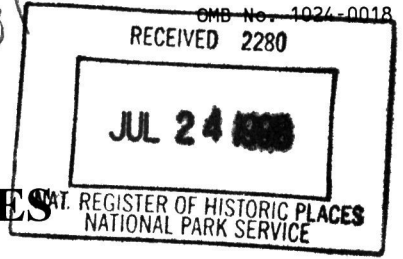


1084



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

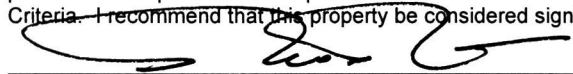
historic name: Union League of America Hall  
other name/site number: Diamond Lodge No. 5 (also No. 1) of the Independent Order of Good Templars' Lodge; The First Presbyterian Church of White Sulphur Springs

## 2. Location

street & number: Crawford Street at Central Avenue South not for publication: na  
city/town: White Sulphur Springs vicinity: na  
state: Montana code: MT county: Meagher code: 059 zip code: 59645

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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    nationally X statewide    locally.

 7-17-98  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency or bureau (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

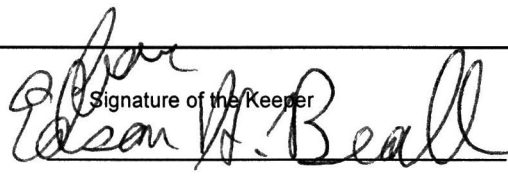
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register  
   see continuation sheet
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

 Date of Action 6/20/98  
Signature of the Keeper

---

## 5. Classification

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Ownership of Property: private	<b>Number of Resources within Property</b>	
Category of Property: building	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: na	<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: na	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> objects
	<u>  1  </u>	<u>    </u> TOTAL

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## 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions:**

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

**Current Functions:**

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification:**

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

**Materials:**

foundation: concrete  
walls: drop siding  
roof: wood shingle  
other: brick

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## Narrative Description

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The Union League of America Hall, better known today as the First Presbyterian Church, is on the corner of Crawford Street and Central Avenue South in White Sulphur Springs. The building occupies a gently-sloping corner lot in a residential neighborhood. The Meagher County Courthouse stood across the street until it was demolished in the 1950s. The Union League of America constructed the hall in 1867 in Diamond City. Diamond Lodge No. 5 of the Independent Order of Good Templars moved the building to White Sulphur Springs in 1881.

The Hall, simple in form and with minimal adornment, is a vernacular version of the Greek Revival Style. The front-gabled form, pedimented door and windows, and six-over-six sash provide links to the style. Additionally, the raised elevation of the front imparts a subtle sense of monumentality to the building.

The rectangular building measures 24 feet by 74 feet. It rests on a concrete basement installed in 1935. Wood shingles cover the moderately-pitched gabled roof. The minimal rafter extensions are trimmed with a plain, narrow wood fascia board. The enclosed soffit follows the slope of the rafters. Two corbeled brick chimneys project from the ridge, one near the front and one at the rear. Another third brick chimney is placed against the building's west wall; it dates from the 1935 basement when a central heating system was installed.

The wood frame walls are sided with wide drop siding and finished with narrow corner boards. The gabled entry elevation faces north and is of symmetrical fenestration. Six-over-six double-hung windows flank a pair of four vertical paneled entrance doors. A wide landing and six wood steps provide access to the entry doors from the sidewalk. The steps and landing date from 1937. Early photographs show a full-width stoop approached by steps on three sides.

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Four windows identical to those on the north side are on the west wall: one at the center, one each at third points, and the fourth near the south end. The east elevation is a mirror image of the west wall with two exceptions. The opening at the south end is a four vertical paneled door with a transom. Just to the north of this door is a five horizontal paneled door. It was probably added when a stairway to the basement was installed at this location in 1935. The south end of the building has no openings.

Door and window openings are formally trimmed with flat wood casings and a pedimented gable head trim. In the early 1950s, the church installed amber glazing in the window sash.

## Interior

The interior of the hall is divided into three areas: a vestibule flanked by a basement stairway and a cloak room, the hall or sanctuary, and a rear room. The roof spans the full width of the interior of the hall by utilizing closely spaced rough-sawn scissor trusses. The trusses are concealed by a plaster ceiling with a flattened barrel vault appearance. All the first floor walls and ceilings are plastered. Beaded-board wainscoting decorates and protects the lower walls.

