

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: Judith Gap Jail

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 125 ft. south of the SW corner of 4th Ave. and Meagher St. on Meagher St.

City or town: Judith Gap State: Montana County: Wheatland

Not For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☐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

MT State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title:

Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title:

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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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> </u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT: correctional facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE
RECREATION AND CULTURE/ Museum

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Vernacular: wood jail

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: WOOD

Walls: WOOD (stacked dimensional)

Roof: WOOD (cedar shakes)

Other: BRICK (chimney)

METAL (bars and floor rings)

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

The Judith Gap Jail is located in the town of Judith Gap on U.S. Route 191 in the incorporated community of Judith Gap, Montana, approximately 17 miles north of Harlowton and between the Little Belt Mountains to the west and the Big Snowy Mountains to the east. The jail stands 125' south of the SW corner of 4th Ave. and Meagher St. on Meagher St. Built in a vernacular modified wood-frame style in 1909, the 14' (north-south) x 24' (east-west) rectangular building served the community as a jail from its initial construction in 1909 until its use faded through the 1940s. 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 establishing basic civil infrastructure. The building retains integrity and is locally significant for the role it played in the community and for its architectural style reflective of the early 1900s.

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Narrative Description

The Judith Gap Jail stands off U.S. Route 191 in the incorporated town of Judith Gap, Montana (Map 1). The town of Judith Gap and the area that holds the same name, lies in central Montana, north of Harlowton and between the Little Belt Mountains to the west and the Big Snowy Mountains to the east. The area served as a travel corridor since the distant past including by Native American groups. Homesteaders and ranchers arrived, and freighters carried goods through the area during pre-territorial, territorial, and statehood periods. Railroads followed by 1908, giving way to the eventual construction of Highway 191. The town of Judith Gap is located in the northeast corner of the Judith Gap SE quadrangle, extending slightly into the northwest corner of the Elephant Rocks SW quadrangle (Map 2, Map 3, and Map 4).

The Judith Gap Jail stands as one of the earliest buildings constructed in the town. Built to address issues of unruliness often associated railroad workers, homesteaders, and transients (Map 5 and Map 6). The wood structure served as a "city jail" with those incarcerated generally spending short periods related to minor offences, such as disturbing the peace, public intoxication, vagrancy, or as a holding cell for those destined for transport to other locals for more serious offenses.

Construction of the jail closely followed the County Commissioners' directive, "Bid for Building Judith Gap Jail," that precisely laid out what the commissioners needed and wanted.¹

Judith Gap Jail (one contributing building)

Exterior

Built in a vernacular stacked-dimensional lumber wood-frame style in 1909, the 14' 8" (north-south) x 25' (east-west) rectangular building (Drawing 01) served the community as a first-generation jail from its initial construction until its use gradually diminished through the 1940s. Located in the southeast corner of the "Judith Gap Original Townsite, S31, T11 N, R16 E, Block 032, Lot 001, LTS 1, 2," a 3'-wide concrete sidewalk running north-south passes by the east wall of the building.² An approximately 3' x 4' concrete slab is located at the door to the jail, connecting the entry to the sidewalk. The exterior of the building is clad in 4" horizontal pine shiplap painted red.

East Elevation

The 14'-wide east elevation of the building holds the only entry door, located left of center (south) as you approach the building (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0001, Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0002, and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0004). The heavy 6' 8"-tall by 2' 6"-wide heavy

¹ "Bids for Building Jail at Judith Gap," *Judith Gap Journal*, August 6, 1909, p. 4.

² Montana Cadastral, viewed at <https://svc.mt.gov/msl/cadastral/?page=Map&geocode=44-2023-31-1-25-05-0000&taxYear=2026>

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exterior wood door is constructed of vertical dimensional boards affixed to three interior horizontal members positioned at the top, center, and bottom of the door. The door displays three exterior-mounted, large metal strap hinges for a right-hand reverse swing, and a heavy steel locking strap-latch located to the left side of the red-painted door. An unpainted sign that reads "1909 Judith Gap Jail" appears above the door; this sign does not appear in earlier images. The vertical red board door fronts a second door, a solid wood, 5-panel door painted white paint; this door opens inward and exhibits three butt hinges and period-accurate metal knob and backplate.

North of the entry is a wood-framed "four pane window with 14 x 30-inch panes," double-hung unit that measures 3' 3" wide and 5' tall. Ten 1¼" x ¼" steel flat bars are mounted horizontally at equal spaces over the window, fastened to the exterior wall at each end with square-head lag bolts.

North Elevation

The 24'-long north wall of the jail lacks any openings (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0003).

West Elevation

The 14'-wide west wall of the jail also lacks any fenestration (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0003).

South Elevation

The 24'-long south wall is located adjacent and parallel to the southern property line of the county lot and nomination boundary. This wall features a single 3' x 3' single-pane window that provides light to the interior cell area. Three-quarter inch diameter steel bars with 6" grid spacing overlays the window in the interior. A 3' 3" x 3' 3" steel-clad storm door for the window attaches to the exterior wall via strap hinges immediately east of the window. The window's storm door features dimensional lumber construction. A hasp on the window's storm door allows securing it to a loop on the wall to hold it open or closed (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0005).

The gable roof's ridgeline runs east-west on the long axis of the jail, capped by a galvanized metal ridge cap and ridge cap ball finials. Built to a "1-3 pitch" (4:12), the rafters are sheathed with 1" boards and shingled with cedar shakes over "building paper." A red-brick ridge chimney with a 16"x16" exterior and 8"x8" interior projects 3' from near the center of the building's interior front cell wall. (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0002 and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0006).

Interior

The jail retains its original exterior and interior configuration since its construction. Horizontal beadboard sheathes the walls and ceiling of the room, including the lower part of the brick chimney and the cribbed-construction wall that separates the cell area. The floor and ceiling are finished wood tongue-and-groove construction over wooden

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floor and ceiling joists. Like the exterior, the interior of the jail would be immediately recognizable to any of the early occupants of the building (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0006). The first (eastern-most) room measures approximately 14' x 14' and features a centrally located single wood stove positioned on a metal heat shield and connected to the brick chimney by 6" single-wall steel pipe. A 2' 10"-wide wood bench lies along the north wall, constructed of dimensional lumber in the "cribbed" solid style. A window allows a view northeast toward the Judith Gap Elementary School (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0007). A single light bulb, powered by post-and-pole wire routing, hangs in the center of the entry room/office, the only electricity in the unplumbed building; the light is controlled by a round switch, located adjacent to the brick chimney and slightly above a ring of antique jail keys (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0010).

The cribbed-construction wooden wall that separates the two rooms is penetrated by three openings – the passway with a 2' 4" solid wood door that leads to the cell area (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0008), a 2' 8" opening gridded with $\frac{3}{4}$ " round steel bars with 4" spacing at the bottom-center of the wall, a 6" x 24" opening at the top of the wall to assist air circulation. The left-swinging door is hung with four original heavy-duty hinges mounted with lag bolts (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0009). The door can be locked on the appropriate side by a steel hasp; the door features a 1'-square head-level opening gridded with $\frac{3}{4}$ " round steel bars at a spacing of 3".

Stepping through the jail cell door to the west one enters into the 10' x 14' holding room (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0011). This room features a 3' x 3' window in the south wall described above. Two-foot 10"-wide wooden benches line the north and west walls. Two steel rings anchored to the floor in front of each bench allowed for the restraint of aggressive or dangerous prisoners, such as James Coleman discussed in Section 8 below (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0012 and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0013). Heat to the cell came from the wood stove in the east room, with the heat circulated by the grated openings.

The east wall (interior) shows evidence of the original white paint and lacks additional sheathing, unlike the other three walls lined with vertically-oriented pine. Untouched and undisturbed, the unfinished interior walls continue to display the many bits of communication by way of names, dates, additional text, and illustrations left by occupants over the years

The building lacks a concrete foundation and now sits on a wood foundation; it, originally sat on a rock foundation.³

³ "The Way it Was," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 2.

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Integrity

By 2002, the roof and exterior wood siding of the jail building was showing its age (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0014). A group of concerned community members undertook an effort to return the jail to its past glory. They cleaned out the interior and repaired the wood benches. The interior jail door was missing, but when word of the project spread, the door reappeared. Other restoration efforts included levelling the base of the building, installing a new roof that matched the original wood shakes (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0015), and replacing the weather-beaten siding with in kind materials, with a tarpaper underlayment added for insulation (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0016 and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0017). A remnant of the original paint color was discovered and color-matched for a fresh coat. The southern wall was again repainted in 2007 by the community group that manages the jail as a form of mini-museum.⁴

The Judith Gap Jail retains strong integrity. It stands in its original location and continues to impart its historic design and workmanship. Although the original cladding was replaced about 25 years ago, the present siding is in-kind and matches the original. Similarly, the present roofing also matches that used historically. Integrity of setting mostly remains as several of the nearby buildings are historic, though the town's water tower now rises to the northwest above the jail. The interior cell block presents strong integrity with numerous elements intact; the interior also retains the cultural resource of inscribed communication elements still in place on the interior walls. The presence of the inscriptions contributes to the historical integrity of the structure as they provide direct physical evidentiary links to specific individuals and events. The Judith Gap Jail stands as a reminder of the town's historic law enforcement that strongly conveys its appearance and spare confinement conditions.

Entering the building, and then the jail cell, one feels the distinctive sensation of those who entered the building in bygone days under less pleasant circumstances. Any past inmate would immediately recognize both the exterior of the building and the interior, and in some cases, find their old inscription, still there after all these years. Since its construction and continuing to the present, the building remains a reminder of the railroad and homesteading boom years of the early 1900s and the importance of a community establishing a basic civil infrastructure. 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.

⁴ "Judith Gap Jail Restoration," Notebook compiled by Alice Bair, digitized by Tim Urbaniak, 2025.

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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.)

LAW (Legal systems)

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1909 - 1950

Significant Dates

1909

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

O. F. Deyarmon - Builder

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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.)

The Judith Gap Jail is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with law and order in the small, rural, isolated community of Judith Gap. The jail was constructed during the area's developmental years and served in its intended capacity until 1950. Its construction was spurred by the homesteading boom, arrival of the railroad, and rapid commercial development of the Judith Gap area in the early part of the twentieth century. Constructed in 1909 as a community jail for local law enforcement, its use ranged from confining those committing minor offenses to occasional cases of more significant and severe violations. The decision to construct the jail likely occurred from a sense of civic pride as the young town wished to promote a view of stability and security. Individuals and groups associated with homesteaders, ranchers, railroaders, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and railroad-traveling transients left evidence of their stay(s) on the jail's walls in the form of historic inscriptions. These inscriptions directly document specific actors in the region during the period of significance. The building's use evolved to the present to serve as a form of community museum.

The building gains addition significance under Criterion C as a sound example of the stacked lumber method of construction, also referred to as "cribbed" or "stacked." Providing a form of a sturdy, insulated structure that was difficult to break through, the stacked lumber method of construction was used at a number of early jails across Montana, but examples of such are now rare as they became replaced by more substantial and less flammable structures. The Judith Gap Jail remains as a rare survivor of the use of this construction method for jails.

The period of significance begins in 1909, reflecting the building's construction and ends in 1950, when it ceased use as a jail. Significant dates include the date of construction, 1909.

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

*The Judith Basin*⁵

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

⁵ Significant portions of the History of the Judith Basin are excerpted from the 2024 National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the Manley's General Store, located in nearby Garneill, Montana, Tim Urbaniak and John Boughton, authors.

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Peoples who followed the herds for food. Located centrally within the Judith Basin is the incorporated town of Judith Gap, 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.⁶ During the expedition's split during their 1806 return, Lewis's cohort followed the Missouri downstream, and Clark's group followed 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 De Smet, who crossed through the basin on the way to a "peace conference with 3,000 Indians at the forks of the Judith River and Ross Fork."⁷ 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.⁸ 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.⁹ 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 in (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.¹⁰

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

⁶ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993. p. A-1.

⁷ 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.

⁸ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 53.

⁹ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 178.

¹⁰ "Bullwhacker was frontier character, says J.R. Barrows; He knew Dumont, Reil leader," *The Melstone Messenger*, June 7, 1934, p. A3.

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lines and included a route to the new town of Coulson, later to become Billings, Montana (Map 6).¹¹

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 suite in 1883, forming the Montana Woolgrowers Association at Fort Benton, Montana, 85 miles northwest of the future site of Judith Gap.

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.¹² 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, 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.¹³ 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 1883.¹⁴ Arrival of the railroads greatly stepped-up immigration to the west, Wheatland County, and the area around Judith Gap.

In 1903, the Montana Railroad, the “Jawbone,” was completed to Lewistown, passing near Judith Gap, though Garneill was established as the closest town (Map 7).¹⁵ In 1908, the Great Northern Railway completed a branch line from Great Falls to Billings (Historic Image 01 and Historic Image 02). Arrival of the Great Northern firmly

¹¹ Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 193.

¹² “Notice for Publication,” *Fergus County Argus*, March 7, 1900, p. 8.

¹³ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-6.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. A-7.

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established Judith Gap as a town with it selected as a division point.¹⁶ Along with the new railroad passing through town, a roundhouse and machine shop were built. A interchange track was constructed in town a year after the railroad's arrival, which permitted freight and passengers to transfer between the Great Northern branch and the Montana Railroad line to Lewistown.¹⁷ Since Judith Gap was the midway point between Great Falls and Billings, train crews were changed there, leading to a large railroad associated population.¹⁸ At one time, 250 men worked at the locomotive shops, including "several Japanese machinists." In 1915, repair operations moved to Great Falls. The roundhouse ran full employment until 1923, which tapered off through time.¹⁹

Prior to the construction of the Judith Gap Jail, Wheatland County, named after the concentration of wheat fields in the central part of the county, was officially created by an act of the Montana State Legislature on February 22, 1917.²⁰ This reduction in the size of Montana counties often associated with splitting larger counties into smaller jurisdictions, a process that began with the original 24 created in 1900, and ending with a total of 56 in 1925, placing the creation of Wheatland County at the pinnacle of the process.²¹ Wheatland arose from portions of Meagher and Sweet Grass counties, with part carved out of eastern Meagher County on its west and Sweet Grass County, now to its south. Harlowton, incorporated in 1908, was established as the county seat, separating from the previous center of local government in White Sulphur Springs.²² A multi-story stone structure, originally built as a school, was repurposed as the county courthouse in 1938.²³ The addition of this structure provided a much better facility for the detention of occupants than the Judith Gap Jail and certainly contributed to the last chapter of its use.

Judith Gap

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,

¹⁶ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, "Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 7.

¹⁷ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, "Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 7.

¹⁸ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-1.

¹⁹ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. D-7.

