

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Manley's General StoreOther names/site number: Garneill Post Office, Garneill Community Hall, Garneill Community Center, 24FR655Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 42 Garneill RoadCity or town: Garneill State: MT County: FergusNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Signature of certifying official/Title:</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Date</div> </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</div>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="width: 60%;">Signature of commenting official:</div> <div style="width: 35%;">Date</div> </div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; padding-top: 5px;"> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 40%;">Title :</div> <div style="width: 60%;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</div> </div> </div>	

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☐

Public – State

☐

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☒

District

☐

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Western Commercial

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: CONCRETE
Walls: BRICK and WOOD
Roof: SYNTHETIC (Membrane) and STEEL
Other:

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Manley's General Store (Garneill Post Office/Garneill Community Center/ Garneill Community Hall) is located five miles north of the town of Judith Gap on U.S. Route 151 in the unincorporated community of Garneill, Montana. Geographically positioned in the Judith Gap area between the Little Belt Mountains to the west and the Big Snowy Mountains to the east, the location is within a travel corridor utilized since the distant past. More recent use includes passage of freight prior to and during the earliest days of what became Montana; the development of the railroad through the area; and the eventual construction of Highway 191. Built in a vernacular commercial brick style in 1911, the 64' (north-south) x 27' (east-west) rectangular brick building has served the community as a general store, post office, and community hall. Since its construction and continuing to the present, the building serves as a reminder of the homesteading boom years of the early 1900s and the importance of a community gathering place in a small town. The building retains its integrity and is locally significant for the role it played in the community and for its architectural style reflective of the early 1900s.

Narrative Description

Located five miles north of the town of Judith Gap on U.S. Route 191 is the unincorporated community of Garneill, Montana (Map 1). Garneill lies geographically positioned in the Judith Gap area between the Little Belt Mountains to the west and the Big Snowy Mountains to the east. The north-south corridor where Garneill sits has been used for centuries including more

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recently as a corridor to transport freight during Montana's early Euro-American history (Map 6), the route of the north-south railroad construction through the area (Map 7), and the later construction of Highway 191.

Manley's General Store is situated in Fergus County at the intersection of four quadrangle maps that include Buffalo SE (to the northwest), Moore SW (to the northeast), Judith Gap NE (to the southwest), and the Elephant Rocks NW (to the southeast) [Map 2 and Map 3]. The property stands at the southwest corner of Garneill Road and the Garneill Loop Road (Map 4 and Map 5).

The building was originally built by the owner, W. S. Manley. It opened in 1911 (Photo FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0001). W.S. Manley's brick mason brother, David Manley, constructed the building as Manley's General Store with bricks brought from Wyoming.¹ During the 1986 renovation, a signature and date of July 25, 1910, written by W. S. Manley was found inside the building (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0002).

The building operated as a store from the time of its construction, likely into the late 1920s or early 1930s. In the early 1940s, the building was purchased by John Peck. Peck added a new roof, bracing and shoring to the building with the intention of converting it to a granary, though it appears such use never occurred. In 1944, Peck transferred title of the building to the Garneill Community Club. The building deteriorated through the late 1970s, but local support yielded a remodeling effort in 1986.

Manley's General Store (one contributing building)

Exterior

The 64' (north-south) x 27' (east-west) rectangular building (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0003) faces north and is located in the northeast corner of the approximately 200' (east-west) x 150' (north-south) commercial block towards the northern end of what remains of the town of Garneill. The building is inset from the northern and eastern boundaries of the lot by distances of approximately 15' from the gravel streets.

The original brick portion of the building measures 54' x 27' with the north facade and several feet of the east and west walls nearest the facade displaying dark red brick in a running bond pattern. The east and west elevations also display running bond brick but present a slightly lighter color of brick below the stepped parapets capped with concrete. The building sits on a standard 8" concrete foundation, deep enough to contain a finished basement area.

North Elevation

The north facade that faces Garneill Street features a decorative corbelled cornice underscored by inverted triangular brick dentil molding below the north parapet of the building; this wraps

¹ Joan Brownell and Mary McCormick, *Garneill Cultural Resource Inventory Form*, August 1987. p. 4, on file at the Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT; The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 36. <https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/3811>, accessed December 29, 2023. A possible construction date of 1910 occasionally appears in, but the majority of references indicate a 1911 build.

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around the east and west side walls for approximately 5' to 7 feet.² A lower brick dentiled beltcourse runs just below the upper cornice. Serving to separate the upper façade from the lower section are horizontally aligned boards or planks. The current north elevation fenestration includes a matched single large fixed-window flanked by 1/1 double hung windows topped by paired rectangular units that present as transoms. A three-quarter height brick pilaster borders each side of the window arrangement and horizontal planks or boards span the distance below the bottom of the windows to the wood deck below.

Primary access to the building occurs through a slightly recessed diagonal three-quarter height wall entry at the northeast corner of the building that undercuts the continued horizontal plane of the north wall providing some overhang over the entry (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0012). The recessed area displays matching running bond brick surrounds and a flat-arch lintel; the easternmost pilaster that anchors the east edge of the window units serves as the west edge of the entry. A six-panel wood door with single-light transom above provides ingress. Above the entry and transom is a slightly flat arch brick lintel with the lintel bricks presenting a slightly angled soldier course pattern. An exterior light is affixed just above the doorway.

The north elevation window arrangement has changed slightly through the years. The original window layout consisted of paired 3/6 units that occupied the same space as those now present. The windows in the building were replaced with an arrangement of three matching units visible in photos from the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s, a result of when fire engulfed some of the town in 1914. In late 1986, a renovation of the building included window replacements.³ Those windows included "two sets of triple 1/1 double-hung windows with transom lights and horizontal wood in-fill" (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0007).⁴ Although different than the original units that occupied the space, the present configuration more closely resembles the historic window arrangement than those present from the 1940s to 1986.

West and East Elevations

Two 3' wide x 2'6" tall horizontally-sliding casement windows with flat arch lintels and header set brick sills occur on the east and west brick walls, positioned toward the center and south end of the elevations. Across the east wall above the window headers are original 6" diameter round anchor plates with exposed 4-sided bolts, horizontally spaced at approximately 6' intervals (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0005). Above the 6' anchor plates are two horizontal rows of bolt-heads, 2' above the main anchor plates and approximately 12" below the parapet (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0006). Neither the anchors nor the bolts appear on the west wall.

² Joan Brownell and Mary McCormick, *Garneill Cultural Resource Inventory Form*, August 1987. p. 3, on file at the Montana Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

³ "Minor Construction Left, Garneill Center Now Useable," *Lewistown News-Argus*, Vol. 106, No 9, October 19, 1986, p. 1.

⁴ "Minor Construction Left, Garneill Center Now Useable," *Lewistown News-Argus*, Vol. 106, No 9, October 19, 1986, p. 1.

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South Elevations and Additions

The Manley's General Store Building displays two additions. The first and larger addition was likely built by the Garneill Community Club a few years after they acquired the former store. With many of the members' passion for cooking, the organization built a "new kitchen...added to their hall."⁵ This wood frame shed roof addition measures 27' wide (east-west) x 14' (north-south) and rests on a concrete foundation; it attaches to the south end of the main brick building (Photos MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0010 and MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0011). The south sloping roof is topped by white metal roofing. The addition's exterior consists of 8" horizontal wood tongue-and-groove siding. The large addition's fenestration includes a single wood-framed double-hung window in the south wall and paired double hung wood-framed windows in the west wall, both replacement units. A secondary entry appears in the north end of the east wall of the addition and holds a 6-panel wood door that matches the main entry door in the main facade.

The second addition measures 8' x 8' and attaches to the southeastern corner of the first addition. It features a shed-style roof, dropped several feet below the original addition's roofline, topped with red metal roofing and wall cladding of tongue-and-groove siding that matches the slope and appearance of the earlier 27' x 14' addition. It remains unknown when this small addition was constructed but materials and style are quite similar to the large addition, suggesting a similar construction date.

A recent 10' (north-south) x 6' (east-west) open shed shelter attaches to the east wall of the southeast corner of the main brick building. This post-and-pole shed with red metal roof protects the local mailboxes, harkening back to when the building hosted the post office in the past (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0012). The interior of this wood-framed shed lacks insulation and cladding and is used for storage. Immediately adjacent to the north wall of this open shed are two 6" x 6" wooden posts set into the ground connected by a 2" x 6" horizontal member that serves as a hitching post.

Roof

A flat membrane surface protects the original brick building's roof that is bounded on three sides by the parapet. Running east-west, a 4' x 8' skylight centers over the rear portion of the main room. A one-time exterior end wall 2' x 2' brick chimney protrudes from the southwest corner of the original structure; the chimney is now encircled by the largest addition.

Entry Porch

Providing access to the main entry is an original 3-step concrete approach that leads to an approximately 4' square landing. The landing height matches the 6' wide wooden front platform that now extends east-west across the north facade of the building. The porch is constructed of dimensional lumber, including the full guardrail, horizontal members that shield the underside from view, and a stair and handrail. The porch landing rests on vertical posts placed on 18" square concrete piers (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0009).

⁵ "Garneill Residents Attend Rotarians' Dinner, Moccasin," *The Argus Farmer*, August 28, 1947, p. 3.

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Interior

Soon after its construction, "marked changes" were made to the interior of the store in 1912. One change included the construction of a "very cozy office" by Mr. E.W. Hart.⁶ Hart, a local farmer, also plied a trade as carpenter.⁷

More recent changes occurred in 1986 through restoration efforts of the local citizenry.⁸ In addition to the noted window changes, the restorative work included construction of the front porch and railing, installation of new doors, and the floor and staircase work.⁹ Visitors entering the building are greeted by an original ornate pressed metal ceiling with dentil molding, wood floor, and horizontal bead-board wall treatment (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0008). Some original mailboxes stand against the wall in the main room (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0013).

Access to the kitchen, women's and men's bathrooms, and storage room occurs through a door in the southern end of the main room (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0015). These rooms are finished with sheetrock ceilings and walls, pine trim, and laminate flooring (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0016).

A stairway that leads to the basement is located in the southeast corner of the main room with the opening surrounded by a wood rail (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0017); carpeted steps lead down to an open area approximating the footprint of the main area above. The basement space is divided by a center beam that runs the length of the room with the beam supported by seven wooden timbers, one at each end with the remaining timbers placed at even intervals (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0018). The walls are finished in 6" knotty pine tongue-and-groove, save the north wall that displays a vertically oriented matching center section and two flanking areas where the boards present at 45-degrees (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0019). The drop ceiling is covered with 2' x 4' white acoustic tiles and florescent fixtures and the floor laid with dimensional pine.

Visitors from the past would instantly recognize not only the exterior of the building, but the building's interior including the main room, faithful to the materials, look, and feel (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0014), although a skylight toward the rear of the building installed during the 1986 remodel might draw their attention.¹⁰

⁶ "Garneill," *Judith Gap Journal*, October 4, 1912, p. 1.