## Move

As noted, the building was moved to White Sulphur Springs in 1881 from Diamond City. News articles report that the building was moved in two sections. However, no evidence of joints within the building confirms these reports. Another report is that the walls of the building were collapsed onto the floor, and it was moved that way.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Areas of Significance: Architecture,  
Exploration/Settlement, Politics/Government,  
Social History

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): B

Period(s) of Significance: 1867 to 1948

Significant Person(s): N/A

Significant Dates: 1867; 1881

Cultural Affiliation: European-American

Architect/Builder: unknown

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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The Union League of America Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the settlement of Montana. It is the only known building (except one in an artificially created grouping) representing Diamond City, the location of one of Montana's greatest gold discoveries. The building is also significant for its association with attempts by pioneers to establish political and social organizations. The Diamond City branch of the Union League of America, a nationwide Republican organization founded during the Civil War to support the federal government, constructed the hall in 1867. At the dedication of the building, the United States flag flew for the first time in Confederate Gulch. The building also is associated with the Independent Order of Good Templars, a worldwide organization that supported abstinence from alcohol.

The Union League of America Hall is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a representative example of 1860s gold rush period architecture. The building exhibits several defining features of the Greek Revival style.

The building meets National Register Criteria Consideration B for its association with Diamond City and the Union League of America. It is the single surviving property representing Diamond City and the only known building built by the Union League of America.

**Diamond City and the Union League of America**

*The new Philadelphia Union League of America Hall would be a monument of the history of that vast loyal movement which began in the gloomiest days of the Great Rebellion, and continued with growing vigor until peace and re-union .... Some other association . . . might occupy the building, . . . ; but whatever may be the uses to which it is applied, it would hereafter, to all future generations, be known only as the 'League House' and its history would form a curious and instructive chapter in the annals of our city.<sup>1</sup>*

Confederate Gulch, 30 miles east of Helena in the Big Belt Mountains, ranks third in richness among Montana's gold placer mining districts. Estimates of production range from \$10 to \$30 million; Confederate Gulch placers yielded more gold per acre than any other area in the state.<sup>2</sup> Jack Thompson, Washington Baker, and Pomp Dennis, ex-soldiers of Confederate Major General Sterling Price's Army of the West, are credited as the discoverers of Confederate Gulch. After being captured, they apparently accepted

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<sup>1</sup> Maxwell Whiteman, *Gentlemen in Crisis: The First Century of The Union League of Philadelphia* (Philadelphia: The Winchell Company of Philadelphia, 1975), 66-67. From the annual report of George H. Boker, Secretary of the UL of Philadelphia, at the time of construction of its first building (1865).

<sup>2</sup> Muriel Sibell Wolle, *Montana Pay Dirt* (Athens: Ohio University Press, 1963), 123-24; Michael P. Malone, Richard B. Roeder, and William Lang, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1976) 67-68.

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the Union's offer for release on the condition they take an oath of allegiance and stay north of the Confederate lines. (Another legend says that soldiers from Price's army retreated to Montana intending to add it to the Confederacy.)<sup>3</sup>

While traveling from Fort Benton to Helena in the late fall of 1864, they camped near the mouth of what was later to be known as Confederate Gulch. Colors in the sand led to rich strikes higher up the gulch. Five hundred miners poured into the gulch by the end of the year, and the makeshift town of Diamond City sprang into being. Throughout 1865, the gulches surrounding Diamond City continued to

yield rich discoveries.<sup>4</sup> Diamond City issued more than 100 business licenses in the three short years of its boom --- from 1866 to 1869. It became the seat of the newly formed Meagher County in 1867.<sup>5</sup>

Diamond City's first location, stretched along the bottom of Confederate Gulch, proved an inhospitable environment for housing and businesses. As mining progressed along the gulch, buildings had to be demolished or raised, to get them out of the way of the ever expanding tailings. For example, after being raised twice, county officials gave up and abandoned the Meagher County Courthouse, allowing it to be covered over. Most of the businesses and residences finally moved to a bench above the creek bottom. Diamond City's population is estimated to have reached 5,000 by 1868. That year, the boom ended when the placer diggings played out. Diamond City's population rapidly declined, falling to 438 in 1870 and then to 60 in 1880. The death toll came in 1880 when the county seat was moved to White Sulphur Springs.<sup>6</sup>