²⁰ "Wheatland Co. Talked Again," *Judith Gap Journal*, January 12, 1917, p. 1.

²¹ Rex C. Myers, "Homestead on the Range: The Emergence of Community in Eastern Montana, 1900-1925," *Great Plains Quarterly* (through 2013), 1990. p. 219.

²² Wheatland County, Montana, "About Wheatland County," <https://wheatlandcomt.gov/>, viewed on August 7, 2026.

²³ American Courthouses, "Wheatland County," <https://courthouses.co/us-states/m/montana/wheatland-county/>, viewed on August 7, 2026.

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created in 1880 by Alf Stevens and located west and slightly north of the Judith Gap; it included stables and a hotel.²⁴ Only a year later, the stage stop of Ubet sprang up 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!”²⁵

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.²⁶ The location became a site where crews rotated. During the 1920s, diesel trains with more range replaced the coal-fired engines allowing greater travel distance and not necessitating a stop from Great Falls to Billings.²⁷ 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.”²⁸

Typical of railroad town platting of the time, Judith Gap followed a T-town design.²⁹ From 1908 through 1916, the population of the Judith Basin increased, as it did throughout central and eastern Montana. The town's First Addition was platted within four years, adding 15 blocks at the southeast edge of town to the original plat's 39 blocks.³⁰ Business flourished as the *Judith Gap Journal* began printing within three months of the sale of the first town lots. Telephone service, two lumber yards, a grain elevator, two general stores, cheese factory, and seven saloons followed.³¹ The jail

²⁴ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-9.

²⁵ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. B-11.

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. B-12.

²⁸ Mabel O. Haynes, *History: Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana*, 1993, p. C-1.

²⁹ J. C. Hudson, “Towns of the Western railroads,” *Great Plains Quarterly*, 2(1), 1982, p. 48

³⁰ Dakota and Great Northern Townsite Company 1912 Plat of the First Addition. On file at the Wheatland County Clerk and Recorder's Office, Harlowton, Montana.

³¹ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, “Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation,

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was constructed in 1909. A brick school constructed in 1911 rivalled the railroad shops in size.³² Electricity arrived by 1913 and in 1914, the town's population reached 400 individuals.³³ The Judith Gap jail averted disaster in 1913, when a conflagration rolled through the town and consumed many of the commercial buildings.

The fire only slowed the town's growth. By 1916, Judith Gap boasted two grain elevators, a hotel, butcher shop, creamery three lumber yards, three general stores, a jewelry store, blacksmith shop, harness shop, and livery stable.³⁴

The year 1919 witnessed the start of seven years of drought. Farms failed and people moved. The numbers were significant as half of Montana's farmers faced foreclosure between 1921 and 1925.³⁵ Although agriculture fought steady headwinds, the railroads helped ease the town's pain; train crews and those who worked at the roundhouse and shops remained. However, by October of 1925, the increased efficiency of newer locomotives enabled the Great Northern to close the Judith Gap division point with maintenance duties moved to Great Falls and Laurel.³⁶ The loss of the railroad dealt a serious blow to the Judith Gap. More foreclosures occurred, including in the town, and the population dropped to around 250 people.³⁷ The Great Depression followed the loss of the railroads. Another fire in 1930 swept through the business district, but again spared the Judith Gap Jail—little effort was made to rebuild the lost buildings after this fire.

The town's fortunes improved in the late 1940s and early 1950s as the Montana Highway Commission constructed U.S. Highway 191 through the town. The alignment of the new highway two blocks south of Main Street resulted in many of the businesses relocating along High Street. Judith Gap continues to provide services supporting the

Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 7.

³² M.O Haynes, History of the Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana, Ms. on file, 1993: D-3.

³³ M.O Haynes, History of the Garneill-Judith Gap Area of Central Montana, Ms. on file, 1993: D-3.

³⁴ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, "Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 8.

³⁵ J.K. Howard, *Montana: High, Wide, and Handsome*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 1983, pp. 197-202, 207.

³⁶ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, "Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 8.

³⁷ Montana Department of Transportation, Population, <https://commerce.mt.gov/Data-Research/People-Housing/Population>, viewed July 23, 2026.

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agriculture of the area, albeit, on a scale greatly reduced from its 19-teens heyday.³⁸
The town's population stood at 110 people in 2020.

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Judith Gap Needs a Jail

In 1908, the first issue of the *Judith Gap Journal* proclaimed the town as the "fastest growing town in Montana."³⁹ The growing population arrived mostly via the arrival of the Milwaukee Road and Great Northern Railways, combined with an influx of homesteaders. Construction of a jail was one way Judith Gap addressed the rapid changes within the town.

Jails served a vital role in the history of small rural towns in the American West. The presence of a jail indicated the populace was serious about law and order and keeping the peace. During frontier times, vigilantism often dictated a small rural community's approach to tackling crime. The presence of a jail allowed incarceration of people directly from the street, both for smaller crimes and also to hold for major misdeeds prior to their transfer to another location. Sociologist Emile Durkheim studied society through the lens of jails. Durkheim believed an examination of societal norms and those who violated them by viewing the history of jails and prisons can illustrate the history of all social institutions. Like all jails, the Judith Gap Jail was built as a means to police immoral elements of local society, be that drunkenness, vagrancy, or worse. The Judith Gap Jail was built during a period of rapid population growth, as an obvious means to corral the exuberance of individuals from the town and outside of the community when needed; on a higher level, the presence of the jail per Durkheim, conveys not just Judith Gap's local law and order history, but the beliefs and values of the larger community.

The Judith Gap Jail served as a local holding facility during the town's boom years of the early 20th century and represents one of the earliest structures erected by the community to manage the influx of railroad workers, homesteaders, and transients before the town gained the funds to invest in a more permanent facility (Map 5 and Map 6). The jail functioned primarily as a "city jail" for short-term stays, typically for lesser offenses that included public intoxication, disturbing the peace, vagrancy, or awaiting transport to the county seat in nearby White Sulphur Springs, and after the creation of Wheatland County in 1917, shifted to Harlowton for more serious offenses.

Minor offenses, including monetary disputes, were handled by a Justice of the Peace that operated out of Judith Gap, beginning with J. R. Bain in 1910.⁴⁰ J. R. Bain was an

³⁸ Mitzi Rossillon, Ken Dickerson, and Mary McCormick, "Judith Gap—North & South, U.S. Highway 191 Reconstruction Project, Wheatland County, Montana: A Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation, Volume I: Report," Renewable Technologies, Inc. for Neil Consultants, Inc. Great Falls, October 2000, p. 9.

³⁹ "Judith Gap is the Fastest Growing Town in Montana," *Judith Gap Journal*, Friday, November 20, 1908, p. 1.

⁴⁰ "Alias Summons," *Judith Gap Journal*, January 14, 1910, p. 4.

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early businessman, contractor, and general entrepreneur in Judith Gap. Public meetings and community business was often convened at "Bain's Hall," part of his Gap Hotel business.⁴¹ A formal City Hall was never constructed in Judith Gap, even after its incorporation in 1920. Today, civic business, municipal operations, and city council meetings are held in a Town Office/City Hall space integrated into the local civic facilities downtown. Oliver Readel became the Justice of the Peace in 1913, R. C. Piepho held the position from 1915-1920, and Oliver Readel returned to the position in 1920.⁴² With an absence of a formal courtroom and the generally low-grade of offenses, it is quite probable issues that required no jury were handled in the outer room (office) of the jail building, which also found occasional use as a voting site.

The construction of a new jail for the community of Judith Gap was initiated by County Commissioners in early 1909.⁴³

Sherriff Williams was in Judith Gap last Saturday trying to arrange for a site for the location of a county jail. Until the town is incorporated the county has to look after the local law breakers through the deputy sheriff stationed here. At present there is no place in which these criminals can be detained, and the county is willing to furnish the building provided the citizens secure a piece of ground on which to place it. Judge Bain has the matter of location in hand and will secure a site by the time the commissioners act on the proposition.

The town's need for a jail found voice via print only a few days later:⁴⁴

As an evidence of the growth of Judith Gap and the coming of civilization to the heretofore barren, wind swept and uninhabited Gap between the Belts and Snowies, the fact is recorded in the last issue of the Judith Gap Journal that a county jail will be bult there. Of course, there was a time in the "good old days" when a jail was not needed at the Gap. But now the iron monster goes puffing through there every day, a city is being built, and along with the advantages of commercialism and prosperity comes the necessity for a house of detention for those who may come within the grasp of the law, for its violation.

In July of 1909, the County Commissioners passed a motion to advertise in the *Judith Gap Journal* for bids replete with specifications to construct a jail.⁴⁵ The newspaper further reported, "bids for the erection of a jail at Judith Gap have been called for by the

⁴¹ "Gaplets," *Judith Gap Journal*, June 3, 1910, p. 3.

⁴² "Alias Summons," *Judith Gap Journal*, December 26, 1913, p. 8.; "Alias Summons," *Judith Gap Journal*, October 29, 1915, p. 8.; "Alias Summons," *Judith Gap Journal*, March 7, 1920, p. 9.

⁴³ "Gaplets," *Judith Gap Journal*, March 5, 1909, p. 3.

⁴⁴ "Jail at the Gap," *Judith Gap Journal*, March 19, 1909, p. 1.

⁴⁵ "County Commissioners' Proceedings," *Judith Gap Journal*, July 23, 1909, p. 1.

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county commissioners... the specifications as detailed in the notice call for a substantial building, one that will serve every purpose until we get a courthouse and jail of our own.⁴⁶

In August of 1909, the County Commissioners called for "Bid for Building Judith Gap Jail" and provided detailed instructions of what the bid need address:⁴⁷

Sealed bids for the erection of a jail building at Judith Gap will be received by the county commissioners at White Sulphur Springs, up to 6 o'clock, p.m. September 4th, 1909. Said building to consist of two rooms – cell room and front room.

Cell room, 10x14 feet in the clear with 10 foot walls made of 2x4s placed one above another so as to form a wall 4 inches thick, nailed together with 30-penny spikes not over 8 inches apart, top tier driven so as to penetrate middle of space between nails of tier below; one door opening into the front room made of the same material and spiked together in the same way as walls with 12x12 inch opening grated same as window with bars not over 4 inches apart, door to be hung with 3 heavy hinges and securely fastened by a heavy padlock; floor of cell to be of 2 inch plank securely spiked to 10 inch plank securely spiked to 6 inch joists not over 2 feet apart; floor and ceiling to be surfaced; one heavy iron ring to be placed in center of cell securely fastened to joist of floor by heavy bolts or bars.

Front room 14x14 feet in the clear with side and front walls of studding of 2x4s 10 feet high not over 2 feet (*sic*) apart, sheeted with good 1 inch boards and weather boarded with building paper between (building paper and weather boarding to apply to entire building); double floor, first floor to be 1 inch lumber nailed to 10 in joist not over 2 feet apart, top floor to be of ordinary matched flooring, all four walls and ceiling to be lined with matched ceiling; one 2-6x6-8 door and one four pane window with 14x30 inch panes, door and window to be in front of building; roof of building to be 1-3 pitch sheeted with 1 inch boards and shingled with building paper between, shingles laid 4 inches to the weather, one brick chimney 8x8 inches on inside extending from front wall of cell to 3 feet above comb of roof; entire building when completed to be 14x24 feet in the clear including the 4 inch wall of cell as a partition. Entire outside of building to be painted with two coats of lead colored paint with appropriate trimmings on Cornish and door and window frames.

Board of commissioners reserve the right to reject any and all bids.

⁴⁶ In addition to serving as the local jail, the building found occasional use as a local polling place. "County Commissioners in Regular Session," *The Meagher County News*, September 30, 1910, p. 1.

⁴⁷ "Bids for Building Jail at Judith Gap," *Judith Gap Journal*, August 6, 1909, p. 4.

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Bids should be addressed to Clerk of County Commissioners and plainly marked "Bid for Building Judith Gap Jail."

GEO. FOWLIE,
County Clerk.

Three contractors returned bids to construct the jail.⁴⁸ Two offered a price of \$550—O.F. Deyarmon and Otto Thompson, while P.G. Apple bid \$575. The commissioners motioned and passed to accept the bid of O.F. Deyarmon in October of 1909. "Contractor Deyarmon and four of his reliable right hand constructors will have the building finished for Deputy Sheriff Taylor's guest by two weeks from now."⁴⁹ Two weeks later, the newspaper reported "work on the jail building is progressing nicely. The exterior is nearly finished, and in a short while Landlord Deputy Sheriff Taylor will have a nice place to entertain guests."⁵⁰ By the first week of November, the "exterior work" was "practically finished."⁵¹

Completion of the jail occurred by November, though its opening was delayed pending "the personal inspection of Sheriff Williams... the building suited County Attorney Ford... and Deputy Sheriff Taylor" was "perfectly satisfied, but no prisoner can break into the palace de jug until the real sheriff places his seal of approval upon the building."⁵² Coal to warm the jail arrived by at least March of 1910.⁵³

The Judith Gap Jail—Early Officers

In January of 1909, Sheriff Williams and Deputy Sheriff Johnson of Harlowton travelled to Judith Gap where "The sheriff was here for the purpose of appointing a deputy who would live in Judith Gap; Constable E. W. Taylor drew the prize."⁵⁴ In 1910, Charles Coleman arrived in town and was appointed "marshal."⁵⁵ Coleman's tenure in law enforcement in Judith Gap remains unparalleled as he served in the position of marshal for 28 years until his death in 1938. After Coleman's passing, Lawrence W. (Bill) Bjork took over the role from 1938 to 1941, when he moved to Harlowton when that town became the center for county law enforcement.⁵⁶

⁴⁸ "Proceedings of the Board of County Commissioners," *Meagher Republican*, October 29, 1909, p. 2.

⁴⁹ "Gaplets, *Judith Gap Journal*, October 15, 1909, p. 3.

⁵⁰ "Gaplets, *Judith Gap Journal*, October 29, 1909, p. 3.

⁵¹ "Gaplets, *Judith Gap Journal*, November 5, 1909, p. 3.

⁵² "Gaplets, *Judith Gap Journal*, November 12, 1909, p. 3.

⁵³ "Commissioners' Proceedings, Meagher County, Mont.," *Meagher Republican*, March 18, 1910, p. 1.

⁵⁴ "Judith Gap," *The Argus Farmer*, January 5, 1909, p. 6.

⁵⁵ "The Way it Was," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 13.

⁵⁶ "The Way it Was," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 10.

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The Judith Gap Jail—Those Who Called the Jail Home, if only for a Night—An Overview

Before the town constructed the jail, miscreants were transported to White Sulphur Springs, 55 miles to the west as the crow flies. One of the last scofflaws sent west before the Judith Gap Jail opened was Conrad Hanson, tried in early January of 1909 on charges of inciting a riot in Judith Gap “at the roundhouse some time ago.” Despite spending time in White Sulphur Springs, a jury was largely undecided and issued a verdict that resulted in a \$15 fine.

