



## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Main Hall is situated on the pleasantly landscaped campus of Western Montana College and serves, as originally designed, as a classroom and administrative building. The Hall is a four-story structure, with a red brick exterior and stone foundation. It is composed of a 79' x 68' (max.) section built in 1897 and an 88' x 94' (max.) 1907 addition. The addition is joined to the west side of the original section by a 20' x 30', three-story corridor.

The design of the Hall is a blend of styles: the 1897 section is Queen-Anne in outline, while its ornamentation is eclectic with several notable Gothic features. An octagonal tower is partially set out from the east end of the Hall's north facing front. The tower is 18' across, and has a tent style roof. The 1897 section has a centralized hip roof with three gabled ends, all pitched at a ratio of 13½ to 12. All three gables are stepped, with the north facing gable containing a triangle of stepped windows as well. The roof is interrupted by four dormers, one on each slope.

There is an uninterrupted rhythm of pointed arch windows encircling the 1897 building in two bands. Also, a band of dark brick corbelling encircles the building at mid level, between the rows of windows, and a band of dentil corbelling circles the building at the cornice.

The 1907 addition is balanced with the older building by two towers, each set back slightly from the addition's north facing front. The 15' x 15' square, four-story towers have pyramidal roofs. The "T" shaped roof of the addition itself is formed by four intersecting gables. The three smaller gables, facing away from the front of the addition are stepped. The larger, north facing gable contains four pointed arch windows which reach from the second to the fourth level of the building. The two smaller outside arches stand alone, while the two inner windows are contained within a larger arch which in turn contains a smaller window set between the points of the inner arches.

The construction of Main Hall involved the workmanship and raw materials of Dillon and the Beaverhead Valley. The brick was made from local materials and fired in Dillon. The Hall's heating, ventilation and sanitation systems were designed and installed by a Dillon firm, and were described at the time as incorporating the best features of the latest such systems.

"Old Main's" appearance remains basically unchanged since 1907. The front steps of the Hall have been altered, and the original roofing has been replaced by asbestos shingles. In 1925, the west side of the addition was linked by a two-story, 28' x 46' brick corridor to the school's newly constructed library: the library, an attractive three-story, brick building, does not detract from the appearance of Main Hall.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1896-1897 **Builder/Architect** Charles Suiter/ John C. Paulsen

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The construction of the Main Hall of the State Normal School in 1896 represented a major commitment by Montana to the development of a public university system and the improvement of primary and secondary education in the State. The State Normal School, now known as Western Montana College, was created by the State Legislature in 1893 to train teachers for Montana's public schools. The legislature's action was an outgrowth of the 1889 act of Congress admitting Montana to the Union, which had set aside 100,000 acres of public lands for the establishment and continuance of a normal school.

Dillon, a town situated in the Beaverhead Valley of southwestern Montana, was selected as the site of the new school, and John C. Paulsen, who was named state architect in 1895, became the designer of the school's first building, Main Hall. Paulsen had designed several of Montana's most widely admired buildings prior to becoming State Architect, including the Broadwater Hotel and Natatorium, the Helena High School, and the Montana Club, all in Helena. His three years as Montana's State Architect were also productive ones, as the new state constructed many of its educational and social service facilities during this period. In addition to Main Hall, now known as "Old Main", Paulsen designed several other Montana landmarks during this period, including prominent buildings at the agricultural college at Bozeman, the School of Mines in Butte, and the School for the Deaf and Dumb at Boulder.

"Old Main" is one of the best preserved of Paulsen's contributions and provides a good example of his eclectic style. For example, "Old Main's" corner tower was characteristic of Paulsen's designs. It was a distinctive feature on his City Hall building in Boise, Idaho, and on the old Montana Club in Helena. Both of the latter buildings have now been razed.

Construction of Main Hall began in 1896 and was completed, at a cost of \$40,000, in time for the fall session of 1897. Paulsen didn't live to see the school open however, having died in Helena in March of that year. A 1907 addition to "Old Main", designed by the Helena architectural firm of Link and Haire and built at a cost of \$81,000, complemented Paulsen's building and adds to its impressive appearance.