Confederate sympathizers dominated the early history of Diamond City, just as they did the rest of Montana. Estimates of "Secessionist" supporters during the Civil War range from two-thirds at Bannack to four-fifths of the entire Territory. Although definitely the minority, the Union Republicans as one author put it "[made] up in spirit and vociferation what they lacked in numbers." Three of Montana's most outspoken Republicans, Wilbur Fisk Sanders (whose uncle was appointed Territorial Governor by President Lincoln in 1864), Nathaniel Langford, and Robert Fisk, founded the Union League of America on August 19, 1863.<sup>7</sup> Langford, in his book *Vigilante Days and Ways*, describes himself as president of the Bannack-based League. He goes on to tell how the United States Marshall of Idaho Territory (Montana was part of Idaho Territory at the time) offered to let him name a Deputy United States Marshall for Montana if he would announce his candidacy as a Republican candidate to the territorial legislature of Idaho. Langford took the question of a suitable candidate before the Union League. The League's 30 members cast a unanimous vote in favor of Henry Plummer, much to Langford's chagrin, since by that time he was convinced of Plummer's complicity with the Road Agents. Langford ignored the Union League's vote "rather than incur the responsibility of recommending

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.; For a detailed account of Union prisoner of war release policies, see: Brown, Dee, *The Galvanized Yankees*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1963; Clark C. Spence, *Territorial Politics and Government in Montana, 1864-89* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1975), 21-22.

<sup>4</sup> Wolle, 123-24.

<sup>5</sup> Lee Rostad, *Mountains of Gold, Hills of Grass* (Martinsdale, Mont.: Bozeman Fork Publishing, 1994), 11; Meagher County Historical Society, comp., *Meagher County: An Early-Day Pictorial History, 1867-1967* (White Sulphur Springs: The Meagher County News, 1968), 4.

<sup>6</sup> Wolle, 124-26.

<sup>7</sup> Spence, 21-22.

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so dangerous a person for the office."<sup>8</sup> Another reference to the Union League of America recommending a candidate to fill the postmaster's position in Virginia City hints that the organization controlled the Republican party in the state. It is known that Virginia City, Bannack, and Helena had Union League of America chapters.<sup>9</sup>

Origins of the Union League of America are many and contradictory. Even at the first national convention in 1863 delegates from several cities laid claim to representing the "oldest" League. One account attributes the idea of Union Leagues directly to Abraham Lincoln. No matter where it began, the Union League of America became the single most important political force supporting the federal government during the Civil War. Typical of the early Leagues, the Union League of Philadelphia, founded in December 1862, wanted "a social and political organization" to "counteract the efforts of traitors in the Northern States." Its goal was the "total and complete destruction of the Confederate military machine and the restoration of the Union." The Union League of Philadelphia, with a large and wealthy membership, actively promoted the formation of Union Leagues throughout the northern states. It mailed organizational information to postmasters in every city not under Confederate control. It then began an unprecedented mailing campaign to publish and distribute pronoun literature, again primarily through local postmasters from coast to coast. Organization of Union Leagues rapidly followed in 1863. In the West, for example, St. Paul and San Francisco organized in April; Denver in May; and Portland in November. By December 1863, between 3,000 to 5,000 Union Leagues had been organized with a membership of 650,000 to 725,000.<sup>10</sup>

The Union League held its first national gathering in Cleveland on May 20 and 21, 1863. Congressman James M. Ashley from Ohio, a member of the League's executive committee and speaker at the convention, would soon be well-known to Montanans. With the backing of his good friend and future Montana Territorial Governor Sydney Edgerton, Ashley sponsored the bill creating Montana Territory in 1864. After losing his Congressional seat in 1869, President Grant appointed him Montana's territorial governor. Ashley's radical Republican stance offended Montana's Democratically-controlled territorial legislature, and it refused to approve any of his appointments. After only a few months in office, Grant fired him.<sup>11</sup>

The Union League of America continued to function after the Civil War's end. One author described the postwar Union League as Republicans "with the strongest feelings against the South, and eager to press home all the advantages won during the war."<sup>12</sup> In the South, it became largely a black organization advocating civil rights; Southern whites organized the Ku Klux Klan to counter its civil rights successes. The Montana Union League may have moved from a clandestine organization to a secret society building support for the Republican party. Montana's secessionists Democrats continued unrepentant support for the Confederate cause after the war. As just one example, the Montana Territorial Legislature passed some of the earliest discriminatory laws against blacks in the nation, including school segregation and barring testimony against whites in court.<sup>13</sup> Newspapers, like Helena's *Rocky*

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<sup>8</sup> Nathaniel P. Langford, *Vigilante Days and Ways* (Helena: American & World Geographic Publishing, 1996), 138-39.