The jail found a regular stream of customers after it opened for business by the end of 1909.⁵⁷ Many of the “visitors” represented homesteaders, ranchers, and railroader workers blowing off steam. Other groups or individuals who graced the interior walls of the jail with their presence include Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) members and railroad transients.

The vast majority of the guests of the Judith Gap “crowbar hotel” during the years of 1909-1950 were overnight stays for misdemeanor offenses, though the jail did play a role in a few darker episodes of local history. The minor offenses included public drunkenness, unacceptable behavior, payment of fines, and vagrancy.

Although finally constructed, the jail lacked plumbing and for the first year also lacked heating, proving longer winter stays difficult to accommodate. No such issues, however, impeded longer detentions in the summer. Local newspapers colorfully reported on the jail and the circumstances surrounding internee’s arrivals:

Judge J. A. Bain issued a floater to an individual who was caught taking a beauty nap on the sidewalks Wednesday afternoon. Deputy Sheriff Deyarmon assisted the party who was endeavoring to woo Morpheus – and his slumbers were continued in the local bastille.⁵⁸

A more detailed discussion of the various groups, individuals, and events associated with the Judith Gap Jail are discussed in more detail below. In numerous documented cases, many of those confined in the jail left an interesting tapestry on the walls that acknowledged their time spent there.

⁵⁷ Other endearing slang names for a jail at the time include “bucket, boodle, the calaboose, the cooler, the gray bar hotel, the crowbar hotel, the hoosegow, the joint, the jug, the pen, the pokey, the slammer, iron house, pisshouse, and stoney lonesome.” Original Hobo Nickel Society, “Hobo Terminology,” Accessed at <https://www.hobonickels.org/terms.php>, 2012.

⁵⁸ “Gaplets,” *Judith Gap Journal*, July 15, 1910, p. 3.

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Judith Gap Jail—Helping Foil A Robbery

In 1910, strangers to the community drew attention from law enforcement, evoking a response by Deputy Sheriff Deyarmon. Investigations by Deyarmon led him to believe he disrupted a possible robbery:

Tuesday night seven suspicious characters were taken in tow by Deputy Sheriff Deyarmon who locked them up (in the Judith Gap Jail). At 12:30 the men were rounded up in Billy Fringer's saloon and Deyarmon marched them up to the lockup.

At 2:30 the same night... Deyarmon... noticed a flash light thrown on the bank from the railroad crossing. He and an assistant separated to surround the parties... but before they reached the railroad track... the people mysteriously disappeared. The sheriff firmly believes a robbery of the bank was intended by the seven men he arrested together with three confederates whom he is now looking for, but his prompt action in running the majority of them in foiled their plans.⁵⁹

Judith Gap Jail—Its Roll in a Dark Chapter of Meagher County

In 1916, the Judith Gap Jail played a small part in the gruesome legal ruling of three black men. In October of that year, several black railroad workers were arrested on charges of murder. The newspaper related a group of traveling railroad workers boarded a Great Northern freight train heading eastbound from Judith Gap. Upon the train they reportedly confronted three white transient workers in the car. The larger group reputedly robbed the three laborers of their cash and valuables and ordered them off the train. During the confrontation, two of the railroad workers survived but one was shot in the back and didn't survive. The purported culprits were quickly apprehended and taken to the Judith Gap Jail to hold prior to their transport to White Sulphur Springs:

"Bennett and I took them back to Judith Gap, where, with the others whom we found in the box car and two more of the gang, rounded up by other officers, were given a preliminary hearing and were then sent to White Sulphur Springs to await trial." – Mr. Robert V. Jennings⁶⁰

The *Helena Daily Independent* also reported on the confinement in the Judith Gap Jail of the five accused:

Judge Mathews, W. C. Husband... conducted the preliminary hearing of the accused; W. E. Ford... assisted County attorney Hagerman in the prosecution; Deputy Sheriff Jennings, who arrested five members of the

⁵⁹ "Burglars in Town," *Judith Gap Journal*, June 3, 1910, p. 2.

⁶⁰ "Capturing a Trio of Murderers Recently Swung to Death," *The Montana American*, March 16, 1917, p; 22.

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gang at Culbertson and helped take them to the Judith gap jail, Father Scherf of Ringling, spiritual advisor of the condemned, and revs. H C. Parsons and Martin, colored ministers of Helena, discussed the cases with the governor.⁶¹

The trial was swift. In January of 1917, the three black men were pronounced guilty, sentenced to death by hanging, with the verdict carried out on February 16, 1917, in a barn at White Sulphur Springs out of public view. The hangings of Harrison Gibson, Leslie Fahley, and Henry Hall resulted in Montana's only legal triple hanging.

Judith Gap Jail—A Place for Drunkards

Public drunkenness proved a main reason for overnight stays. Although drunkenness remained a minor transgression, incidents such as this was the bread-and-butter of many small-town jails and often a driving factor when a town built their own lock-up. Because most small-town jails weren't used for the incarceration of the worst of the worst, doesn't detract from their vital service to a community. A recollection from 1918 highlights such an incident and illustrates a poor choice in where one displayed their public intoxication:

Ed Burbee and I had to go to Harlowton on business and Bill Barkley the Bankers son offered to take us. He had gotten a bottle somewhere and, on the way, he hit a cow and turned the lights backwards. After we finished our business, we found his bottle and took it away from him. Burbee had to drive back and I told him not to stop in front of the dance hall because the Sheriff and Marshal were sure to be there. We stopped in front of the bank and opened the door. Barkley fell out right at the feet of the Sheriff and his wife, and she was mad. They took him to jail. We thought we should bail him out since he had helped us. We went to see the J.P. a saloon owner named Sullivan and paid the \$3.00 fine. He gave us a note to the jailer. He was quite the wit and the note said "Please deliver to Ed Burbee and Axel Johnson, the body and bones of what left of Bill Barkley."⁶²

Judith Gap Jail—Farmers and Ranchers

Similar to many towns, large or small, local farmers and ranches travelled to Judith Gap and other nearby small towns for a variety of reasons. Some trips resulted in visits to local watering holes where upon occasion, the good will of the establishment resulted in an overnighiter in the local jail. However, the Judith Gap Jail witnessed at least one instance of confining an area rancher for a much greater infraction. On March 19, 1920, six miles north of Judith Gap in the nearby town of Garneill, store owner William Manley was slashed in the abdomen with a knife by James Coleman, a local sheepherder. The

⁶¹ "Hearing Held Before Governor to Determine Whether This Trio of Murderers Shall be spared Noose," *The Helena Daily Independent*, February 14, 1917, p 7.

⁶² "Axel Johnson," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 16. Attributed to "History of Judith Gap, Mable Haynes, p. 141."

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Judith Gap Journal reported the incident described by an onlooker that led to Coleman's confinement in the jail:⁶³

When I was 4 or 5 years old, probably... 1919 or 1920, I lived... behind the store in Garneill. There was an alley about 50 feet wide separating our house from the store. Mom and I were in our living room looking out... we saw Sylvester Manley and Coleman meet in the alley, they exchanged some blows, fighting about something. Manley was... short... with a very large belly... he was facing mom and me. Coleman... grabbed his knife and slashed Manley clear across his stomach – cut it wide open. His intestines come bulging out between his finders as he was holding onto his stomach. Manley ran into the store for help.

At this time Coleman started swinging his knife around over his head... yelling and screaming as though he was a mad man.... he went down to the Livery Barn – past that and on to the railroad tracks. He kept running, screaming, tearing his hair out in large patches, acting real crazy. Dad and Frank Daws took horses... and ran after Coleman. They roped him, tied him and led him back to the barn where they turned him over to the Judith Gap sheriff... The sheriff took him to the Judith Gap jail and tied him to the rings in the floor.

Sylvester Manley was taken to Lewistown... the cut was so clean the doctor just put his intestines back sewed him up and everything was fine. When Coleman found out Manley wasn't going to die, he - all of a sudden - wasn't crazy anymore. He quit acting out – behaved as though he was normal. Coleman had a very large family. The county felt it would cost them more to put him in jail, as they would have to care for his family... Coleman wasn't kept in jail very long – no charges were filed.⁶⁴

Other than Mr. Coleman, no other record was found where the rings in the Judith Gap Jail were used to shackle and restrain a prisoner.

Association with the Industrial Workers of the World

The Judith Gap Jail witnessed the incarceration of individuals linked to high profile events of the time. Born out of a convention held in Chicago in 1905, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) union (also referred to as "Wobblies") was created out of frustration with the conservative American Federation of Labor (AFL) by advocates that resented union membership of primarily white workers while separating them by craft.⁶⁵

⁶³ "Manley, Garneill Merchant is Stabbed by Crazy Sheepherder," *Judith Gap Journal*, March 19, 1920, p. 1.

⁶⁴ "A Happening in Old Garneill, as told by Roy Brewington," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 15.

⁶⁵ The origin of the nickname "Wobblies" is unclear, but considered rooted in the use of a "wobble saw," where the blade was mounted in such a way as to create a cut wider than the blade. The term "Wobbling

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The IWW wanted to use a different approach, one that organized everyone into “One Big Union,” to embrace all workers regardless of race, skill, or gender. The IWW positioned itself as supporting class struggles and advocated for an overthrow of the capitalist system. Their philosophy appeared in the preamble to the IWW Constitution:

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of the working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things in life. Between these two classes a struggle must go on until all the toilers come together ... and take and hold that which they produce by their labor.⁶⁶

IWW targeted both place-bound and migratory workers across the United States beginning in the early 1900s. Activities came to a head on August 1, 1917, when IWW Executive Board Member and Organizer Frank Little was dragged by a car and lynched in Butte, Montana for his efforts with the union there.⁶⁷

Judith Gap witnessed firsthand IWW activity as the organization had a significant presence in the small town during this period and the local jail, and subject of this nomination, played a small role. Albert Peterson’s recollection from 1917, one month after the murder of Frank Little in Butte, illustrated Judith Gap’s unfavorable view of the IWW and also noted the role of the Judith Gap Jail during these tumultuous times in the town and surrounding area:

One of the worst things the new settlement (Judith Gap) had to contend with was an organization called IWW (I Won’t Work). This organization which wanted to put industry into the hands of the working class came into being because of the high war prices. Judith Gap was one of their main hide-outs and they lived in what they called “The Jungle” or small houses down at the Roundhouse. The leaders went each direction on the freight trains and brought back young men whom they tried to force to join the IWW. When the train crews found it out and told the IWW leaders that it would have to stop it resulted in a fight in which one brakeman was shot in the leg. That same afternoon the “IWW”s from other towns met in Judith Gap. Towards evening the leaders were subdued, locked up and later received prison terms. When IWWs from Harlowton heard of this they decided that they would come up and burn down the town.

the Works” became code for sabotage, a tactic embraced by the membership. “Wobbly” gained a pejorative meaning by employers. “What is the Origin of the Term Wobbly?” Industrial Workers of the World, Historical Archives, Accessed at <https://archive.iww.org/history/icons/wobbly/>, 2026.

⁶⁶ Peter Cole, David Struthers, and Kenyon Zimmer, “Wobblies of the World: A Global History of the IWW,” Pluto Press, London, 2017, p. 4.

⁶⁷ “Funeral Paraders in Silent Protest: 2,514 in a Procession in Demonstration Against the Lynching,” The Butte Miner, August 6, 1917, p. 1.

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They boarded the Milwaukee train and came, but was met by three or four hundred persons armed with anything from shotguns to pitchforks. None of the IWWs got off the train but went right on to Lewistown. The railroads then passed laws to keep all men from riding the freights. This really started something and one night the IWWs set a train on fire in the yards and the train crew couldn't pull it out because the IWW would uncouple it as fast as the brakeman put it together. They also started a fire in the big coal house which was located near the roundhouse.

Again, the citizens banded together to bring law and order back to the community. Some dates and names of this group are on the walls of the Jail.⁶⁸

The *Lewistown Daily News* further described the incident and highlighted the role played by the Judith Gap Jail:

An I. W. W. band at Judith Gap yesterday attempted to take possession of a Great Northern eastbound freight train and meeting with resistance from the train crew drew revolvers and began to shoot. Kenneth Hay, a brakeman was shot, but the injury will not prove fatal.

Citizens of the town, hastily arming themselves, opened fire on the outlaws... Before the lawless gang could be rounded up, three of their number were shot... another, a 16-year-old boy was hit in the leg...

The citizens succeeded in lodging about twenty of the mischief-makers in the Judith Gap jail, and Sheriff Nagues was notified and arrived promptly and will convey the miscreants to the county jail at White Sulphur Springs, as soon as conveyances can be secured.

It is reported that the member of the gang... made his escape and immediately notified members of his order in a nearby town of the arrest of his pals. A telephone message early last evening from Judith Gap brought the information that a strong force of I.W.W. members were on the way to attempt to secure by force the release of their imprisoned pals (in the Judith Gap Jail). The sheriff... will have a sufficient number of armed deputies to withstand any attack... made by the outlaws.⁶⁹

An update from nearby Lewistown appeared a few days later:

⁶⁸ "Albert Peterson," *Judith Gap Jail Restoration Notebook*, 2002, p. 16. Attributed to "History of Judith Gap, Mable Haynes, p. 202."

⁶⁹ "An I.W.W. Gang Causes a Riot: Attempt to Steal Ride on G.N. Train Out of Judith Gap Results in Shooting," *Lewistown Daily News*, September 23, 1916, p. 5.

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Information has just reached here from Judith Gap that twelve of the members of the I.W.W. gang that participated in the pitched battle at that place last Friday with citizens of the Gap and railroad men, were released (from the Judith Gap Jail). Twelve still remain in jail there. Those injured in the affray, two... received gunshot wounds and one... clubbed, have been taken to White Sulphur Springs in the custody of the county authorities...

Walter Young, one of the I.W.W.s who was wounded Friday at Judith Gap... died early Sunday morning at the poor farm of White Sulphur Springs...⁷⁰

The events of the I.W.W. clash with the police and Judith Gap residents are memorialized by the many inscriptions on the Judith Gap Jail walls left by IWW members. The number of I.W.W. men locked up in the jail that night no doubt stands as a record for bodies held at single time in the jail. Without the presence of the jail, Judith Gap would have faced a dilemma of how to confine and detain the large number of I.W.W. participants.⁷¹

Jail Breaks

One recorded incident of a jailbreak from the Judith Gap hoosegow exists. In early 1923, two boys from Great Falls were arrested for stealing a car and taken to the Judith Gap Jail. While confined, the two managed to escape the wooden structure, though their freedom proved short-lived:

After breaking jail at Judith gap and giving Wheatland County officers a hot chase across the prairies, Harvey Novotny and Charles Shepler, two Great Falls youths, are once more in the custody of the authorities.