⁷ 1910 United States Census for Fergus County, Montana.

⁸ "Minor Construction Left, Garneill Center Now Useable," *Lewistown News-Argus*, Vol. 106, No 9, October 19, 1986, p. 1; Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

⁹ "Minor Construction Left, Garneill Center Now Useable," *Lewistown News-Argus*, Vol. 106, No 9, October 19, 1986, p. 1.

¹⁰ "Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

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Concrete Pad and Barbeque (one noncontributing site)

Approximately 10' west of the building lies a 20' (east-west) x 30' (north-south) concrete pad upon which a barbeque stand and picnic table reside (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0004). While the picnic table is portable, the barbeque stand is pole-mounted into the slab. The picnic area slab and accoutrements are noncontributing. The slab once held a small building.¹¹

Integrity

Manley's General Store retains good integrity. It stands in its original location, easily retaining the look and feel of a commercial building of the early 1900s homesteader period. Due to few changes to the upper floor, the building also retains integrity related to the building's later use as the Garneill Community Hall. The exterior of the building retains strong integrity of materials, workmanship, and design. The greatest change from the building's original presentation is the replacement windows installed in 1986; although the windows don't exactly match the historic units, they are similar and fill the original openings. A skylight toward the rear of the building was installed after the building's period of significance. Wood frame additions were constructed off the rear of the building; however, both were likely constructed during the period of significance during the building's use as a community hall. Integrity of setting, feeling, and association are compromised due to the virtual loss of all nearby historic buildings. As Garneill fell under hard times, the building stock of the town also withered. Although the town itself presents differently than during its heyday, the greater surrounding area retains excellent integrity of setting, feeling and association as its location within the expansive rural setting easily evokes its homesteading roots. Inside and out, the 114-year-old building appears to be in excellent structural and aesthetic condition, and after its renovation in 1986, continues to provide a place to gather for community activities.

Remodeling since the original construction of the building detracts little from the overall feeling of the building and a visitor from the past would recognize it immediately. Walking across the wooden floor allows one to imagine the building either stocked with homesteader goods, or coming alive with a crowd gathered for a Thanksgiving community dinner. With a little squinting and a close look, they might even decipher the "Manley's General Store" sign on the east side of the building degree (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0020).

¹¹ "Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Commerce

Period of Significance

1910-1974

Significant Dates

1910 (Building Constructed)

circa 1934 (Transitioned to Community Center)

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Architect: Unknown

Builder: David Manley

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Manley's General Store is locally significant under Criterion A for its commercial association with the homesteading boom years and rapid commercial development of the Garneill area in the early part of the twentieth century. The Manley General Store was constructed in 1911 for use as

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a general store with additional duties as a local post office assumed soon after.¹² With the closing of the store around 1934, the building assumed a new role, one that played an equally significant, if not more important role than the building's use as a store—it became quite literally, the community's anchor as the Garneill Community Hall. The building's use for postal operations continued at least through its grocery service; it remains unknown if postal service continued at the building upon its transition to a community hall or if postal services moved elsewhere in the town. It continues to serve its postal heritage, albeit on a reduced scale.

The building gains addition significance under Criterion C as a sound example of a restrained representation of the Western Commercial style reflecting its unpretentious vernacular roots, a style common to many commercial buildings in the rural areas of Montana during its period of construction.

The period of significance begins with the construction of the building in 1911 and ends in 1974, the end of the historic period and approximately the time the building ceased use for its first stint as a community center. The building reopened as a community center in 1986 after its renovation. Although its second stint as a community center falls outside the period of significance, its use as such remains foundational to the cohesion of the local populace.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historic Context

The Judith Basin

Since time immemorial, the Judith Gap basin area, geographically located between the Little Belt Mountains to the west and the Big Snowy Mountains to the east, has served as a travel corridor originally used by herds of migrating animals, followed by the First Peoples who followed the herds for food. Located centrally within the Judith Basin are the remnants of the town of Garneill, Montana.

While other European explorers quite probably visited the area earlier, the renowned Lewis and Clark Expedition passed approximately 70 miles north of the location in 1805, while traveling westward along the Missouri River. William Clark assigned the name "Judith" to the Judith River, Judith Basin, and Judith Gap, to commemorate his fiancé, Judith Hancock of Virginia.¹³ During the expedition's split during their 1806 return, Lewis's cohort following the Missouri downstream, and Clark's group following the Yellowstone River downstream, approximately 70 miles to the south.

Following the reports of Lewis and Clark, trappers in search of furs entered the area along with early missionaries that included Father DeSmet, who crossed through the basin on the way to a

¹² The community history suggests a date of 1911 for the building's construction. The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 44.

¹³ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993. p. A-1.

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“peace conference with 3,000 Indians at the forks of the Judith River and Ross Fork.”¹⁴ By the 1870s, the fur trade transitioned into the search for gold in Montana and Fort Benton was well established and serving as a steamboat port.¹⁵ With goods being transported by riverboat to the port on the Missouri River at Fort Benton, routes were established to emerging population centers for the further freighting of goods by methods that included ox-drawn wagons. In early 1874, the Carroll Trail was established across the Judith Basin, primarily to transport goods to Helena, Montana.¹⁶ The men that ran these teams were called “bullwhackers” as described herein:

A bull team of, let us say, 20 oxen furnished the motive power for three wagons in train the second and third wagons having short trail tongues shackled to the rear axle of the wagon ahead. The wagons were much larger than farm wagons inn (*sic*) common use today. Boxes were large and high and were covered with the stout canvas tightly drawn over a lofty framework of bent wood. The bullwhacker was contracting agent, engineer, conductor, and train crew for this outfit and, if traveling alone, he was also cook and herder. In a train of four or five teams it was a common practice to engage a night herder.¹⁷

The Nez Perce led by Chief Joseph used the corridor in 1877 as they traveled north toward Canada, followed by pursuing soldiers. By 1882, the corridor found use by stage lines and included a route to the new town of Coulson, later to become Billings, Montana (Map 6).¹⁸

Changes on the Northern Plains during the second half of the 1800s included the near complete decimation of the great herds of bison followed by the introduction of sheep and cattle to the landscape. Early experiences coalesced into the formation of the Montana Stockgrowers Association, first organized in Miles City, Montana in 1879. Those raising sheep followed suit in 1883, forming the Montana Woolgrowers Association at Fort Benton, Montana, 85 miles northwest of the future site of Garneill.

Homesteading of the area began slightly before the establishment of the Stockgrowers and Woolgrowers associations, with the 1862 Homestead Act that provided 160 acres wherein title would be granted following a 5-year “prove up” period. Alterations and additions to the land laws occurred many times between 1862 and 1878 and included the Desert Land Act of 1877, which resulted in the acquisition of some land in the Judith Basin to those newly arrived in the area.¹⁹ For those seeking land under the Desert Land Act, four witnesses and proof of “the complete irrigation and reclamation of said land” needed to be registered in nearby Lewistown,

¹⁴ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 2, <https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/3811>, accessed December 19, 2023.

¹⁵ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 53.

¹⁶ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 178.

¹⁷ “Bullwhacker was frontier character, says J.R. Barrows; He knew Dumont, Reil leader,” *The Melstone Messenger*, June 7, 1934, p. A3.

¹⁸ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 193.

¹⁹ “Notice for Publication,” *Fergus County Argus*, March 7, 1900, p. 8.

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Montana, 25 miles to the northeast. Similarly, in 1909, the Enlarged Homestead Act allocated 320 acres following a 5-year occupation; in 1912 the "prove-up" period was reduced from five to three years with the stipulation that the homesteader could be absent from the property for five months of the year.²⁰

From 1908 through 1916, the population of the Judith Basin increased, as it did throughout central and eastern Montana. However, the agricultural dreams that began with optimism and hope soon regressed to despair as drought appeared on the landscape, first showing signs in the northern part of what had become the State of Montana, then spreading southward on the Great Plains. By the time the Great Depression arrived, the once booming regional population had diminished greatly and property values fell.

By the late 1800s, railroads stretched across the Missouri River and Yellowstone River travel corridors, reaching Fort Benton, Montana in 1877 and Billings, Montana in 1883.²¹ In 1903, the "Jawbone" railroad was completed to Lewistown, passing through Garneill, making the town a component of the railroad's footprint in the area.²²

Establishing Communities in the Judith Gap Area

In addition to the established ranching operations, some of the earliest commerce in the area came in the way of stage stations. The first in the area was the OKA Stage Station, created in 1880 by Alf Stevens and located west and slightly north of the Judith Gap; it included stables and a hotel.²³ Only a year later, the stage stop of Ubet sprang up a few miles west of the current town of Garneill in 1881 organized by A. R. Barrows:

...a two-story hotel (opened for business in the winter of 1881-82) – also a post office, blacksmith shop, harness shop, saloon, and the stage barn with a stable.

The name was inspired by the "You bet!" given by A.R. Barrows when asked by strangers riding into the Barrows place: "Is this the stage station? May I stay all night?" Another story of the name was: Do you want to name the post office?" and Mr. Barrows answered: "You bet!" The man said: "Then Ubet it will be!"²⁴

The town of Ubet was renamed Judith Gap in 1908 following the issuance of a postal charter to the Great Northern Railroad (GN) after the completion of the GN's branch line from Great Falls to Billings.²⁵ Judith Gap became a railroad hub with the construction of a roundhouse and machine shop. The location became a site where crews rotated. During the 1920s, diesel trains with more range replaced the coal-fired engines allowing trains to travel from Great Falls to

²⁰ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-6.

²¹ Montana Historical Society, "Railroads Link Montana to the Nation," Chapter 9, History Textbook, p. 174, <https://mhs.mt.gov/education/index4>, viewed on January 24, 2023.

²² Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-7.

²³ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-9.

²⁴ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-11.

²⁵ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-12.

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Billings without requiring a stop.²⁶ In addition to representing a significant asset to the success of the cattle ranches whose animals rode the rails to the rest of the nation for consumption, the railroads provided a direct link to the scarcely populated areas of Montana playing a large role in the homesteader influx of the early 1900s by offering promotions from 1910-1920 that included the ability to "...rent one car into which he loaded his family, cattle, horses. Pigs, chickens, furniture, wagons, farm machinery, tools, etc."²⁷

Garneill

The origins of the town of Garneill date to 1893 with the donation of land for a new school by the McCourt family, who ranched to the northeast. Following the construction of the school, Frank Hassett plotted a townsite of 20 acres adjacent to the school site. Hassett named the town "Garneill" in honor of a local young couple W. T. and Garnette (Currier) Neill, married in January of that year. As the Hassett family were "temperance people" a reverter clause was inserted in the deeds for the lots in the Garneill townsite that stated if the property was ever used for saloon purposes, the title returned to the original owners.²⁸ The clause was panned, much to the "indignation and disgust of some of the more liberal minded element who thought that it was a poor town without a saloon."²⁹ The situation was soon remedied when Ed Beach gave a piece of his adjoining property to the town located to the south of the original plat. The "more liberal minded elements" soon found solace in that the burgeoning town quickly had two, and eventually three saloons in "South Garneill."³⁰ A modicum of conciliation occurred at times as children from the southern part of town would meet up with the children from the "temperance" part of town at one corner, but appeasement gained no further traction beyond that.³¹

Despite the importance of the presence of a saloon in the small community, other businesses were required that provided different services. In 1902, Schrieber & Gaugler opened a store in Garneill. Already established in nearby Ubet, the Schrieber & Gaugler' Garneill store was reported to be even busier.³²

In 1903, following the arrival of the Montana Railroad, another town was laid out ¼ mile to the west.³³ The location assumed a few sobriquets but with the arrival of some businesses, a church, and a school, settled on the name of West Garneill. The arrival of the Great Northern Railroad in 1907 founded the siting of a new townsite named Barrows, one mile to the west to facilitate the

²⁶ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-12.