The School has undergone numerous changes since President Delaney T. Sanders and a faculty of four welcomed its first class of prospective public school teachers in 1897. Its name was changed to State Normal School in 1903, to Western Montana College of Education in 1947 and in 1965 to Western Montana College. However, throughout its history the school's chief role has been the training of teachers for Montana's public schools. Similarly, the role of "Old Main" has remained essentially unchanged. Although over a dozen buildings have been constructed on the Dillon campus since the 1920's, "Old Main" continues to be the focal point of the school's landscape and its academic and administrative affairs.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Dillon Examiner: various issues in 1896, Dillon, Montana  
Helena Independent Record, April 1, 1897  
Directory of Higher Education in Montana: Commissioner of Higher Education, 1975, p. 61  
Montana Standard: Feb. 18, 1968, Butte, Montana

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2 1/2 acres (approx) **ACREEAGE NOT VERIFIED**  
Quadrangle name Dillon West **UTM NOT VERIFIED** range scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>3711</u>	<u>21510</u>	<u>510</u>	<u>017</u>	<u>21810</u>	B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing					Zone	Easting	Northing			
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state <u>None</u>	code	county	code
state <u>None</u>	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Samuel Thomas Briggs, John Westenberg

organization Western Montana College date November 8, 1979

street & number 710 S, Atlantic telephone (406) 683-7101

city or town Dillon state Montana 59725

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

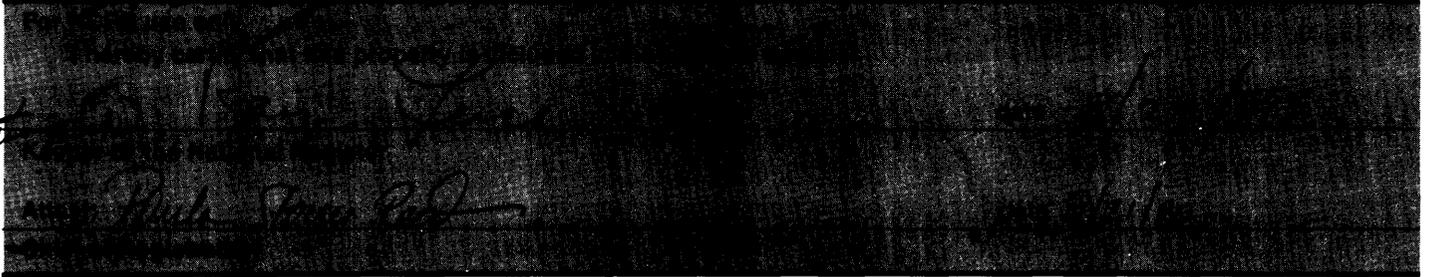
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature]

title Director SHPO date 5-29-80



**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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The Main Hall, Western Montana College, Dillon, Montana is located in the southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the property described as beginning at the northwest corner of Block 18 of Poindexter and Orr Addition to City of Dillon, Montana as shown by official plat of said addition of record in Recorder's Office of Beaverhead County, Montana, being also point where southerly side of Cornell Street intersects with easterly side of Atlantic Street, and running thence south  $39^{\circ}45'$  East 40 rods; thence north  $50^{\circ}15'$  East 40 rods; thence north  $39^{\circ}45'$  East 40 rods; thence north  $50^{\circ}15'$  West 40 rods to the place of beginning, making a square tract of land containing 10 acres more or less.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 10

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MONTANA STATE NORMAL SCHOOL

Acreage of nominated property is slightly over one acre. Please see attached site map drawn to scale and depicting the exact boundaries.



Western Montana College (Old Campus)  
Scale: 1" = 60'

Historic site Boundary



882.0'

S. ATLANTIC ST.

WOMEN'S  
DORMITORY

RECREATION HALL  
DINING HALL

SWIMMING  
POOL

GYMNASIUM

OFFICE  
MUSIC &  
ARTS

ASSEMBLY  
HALL  
AUDITORIUM

PARKING AREA

AUDITORIUM  
SHOP

LIBRARY

PARKING AREA

AUG 19 1980

AUG 27 1980