Shepler and Novotny have admitted the theft of an automobile stolen here on March 3 from Fred Smith of the forest garage...

On their return to this city... the boys left on a freight train... but they were overtaken Friday at Judith Gap and placed in (the Judith Gap) jail. Saturday evening the boys picked the lock of the Judith Gap jail and made their way to Hedges. Deputy Sheriff Lou Cook of Wheatland County was in hot pursuit of the duo and overtook them in an abandoned shack near Hedges.⁷²

⁷⁰ "An I.W.W. Gang Causes a Riot: Brakeman Shot but Not Fatally," *Argus Farmer*, September 28, 1916, p. 3.

⁷¹ While much smaller today, the IWW continues to exist as a union.

⁷² "Capture Boys After Escape from Gap Jail: Novotny and Shepler Give Sheriff Chase Over Prairies," *The Great Falls Tribune*, March 13, 1923, p. 8.

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Robbers (and Cops)

Many people lodged in the jail hailed from areas outside the town but apprehended near Judith Gap. Such an example occurred in 1926 when a spate of “petty robberies” occurred in the area. In the particular instance described below, the characters occupied the jail in their finery:

The finding of some of the stolen goods taken from the Hub in the series of petty robberies early Thursday morning, on the Milwaukee tracks near Lewistown yesterday was the clue that led to the capture in the afternoon and the incarceration of two thieves at Judith Gap yesterday the city bastille last evening.

...Chief Ray at once telephoned the authorities at Moore, Straw, Denton, Harlowton, Judith Gap and other points on the Milwaukee, to be on the lookout for two suspicious characters. Soon after 5 o'clock he received word from City Marshal Coleman of Judith Gap that he had arrested two men answering the description and were holding them in the Judith Gap jail. Chief Ray and Patrolman McKnight, accompanied by Lyman Royce, at once drove over to the Gap and brought the two thieves, who admitted their guilt, back late last evening.

They, the thieves, were outfitted completely in stolen clothes taken from the Hub which consisted of two suits of clothes, hats, shirts, underwear, leather vests, cowboy handkerchiefs, etc. Nine dollars and sixty cents of the estimated \$18 stolen was recovered...⁷³

Railway Transients: Bums, Hoboes, and Tramps

During the late 1800s and through the early 1900s, before and after the Great Depression, a cross-section of Americans was regarded as bums, hoboes, and tramps. At some point, the Judith Gap Jail housed representatives of all three of these predominantly male groups of “go-about” who utilized the North American railroad system for potentially free rides (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0025, Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0026, Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0027, and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0028).

Following the Civil War and into the 1890s, thousands of unemployed veterans took to the rails to travel. Initially, railroads looked the other way, but in 1865, Pennsylvania passed the Railroad Police Act, allowing companies to create their own police force. Through the 1870s and 1880s, other states followed suite and the use of “railroad bulls” for patrolling the railways and railyards expanded. Through the turn of the century, migratory workers came to be viewed as a national threat to war manufacturing and during World War I and through the 1920s, riding the rail was classified as an act of

⁷³ “Thieves Caught at Judith Gap,” *Lewistown Daily News*, July 10, 1926, p. 1.

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industrial sabotage or espionage. The crackdown resulted in jailing people “riding the rails,” with many instances of the rail-riders spending time in Judith Gap in the jail.⁷⁴

Regardless of risk, the Great Depression of the 1930s produced a new wave of railroad riders, including an estimated 250,000 teenagers. Railroads responded with more secure yards, armed patrols, and aggressive enforcement by the railroad bulls. The new wave resulted in another round of rail-riders spending time in Judith Gap. In 1933, the federal government created the Federal Transient Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps, hoping to entice some of these transient workers to report to organized camps.⁷⁵ Through tighter security and by the end of World War II, riding the rails declined in practice.

Bums (mostly stationary and commonly associated with alcoholism), hobos (generally transient, but often worked by following seasonal fruit and grain harvests, and later during the Depression, following construction projects, logging operations, railroad work, and ice harvests), and tramps (traveled for adventure, not work, and relied on their wits and the kindness of others for whom they might provide brief casual labor), proved a constant source of trouble for local law enforcement and regular working folk generally regarded them with disdain.⁷⁶ With the prevailing attitudes of the time toward these groups, it was little wonder many left their mark (literally) within the confines of the Judith Gap Jail.

One of the most notorious riders of the rails in the United States not only passed through Judith Gap, but left his mark on the walls of the Judith Gap Jail—twice—commemorating his time in town. Tex, real name Jesse Wells, was self-styled royalty of the rail-riders. Tex left thousands of inscriptions across the nation’s railways, including two in the Judith Gap Jail (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0023 and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0024).⁷⁷ Tex lived the life of a true tramp, crisscrossing the country as he traveled freely aboard the trains. His ramblings slowed for a few weeks in July of 1931, when held in the Yellowstone County jail in Billings, 100

⁷⁴ Dorothy M. Schulz, "Holdups, Hobos, and the Homeless: A Brief History of Railroad Police in North America." *Police Studies*, Vol. 10, Issue 2, 1987, pp. 90-95.

⁷⁵ John N. Webb, "The Origin of the Federal Transient Program." In *The Transient Unemployed: A Description and Analysis of the Transient Relief Population, 1935*, (WPA Research Monograph III, pp. 1–15). Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office.

⁷⁶ A 1923 foundational academic study of these groups noted: "The hobo works and wanders, the tramp dreams and wanders, and the bum drinks and wanders." – Dr. Ben L. Reitman, "A hobo is a migratory worker. A tramp... a migratory non-worker... a bum... a stationary non-worker. Upon the labor of the migratory worker all the basic industries depend. He goes forth... to hew the forests, build and repair the railroads, tunnel mountains and build ravines... harvests the wheat in the fall... cuts the ice in the winter. All of these are hobos." – St. John Tucker, formerly the president of the "Hobo College" in Chicago. Nels Anderson, "The Hobo: The Sociology of the Homeless Man," The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois, 1923, p. 87.

⁷⁷ Other inscriptions Tex left in Montana appear in the Laurel rail yard (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0022), and on a Yellowstone bridge abutment north of Forsyth, Montana.

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miles southeast of Judith Gap. While incarcerated in Billings, Tex shared his story (Historic Photo 03):⁷⁸

Years ago, in almost every tank town and village in the United States and even in foreign countries, railway water tanks, depot platforms, and other buildings, the sign A-No 1 with an arrow pointing in the direction taken and a date revealed that one of the most celebrated of tramps had passed that way. There are still railroad structures where the sign has outlasted successive coats of paint since the days when he ceased to roam.

For the last two weeks, the Yellowstone County jail has harbored a worthy follower in the footsteps of the great tramps of the early part of the century who left their mark, carved with skilled jackknives, on many a beam and joist. In 7,300 cities, towns, and stations, during the last 15 years, the sign "T-E-X K-T" has been placed by A-No1's successor. The cabalistic meaning of the sign is Tex, Extraordinary, King of the Tramps, a title which he admits is self-bestowed but which he endeavors to wear worthily.

"I use all colors of paint which I buy with money that I get panhandling. Sometimes I use ink. Shoe polish makes a good substitute. Other times I cut in the initials with a sharp jack-knife. At one time I carried seven different knives at once. I have worn out dozens of jack-knives at it. What do I do it for? Oh, just for notoriety, I guess."

Jesse "Tex" Wells estimated he spent time in about 100 jails while riding the rails with most stays lasting five to 10 days.⁷⁹ Internee records for petty offenses associated with the use of the Judith Gap Jail during that time no longer exist, so the duration of Tex's two stays in the jail remains unknown. It is interesting that both of Tex's inscriptions in the Judith Gap Jail appear in the large room, not the smaller cell; one possibility to explain this may be Tex's stay(s) coincided with winter and cold weather—locking up a prisoner in the larger room allowed them to tend the fire to keep warm. By the late 1940s, Tex faded from the scene, having roamed for over 25 years—his story matched countless other riders of the rails in the early 1900s.⁸⁰

Historic Jailhouse Inscriptions

The walls of the Judith Gap jail hold a selection of historic inscriptions dating to the period of significance. An indicator of the short stays that typified its use include the

⁷⁸ "T.E.X Self-Styled King of Tramps, Now in Jail, Relates by Poem and Tale the Joys and Woes of Hitting the Trail," *The Billings Gazette*, July 26, 1931, p. 11.

⁷⁹ "T.E.X Self-Styled King of Tramps, Now in Jail, Relates by Poem and Tale the Joys and Woes of Hitting the Trail," *The Billings Gazette*, July 26, 1931, p. 11.

⁸⁰ For the full interview, see: <https://www.newspapers.com/image/410740345/?match=1&terms=%22self-styled%22&search-id=23dacf34-3f26-4a67-9a7f-581f1a1ce48d&search-rank=1>.

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absence of drawn nude figures and tally marks, typically found in long-term facilities.⁸¹ Inscriptions documenting many of the jail's occupant's stays were inventoried and entered into a database during the preparation of this National Register nomination (Table 1). The inventory keyed inscriptions to the specific wall surface(s) where they occur (Drawing 01), and link them to images showing their placement.

One hundred nine inscriptions were recorded on the interior walls of the Judith Gap Jail and include names, initials, dates, home towns, other text, geometric shapes, brands, and drawings (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0018). These communication elements provide information regarding individual identities, group identities, and cultural values. Such inscriptions yield insight of identity, the importance of self, and highlight differences between groups of actors in the region (Table 1).⁸²

Limited geometric shapes also appear consisting of box framing around inscriptions; one swastika is present (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0029). Few pictures occur among the engravings, though one trends toward graphic and includes a goat and two people; this explicit inscription emphasizes the IWWs feelings about the situation in which they found themselves.

Eleven inscriptions display dates, ranging from 1916 to 1938, and 10 feature place identification that include Decatur, ARK; Libby, MT; Marysville, Ohio; Nowata, OKLA; and two from Great Falls, MT. Inscriptions detail seven first names and 16 full names; these are outnumbered by approximately 25 inscription sets of initials. At least 15 of the inscriptions are associated with members of the IWW, including text found in the union's "Red Book":

Every worker should have an ambition to live to be a healthy old
man or woman and hear the whistle blow for the bosses to go to work.⁸³

Other text notes "The Montana Kid southbound," "Tex, King of Tramps & Master of Horse's Asses," "Hellbound Hobo, Merrily We Go To Hell Pal. Crowbar Speck.," "The man who writes on the wall has ????? ????," "ALA has passed – Town no good," "10 days," "Over the mountain tops the clouds are slowly drifting," "Not Guilty," "Like a wild thing gone astray," "The Bull is Dirty," and "Down with Hitler," associated with a swastika symbol and a date of May 1935.

⁸¹ Joan L. Brownell, *Gardner Jail*, NRHP Nomination File, June 1, 2015, Gardiner, Park County, Montana, NRHP # 15000486.

⁸² Timothy Rostov Urbaniak, *Historic Inscriptions of the Northern Plains: Identity and Influence in the Residual Communication Record*, 2014. Graduate Student Theses, Dissertations, & Professional Papers. 4410. <https://scholarworks.umt.edu/etd/4410>.

⁸³ Pat Brennan, "The Harvest War Song," IWW Songs to Fan the Flames of Discontent, Lumber Workers Industrial Union No. 500, Spokane, Washington, p. 12.

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Additional IWW members-associated text includes "Prairie City – IWW No. 81 93 55, Arrived by rail 1916," "I.W.W. Local," "War is Hell. Let the capitalists go to war to protect their own property. Join the I.W.W.," "Join the IWW be a man don't be a scab. F**k Johnny Bull," "IWW is the Best," "Don't forget an eight-hour day would put thousands of men to work. Join the one big union," and "Why does a short day and ??? ??? day always go together – The IWW" (Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0019, Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0020, Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0021, and Photo MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0030).

Many identity inscriptions refer to the "road names" of transient travelers: "Wise Kid", "ND Slim," "Kid Montana," "The Montana Kid," "Long Distance Slim," "Pipe Joe," "Sire Mike," "The Twin Pair," "Indiana Slim," "King Rex," "King John," "The Phanthom Kid," "Iowa Slim," "NY Slim," and, arguably the most notable of the Hoboe and tramp names found in the jail, "Tex, King of the Tramps."

Shift in Building Uses

Like many small Montana towns, the population of Judith Gap began to decline after the initial early 1900s homesteading bust and railroad operational shifts.

Records suggest many of these small-town Montana jails, including Judith Gap, ceased regular operations by the mid-20th century (roughly the 1940s or 1950s) as larger county seats became centers for law enforcement.⁸⁴ The end date for the period of significance in 1950, corresponds to the end of the jail's use for that function. By that time, roads in the area improved significantly, making transportation of prisoners to centralized law enforcement facilities in nearby Harlowton easy.

From 1950 to 1960, the building served to store surplus city material. In May of 1959, Harry Parsons leased the property:

That whereas, the Commissioners of Wheatland County are of the opinion that the real property herein described is not necessary to the conduct of the County's business and the cash payment has been duly accepted by the Board of County Commissioners of Wheatland County, Montana, now therefore, the said party of the first part for and in consideration of the sum of Twenty-five and no/100 (\$25.00) dollars.

In March of 1984, the "heirs of George W. Brewington" were given a 99-year lease on the property.⁸⁵ With that lease, the jail began used primarily for storage until the family

⁸⁴ Joan L. Brownell, *Gardner Jail*, NRHP Nomination File, June 1, 2015, Gardiner, Park County, Montana, NRHP # 15000486, p. 54.; Kate Hampton and Wheelhouse Consulting, *The Troy Jail*, NRHP Nomination File, August 1, 2006, Troy, Lincoln County, Montana, NRHP # 06001179, p. 12.

⁸⁵ "Town of Judith Gap Lease on Old Jail Building," Notebook compiled by Alice Bair, digitized by Tim Urbaniak, 2025, p. 23.

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was convinced to give up the lease for the jail's restoration in 2002, at which time it was brought into service as a small museum. A Judith Gap community organization maintains the jail today, and the building is available for viewing.

Architectural Significance

Construction of small jails, including that found in Judith Gap, usually depended on local financing for the budget. To this end, they often presented modestly and utilitarian, lacking exterior ornamentation. The Judith Gap Jail reflects such limitations. While handsome, it stands with little embellishment.