<sup>9</sup> *History of Montana, 1739-1885* (Chicago: Warner, Beers & Company), 1153.

<sup>10</sup> For the only history of the Union League of America, see: Guy James Gibson, "Lincoln's League: The Union League Movement During the Civil War" (Ph.D. diss., University of Illinois, 1957).

<sup>11</sup> Gibson, 110; Malone, 95-96 and 105-106.

<sup>12</sup> Spence, 22.

<sup>13</sup> Stanley R. Davison and Dale Tash, "Confederate Backwash in Montana Territory," *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* 17 (October 1967): 52.

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*Mountain Gazette*, capitalized on the Union League's support of black civil rights and played on the racist fears of Montanans. Only referring to the Union League of America as the "Underground League of Africa" in its steady diatribe against the organization, it told its readers that the "organization, by collusion, circumvention, fraud, and all sorts of means, intend to get up a war of races in the South, and through the influence of the Negroes rule the North with a rod of iron."<sup>14</sup>

In June 1867, the *Gazette*, ever obsessed with the Union League, did not fail to mention completion of the League's new hall in Diamond City. The newspaper, however, predicted the planned dedication dance would be a flop since the Democratic women in Diamond City were apparently so few, enough dance partners would not be available. It doubted that the city's Republican women would attend the dance. The women of Diamond City did turn out, and the *Montana Post* proclaimed the whole affair a great triumph.<sup>15</sup>

The Union League held its dedication ceremonies on April 9, the second anniversary of Robert E. Lee's surrender. League members raised a 30-foot octagonal flag pole over the building the day before, and at sunrise on the ninth ran up the United States flag to the cheers of the assembled crowd. The event marked the first time the U.S. flag had flown in Confederate Gulch. The *Gazette* did not fail to point out that the flag pole, painted black and white with the black on top, "was emblematic of the party which puts the black above the white."<sup>16</sup>

On June 24, 1867, the Diamond City Masonic fraternity celebrated St. John's day at the Union League Hall. The connection between these two organizations, especially in relationship to vigilante activities, has never been investigated. Despite the commonly held perception that the vigilantes arose out the Masonic fraternity, James Kirkpatrick, a Bannack resident, said that at least in Bannack, the Union League provided the Vigilante's foundation. He went as far as to intimate that formation of the Union League had nothing to do with sympathy for the Union, but was instead a ruse to cover organization of the vigilance committee. Creation of the Union League in Bannack in 1863 charged the atmosphere with anticipation, and some purported road agents joined the league to monitor its activities. "Out of the Union League, secretly, in some mysterious manner, evolved the Bannack branch of the Vigilance Committee."<sup>17</sup>

Nothing is known of the demise of the Union League of America in Diamond City. Nationally, the Union League flourished in the South during Reconstruction. After the Democrats gained power during the mid-1870s, the Union League faded away.<sup>18</sup> Some League chapters in the north, like the one in Philadelphia, remained a strong force in Republican politics. In a short history of Diamond City's Union League of America Hall written in 1888, the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* stated "the institution crumbled"

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<sup>14</sup> See the *Rocky Mountain Gazette* (Helena). The quote is from June 15, 1867.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*; *Montana Post*, April 20, 1867. These two newspapers conflict in the date of the dance. The *Gazette* may be describing the dance sponsored by the Masons.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>17</sup> *Rocky Mountain Gazette*, June 29, 1867; "The Story of James Kirkpatrick," in Al Noyes, "History of Southern Montana," in Professor Thomas J. Dimsdale, *The Vigilantes of Montana*, 4th ed. (Helena: State Publishing Co., DATE), 236-37.

<sup>18</sup> "The Union League," at [www.cybertech-mall.com/319.html](http://www.cybertech-mall.com/319.html).