²⁷ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-1.

²⁸ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-5.

²⁹ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 33.

³⁰ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 33

³¹ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-6.

³² "Garneill," *Fergus County Argus*, March 26, 1902, p. 6. The fate of this building remains unknown, though its loss through fire is one possibility. Another includes its move from Garneill to nearby Judith Gap around 1980.

³³ Also originally called Ubet. Roberta Carkeek Cheney, *Names on the Face of Montana*, (Missoula: Montana Press Publishing Company, revised 1984), p. 112.

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transfer of passengers between the Great Northern and Milwaukee Railroad; the town, however, never developed.

The arrival of the railroads shifted the focus of much of the area's economy. From generally very large-scale cattle, sheep, and horse ranches served by existing businesses geared toward their needs, the economic orientation shifted more toward the influx of new immigrants that arrived by wagon and especially via the railroads. The arrival of the railroads greatly accelerated homesteading in the area and spurred the establishment of a number of new towns. These communities included Buffalo, Straw, Moore, and Hobson.³⁴

Garneill continued its sure but steady pace of growth and in 1910, a grain elevator was built by Charles McClave. The business soon proved successful and expanded by adding a lumber yard.³⁵ While the elevator site evolved over the years since its 1910 origin, it remains one of the only functioning businesses located in Garneill today.

With the arrival of homesteaders eager to remain connected to friends and family from where they came, post offices played an important role providing distribution and receiving points. In April of 1899, it was announced that Garneill had received a new post office.³⁶ Reflecting the large number of transplants to the area, Fergus County "...has had eight post offices established in the period since December 1, 1898. They are: Armells, Bercail, Christina, Fergus, Forest Grove, Garneill, Milner, and Rockford. It is noteworthy that no post offices in that county were discontinued."³⁷

The Garneill Post Office generated controversy almost immediately upon its establishment when an article appeared *The Fergus County Argus* indicating postmaster tampering with mail destined for locals other than Garneill. The accusation drew a quick response from the competitive new community:

"Postmaster at Garneill is warned that it is not proper for him to open packages directed to the Ubet office. Complaints in regard to this have already been received." The above is copied from the Lewistown Democrat of May 11 and is a fake, pure and simple. The postmaster will give \$5 for every complaint over one made to the editor, who with his usual absentmindedness, has worked an "s" onto his "complaint," making it look as if the postmaster at Garneill was guilty of some act that would render him liable to be burned at the stake, when as a matter of fact he was doing that which is a physical impossibility to the editor off the Democrat – minding his own business. The editor of the Democrat can move over to easy Street on one matter, and that is that Garneill will arrive at a good degree of

³⁴ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 35.

³⁵ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 36.

³⁶ "Lewistown," *Great Falls Daily Tribune*, May 16, 1899, p. 2.

³⁷ "As an index to prosperity," *The Neihart Herald*, October 28, 1899, p. 1.

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robustness in spite of the fact of its not being favored by the editor of the
Democrat. Garneill, Mont., May 12, 1899.³⁸

Commercial activities in the new town continued and increased. An all-important blacksmith shop served a number of needs for both homesteaders and local ranches. Prosperity begets prosperity and rumors of a new bank arose. Garneill eventually grew to boast "...not only a railroad station and stage station, but a two-room school, a church, two general stores, a meat market, a saddlemaker's shop, a livery barn, a blacksmith shop, a doctor's office, two dance halls, three saloons and a three-story hotel (Map 8)."³⁹

The growth of the area from the influx of homesteaders resulted in local newspaper articles addressing housing shortages and the urgency to acquire lots sooner than later: "Four new houses will be under construction here in a few days. Building lots are going at a Nancy Hanks gait, and those who leave the selection off their lots much longer will find they can only come in as suburban residents."⁴⁰ Some of the new arrivals found their new homes sometimes less than inviting, unaccustomed to not just the Judith Basin but also Montana and its accompanying temperature extremes: "One farmer is reported as planting potatoes in mittens, Germin sox and ear-muffs."⁴¹

Prior to the construction of a church in any small rural community of the time, "circuit riding preachers" travelled to reach parishioners, and Garneill and the surrounding area proved no exception. The earliest such service held in Garneill was facilitated by the well-known Reverend van Orsdel, commonly referred to as "Brother Van," in 1883 at the residence of Doctor and Mrs. Herman J. Betten of Garneill. Reverend van Orsdel's schedule included arrival in his horse-drawn buggy on a Saturday afternoon and leaving two days later on Monday morning.⁴² His schedule for May of 1903 included stops in "Garneill, May 2-3; Rock Creek, May 4; Upper Cottonwood, May 5; Gilt Edge, May 7; Lewistown, May 9-10; Beaver Creek, 2:30 p.m. May 10; Kendall, May 11; Pleasant Valley, 11 a.m. May 17; Philbrook, 2:30 p.m. May 17; Utica 8 p.m. May 17."⁴³

The flu epidemic of 1918-1919 took its toll on the community of Garneill.⁴⁴ So many cases occurred that the school closed, the desks removed, and beds brought in and staffed by nurses and Red Cross volunteers. At the peak, 40 patients found care there while others remained at their homes, ill. The entire community pitched in to help with meals and care and eventually the epidemic subsided.

³⁸ "Garneill Gleanings," *Fergus County Argus*, May 17, 1899, p. 2.

³⁹ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-6.

⁴⁰ "Garneill Gleanings," *Fergus County Argus*, May 17, 1899, p. 2. Abraham Lincoln's mother was Nancy Hanks, reputedly a sharp and determined woman.

⁴¹ "Garneill Gleanings," *Fergus County Argus*, May 17, 1899, p. 2.

⁴² The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 53.

⁴³ "Brother Van's Appointments," *The Lewistown Democrat*, May 1, 1903, p. 1.

⁴⁴ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. D-33.

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Like many towns in the West during the 1920s, Garneill faced the headwinds of decline. All suffered to some degree but a few including Manley's General Store, the blacksmith shop, and grain elevator remained viable.⁴⁵ Prospects for survival didn't improve when in November of 1920, a petition moved forward to close the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul railroad stations in Suffolk, Saugus, and Garneill; providing some respite, the petition was denied by the Montana Railroad Commission. The railroad countered that to be cost efficient, prices would need to increase to cover the costs.⁴⁶ Cost increases or no, the railroad provided a very important link and service to the markets outside of the Judith Basin illustrated by the shipment of approximately 1000 sheep to the Chicago area by local rancher Judge R. G. Shiell of Garneill in December.⁴⁷

On June 16, 1934, as a symbol of community pride, a memorial paying tribute to the "Memory of the Ubet and Central Montana Pioneers" was erected in Garneill by the Ubet Pioneers Society. The monument is comprised of a 2 ½-ton granite boulder from the mining town of Maiden (less than 40 miles to the northwest) and two sandstone "sentinels" placed on a concrete pedestal. "Each of the 'sentinels' weighs nearly 300 pounds and they are relics of a prehistoric age."⁴⁸ Embedded into the base are Native American "relics," petrified wood, ore, and the engraved names of many of Montana's first pioneers.⁴⁹ Over the years, the Pioneer Monument deteriorated, but was repaired in the 1980s and a chain link fence placed around it by the Garneill Community Club and the Ubet 4-H Club. A erected sign states:

Three miles west on the old Carroll trail was the stage station and stopping place of "Ubet" operated in the eighties [1880s] and popular with the cowboys, homesteaders, sheepherders, freighters, missionaries, and the general public. The gap between the Snowy and Belt mountains was the only south entrance into the famous "Judith Basin." This monument was erected by the Ubet Central Montana Pioneer society. Cared for by the Ubet 4-H Club.⁵⁰

Manley's General Store History

William and Emma Manley

Born circa 1886 in Riversdale, Ontario, Canada, William Sylvester Manley immigrated to the United States in 1893.⁵¹ It appears he returned to Canada at some point to cross back to the States once again in 1910, noting his occupation as a clothing clerk.⁵² After crossing back into the States, William appears to have quickly arrived in the Garneill area based on the construction of the Manley Grocery Store building around that time. With the construction of his building,

⁴⁵ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. 80.

⁴⁶ "Petition to Close 3 Stations Denied," *The Montana Record Herald*, November 30, 1920, p. 8.

⁴⁷ "Judge Shiell Ships," *Judith Gap Journal*, December 10, 1920, p. 1.

⁴⁸ "Ubet and Central Montana Pioneers Plan for Dedication of Monument at Garneill," *Great Falls Tribune*, June 8, 1934, p. 6. This monument continues to represent the shared local community focus.

⁴⁹ Ultimate Montana, *Garneill*, 2024, viewed on 2-7-2024 at <https://www.mtmemory.org/nodes/view/88471>.

⁵⁰ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-9.

⁵¹ 1920 United States Federal Census, Fergus County, Montana.

⁵² United States Border Crossing Canada to United States, April 1910.

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William received the post office appointment for operations on December 30, 1911.⁵³ William continued with his postmaster duties into 1918.⁵⁴

In 1914, William married Emma Louise (nee Stephens).⁵⁵ Emma hailed from Michigan, suggesting William may have met her there earlier as Michigan was the state that William crossed back into to re-enter the States in 1910.⁵⁶ By 1920, William and Emma had three children, Patrick, William, and Margrette. On September 12, 1918, William registered for service described as medium height, medium build, brown eyes, and black hair.⁵⁷ William provided "Merchant + Farmer" as his occupation. In 1920, William continued to note his occupation as a merchant and also his possession of the store.⁵⁸ At some point, William and his family relinquished operation of the store and moved to Great Falls, where they lived on Eighth Street North in 1930 with William listing his occupation as a commercial meat salesman.⁵⁹

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No information was found regarding the actual construction of the Manley General Store building. Despite the lack of newspaper coverage, the building was constructed at least by 1911 and possibly 1910.⁶⁰ The building was reportedly constructed by William Manley's brother, a brick mason.⁶¹

When Manley's General Store (later the Garneill Community Hall) was built, it assumed not only the role of local mercantile, but also the exceptionally important role of post office for the town. Keeping things all in the family, William not only ran the store but also served as postmaster beginning on December 30, 1911, and extending to at least 1918.⁶² Although Manley provided the blueprint of how to manage the post office, not all successors followed his lead. In 1918, former postmaster at Garneill, E. B. Wilson, plead guilty in federal court to defrauding the government postal department of \$4,521.⁶³ Harkening to the early years of post office use, some

⁵³ U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971, Fergus County, Montana, pp. 349, 350.

⁵⁴ 1912 Polk Directory, p. 193; 1914 Polk Directory, p. 245; 1918 Polk Directory, p. 207.

⁵⁵ State of Montana County of Fergus Marriage License, No. 2242, dated July 2, 1914; Index To Marriage Certificates—Men, recorded July 3, 1914.

⁵⁶ 1920 United States Federal Census, Fergus County, Montana; United States Border Crossing Canada to United States, April 1910.

⁵⁷ Registration Card Registrar's Report for William Sylvester Manley, September 12, 1918.

⁵⁸ 1920 United States Federal Census, Fergus County, Montana.

⁵⁹ 1930 United States Federal Census, Cascade County, Montana. It remains unknown if the store fell under different management at this time and remained open until around 1934 when the first reported use of the building for community events appeared in the newspapers.

⁶⁰ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 44.

⁶¹ Joan Brownell and Mary McCormick, *Cultural Resource Inventory Form for 24FR0655*, August 1987, on file at the Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, MT.

⁶² U.S. Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971, Fergus County, Montana, pp. 349, 350; 1912 Polk Directory, p. 193; 1914 Polk Directory, p. 245; 1918 Polk Directory, p. 207.

⁶³ "Wilson Pleads Guilty," *The Butte Daily Post*, June 29, 1918, p. 11.

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of the original mailboxes that date to Manley's and Wilson's tenure as post masters remain in the building (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0013).⁶⁴

With the new mercantile constructed, early operation fell to Sylvester Manley, nephew of the owner. Sylvester helmed the store during the booming homesteading years.⁶⁵

Two years after the building's construction, a few interior improvements occurred. These changes included making an office that would "...add much to the convenience of this enterprising firm."⁶⁶ Although small, a change such as establishing an office proved important to small businesses. In 1913, the Board of County Commissioners of Fergus County met to review proposed raises of assessments; similar to today, proposed increases were met with opposition. However, despite a disgruntled constituency, increases occurred including one of \$500 on William Manley for "merchandise."⁶⁷

In 1913, Manley's General Store received the unwanted attention of burglars between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 1:20 a.m. with the town distracted by a dance in progress at the Spiells & Erickson's Hall, directly across the street from the store. The robber gained entrance by moving boxes in front of a broken window and removing the broken glass. Neither the store nor the post office held a safe making an easy acquisition of cash and stamps that totaled about \$300 from two registers. It was suspected that the robber knew the store's layout and that Mr. Manley was occupied at the dance.⁶⁸

On the morning of Sunday, December 20, 1914, the Garneill Hotel, directly across the street from Manley's General Store, was destroyed by fire.⁶⁹ The fire was first noticed when a crying baby reacted to the smoke that filled the building. It was assumed that the fire started from an overheated stove used to heat the building for a basketball game earlier in the evening. All occupants made a safe exit, but the building faced total ruin with damage estimated around \$10,000. As a result of the fire, Manley's General Store suffered damage to the front façade, including the window openings and glass, due to the heat. Modification of the front windows from original is clear from 1950s interior photos of the building that display a three-part arrangement, a change likely associated and made after the 1914 conflagration. The windows were replaced again in 1986 as part of a renovation of the building.

In 1917, the Manley General Store building began what soon would become a routine occurrence, serving as a location for groups to assemble for one occasion or another. In this case, the store hosted the plans and specifications for "the furnishing of all materials and constructing two schoolhouses in said school district No. 6, Fergus county, Montana..." with

⁶⁴ A group of sheltered mail boxes stand against the east wall of the building continuing to some degree the postal service historically offered (Photo MT_FergusCounty_Manley'sGeneralStore_0012).

⁶⁵ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 36.

⁶⁶ "Garneill," *Judith Gap Journal*, October 4, 1912, p. 2.

⁶⁷ "Commissioners' Proceedings," *Argus Farmer*, August 26, 1913, p. 3.

⁶⁸ "Garneill Post Office Robbed," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 23, 1913, p. 1.

⁶⁹ "Garneill Hotel Destroyed by Fire Sunday Morning," *Judith Gap Journal*, December 25, 1914, p. 1.

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specifications and plans "...seen at the office of the clerk of said district at the Manley store, Garneill, Mont."⁷⁰

Store ownership required a number of skills, though how to protect oneself from a knife-wielding patron isn't one that most store owners bone up on. On March 19, 1920, store owner William Manley was stabbed in the abdomen by James Coleman, a sheepherder in the Garneill area who had a wife and three children. The stabbing of Manley by Coleman resulted in considerable coverage and analysis of what precipitated the confrontation:

He has always been considered a rather ignorant and queer man, harmless, but at times rather severe with his wife and children.

He had lost three sheep...by breaking through the ice ... sheep belonged to F. D. Nylor and he wanted to pay for the sheep... Mr. Naylor... noted that Coleman was acting queer. That same night...he went home and caused his wife considerable grief. She summoned Mr. Manley and wanted him to send for the sheriff, but this he did not want to do...

...Mr. Manley called Mrs. Colman to care for his wife. In the morning Coleman showed up about the town...several statements are credited to him that tended toward meaning harm for several citizens of Garneill.

... he came to the Manley store inquiring for his wife. Mr. Manley informed him that she was in the residence at the rear of the store, and Mr. Manley... went through the back door and intercepted him before he could get into the house...

...Coleman pushing toward the house... Manley gave him a slap... at the same moment the slap landed Coleman struck with his knife, cutting a deep gash across the abdomen...Manley backed away... intestines popping out through the incision at once. Coleman then started to disrobe himself...

After reducing his garments to a shred or two of underwear and a pair of shoes and sox he started across the country. By that time Frank Dawes, a well-known rancher at Garneill...started after him... when he cast his rope over him, he could see that he was disarmed so he just jerked him enough to throw him off his feet, and he was immediately pounced upon by others nearby.

Dr. Gans was summoned from here at once, and he bandaged Mr. Manley tightly and rushed him to Lewistown to the Attic Clinic.

Dr. Attix and Gans operated upon him at once and found that several membranes and other things had been cut, but that the intestines were intact. He is now given

⁷⁰ "Legals, Call For Bids," *Lewistown Democrat News*, September 29, p. 7.

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every chance for recovery, unless... the wound becomes infected... as it was made with a knife...used for skinning animals.⁷¹

W. S. Manley recovered to continue owning and managing the store before he eventually stepped away and moved to Great Falls with his family by at least 1930, subsequently retiring in Butte, Montana.⁷²

Determining an exact date when Manley's General Store ceased operations is problematic. It remained open as a store at least until 1922. William H. (Bill) Schutz, who moved from Minnesota to Garneill, took a job at the store in 1917. In 1918, Schutz married Lois Mullen Bucher after meeting her at a local dance. Bill and Lois moved to Great Falls for two years before returning to Garneill where Bill again worked at the store until the fall of 1922.⁷³

Helen Elliott, a longtime resident of Garneill, believed Manley's General Store continued to serve as such until the 1930s, when drought and the Great Depression hit the area hard from 1919-1931 with the result that by 1931, a "mass exodus" of farmers occurred.⁷⁴ Corroborating Elliot's estimate of the store's closure is an article dated to 1934 that refers to the property as the "old Manley store building," the location of an evening dance following a monument dedication.⁷⁵ How long the store ceased operations prior to the dedication dance remains unknown. Although William's travels to nearby cities found documentation in the newspapers, he apparently spent very little on advertising his store's wares, compounding the difficulty of determining a date of the closure of the business.⁷⁶

Information regarding the building's use immediately after its service as a general store proves sparse. However, the community obviously continued to use the building through a soft transition before it officially became the Garneill Community Hall. The general store did close but didn't sit vacant for long. The monument dedication dance in the summer of 1934 was likely preceded by other events or gatherings that harnessed the space of the former store. Other activities undoubtedly followed the dedication dance before the 1939 announcement of the Early Bird Breakfast 4-H Club's "...fourth meeting at the Manley store building..." with "...three ways eggs" served as part of the gathering.⁷⁷ While acknowledging the building's original commercial importance to the town and area, perhaps its greatest community service ensued with its next chapter, as a community hall.

⁷¹ "Manley, Garneill Merchant is Stabbed by Crazy Sheepherder," *Judith Gap Journal*, March 19, 1920, p. 1.

⁷² 1930 United States Federal Census, Cascade County, Montana; The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 44.

⁷³ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 62.

⁷⁴ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-6.

⁷⁵ "Dedication Exercises Held At Garneill By Ubet Pioneer Society Is Impressive," *Harlowton Times*, June 21, 1934, p. 1.

⁷⁶ "Lewistown In Brief," *Fergus County Argus*, February 2, 1920, p. A4; "Spray Of The Falls," *Great Falls Tribune*, September 1, 1921, p. 7.

⁷⁷ "Garneill, *Lewistown Democrat-News*, August 16, 1939, p. 4.

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The Garneill Community Club Hall

At some point, likely in the late 1930s or early 1940s, title to the Manley's General Store building passed to a trust company.⁷⁸ John Peck then purchased the building in the early 1940s.⁷⁹ Peck's plans included using the building as a granary; however, the granary plan apparently took a detour as the Garneill Community Club soon appeared on his radar. The most prominent social group in Garneill, the Community Club met for years at a number of different locales across town, including the homes of the members. In 1944, however, the Garneill Community Club found a place to call their own—the Manley General Store building. "The building was deeded to the community club by John Peck and will be a great source of recreation."⁸⁰ Receipt of the building causes excitement among Community Club members as, "... our club has received several donations which will enable us to have the kind of a social center that we will be proud to own."⁸¹ The Community Club met for the next several decades alternating between members' homes and the store building.⁸² The Community Club's new building, however, provided a location for large gatherings both by the Club and for many other organizations.

The new Community Club building hosted the April 2, 1947 meeting, followed by a birthday lunch, with the birthday cake "...a work of art, each lady's fortune and a tiny prize being wrapped and enclosed in each piece of cake."⁸³ Regular Community Club meetings occurred at the store building for years, often highlighted by lunch gatherings.⁸⁴

Only a few years passed since the building's acquisition by the Community Club before members made a change to better accommodate the types of meetings often geared toward their use and the community's use of the building, the construction of a kitchen "...which has been added to their hall."⁸⁵ The kitchen proved a valuable addition with the Community Club specifically meeting in it with regularity.⁸⁶ In some instances, the kitchen proved more popular than the actual building's main room with meeting hostesses set to "...entertain at the Club Kitchen."⁸⁷ Occasionally the kitchen gatherings went amiss with potentially calamitous fallout as Mrs. Lawrence McLaughlin found in November of 1950 when a pressure cooker in the

⁷⁸ "Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

⁷⁹ "Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

⁸⁰ "Riding The Rural News Circuit Of Central Montana—Garnell," *Lewistown Democrat-News*, May 29, 1944, p. 4.