The stacked lumber method of construction, also called "cribbed" or "stacked," provided an incredibly sturdy, insulated structure. This construction method was used at a number of early jails across Montana. At Judith Gap, the method not only applied to the exterior walls, but also the interior wall. The first jail in Belt, Montana also utilized this construction method.⁸⁶ The Judith Gap Jail represents a diminishing resource of this architectural style. As communities moved to erect more permanent structures of brick, concrete, and stone that proved more secure and less susceptible to fire, the earlier jails were often removed as the construction of the newer and sturdier jails occurred.

Highlighting the sturdiness of stacked/cribbed construction, the method also found use in the construction of numerous grain elevators built across the west in the early 20th century. One example is the MISCO Grain Elevator:

located in the northeastern corner of the city of Bozeman... an architecturally significant example of wooden cribbed grain elevator construction... the construction techniques employed... are typical of many Montana elevators of the period from the late-1880's through the 1950's. A study done in 1959...found that approximately 96% of the storage elevators erected in Montana before 1941 were wooden cribbed structures...⁸⁷

The Judith Gap Jail shares many of the precepts of these larger grain elevators. Walls of both are constructed via the cribbed/stacked lumber. In the case of elevators, however, the interior space of each floor holds numerous additional ribbed walls creating heavy bins. The Judith Gap Jail presents only two single story rooms, or bins, within its interior, though the interior wall also displays cribbed construction, similar to the interior grain bins in the elevators. The cribbed interior wall differs from many of the early jail that provided cells of steel bars.

⁸⁶ "Belt, Montana," *National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination form*, February 26, 1980, p. 2.

⁸⁷ "MISCO Grain Elevator, Montana Historical/Architectural Inventory #26" National Park Service, 1987, p. 1. Viewed at <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/GetAsset/89905238-3149-4052-a28d-bcb1c32521f2>.

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Both grain elevators and the jail also share the technique of cladding the cribbing. Cladding provided an additional layer of protection from the elements. In the case of the Judith Basin Jail, shiplap siding sheathes the exterior. The cladding of the jail with the handsome siding not only further protects the interior cribbed lumber, but also provides a finished appearance to the structure, enabling it to harmonize with the surrounding buildings and not draw undue attention.

Materials for the Judith Gap Jail were locally available either as dimensional wood dunnage of varying lengths, a common by-product of the railroad commerce, or through local sawmills located at the base of the nearby forests.

Its not difficult to envision the Judith Gap fathers believing if a grain elevator featuring cribbed construction could withstand the weight and forces of tons of grain and the almost ceaseless winds of the Rocky Mountains, then following that construction method would prove simple toward holding those accountable for nefarious infractions for a night or two.

Structural integrity of the Judith Gap Jail remains exceptionally strong, as does the historical appearance of the building, both on the interior and exterior. Standing inside the cell of the small building, one easily visualizes the past feelings of those who spent time there. The largely unchanged interior continues to welcome people, though only to visit, not for infractions.

O. F. Deyarmon

Born in Ohio, O.F. Deyarmon billed himself as a "Contractor & Builder," running ads in the *Judith Gap Journal*: "Let me figure with you on that new building. Concrete work a specialty."⁸⁸ Deyarmon advertised, "Material Right. Workmanship Right. Prices Right."⁸⁹ O.F followed a number of different careers during his time in Wheatland County. By 1910, O.F. also serve as Deputy Sheriff.⁹⁰ A year later, he received a patent in 1911 for the NE1/4 of Section 9 in T10N R15 E, a plot of land about five miles southeast of Judith Gap; by 1920, he continued his profession in the construction field listing himself as a carpenter in the census.⁹¹

Conclusion

The Judith Gap Jail is locally significant under Criterion A for its association with the developmental years of the area, 1909-1950. This period includes the arrival of the railroad, the homesteading boom years, and rapid commercial development of the Judith Gap area in the early part of the twentieth century. During the period of

⁸⁸ Advertisement, *Judith Gap Journal*, February 5, 1909, p 4; 1920 Federal United States Federal Census. .

⁸⁹ Advertisement, *Judith Gap Journal*, March 5, 1909, p 4.

⁹⁰ 1910 Polk Directory for Lewistown, p. 289.

⁹¹ U.S. General land Office, patent for O.F. Deyarmon, S.8, T10N, R.15 E.; Fourteenth Census of the United States: 1920 Population, Judith Gap, District 21, Wheatland County, Montana.

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significance, social groups that include regional homesteaders, members of the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and railroad-traveling transients left evidence of their stay(s) in the form of historic inscriptions.

The building gains addition significance under Criterion C as a sound and rare surviving example of the stacked lumber method of construction, also referred to as “cribbed” or “stacked.” Providing a form of a sturdy, insulated structure difficult to break through, the stacked lumber method of construction was used at a number of early jails across Montana. Jail examples that display the method, however, are becoming fewer and fewer as more substantial and less flammable structures replace them.

The story of the Judith Gap jail is the story of the historical era of the first half of the 20th century in central Montana. It symbolizes the town’s intent to project law and order. People of various backgrounds spent time in the jail, many noting their time within its confines through representational evidence on its walls.

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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 less than one acre (1,308 sq. ft.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Nomination Boundary:

1. Latitude: 46.678835°	Longitude: -109.754125°
2. Latitude: 46.678833°	Longitude: -109.753942°
3. Latitude: 46.678752°	Longitude: -109.753944°
4. Latitude: 46.678754°	Longitude: -109.754127°

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Feature Coordinate:

5. Latitude: 46.678780° Longitude: -109.754022° (center of Judith Gap Jail)

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

The southern edge of the 45' (east-west) x 30' (north-south) nomination boundary originates at the front curb at the southern property line of the lot owned by the City of Judith Gap. Aerial map in Section 9, page 45 confirms this boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The city-owned Judith Gap lot where the jail sits also includes the city water tower and a city garage, neither historically associated with the jail. The boundary concribes only the feature historically associated with the property, the Judith Gap Jail. The jail and its immediate area as designated by the indicated boundary, are maintained and managed by a community preservation group as part of an agreement with the Judith Gap city council.

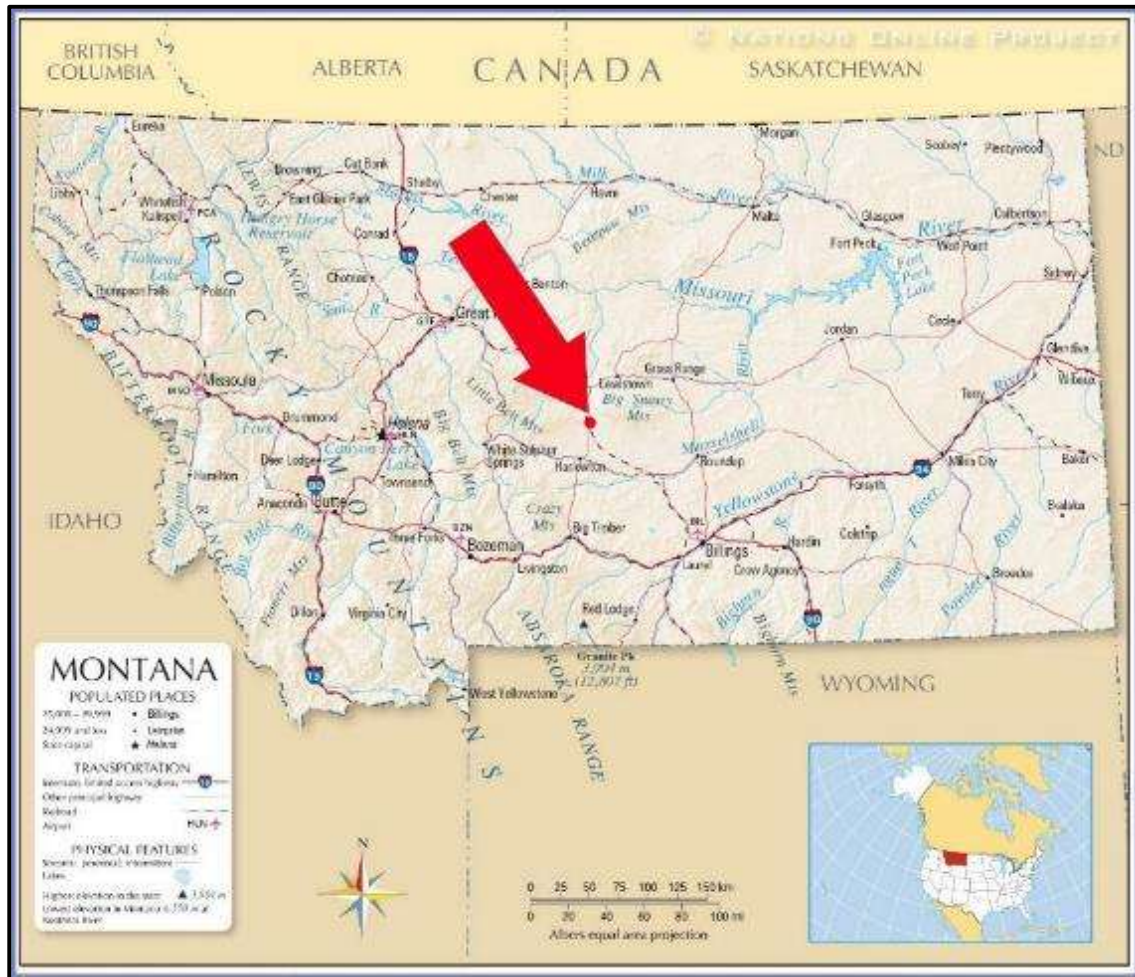
11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Timothy Urbaniak, PhD
organization: TRU Technologies LLC
street & number: 503 Calhoun Lane
city or town: Billings state: Mt zip code: 59101
e-mail turbaniak@bresnan.net
telephone: 406-259-6595
date: 7-17-2026

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Maps

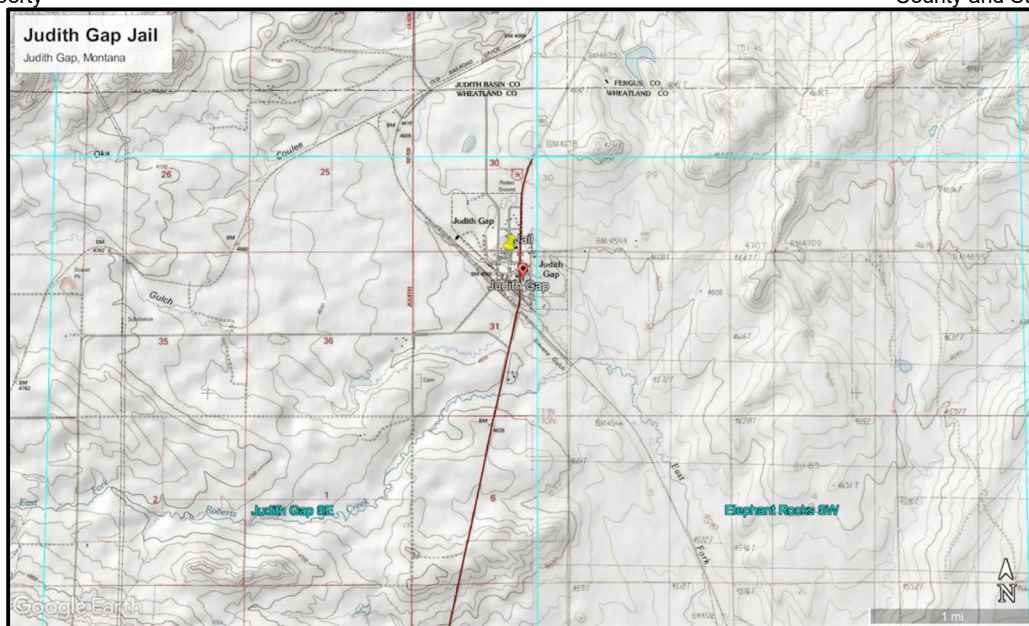


Map 1. General Location Map: Judith Gap, Montana.

Source: https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/map/USA/montana_map.htm.

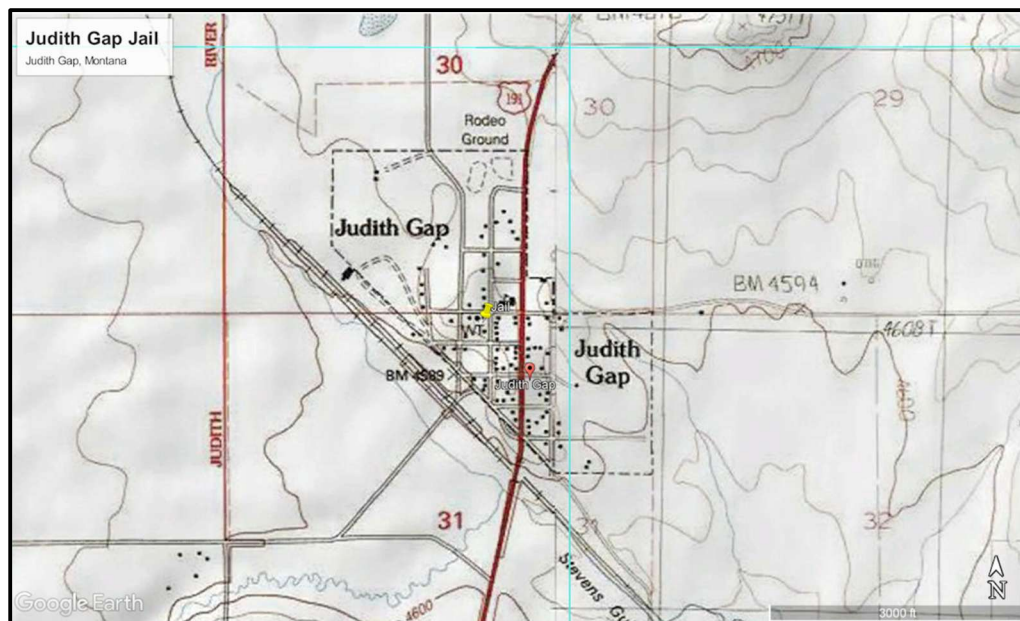
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Map 2. Location Map: Judith Gap Jail, Judith Gap, Montana.

The town of Judith Gap is located in the northeastern corner of the Judith Gap SE quadrangle map, adjacent to the western border of the Elephant Rocks SW quadrangle. The quadrangle map borders are denoted with light blue dividing lines. Yellow marker indicates nominated resource. Latitude: 46.678780° Longitude: -109.754022°

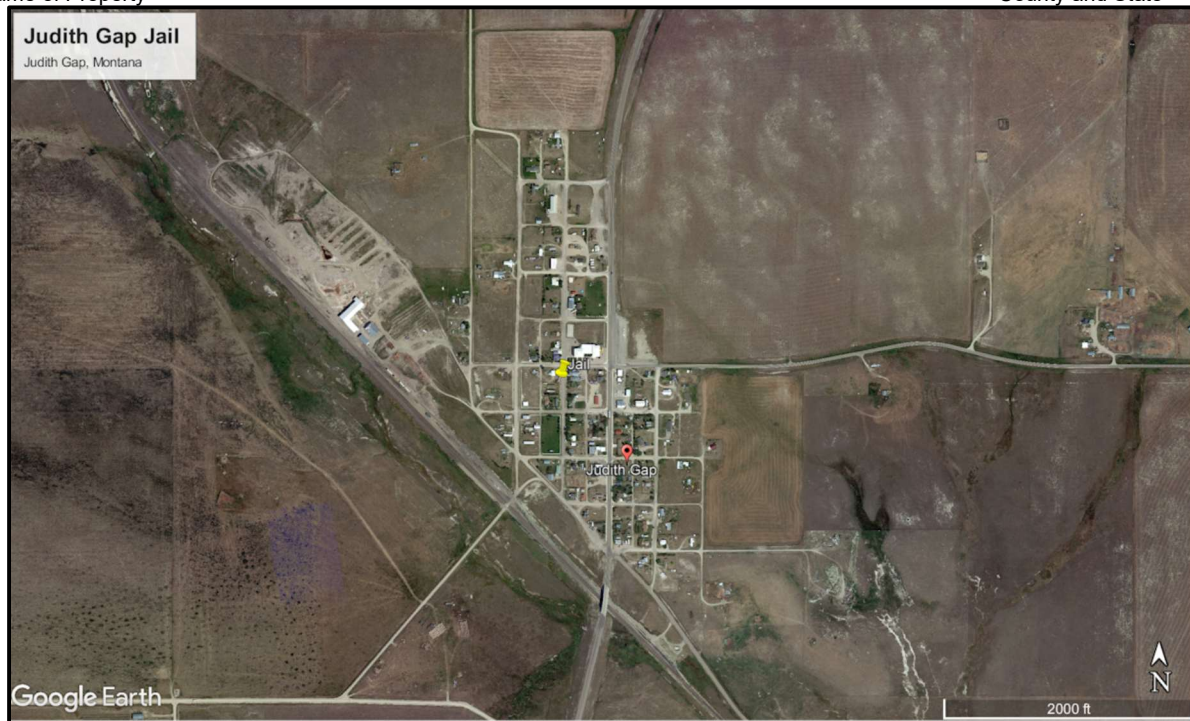


Map 3. Location Map: Judith Gap Jail, Judith Gap, Montana.

The town of Judith Gap is located in the northeastern corner of the Judith Gap SE quadrangle map, adjacent to the western border of the Elephant Rocks SW quadrangle. The quadrangle map borders are denoted with light blue dividing lines. Yellow marker indicates nominated resource. Latitude: 46.678780° Longitude: -109.754022°

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Map 4. Location shown in Google Earth. Yellow marker indicates the nominated Judith Gap Jail building.

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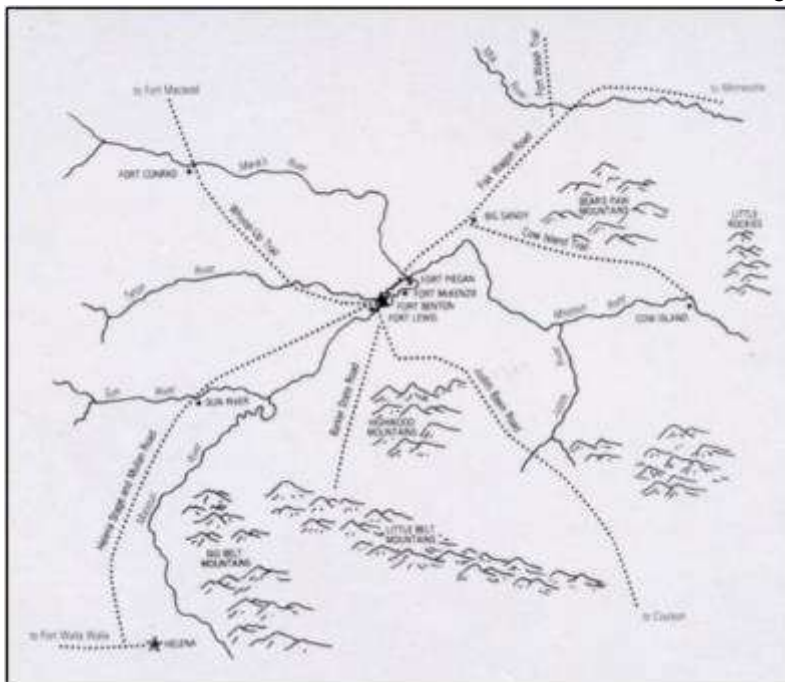


Map 5. Location shown in Google Earth. Yellow marker indicates the nominated Judith Gap Jail building and the white border indicates the nomination boundary.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 46.678835° | Longitude: -109.754125° |
| 2. Latitude: 46.678833° | Longitude: -109.753942° |
| 3. Latitude: 46.678752° | Longitude: -109.753944° |
| 4) Latitude: 46.678754° | Longitude: -109.754127° |

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Map 6. Route map circa late 1800s showing the Judith Gap Freighting and Stage Road.⁹²



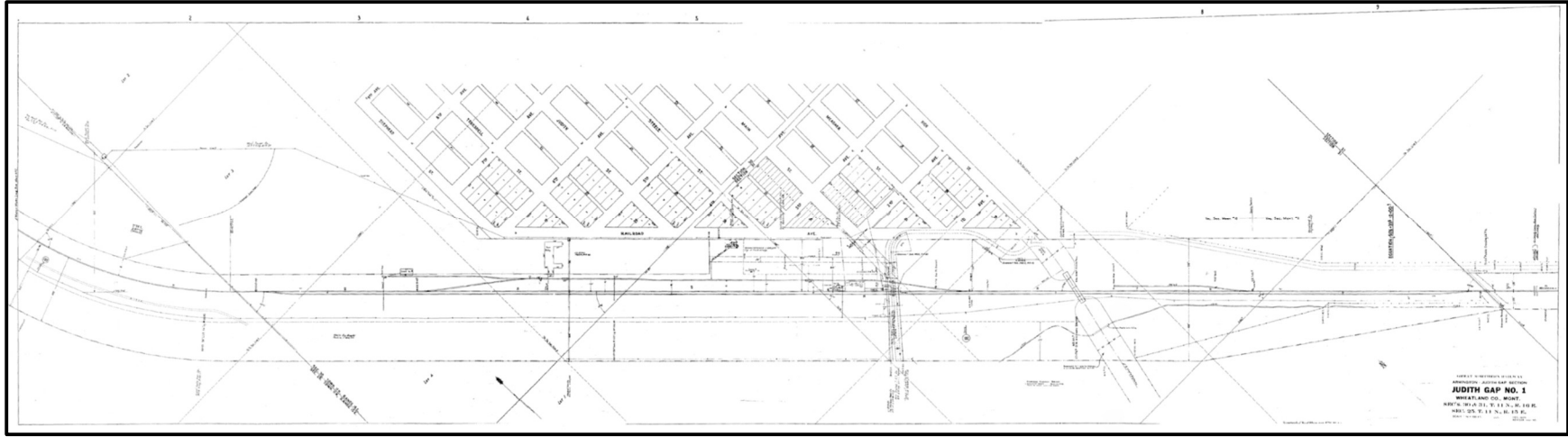
Map 7. Central excerpt from the Montana Railroad Company map of 1899 showing the network of freighter roads and railroad approaching from the southwest through Harlowton.⁹³ The map is shown in negative view from the original for readability.

⁹² Joel Overholser, *Fort Benton: World's Innermost Port*, (Fort Benton: River & Plains Society, 1987), p. 202.

⁹³ 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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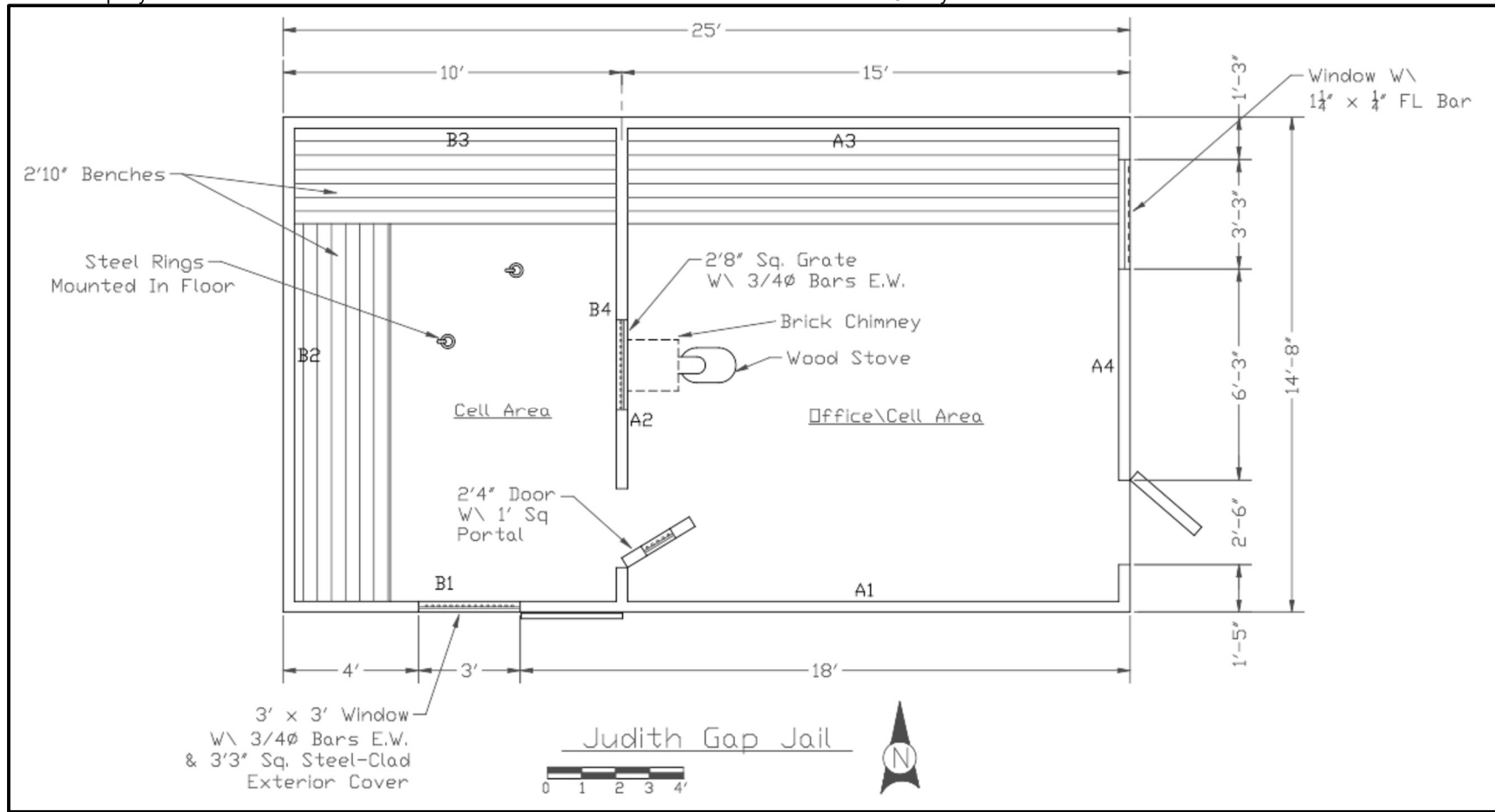
Map 8. Judith Gap, Great Northern Railway yard map, December 1939.⁹⁴

Floor Plan

⁹⁴ Railroad Archives Online, "Plat Map of Great Northern Facilities at Judith Gap, Montana, 1939," Timothy Miller Collection, Reference Code US WaBuPNRA D0027-003-012-002-Plat012122, Viewed at <https://atom.pnrarchive.org/index.php/plat-map-of-great-northern-facilities-at-judith-gap-montana-1939-3>.

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Drawing 01. Judith Gap jail floor plan showing configuration, dimensions, and interior wall references keyed to the historic inscription inventory.

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Tables

Table 1. Historic Inscription Inventory⁹⁵

Ref. Year	Date as written	Associated Name	Additional Text	Type of Figure	Description of Figure	Additional Comments
					A1	south wall
1935	May 29, 1935	Vincent Murphy	Great Falls Montana		large and in chalk	
		John G Potter				
			shit			
		Wise Kid	King Hoboe			
			This is it			
			Down with Hitler	swastika	large and in chalk	
		R.H.				
		J C				
		VM				
		D.G.				
		B.G.				
					A2	west wall with door to cel
		John				by the keys
		ND SLIM ?				
		H				
		CB				
		KE		arrow, point to KE		
		Chi				

⁹⁵ Tim Urbaniak and James Busse, "Judith Gap Jail Historic Inscription Inventory," Photographed on August 21, 2025, Database compiled April 2026, Urbaniak Archive.

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		MAT			double-line figures	
		HB				by the keys
		Ed	"Kid Montana"			to the right of the chimney
		"Ed"	The Montana Kid southbound			scratched in
		Okie	NOWATA OKLA			
		U				
		B.G.				incised
					A3	north wall
		Jack Conlon and Beulalu	Moccasin, Mont		in chalk	
1938	38	Les??cr D, Bill - Grant, Babe	Great Falls, Montana - Arizona Kid	-	in chalk	
		W.R.P.	L.A.			
		Searg Johnstrbanrie ? (indecipherable in cursive)				
		Long Distance Slim				
		Tex King of Tramps,	& Master of Horse's Asses			"by Tex" and "No Fooling" written underneath
					Apparent Brand - F over a horizontal bar with a diamond below the bar	there is a second, smaller one to its left (west). They have been created by woodburning. Other woodburn marks are on the wall.
		A M E				woodburned onto wall
		A				woodburnt letter has a leg to the left, as if to create a JA
		Fred	(more, but indecipherable)			
		Andy	(more, but indecipherable)			
		Don Kelley			long tail on the Y	
1932	1932	Clyde Savage	Hellbound Hobo, Merrily. We. Go. To. Hell. Pal. Crowbar. Speck.			

