Report. As required by Montana Codes 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 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 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 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 training room, 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**

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 2014 – 2015 biennial reporting period the following projects were completed on the Montana Law Enforcement Academy:

Hot Water Heaters – Maple and Cottonwood  
North Well Improvements  
Water Supply System Upgrade - Completion

### **Hot Water Heaters – Maple and Cottonwood**

During 2014 MLEA replaced two hot water heaters in Maple. These heaters were approximately 25 years old and contained a great deal of sediment. This project included moving the heaters to a more appropriate place in the basement, new piping, and a new check valve. The individual mixers from each sink was removed and replaced with one central mixer on the heaters. The cost of this project was \$11,465.

Replacement of the hot water heater in Cottonwood occurred in June 2015. This heater was approximately 25 years old and contained a great deal of sediment. As with Maple, each individual mixer was removed from the sink and replaced with one central mixer on the heater. The cost of this project was \$6,045.

### **North Well Improvements**

April, 2015 the new pump control system began indicating the pump and/or motor had failed. After diagnosing the problem it was determined the pump had failed due to the extreme amount of sand being drawn into the pump intake. A new pump and motor was installed in August, 2015.

The old well has been retained and upgraded for use as a backup in the event the new well experiences any further problems or issues. This upgrade included replacing the submerged turbine pump with a submersible pump similar to the new well, motor, valving, and modifying the well casing to accept the new components. To avoid having to run the system manually, the well was tied into the new control system. The cost of this project was \$16,000.00.

### **Water Supply System Upgrade – Completion**

January, 2014 the new well was completed. This included drilling the new well, developing, testing the pump and capping the artesian well. The well is 366 feet deep with the pump set at 60 feet.

The treatment house was completed in February 2015. Montana Law Enforcement Academy began using the new water supply system (South Well) in February 2015. The old water supply system (North Well) has been updated for use as a backup water supply system.

### **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.

The following table lists the improvements to the Montana Law Enforcement Academy during the 2014 – 2015 reporting period:

**MONTANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY  
CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS  
JANUARY 2014 – DECEMBER 2015**

Hot Water Heater Replacement – Maple and Cottonwood	\$17,510.00
North Well Improvements	\$16,000.00
Water Supply System Upgrade – Completion	\$450,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$483,510.00</b>

**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 to the front steps of Maple it is ranked as the highest priority for preservation work. The foundation work that needs to be completed on Spruce is also ranked as a high priority preservation project. The other buildings are ranked in the following order: 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 2014 – 2015 reporting period there were no adverse effects determined for heritage properties at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy.