

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

OCT 24 1978

DATE ENTERED

NOV 14 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC DILLON CITY LIBRARY

AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

121 SOUTH IDAHO

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

DILLON

NW 1/4, NW 1/4, Sec. 19

(T. 7S.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

R. 8W.)

WESTERN MONTANA

STATE

MONTANA

CODE

30

COUNTY

BEAVERHEAD

CODE

001

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

**OWNERSHIP**

**STATUS**

**PRESENT USE**

— DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

— AGRICULTURE

— MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

— PRIVATE

— UNOCCUPIED

— COMMERCIAL

— PARK

— STRUCTURE

— BOTH

— WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

— PRIVATE RESIDENCE

— SITE

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

**ACCESSIBLE**

— ENTERTAINMENT

— RELIGIOUS

— OBJECT

— IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

— GOVERNMENT

— SCIENTIFIC

— BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

— INDUSTRIAL

— TRANSPORTATION

— NO

— MILITARY

— OTHER:

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

CITY OF DILLON

STREET & NUMBER

125 NORTH IDAHO

CITY, TOWN

DILLON

VICINITY OF

STATE

MONTANA

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

BEAVERHEAD COUNTY COURTHOUSE

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

DILLON

STATE

MONTANA

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MONTANA HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN

DATE

1975

— FEDERAL  STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CITY, TOWN

HELENA, MONTANA

STATE

59601

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This one-story stone structure with its steep gable and hip roof, octagonal tower and gable-roofed projecting vestibule is one of the finest buildings in this small town which boasts numerous interesting architectural works. The overall composition has an almost church-like appearance in its Romanesque Revival style. It is the design of C. S. Haire, architect of Helena, Montana.

The buff colored rough faced granite laid in broken ashlar walls was quarried near Dillon in what is known as Frying Pan Basin. The foundation walls are coursed ashlar to the water table 2' 9" above grade.

The front of the building (southeast facade) has a steep gable roof with the projecting vestibule or entry located on the northeast. The entry door, raised a half-flight of steps so that basement windows are possible, is recessed in a semi-circular arch framed by a dressed stone trim that rests upon single columns. The shafts of these columns are polished. The two wooden doors were custom fabricated to the arch opening, their heads half circular. Each door has a single light conforming to the semi-circular arch. The steep gable roof has a dressed stone coping that terminates in decorative carved stones at the intersections of wall and roof line.

To the right (north) of the entry vestibule, there is an octagonal tower having a steep octagonal roof terminating in a metal capping ball. On the upper portion of the tower there are double hung windows with semi-circular heads and voussoir stones. These windows appear on some of the sides of the tower as well. Beneath these windows are located two square-headed windows in the tower, one on the north wall and the other on the northeast wall, giving the feeling of an intermediate level in the stairwell. There is also a door into the tower as well, on the north.

The front facade has three large double hung windows centrally positioned. They have semi-circular headed transom lights. A continuous dressed stone sill links the three windows. Above these windows in the gable area are three small semi-circular headed single light windows closely spaced and having a continuous dressed stone sill. These light the attic space. All of the semi-circular headed windows of the building have voussoir stone treatment of the heads.

The slightly projecting gable wing of the northeast facade has a centrally positioned stone furnace stack. On either side of the stack there is a large double hung window with a semi-circular headed transom light similar to the windows on the front. The other double hung windows on this side of the building are rectangular and have large dressed stone heads.

The projecting northwest gabled wing is treated like the front facade. The southeast wall is a long straight wall with six evenly spaced rectangular windows.

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DILLON LIBRARY

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The interior walls are plastered, as is the high ceiling of the main reading room. A portion of the huge trusses that form the roof are exposed and are oak-encased. The floor is of maple and generally has an oak stain, except in the tower stairwell, toilet room and cloak room which have pine-stained maple floors. Renovation in recent years has covered some of the floor area with carpets. Also, some of the unfinished basement floor area has been concreted.

The entry vestibule has plastered walls above the paneled wainscot and a low plastered ceiling. Some of the original lighting fixtures can still be seen although florescent lights have been added to raise the illumination level in the building. The wood shingled roof has been re-shingled in recent years. The building appears to be in generally good condition.

# 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 checked="" 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 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      1902      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      MR. SMITH/ C. S. HAIRE

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dillon Public Library had its origins much earlier than this building which dates from 1901-02. As early as 1888, the Reverend and Mrs. Sidney Hooker of the Episcopal Church organized a book club. Mrs. Hooker was the granddaughter of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

In March, 1890, a citizens' meeting was held and as a result, a library association was formed to plan for a library. Although it had a meager beginning, the civic pride of the citizens of Dillon who contributed books, money and their time has enabled the library to continue to grow. Theatrical performances under the direction of Mrs. Hooker helped to raise funds for the "free library." This spirit has been repeated over the years with various benefits to assist in the operation of the library. In the early 1960's the local Jaycees and Jayceens undertook a program to raise necessary funds to repair and improve the facilities through a style show and a "Library Day" drive.

The first library in Dillon was housed in a room donated by the Masonic Lodge. From 1890 through 1894, the growing collection of books was housed successively in a grocery store, a bank and the Episcopal Church Parish House. In March, 1896, the Rev. Hooker circulated a petition requesting the City Council to assess city property one mill for operation of the library. The proposition was favorably passed at a public election April 6, 1896. The first trustees of the Dillon Public Library appointed by Mayor Charles H. Padley were Mrs. W. C. Orr, Sr., Mrs. S. D. Hooker, and Mr. Robert T. Wing.

By 1901, the collection of 2,438 volumes had outgrown the Episcopal Parish House facilities. Records of the library indicate that early in that year the secretary of the Board of Trustees, the Rev. Henry Cope, began correspondence with the Andrew Carnegie Endowment Fund requesting money to build a new library. A sum of \$7,500 was granted with the provisions that the city of Dillon would obtain the building site and also pledge its support to the library.

A lot at the corner of Idaho and Glendale Streets was obtained and the architectural firm of C. S. Haire of Helena was employed to design the building. The striking medieval-appearing structure, almost church-like in design, was completed on December 22, 1901, and the entire book collection was moved into the building on that day. The new building opened its doors to the public on December 27, 1902.

The cost of construction exceeded the grant of \$7,500 from the Carnegie Endowment Fund by \$1,100 for a total cost of \$8,600. Mayor B. F. White donated \$500 for purchase of the furnace to heat the building -- and this furnace is still in use today.

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In May, 1902, Mary L. Innes was hired as chief librarian to replace Mrs. S. D. Hooker, who retired due to ill health. In 1930, Miss Innes applied to the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for books on international understanding. The library began to receive these books in 1934, and continued until 1941, when the 100-volume collection was finished. Other donations and special collections have been received from the 1930's to the present, including a fine collection of Shakespeare's plays and poetry. The daughter of former Mayor White, Miss Carolyn White, left \$10,000 to the library in memory of her father. She specified that the money was to be invested with the interest to be used solely for the purchase of books.

The building has undergone necessary maintainance and improvements, but the character of the structure has not been altered. Since its conception, the library has been a community endeavor and a tribute to the townspeople who have supported it and contributed to its growth.