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1921	7/28/21	B.G.				
		PIPE JOE				
			"The man who writes on the wall has ????? ??"			
		"Sire" Mike				
			????? Like a wild thing gone astray ???? But ???? ??? ?????			
1935	1935	"ALA"	has passed "Town No Good"			
		The Ramblen Kids from Shelby			"Shelby" is done in double-lines	
		The Twin Pair				
		Clayton S????E				
1923	May 14 1923	V.I.R.				
					small incised diamond	
		George L Kinsesmang (?)			hard to decipher done in classy cursive	
		Rusty Monabanski	10 days		has an arrow after the name pointing to "10 Days"	to the left of the large burnt brand
	Feb. 15	Charles Emmert	Marysville, Ohio			There was a Charles J. Emmert living in Marysville (Union County), Ohio, during the 1910 Census. He was born around 1893 , which would make him a teenager or young man in the "early 1900s"—the prime demographic for leaving a "Kilroy-style" signature on a building or landmark.
		Buckey - Jimmey			arrow with a N, pointing to the left (west)	
1918	18	(indecipherable)				
1935	May 1935	J. Potter				
			From Dummerts (?) Hills	A black, small star	the star has something in each of the 5 pockets. One or two appear to be the letter T, one of them an upside-down T, and perhaps an N.	

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		GES				
		Robert Gifford	Railroad Drifter			
		M.A.G.	Libby, Montana			
		Indiana Slim				
				running rat	there is a drawing of a rat, running to the left (west)	
		Johnnie Riviens				
		Don Kelly			scratched letters	
			Over the mountain tops the clouds are slowly drifting			
					A4	east wall with entry door
		McCref				in chalk
1926	26	Tex King Rex 26	King of Hoboes			
		Virgal Wilson	Decatur, ARK			
			Boys, this is ??????, Rocky Mountains			
		King Rex			woodburned	
		King John			scratched	
					B1	
		The Phanthom Kid Rides			written in chalk - "phanthom" was a popular spelling of "phantom" in the early 1900s	
			420			incised
		O.A.B.				
		IA. Slim				
		IEM				
		FNC			N is backwards	
			Chila \$10 per bed			

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		Arlo Reed			Other indecipherable text below	
			Not Guilty		circled	
					There is a long indecipherable message written to the lower left of the chalk writing	
					B2	
			81 93 55		crude head profile with a tear (?) that is crossed out by an X	
	7/4 96					
1916		Ed ???	Prarie City - I W W No 81 93 55, Arrived by rail ?????? 1916			
		Ed ?? Prarie City	I W W 81 93 55 below with other indecipherable text			Two separate inscriptions by IWW Ed
		Larry Cleveland			written together and	
		Dick Croghan			underlined as a pair	
					B3	
1925	Here Oct. 5 - 1925	R.E.B.	Tinnisee (sic) Kid - From Memphis. Tenn.		Initials are large, double-lined, and enclosed in a rectangle. An arrow passes through the initials pointing to the west, but is labled east, with west on the eastern end. Everything is encircled by an ovoid shape.	upper left
					B4	
			I.W.W. Local			
		H. Herren	"War is hell " Let the capitalists go to war to protect their own property. Join the I.W.W.			Inscription in pencil as a mix of printed and cursive.
			bullshit			
			Join the IWW be a man don't be a scab. Fuck Johnny Bull.			
			SAB U Wab			
			IWW			

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		NY Slim				
			IWW is the best ??? In ??? (more indecipherable)			
			IWW			
			IWW			
			The Bull is Dirty			
			XXXXXXXXXXXXX			lower left of wall
		Cole Yea???				
			Is the best form in work....those....(indecipherable)			
			Don't forget an eight-hour day would put thousands of men to work. Join the one big union.		has arrows that point to "Join the one big union"	
		Steve Beaucham	IWW			
			Why does a short day and ??? ??? Work day always go together - The IWW			
			Every worker should have an ambition to live to be a healthy old man or woman and hear the whistle blow for the bosses to go to work.			This is the final verse of Harvest War song from the "IWW Songs" Little Red Songbook.
			IWW			
			IWW			
			W			
				a goat and two heads	A rather graphic depiction of a goat that is pooping into the mouth of the head behind it while asking "can I suck ????" to a reply of "sho" from the head in front of it.	

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Historic Images



Historic Image 01. The arrival of the Great Northern railroad is greeted by the people of Judith Gap as it arrives in 1908. Looking northeast. Enhanced image of a photo displayed at the *In The Gap* café in Judith Gap, Montana. Photo obtained by James Busse and enhanced by Tim Urbaniak, 2026.

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Historic Image 02. The Great Northern railroad depot in Judith Gap circa early 1900s. Enhanced image of a photo displayed at the *In The Gap* café in Judith Gap, Montana, original photographer Chase E. Morris, Chinook, Montana. Photo obtained and enhanced by Tim Urbaniak, 2026.

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Historic Image 03. "T.E.X. – King of Tramps," photographed in Billings, Montana in 19xx.⁹⁶

⁹⁶ "T.E.X Self-Styled King of Tramps, Now in Jail, Relates by Poem and Tale the Joys and Woes of Hitting the Trail," *The Billings Gazette*, July 26, 1931, p. 11.

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Photo Log and Photographs

MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0001	0001 – Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction southwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0002	0002 – Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0003	0003 – Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction southeast. Wheatland County. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0004	0004 - Judith Gap Jail in 2025, east elevation details of door and window, view direction west. This is a stitched image. Wheatland County. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0005	0005 - Judith Gap Jail in 2025, south elevation detail of holding cell window and cover, view direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0006	0006 - Interior of the Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view from entry door toward the holding cell area. This is a stitched image as evidenced by lens radial distortion of the ceiling. View direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0007	0007 - Looking through the bars toward the Judith Gap Elementary School in 2025. View direction northeast. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0008	0008 - The door to the jail cell in 2025. View direction southwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0009	0009 - A jail cell door heavy-duty hinge in 2025. View direction west. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0010	0010 - Keys hanging next to the jail cell door in 2025. View direction west. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0011	0011 - Jail cell interior with wooden benches and steel floor rings in 2025. View direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0012	0012 - Forged steel floor ring in 2025. View direction east. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0013	0013 - Interior of the Judith Gap Jail cell in 2025, view from northwest corner. This is a stitched image as evidenced by lens radial distortion of the ceiling and floor. View direction southeast. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0014	0014 - Building exterior prior to renovation in 2002. View direction northeast. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Alice Bair)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0015	0015 - Building with a new roof during renovation in 2002. Wheatland County. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Alice Bair)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0016	0016 - Building with tarpaper underlayment and new siding during renovation in 2002. View direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Alice Bair)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0017	0017 - Finished exterior following renovation in 2002. View direction northwest. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Alice Bair)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0018	0018 – View of wall A3 with a pencil drawing of a running rat. View direction north in 2025. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0019	0019 – View of IWW inscription on cell wall B4 that reads “Why does a short day and an eight-hour work day always go together? – The I.W.W.,” View direction east in 2025. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0020	0020 - View of IWW inscription on cell wall B4 that reads "War is hell. Let the capitalists go to war to protect their own property. Join the I.W.W." View direction east in 2025. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0021	0021 - View of IWW inscription on cell wall B2 that reads "Ed ????, Prarie City - I W W No 81 93 55, Arrived by rail ?? 1916." View direction west in 2025. Wheatland County. Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0022	0022 - View of one of Tex's inscriptions located on a bridge abutment in east Laurel, Montana that reads "1951 - E - "TEX" King 'Of' Tramps - X-990752 -" View direction southwest in 2017. Yellowstone County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0023	0023 - Panorama view of wall A3 with the central inscriptions of "Long Distance Slim" and "TEX King of Tramps & Master of All Horses Asses." View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0024	0024 - View of wall A4 with the inscription of "Tex. King Rex 26. King of Hoboes." View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0025	0025 - View of cell wall B3 with the inscription of "R.E.B., Here Oct. 5, 1925, From Memphis, Tenn., Tinnisee Kid, west." View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: James Busse)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0026	0026 -View of wall A3 with the inscription of "From Drummerts (?) Hills," and a symbolic star with something in each of the 5 pockets. One or two appear to be the letter T, one of them an upside-down T, and perhaps an N. View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0027	0027 - View of wall A3 with the chalk inscription of "Bill Grant, 38 Babe 38, Great Falls, Montana, Arizona Kid." View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0028	0028 - View of wall A3 with the pencil inscription of "Clyde Savage, Hellbound Hobo 1932, Merrily We Go to Hell, Crowbar Speck." View direction north in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0029	0029 - View of wall A1 with chalk inscriptions that include "Down with Hitler," "This is It," and "Vincent Murphy, Great Falls, Montana, May 24, 1938" and a swastika. View direction south in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)
MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0030	0030 - Panorama view of cell wall B4, showing a large number of IWW inscriptions. View direction east in 2025. Image has been enhanced for clarity. Wheatland County. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



Photo 1: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0001. Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction southwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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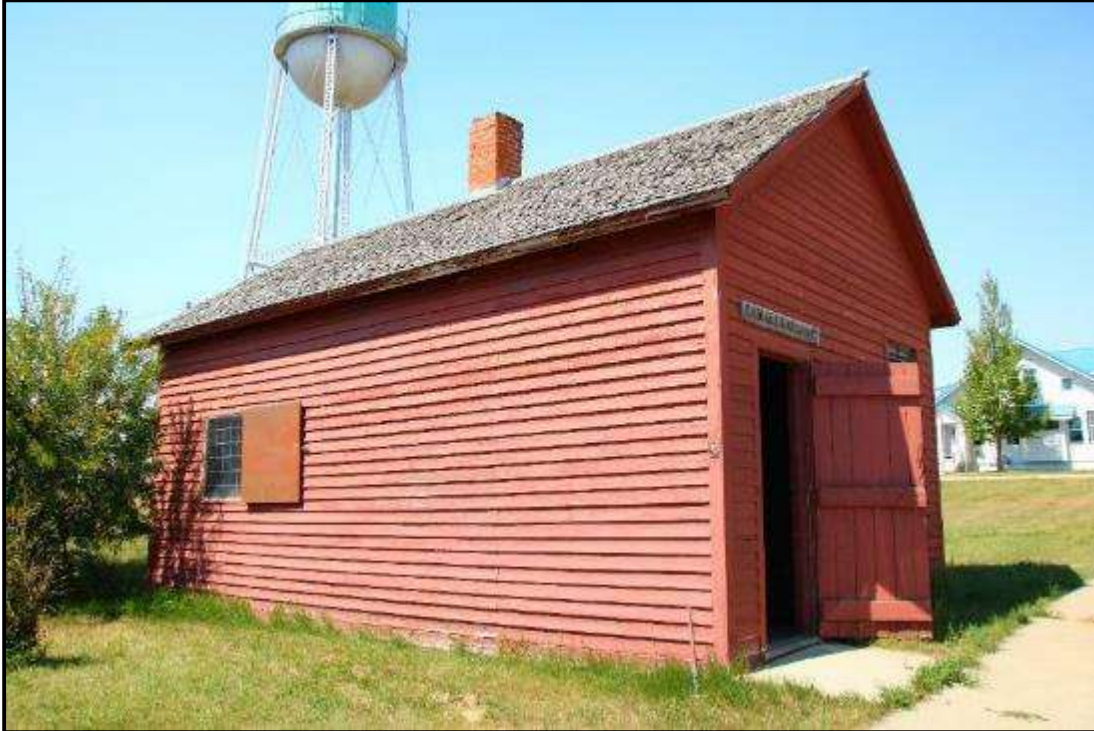


Photo 2: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0002. Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction northwest. (Photographer: James Busse)

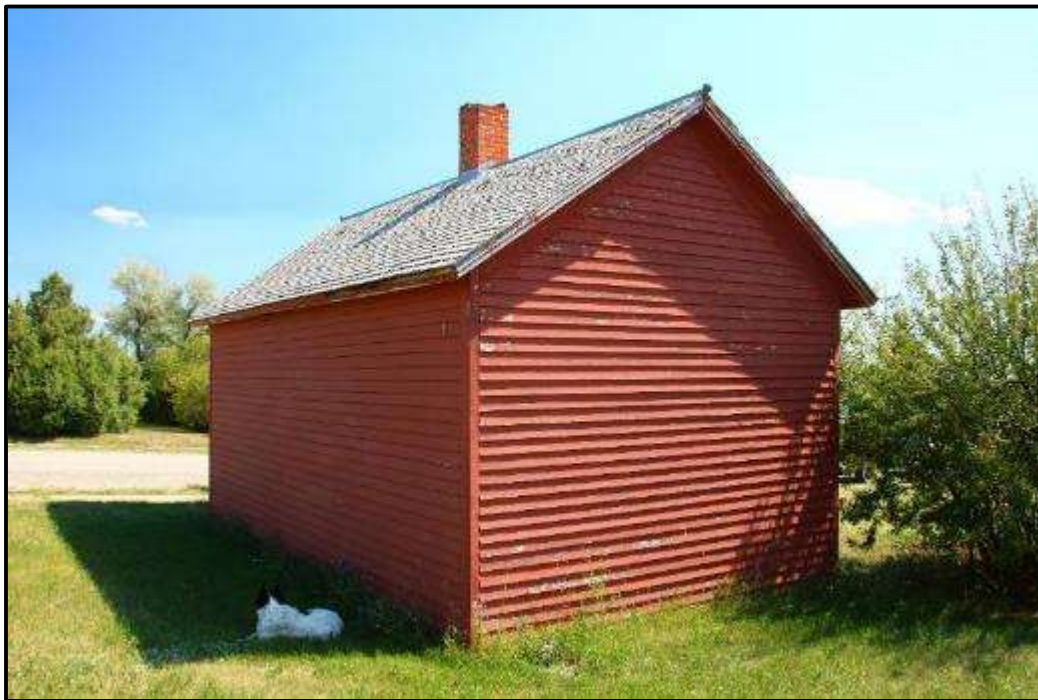


Photo 3: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0003. Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view direction southeast. Chavez, the dog in the shade, is noncontributing. (Photographer: James Busse)

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Photo 4: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0004. Judith Gap Jail in 2025, east elevation details of door and window, view direction west. This is a stitched image as evidenced by paint variance. (Photographer: James Busse)



Photo 5: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0005. Judith Gap Jail in 2025, south elevation detail of holding cell window and cover, view direction northwest. (Photographer: James Busse)

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Photo 6: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0006. Interior of the Judith Gap Jail in 2025, view from entry door toward the holding cell area. This is a stitched image as evidenced by lens radial distortion of the ceiling. View direction northwest.
(Photographer: James Busse)