⁸¹ "Riding The Rural News Circuit Of Central Montana—Garnell," *Lewistown Democrat-News*, May 29, 1944, p. 4.

⁸² "Garneill Club Meets," *Lewistown Democrat-News*, November 5, 1947, p. 3.

⁸³ "Garneill Community Club Honors Birthday of Mrs. Phillip Bradley April 2," *Lewistown Democrat-News*, April 15, 1947, p. 6.

⁸⁴ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, June 16, 1948, p. 5.

⁸⁵ "Garneill Residents Attend Rotarians' Dinner, Moccasin," *The Argus Farmer*, August 28, 1947, p. 3.

⁸⁶ "Community Club Of Garneill Held Meetings April 28," *Lewistown Daily News*, May 3, 1948, p. 4; No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, July 21, 1948, p. 21.

⁸⁷ "Garneill Club Meet At Club Kitchen; Meet Again July 14," *Lewistown Daily News*, July 1, 1948, p. 4.

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kitchen exploded causing second degree burns.⁸⁸ The kitchen addition played a large role in the building's use by a variety of groups; the ability to prepare food onsite changed the functional dynamic making certain gatherings much more user-friendly.

Holidays of nearly every ilk witnessed festivities held in the building. St. Patrick's Day in 1948 kicked off spring, with an encore three years later that included a dance and orchestra.⁸⁹ The celebration of Thanksgiving brought the community together numerous times at the Garneill Community Hall. These events yielded "...dinner of turkey and game with all the trimmings...visiting and playing games."⁹⁰ These Thanksgiving gatherings occurred for years, though the gathering in 1963 witnessed a downturn in attendance "...but everyone there reported a fine time."⁹¹ Halloween Community Club festivities also occurred at the building.⁹²

Potlucks geared around a "social evening" helped pass the dreary days of February. In 1952, menus were posted for people to view items they could bring with attendance enticed by the "...special entertainment by the county agent during the evening."⁹³ These community dinners occurred throughout the year to help people stay connected.⁹⁴ Toward that cause, the building hosted "picture shows."⁹⁵

No doubt one of the biggest events hosted in the former store was the Christmas gathering. Similar to other fetes, the Christmas event entailed a dance and bazaar; the 1951 holiday anticipated a good draw as it was "...advertised in all the neighboring communities."⁹⁶ The party continued into 1954 when 25 women showed up at the Community Hall where "secret sisters were revealed and new sisters drawn for next year."⁹⁷

The former general store proved popular for dances following in the footsteps of the 1934 dedication dance.⁹⁸ Groups of all stripes benefited from the large venue. Four-H-ers used the building for meetings and to host events where they tripped the light fantastic.⁹⁹ Of course, no

⁸⁸ "Pressure Cooker Blows Up, Burns Garneill Woman," *Argus Farmer*, November 23, 1950, p. 10.

⁸⁹ "Community Club Of Garneill Has St. Pat's Meeting," *Lewistown Daily News*, March 21, 1948, p. 5; No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, March 16, 1951, p. 5.

⁹⁰ "Garneill Community Gets Together For 12th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner," *Lewistown Daily News*, November 23, 1951, p. 4.

⁹¹ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, November 30, 1961, p. 10; "Judith Gap Residents Hold Annual Dinner," *Lewistown Daily News*, December 7, 1963, p. 10.

⁹² "Halloween Party Is Enjoyed By Garneill Community Club," *Lewistown Daily News*, November 3, 1955, p. 3.

⁹³ "Garneill Community Club Planning Potluck Supper At Hall Feb. 29," *Lewistown Daily News*, February 24, 1952, p. 5.

⁹⁴ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, April 4, 1953, p. 6.

⁹⁵ "Community Club At Garneill Plans Dance for April 17," *Lewistown Daily News*, April 2, 1948, p. 2;

⁹⁶ "Garneill Community Club Planning Annual Bazaar And Dance On Dec. 8," *Argus Farmer*, December 6, 1951, p. 10.

⁹⁷ "Garneill Community Club Stages Christmas party," *Lewistown Daily News*, December 16, 1954, p. 5.

⁹⁸ "Community Club At Garneill Plans Dance for April 17," *Lewistown Daily News*, April 2, 1948, p. 2.

⁹⁹ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, July 15, 1952, p. 3.

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community hall could truly be called such without hosting wedding-related events like receptions and dances. The Garneill Community Hall welcomed numerous such galas including that of newly-weds Mr. and Mrs. Bill Belden (apparently, Mrs. Beldon lacked a given name of her own) in June of 1952, with a wedding dance.¹⁰⁰ Mr. and Mrs. Elliot celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary within the comfortable confines of the Community Club in August of 1961, with the invitation of neighbors and friends to mark the occasion.¹⁰¹ Similarly, Mr. and Mrs. Bradley chose the Community Club to mark their 25th wedding anniversary.¹⁰²

The old store hosted joint meetings, highlighted by that of the Lewistown Rotarians and the Garneill Community Club gathering in May of 1948, a meeting that "...exemplified the spirit of intercommunity relations...".¹⁰³ Entertainment followed the meeting that included a ham dinner and accapella choir who sang the (now) standards of "Smoke Gets In Your Eyes," and "Stardust."¹⁰⁴ The size of the venue allowed a joint meeting by the Garneill, Buffalo, and Moore 4-H clubs in April of 1967, to work on record books, with "a record hop" after the meeting.¹⁰⁵

The big news in 1955 (big enough to hit the local newspapers), was the procurement by the Garneill Community Hall of a first aid kit. The kit consisted of an attractive box that held aspirin, bandages, burn medicine, "mercurochrome," gauze, and tape. A presentation on first aid followed receipt of the kit.¹⁰⁶ Other big newsworthy items from 1955 brought smiles to the bona fide coffee drinkers of the Garneill Community Club with the announcement that "a count of coffee bands was made. As the 600 mark was reached, the Garneill community now has a coffee urn."¹⁰⁷ The drive to collect bands to acquire the urn proved a local endeavor and one that benefited all who used the building as the "...club joins in thanking the neighbors and neighboring communities for their co-operation in saving the bands to secure..." the urn.

"Election" dinners found a home at the former Manley's General Store.¹⁰⁸ In 1950, showing that poor weather was no match for hardy Garneillites, the Community Club held a chicken dinner and Bazaar "...on Election Day" and "...was a big success in spite of the blizzard conditions and

¹⁰⁰ "Garnell Community Club Planning To Hold Wedding Dance on June 28," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 22, 1952, p. 8.

¹⁰¹ "Judith Gap Couple Will Note 60th Wedding," *Lewistown Daily News*, August 24, 1961, p. 9.

¹⁰² "Open House," *Lewistown Daily News*, September 10, 1965, p. 10.

¹⁰³ "Lewistown Rotarians and Garneill Club Hold Joint Dinner and Musical Monday," *Lewistown Daily News*, May 18, 1948, p. 6; "Garneill People Appreciated Club Meet with Rotary," *Lewistown Daily News*, May 30, 1948, p. 4.

¹⁰⁴ Written by Hoagie Carmichael with words by Mitchell Parish, the song "Stardust" found expression through a number of recording artists, including unexpectantly by wordsmith Willie Nelson in 1978, on the album of the same name.

¹⁰⁵ 4-H news, *Lewistown Daily News*, April 11, 1967, p. 4.

¹⁰⁶ "Garneill U-Bet 4-H Girls Review Record," *Lewistown Daily News*, March 11, 1955, p. 4.

¹⁰⁷ "Garneill Community Club Collects Enough Coffee bands To Geet Coffee Urn," *Lewistown Daily News*, September 22, 1955, p. 4.

¹⁰⁸ "Garneill Club Meets October 7, Plans Bazaar," *Lewistown Daily News*, October 12, 1948, p. 4.

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the icy roads.”¹⁰⁹ Use of the building around election day gained traction through the years evidenced by its use for the planning for a “election dinner” with a bake sale, dinner, and bazaar in 1952.¹¹⁰ When it became a precinct, the Garneill Community Club became a voting hub and local focus of the political system for years.¹¹¹ By 1954, the Garneill Community Hall was identified as location No. 10.¹¹² By 1960, the precinct counted 64 voters who passed through the former store’s doors to perform their civic duty.¹¹³ The Community Club building continued its role serving as a precinct in 1962 and by 1963, the precinct number changed from 10 to 11 with the doors of the precinct, the Garneill Community Center, open from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. reflecting a precinct with less than 100 voters.¹¹⁴ Eight years later, in 1971, the Garneill area continued to visit the former grocery store to cast their ballots on the future of local, state, and national elections.¹¹⁵

Surrounding towns needing venue space also found a home in former Manley’s Grocery Store, likely because of the loss of infrastructure as smaller rural towns declined. In 1954, the Judith Gap Auxiliary staged their variety show in the building, a show followed by bridge and pinochle.¹¹⁶ Out of town Four-H groups frequented the building for meetings and associated activities. In July of 1950, the Ubet 4-H-ers met with the Buffalo Boosters to “practice judging,” (judging what remains unknown).¹¹⁷ As it had in numerous instances, the Community Hall served as a *rendez vous* location for local projects as when the Ubet 4-H girls club met at the building prior to walking to the Garneill pioneer monument for the task of cleaning.¹¹⁸ Judith Gap High School also frequented the building for events that included their junior and senior banquet.¹¹⁹

The local “Girls 4-H club...” frequently used the former grocery store as a base of operations for their activities including in 1952 with “...an all day meeting to clean the...Hall grounds and the Garneill monument.”¹²⁰ In late 1952, “...4-H demonstration help days...” replaced “...the judging schools...held the last few years.”¹²¹ This enabled 4-H-ers to practice their demonstrations for fair contests that included both home economics and agriculture; the Garneill Community Hall hosted the July 25 training.

¹⁰⁹ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, November 14, 1950, p. 3.

¹¹⁰ “Garneill Community Club Plans Election Day Dinner,” *Lewistown Daily News*, October 28, 1952, p. 6.

¹¹¹ “Local Political Aspirants Set For Tuesday Primary,” *Lewistown Daily News*, July 19, 1954, p. 1.

¹¹² “Fergus County,” *Lewistown Daily News*, October 17, 1954, p. 5.

¹¹³ “Precinct Listings,” *Lewistown Daily News*, November 6, 1960, p. 13.

¹¹⁴ “Voters,” *Lewistown Daily News*, November 4, 1962, p. 11; “Here’s Where and When to Vote in Fergus County,” *Lewistown Daily News*, October 31, 1964, p. 1.

¹¹⁵ “Con-con primary election set Tues.,” *Lewistown Daily News*, September 12, 1971, p. 1.

¹¹⁶ “Judith Gap Auxiliary To Present Show,” *Lewistown Daily News*, November 19, 1954, p. 8.