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and the building was sold to a private person to cover its debts. By 1875, H.J. Ramspeck, a brewer, owned the Union League Hall. That year, Ramspeck sold the building to Diamond Lodge No. 5 of the Independent Order of Good Templars.<sup>19</sup>

## Independent Order of Good Templars

The Independent Order of Good Templars (IOGT) originated in Utica, New York in 1851. Members pledged abstinence for themselves and worked toward passing prohibition legislation. The organization expanded rapidly throughout the United States and Canada and then to Europe, Africa, and South America. By 1908, the IOGT claimed a membership of more than 400,000.<sup>20</sup>

The IOGT began organizing Montana lodges in 1868. Within a year, the 13 newly-formed local lodges joined to form the Grand Lodge of Montana. Diamond City was the fifth lodge organized in Montana, and "under adverse circumstances, . . ." The Diamond City lodge prospered, however, and by 1870, its 84 members (75 males and 9 females) accounted for 22 percent of the state's IOGT membership. The Diamond City lodge's membership stood at 46 in 1875, the year it purchased the Union League Hall. Delegates to the Grand Lodge meeting that year, approved a temperance bill for introduction to the territorial legislature. Perhaps recognizing the great odds it was up against, the proposed IOGT bill only made it illegal to sell intoxicating drinks on Sundays and election days. Even then, it exempted the sale of liquor for "medicinal or mechanical purposes."<sup>21</sup>

The Grand Lodge of Montana (which by design did not have a permanent location) met for its eleventh annual meeting in Diamond City on October 9, 10, and 11, 1878. The Grand Secretary noted in his introductory remarks that:

We meet to-day in the Lodge Room of the oldest and one of the most faithful and substantial Lodges in the jurisdiction. Let us in our Grand Lodge work emulate the zeal, integrity and wisdom of these brothers and sisters.<sup>22</sup>

In 1881, the IOGT began efforts to move its lodge building from Diamond City to White Sulphur Springs. Appealing to the community for financial support, the IOGT announced the building would be available for public use. In September, H.H. Barnes of White Sulphur springs went to Diamond City to "take down the hall" and with authority to contract for its moving.<sup>23</sup> By the middle of the month, the *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* lamented Diamond City's loss:

The old Diamond hall is demolished and the place that knew it once so fondly shall know it no more. It is not without a feeling of sadness that we note the destruction of this, one of Diamonds greatest monuments. It was constructed in 1867 by the Union League Association (sic) and finally fell into the hands of the Good Templars.

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<sup>19</sup> *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, June 7, 1888; Meagher County Clerk and Recorder, *Deed Book F*, p. 26-27.

<sup>20</sup> William D. P. Bliss, ed., *The New Encyclopedia of Social Reform* (New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1908), 555-56.

<sup>21</sup> Information on the Independent Order of Good Templars in Montana is taken from the annual *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Montana* on file at the Montana Historical Society, Helena.

<sup>22</sup> The four earlier organized lodges had surrendered their charters by this time. On incorporation in White Sulphur Springs in November 1881, it became Diamond Lodge No. 1.

<sup>23</sup> *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, September 1, 1881.

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It has long served the old town as a public hall; has been used for theaters, celebrations, speaking, balls, church, and all public purposes, and many a citizen of Meagher and perhaps other counties cherishes fond recollections of pleasant moments spent beneath its friendly roof. But the glory of the old town --- once second to none in Montana --- has departed, and now its public hall is demolished, and its liberty pole, which has held up the stars and stripes amid the huzzas of joyous people, is leveled to dust; but what is the loss of the old mining town which has met the common fate of all towns that have based dependence upon placer mines, is the gain of the young and promising valley town of White Sulphur Springs. The old hall is to be itself again, as of old, though much enlarged, and happy throngs of merry youths and maidens will make its walls ring with gladness as of yore.<sup>24</sup>

Purchasing a lot and moving the building placed the IOGT in a precarious financial position from which it never recovered. In January 1882, the IOGT announced an evening of amateur entertainment and a masquerade ball in a continuing effort to pay off its debt.<sup>25</sup> The lodge had signed an \$800 mortgage on the property in November 1881 payable in four months. In 1882, the IOGT signed a promissory note for \$842; it converted the note to another mortgage in 1883. William and Matilda Parberry, holders of the mortgage, foreclosed on the property in 1884.<sup>26</sup>