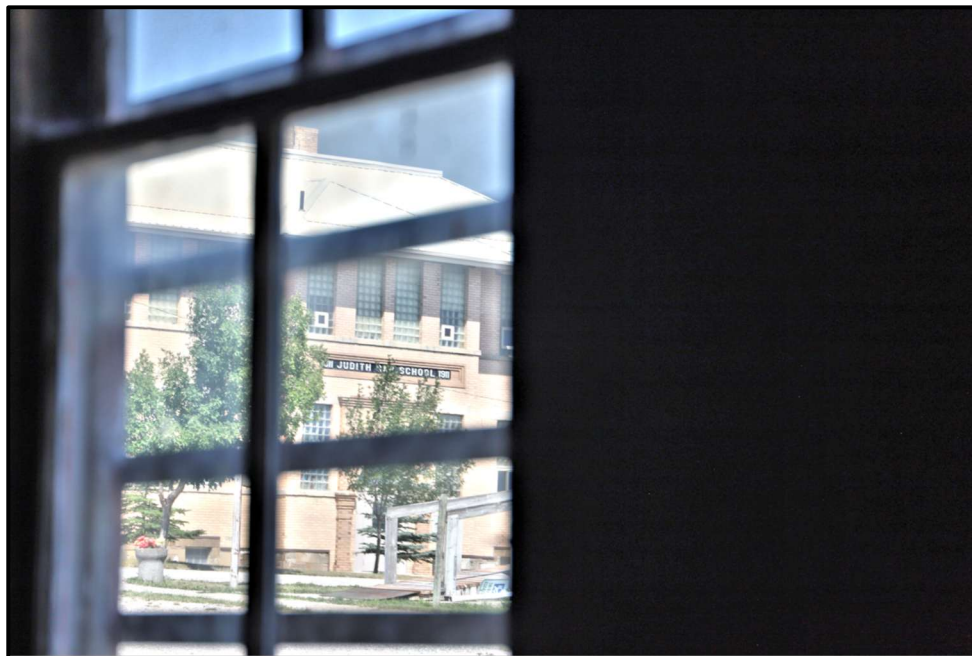


Photo 7: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0007. Looking through the bars toward the Judith Gap Elementary School in 2025. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 8: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0008. The door to the jail cell in 2025.
View direction southwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 9: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0009. A jail cell door heavy-duty hinge in 2025. View direction west. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

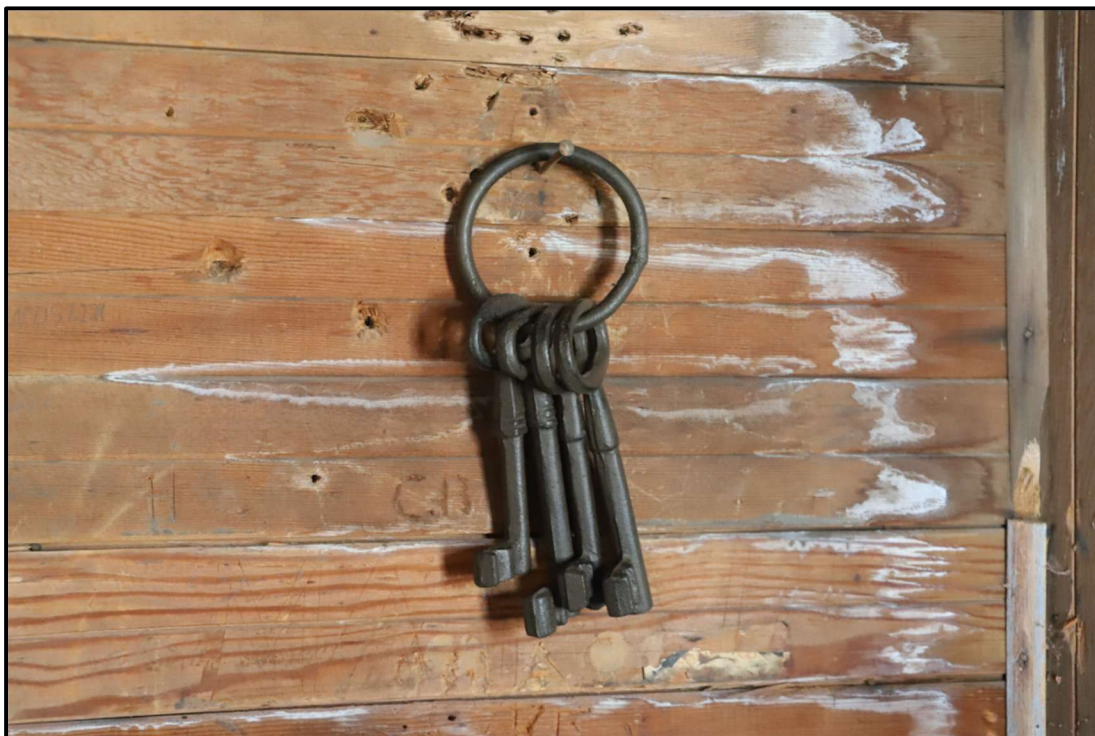


Photo 10: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0010. Keys hanging next to the jail cell door in 2025. View direction west. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 11: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0011. Jail cell interior with wooden benches and steel floor rings in 2025. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



Photo 12: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0012. Forged steel floor ring in 2025. View direction east. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 13: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0013. Interior of the Judith Gap Jail cell in 2025, view from northwest corner. This is a stitched image as evidenced by lens radial distortion of the ceiling and floor. View direction southeast. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 14: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0014. Building exterior prior to renovation in 2002. View direction northeast. (Photographer: Alice Bair)



Photo 15: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0015. Building with a new roof during renovation in 2002. View direction southwest. (Photographer: Alice Bair)

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Photo 16: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0016. Building with tarpaper underlayment and new siding during renovation in 2002. View direction northwest.
(Photographer: Alice Bair)



Photo 17: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0017. Finished exterior following renovation in 2002. View direction northwest. (Photographer: Alice Bair)

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Photo 18: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0018. View of wall A3 with a pencil drawing of a running rat. View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

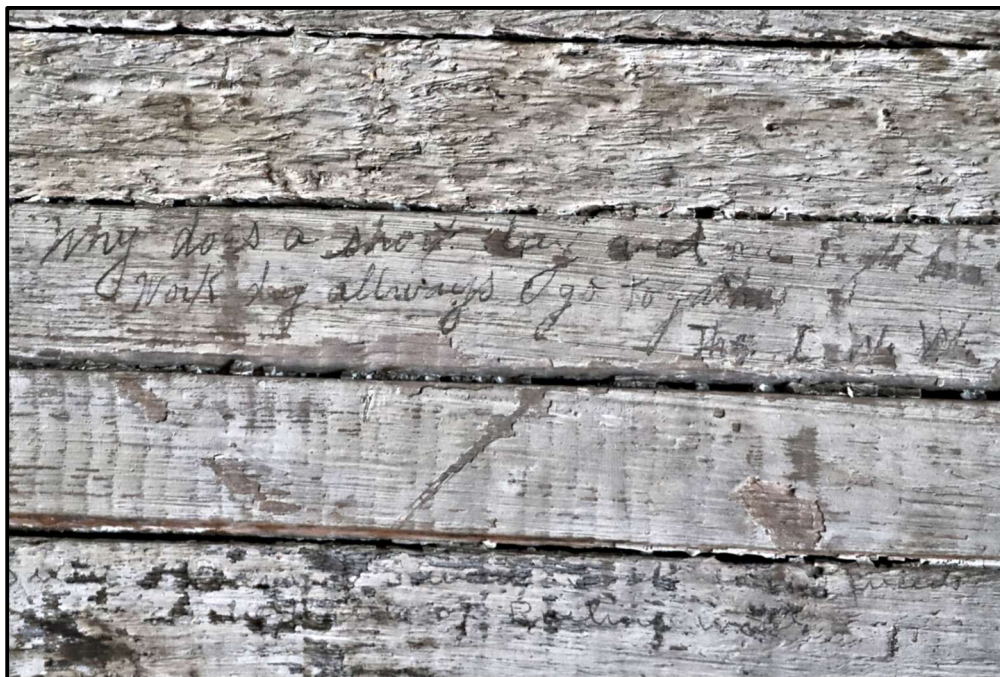


Photo 19: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0019. View of IWW inscription on cell wall B4 that reads "Why does a short day and an eight hour work day always go together? - The I.W.W.," View direction east in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 20: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0020. View of IWW inscription on cell wall B4 that reads "War is hell. Let the capitalists go to war to protect their own property. Join the I.W.W." View direction east in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

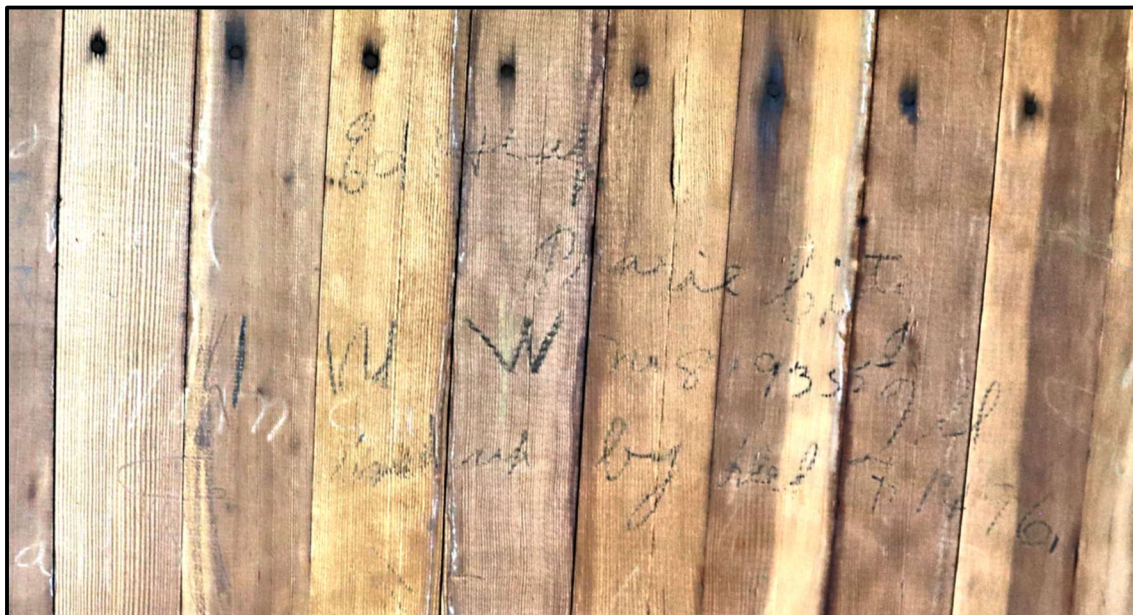


Photo 21: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0021. View of IWW inscription on cell wall B2 that reads "Ed ????, Prairie City - I W W No 81 93 55, Arrived by rail ?? 1916." View direction west in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 22: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0022. View of one of Tex's inscriptions located on a bridge abutment in east Laurel, Montana that reads "1951 – E – "TEX" King 'Of' Tramps – X-990752 –" View direction southwest in 2017. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



Photo 23: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0023. Panorama view of wall A3 with the central inscriptions of "Long Distance Slim" and "TEX King of Tramps & Master of All Horses Asses." View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 24: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0024. View of wall A4 with the inscription of "Tex. King Rex 26. King of Hoboes." View direction north in 2025.
(Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



Photo 25: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0025. View of cell wall B3 with the inscription of "R.E.B., Here Oct. 5, 1925, From Memphis, Tenn., Tinnisee Kid, west." View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: James Busse)

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Photo 26: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0026. View of wall A3 with the inscription of "From Drummerts (?) Hills," and a symbolic star with something in each of the 5 pockets. One or two appear to be the letter T, one of them an upside-down T, and perhaps an N. View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)



Photo 27: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0027. View of wall A3 with the chalk inscription of "Bill Grant, 38 Babe 38, Great Falls, Montana, Arizona Kid." View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 28: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0028. View of wall A3 with the pencil inscription of "Clyde Savage, Hellbound Hobo 1932, Merrily We Go to Hell, Crowbar Speck." View direction north in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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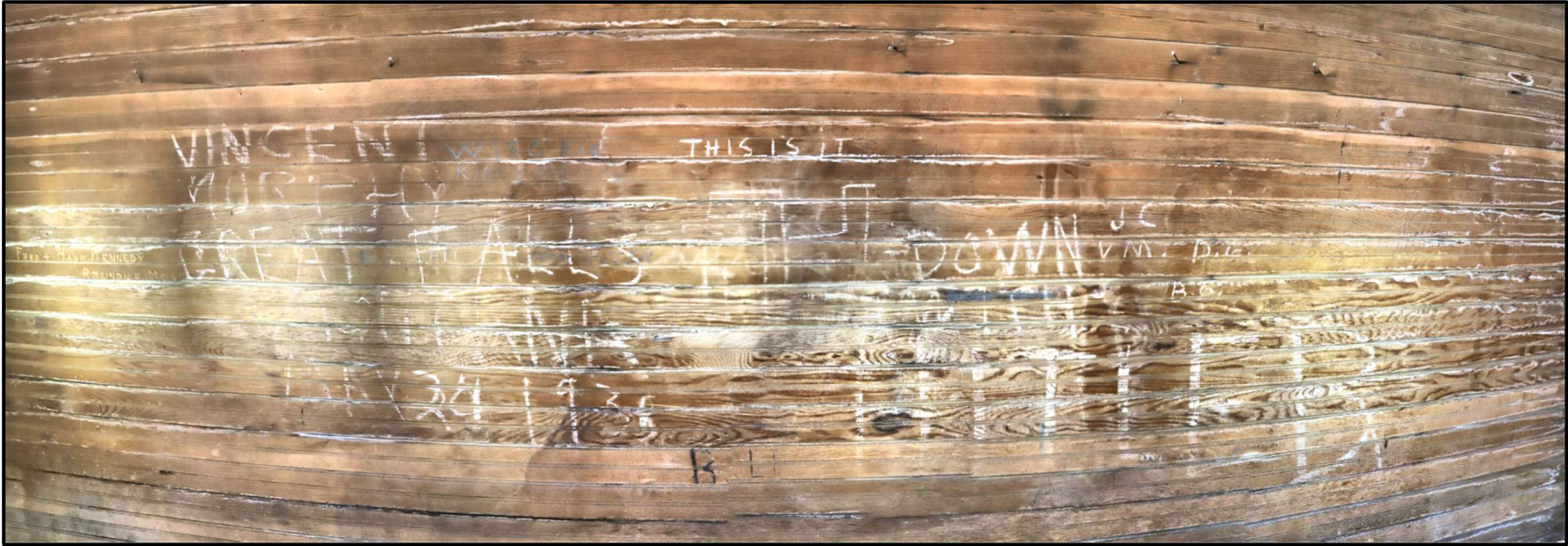


Photo 29: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0029. View of wall A1 with chalk inscriptions that include "Down with Hitler," "This is It," and "Vincent Murphy, Great Falls, Montana, May 24, 1938" and a swastika. View direction south in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)

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Photo 30: MT_WheatlandCounty_JudithGapJail_0030. Panorama view of cell wall B4, showing a large number of IWW inscriptions. View direction east in 2025. (Photographer: Tim Urbaniak)