¹¹⁷ “U-bet 4-H Club Practices Judging With Buffalo Club,” *Argus Farmer*, July 6, 1950, p. 2.

¹¹⁸ “Garneill U-Bet 4-H Girls Review Record,” *Lewistown Daily News*, October 11, 1955, p. 4.

¹¹⁹ Judith Gap High School Graduates..., *Lewistown Daily News*, May 9, 1964, p. 24.

¹²⁰ “Cancer Crusade,” *Lewistown Daily News*, May 9, 1952, p. 8.

¹²¹ “4-H Demonstration Help Days To Start In County Monday,” *Argus Farmer*, July 17, 1952, p. 5.

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Community Club members volunteered around town including at the cemetery where they cleaned and kept up the ground. These outdoor clean-ups were often followed by dinner at the former Manley's Grocery Store building.¹²² When dinner didn't factor into the event plans, the club building served as the assembly site to gather before embarking for the cemetery.¹²³

Other youth organizations that benefited from the accessibility of the Community Hall included the Girl Scouts. By the late 1950s, the Central Montana chapter organized a training session of a general leadership course.¹²⁴ Two years later, they demonstrated their recent knowledge of Brazil through a folk dance and song at the "Court of Awards" staged at the former grocery store.¹²⁵

The Garneill Community Club hosted farewell gatherings, with some attracting large numbers. November of 1958 witnessed 85 people flooding through the doors of the Community Hall to bid adios to locals Mr. and Mrs. McLaughlin who sold their ranch.¹²⁶ The multi-faceted gathering incorporated the presentation of pins to seven Boy Scouts.

Organization such as the Eastern Star used the building on occasion.¹²⁷ The Eastern Star assisted local junior and senior banquet preparations over the years including in 1958 when the Community Club found itself replete with the local school colors.¹²⁸ Dinner settings consisted of diploma place cards and sheet music with a center piece cake shaped like a book.

By 1964, the Farm Bureau found the former Manley's General Store agreeable for their meetings.¹²⁹ Likely reflecting the time of year and need to be in the fields, the June meetings didn't commence until 8:30 p.m.

Meetings devoted to serious matters also occurred in the building, such as the cancer fund dinner. The Community Club hosted the dinner with proceeds going toward the cancer research.¹³⁰ The cancer fund dinner occurred for several years in the 1970s and was "...well attended each Spring."¹³¹

¹²² No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, May 2, 1951, p. 5.

¹²³ "Garneill Community Club Cleans Up At Cemetery," *Lewistown Daily News*, April 24, 1953, p. 8.

¹²⁴ "Club Calendar," *Lewistown Daily News*, October 27, 1957, p. 2.

¹²⁵ "Garneill Scout Troop Makes Easter baskets," *Lewistown Daily News*, April 27, 1960, p. 3.

¹²⁶ No Title, *Lewistown Daily News*, November 23, 1958, p. 10.

¹²⁷ "Garneill Community Club Puts On Banquet For Judith Gap Eastern Star," *Lewistown Daily News*, March 14, 1952, p. 5.

¹²⁸ "Banquet Held," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 4, 1958, p. 6.

¹²⁹ "Farm Bureau," *Lewistown Daily News*, June 4, 1964, p. 8.

¹³⁰ "Cancer fund dinner slated at Garneill," *Lewistown Daily News*, April 28, 1971, p. 3.

¹³¹ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 36.

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The End

In 1975, the Garneill Community Hall found itself for sale.¹³² The sale included the building itself, “the attached kitchen,” a piano, “1 show case,” a “monarch combination (electric, coal & wood) cook stove, “1 Cappan propane cook stove,” a record player, mic and two speakers. The announcement noted the right to reject or accept any bid.

Although the Community Club apparently ceased use of the Garneill Community Hall by the time it went up for sale in 1975, a remembrance from the local county history sums up well the organization and how it embraced the use of the former grocery store building: “Although our number is somewhat smaller than it has been in years past, the folks of the Garneill community are still friendly and neighborly and the Community spirit still thrives!”¹³³ Unspoken in that recollection was the vital role the former Manley’s Grocery Store, known later as Garneill Community Hall, played in the community of not only Garneill, but the surrounding rural area.

The building garnered a second round of community service after its restoration efforts in 1986. Michael Hausman acquired the property in the 1970s and the Hausmans provided restoration funds for the 1986 work. Since the restoration, the Manley’s General Store building has continued to serve the community once again as the location to assemble for events and community gatherings.¹³⁴

In 1951, Montana Highway 191 that links Billings and Great Falls was constructed. The highway and railroad continue to pass through the Judith Gap and the town of Garneill. However, despite the presence of both the railroad and the highway, Garneill today represents little more than a ghost town. A large assortment of wind turbines south of town are a relatively new defining addition to the area. While the population of Garneill has greatly dwindled since its peak homesteading days, the community still retains functional cohesion. The Manley’s General Store building’s first use as a grocery provided goods for the small community. However, it was its later use as a Community Hall where the building’s importance to the area truly shone and became the center of people’s lives, hosting innumerable events and special occasions, serving as the Community anchor. Manley’s Grocery Store stands as a local landmark representing one of the last remaining vestiges of the homestead community and the place where the town and surrounding area found identity through common experience.

Architectural Significance

Manley’s Grocery Store represents a local iteration of the Western Commercial brick buildings of the turn of the twentieth century. The rugged sturdiness of these types of buildings melded with the often harsh conditions to which they were subjected. Single-story, free-standing

¹³² “Legal Notices, For Bid,” *The Harlowton Times*, June 19, 1975, p. 7.

¹³³ “Garneill center marks year,” *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6; The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 36.

¹³⁴ “Garneill center marks year,” *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.

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buildings, such as Manley's Grocery Store, were often used for office or retail purposes and proved popular in small cities and towns.¹³⁵

Manley's General Store presents a number of features architecturally associated with Western Commercial. These elements often boast cladding or construction of brick, long rectangular plans that run perpendicular to the street, and roofs that are slightly sloped or flat concealed behind a parapet or pediment. Western Commercial buildings stand one to three stories in height and may feature up to five bays. Nuanced detailing includes a decorative corbelled cornice, lower brick dentiled beltcourse, stepped parapet on the east and west walls, brick pilasters, and a slightly recessed diagonal three-quarter height wall entry topped with a flat arch brick lintel; the lintel bricks present a slightly angled soldier course pattern.

Storefronts often feature a central recessed entry flanked by large plate glass display windows. Transom lights often span display windows and the entry provides light to the interior. Manley's General Store differs due to the unusual placement of the door and its diagonal presentation; the use of large display windows with transoms, however, remains. The present windows fail to exactly replicate the original design but do fill the historic openings and present better than the second arrangement of windows installed after the town's fire in 1914; the present windows reflect their nonhistoric 1986 installation when restoration efforts of such buildings in small towns was in its infancy.

Although simple in presentation, Manley's General Store presents a good example of the Western Commercial architecture that once dotted many of the smaller towns across Montana. It retains many of the characteristics of the style and several understated decorative elements that continue to announce the building's original historic role in the community. With the passing of years, fewer and fewer of these buildings remain in the small rural communities of central Montana—Manley's General Store represents the only extant commercial building dating to the homestead period in the surrounding area. Adding to the ambiance of the building's presentation is the almost perceptible ghost sign that over 100 years ago proudly proclaimed the store's name on the east wall, "Manley's General Store."

¹³⁵ Francis R. Kowsky, *Early Twentieth Century Commercial Style*, Buffalo as an Architectural Museum, <https://buffaloah.com/a/archsty/20/20.html>, accessed March 27, 2024.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 0.66

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

1. Latitude: 46.750790° Longitude: -109.750260° (center point of building)

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property consists of a single building: per the Montana Cadastral, "WEST GARNEILL ORIG TOWN, S06, T11 N, R16 E, BLOCK 003, Lot 004-005."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary concribes the historic Garneill Community Center including the legal lot where the building stands.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Dr. Timothy Urbaniak
organization: TRU Technologies
street & number: 503 Calhoun Lane
city or town: Billings state: MT zip code: 59101
e-mail turbaniak@bresnan.net
telephone: 406-259-6595
date: 2-10-2024

and

name/title: John Boughton
organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office
street & number: 225 N. Roberts
city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620
e-mail jboughton@mt.gov
telephone: 406-444-3647
date: 3-28-2024

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Additional Documentation

Maps and floorplans



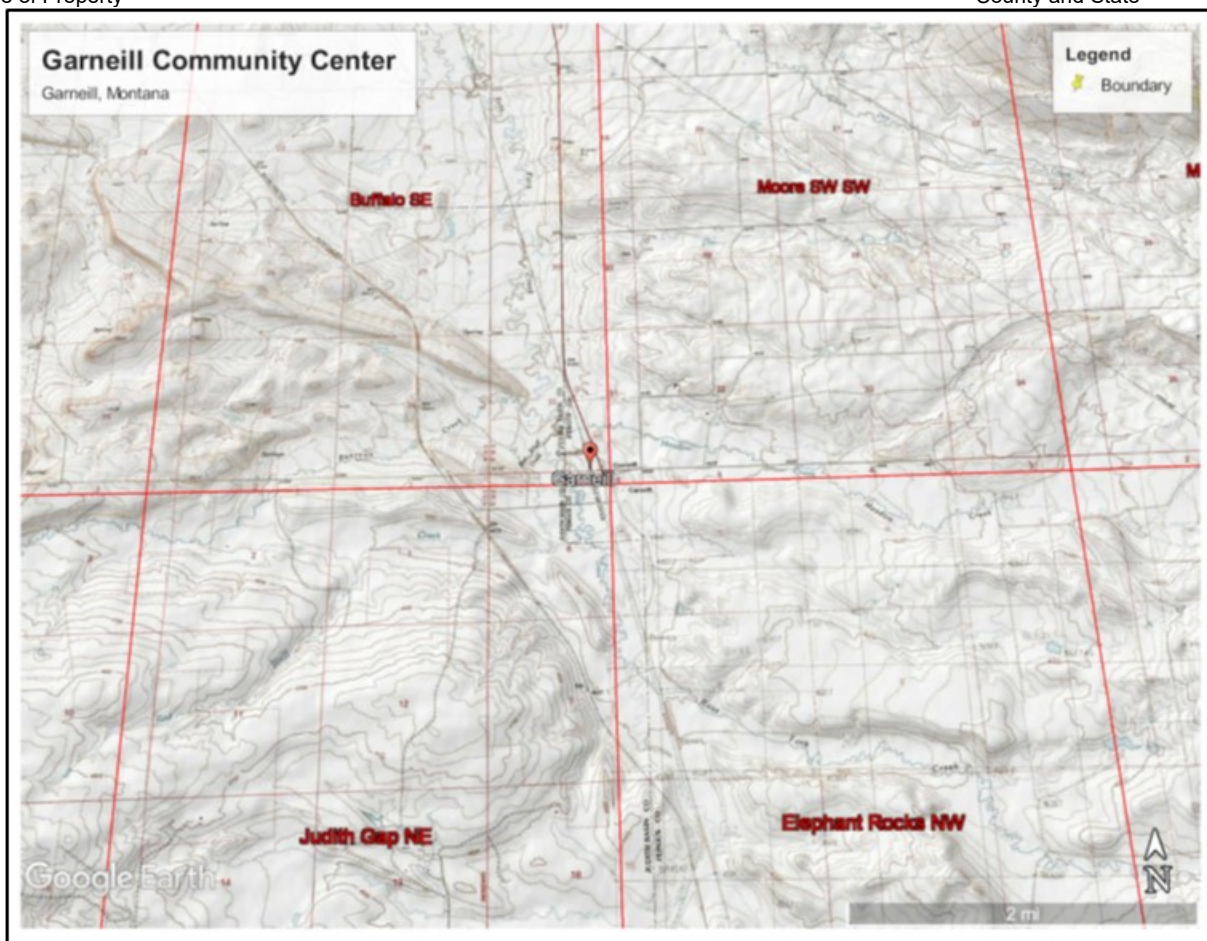
Map 1. General Location Map: Garneill Community Center, Garneill Montana.
Source: https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/montana_map.htm.

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Map 2. Location Map: Garneill Community Center, Garneill, Montana.

The Community Center is at the intersection of the joined quadrangle maps that include Buffalo SE (to the northwest), Moore SW (to the northeast), Judith Gap NE (to the southwest), and the Elephant Rocks NW (to the southeast). The quadrangle maps are denoted with red dividing lines.

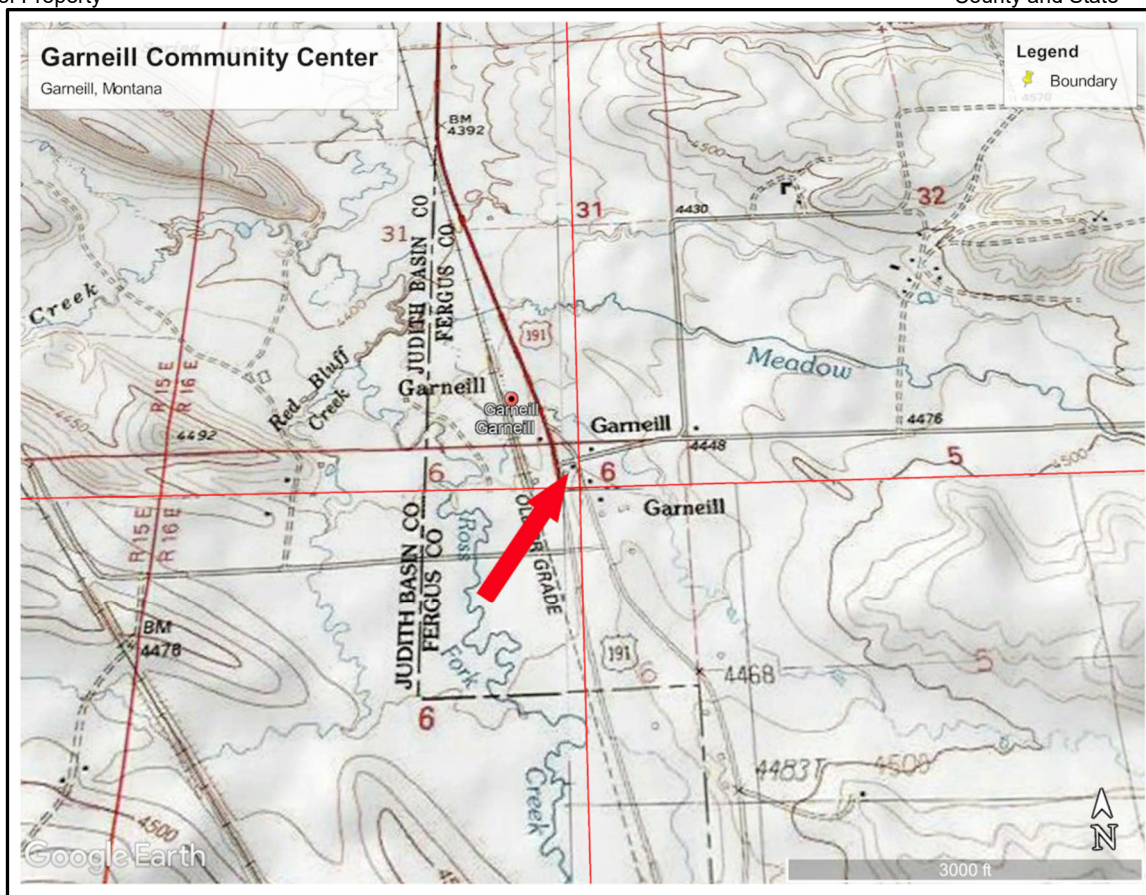
Marker indicates nominated site. Latitude: 46.750790° Longitude: -109.750260.

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Map 3. Location Map: Garneill Community Center, Garneill, Montana

Joined Buffalo SE (to the northwest), Moore SW (to the northeast), Judith Gap NE (to the southwest), and the Elephant Rocks NW (to the southeast) quadrangle maps with red dividing lines. Marker indicates nominated site. Latitude: 46.750790° Longitude: -109.750260.

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Map 4. Location shown in Google Earth. Yellow markers denote the approximate lot boundary and the red marker indicates nominated building. Latitude: 46.750790° Longitude: -109.750260.

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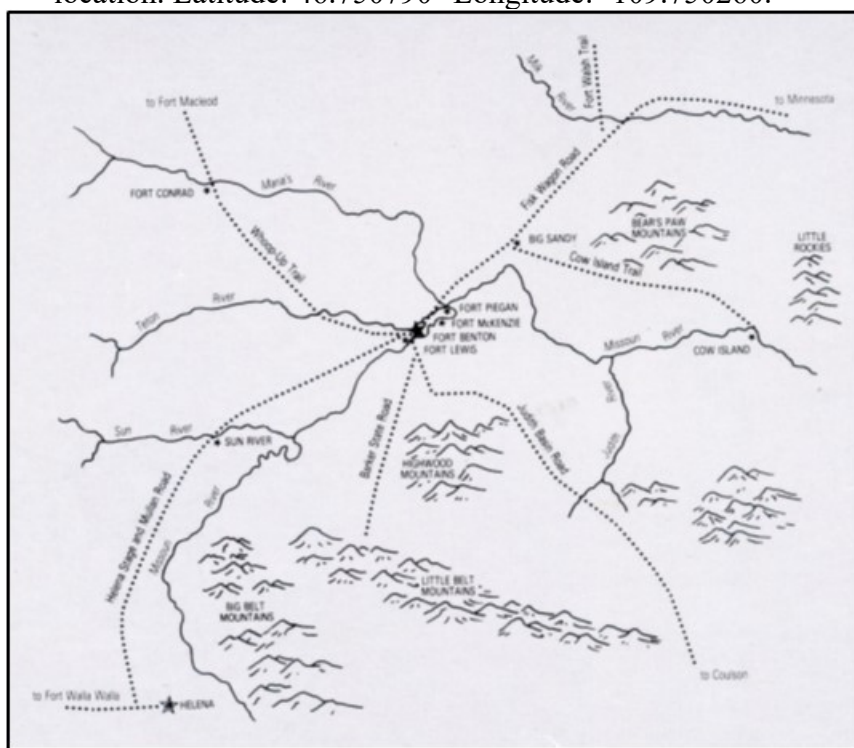
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Map 5. Location shown in Google Earth looking to the north. Red marker indicates nominated location. Latitude: 46.750790° Longitude: -109.750260.



Map 6. Route map circa late 1800s showing the Judith Gap Freighting and Stage Road.¹³⁶

¹³⁶ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 202.

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Map 7. Central excerpt from the Montana Railroad Company map of 1899 showing the network of freighter roads and railroad approaching from the southwest through Harlowton.¹³⁷ The map is shown in negative view from the original for readability.

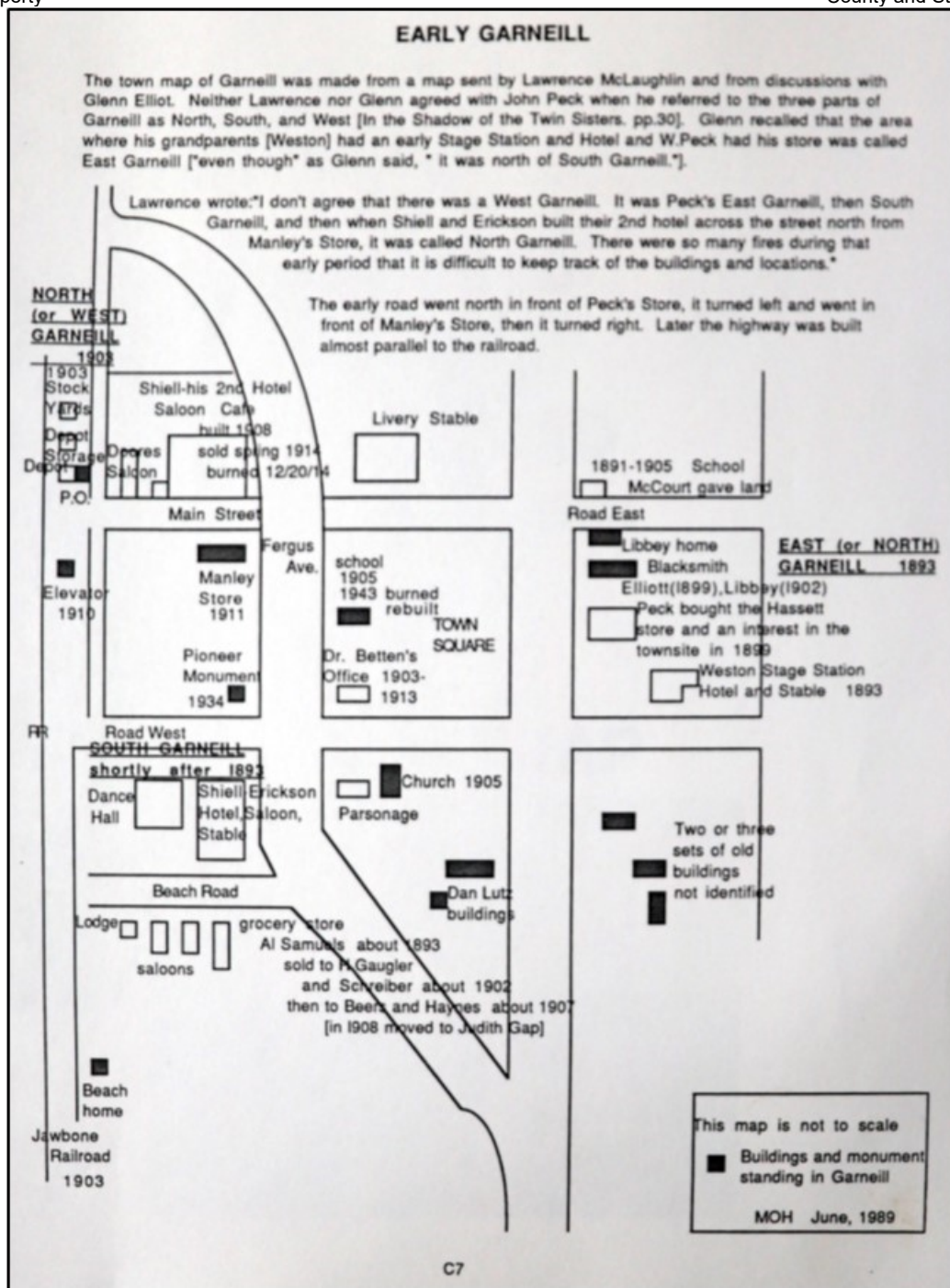
¹³⁷ J. F. Polley & Montana Railroad, *Map of Central Montana, the Montana Railroad, September 1, 1899*. Viewed February 8, 2024 at the Library of Congress website <https://www.loc.gov/item/98688722/>.

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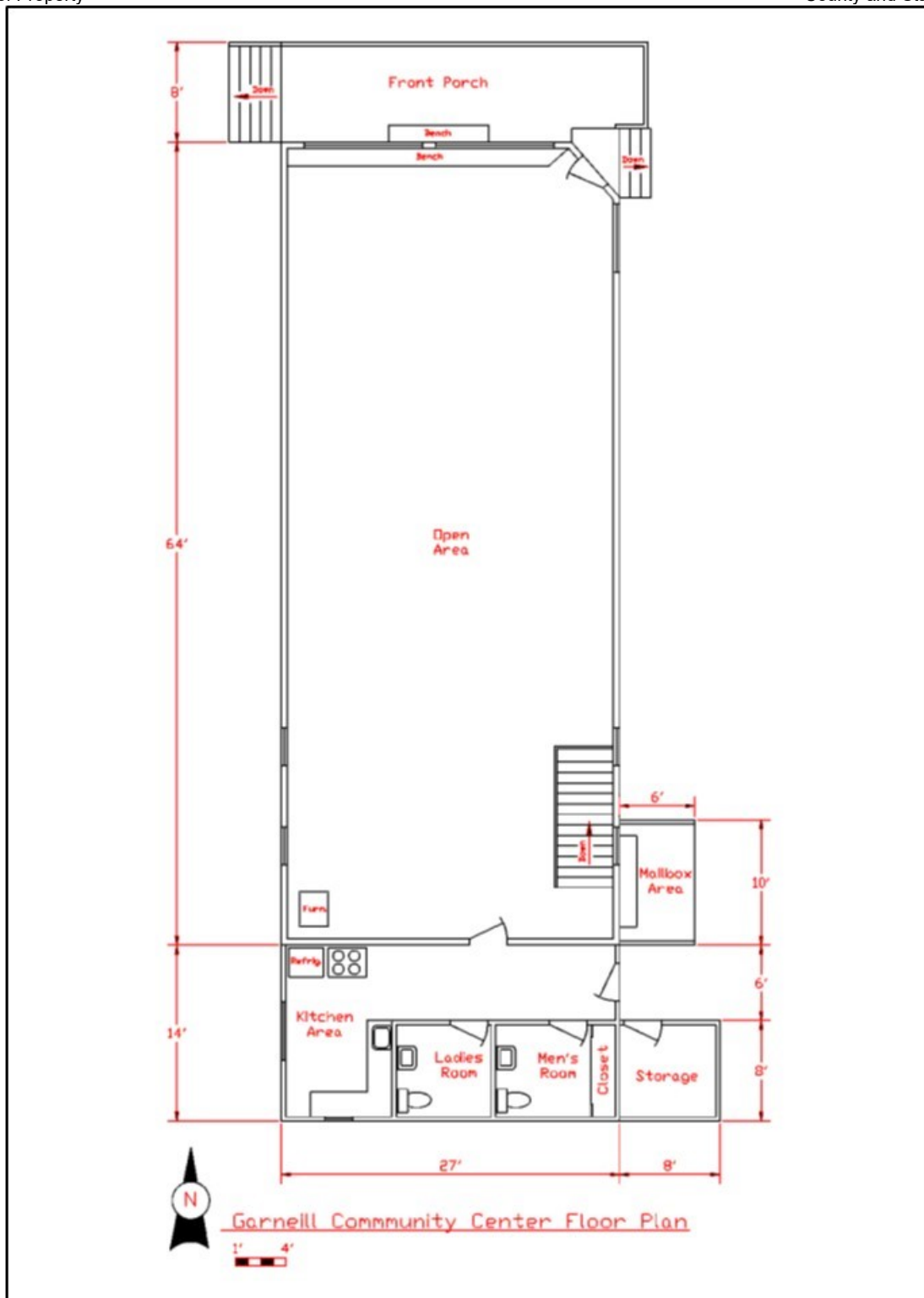


Map 8. Map of early Garneill. Note that the rectangle of the Manley Store is incorrectly turned 90 degrees.¹³⁸

¹³⁸ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993. p. C7.

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Garneill Community Center Floor Plan. Plan View (Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo Log and Photographs

MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0001	0001 – Manley's General Store., View direction southwest, Fergus County, Montana, 1913. Photographer: Unknown.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0002	0002 – W. S. Manley's signature and date of July 25, 1910 written on the building. View direction unknown. Fergus County, Montana, 1910. Photographer: Unknown.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0003	0003 – Manley's General Store. View direction southwest. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0004	0004 – Noncontributing picnic slab. View direction northeast. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0005	0005 – View of the east wall. View direction northwest. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0006	0006 – East wall detail view. View direction northwest. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0007	0007 – View of the interior. View direction north. Fergus County, Montana, 1952. Photographer: Unknown.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0008	0008 – View of the interior. View direction north. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0009	0009 – View of the front of the building. View direction south. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0010	0010 – View of additions to the building. View direction northwest. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0011	0011 – View of main addition to the building. View direction northeast. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0012	0012 – View showing the back additions and mailbox area. View direction west. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0013	0013 – Original mailboxes. View direction west. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0014	0014 – Original mailboxes. View direction west. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0015	0015 – Interior view. View direction south. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0016	0016 – Interior view of kitchen and hallway. View direction east. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0017	0017 – Interior view of guardrail and stairs to basement. View direction southeast. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0018	0018 – Basement view looking toward stairway. View direction southeast. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0019	0019 – Basement view. View direction north. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0020	0020 – East exterior wall with enhancement. View direction west. Fergus County, Montana, 2023. Photographer: Garry Worthington.
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0021	0021 – Seasonal gathering at the Community Center. View direction southwest. Fergus County, Montana, 1987. Photographer: Unknown.

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0001. Manley's General Store in 1913.¹³⁹
View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0002. W. S. Manley's signature and date of July 25, 1910 written on the building. View direction unknown. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

¹³⁹ The Committee, *In the Shadow of the Twin Sisters*, (Lewistown: Montana Business Service, 1973), p. 35.

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0003. Manley's General Store in 2023. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0004. Noncontributing picnic slab, table, and barbeque grill. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0005. View of the east wall. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0006. View of the east wall showing the bracing anchor plates and bolts. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0007. View of the interior showing the original front wall configuration during a community gathering in 1952. View direction north.
(Photographer: Unknown)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0008. View of the interior in 2023. View direction north. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0009. View of the front facade in 2023.
View direction south. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0010. View of the building in 2023 showing the additions. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0011. View of the building in 2023 showing the back addition. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0012. View of the building in 2023 showing the back additions and mailboxes. View direction west. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0013. Original mailboxes that remain in the building. View direction west. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0014. Community gathering in the spring of 1952. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Unknown)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0015. Interior view showing stairwell and door to kitchen and bathroom areas. View direction south. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)



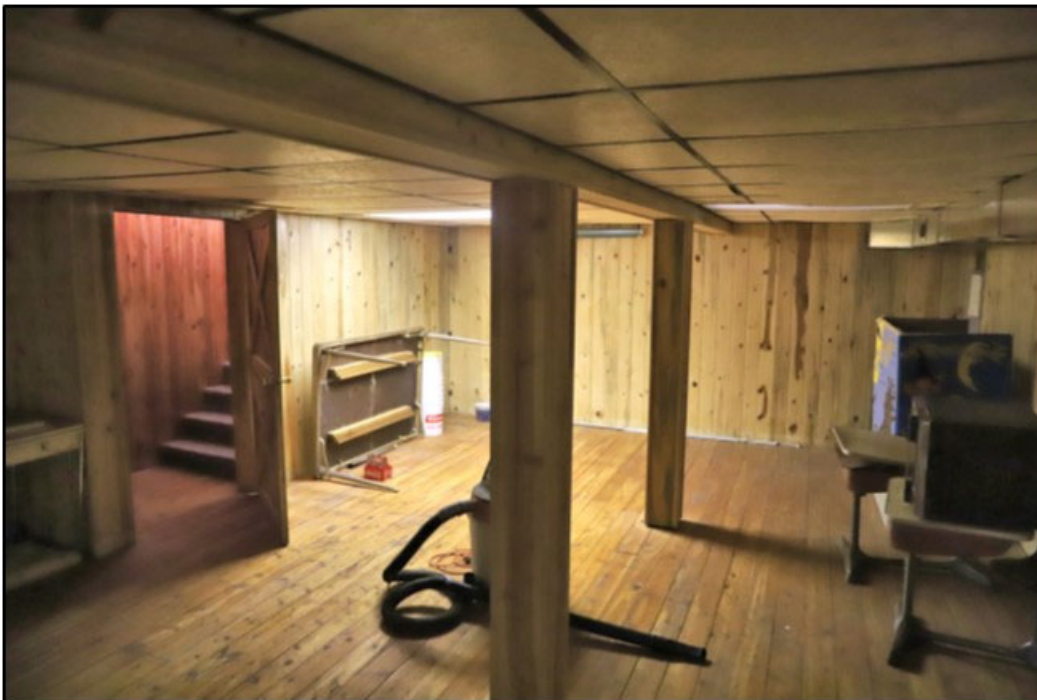
MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0016. Interior panorama from four images showing kitchen and hallway to bathrooms. View direction east. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0017. Handrail around opening to basement.
View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0018. Basement looking toward stairwell.
View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0019. Basement view. View direction north.
(Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0020. View of the east wall after enhancement with DStretch.¹⁴⁰ View direction west. (Photographer: Garry Worthington)

¹⁴⁰ John Harmon, DStretch Plugin for ImageJ, 2024, Accessed on February 28, 2024 at www.dstretch.com.

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MT_FergusCounty_GarneillCommunityCenter_0021. A seasonal gathering at the Garneill Community Center.¹⁴¹ View direction southwest. (Photographer: Unknown)

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

¹⁴¹ "Garneill center marks year," *Lewistown News-Argus*, September 20, 1987, p. 6.