In 1888, the Parberry's sold the building to the First Presbyterian Church of White Sulphur Springs.<sup>27</sup> The church undertook some interior remodeling to fit its needs. The *Rocky Mountain Husbandman* described a Sunday school in the back capable of seating 75, the sanctuary which could seat 200, and a vestibule with side cloakrooms. The Presbyterians added a full basement beneath the building in 1935. Reflecting the financial circumstances of its parishioners during the Great Depression, the church used donated labor to excavate the basement "[s]ince many of us have more time than money these days . . . ."<sup>28</sup>

In 1971, the First Presbyterian Church transferred ownership of the Union League of America Hall to the Meagher County Historical Association. The building has been vacant since then.<sup>29</sup>

## Architectural Significance

The Union League of America Hall is a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival Style; it is a rare example of Montana's 1860s gold rush architecture. Outside Virginia City and Bannack, few buildings from this period remain.

At the time of the gold rush to Montana, the Greek Revival Style was the most popular architectural style in America; it was just beginning to fall from favor, although forms of it would remain popular for domestic architecture well into the twentieth century. It is not surprising, then, that many of the first buildings constructed in Montana (beyond those providing basic shelter) carried some reference to the style. The simple and austere characteristics of the style were well-suited for adaptation in locally available

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<sup>24</sup> Ibid., September 15, 1881.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid., January 26, 1882.

<sup>26</sup> Meagher County Clerk and Recorder, *Deed Book G*, p. 622; unknown book, p. 405; *Deed Book L*, p. 216; *Deed Book K*, p. 63.

<sup>27</sup> Meagher County Clerk and Recorder, *Deed Book N*, p. 68

<sup>28</sup> *Rocky Mountain Husbandman*, June 6, 1888; *The Meagher County News*, February 13, 1935.

<sup>29</sup> Meagher County Clerk and Recorder, Microfilm Document 71185.

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materials. In the Union League Hall, the moderately-pitched front-gabled roof and symmetrical facade are the principal features characterizing the style. The undecorated, wide cornice boards; pedimented door and window openings; four panel doors; and six-over-six window sash all provide additional links to the style.

### Criterion Consideration B

#### Criteria Consideration B

##### Eligibility for association with Diamond City

At the time of the 1971 sale, the Union League of America Hall claimed title of the oldest, continually occupied public building in Montana. Whether true or not, it irrefutably outlasted Diamond City. Today, only a small cemetery marks the site of one of Montana's largest placer gold-boom cities. Diamond City echoed the fate of numerous Montana boom towns. The discovery of gold brought phenomenal growth, but as the placer gold played out and word of new strikes promised riches elsewhere, the population moved on. Nothing, but scarred landscapes remain to mark the existence of dozens of these communities. The Union League of America Hall would not exist if it had not been moved. Although other buildings might have been moved from Diamond City, its remote location and our knowledge of the wholesale abandonment of buildings at mining boom towns suggest their numbers would be small. Only one other building from Diamond City has been identified---and it is located within the artificially created town of Nevada City.

When the Independent Order of Good Templars moved the Union League hall in 1881, a newspaper article documented the significant role the building played in Diamond City. The building served as a popular public hall and was described as "one of Diamonds greatest monuments." The raising of the U.S. flag over the building, 14 years earlier, was an event still worthy of mentioning. The Union League of America Hall, therefore, is the best surviving building to represent Diamond City.

#### Criteria Consideration B

##### Eligibility for association with the Union League of America

The Union League of America played an important role in advancing Republican party policies in Montana. Its members, although the minority political party, were powerful since the territorial officials were Republicans appointed by Presidents Lincoln and Johnson. The most probable locations for other Union League halls are Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena. (The Union League in Nevada City reportedly met in the Byam house which is extant.) Historic architectural surveys of these three communities have not identified a Union League hall. This building, therefore, is the only known property built specifically for the Union League of America.

#### Criteria Consideration B

##### Eligibility for Architectural Values

The Union League of America Hall is a representative example of architecture from Montana's initial gold-rush period. Very few buildings remain from this period, and almost all of them are in Virginia City and Bannack. Although a newspaper account when the building was moved says it will be "much enlarged" two historical architects have looked at the building and have found no evidence of an addition. Unfortunately, no known historic photographs of the building in Diamond City exist. The term "much enlarged" may have referred to changes in the interior layout. The exterior of the building conveys the appearance of an 1860s public building, and retains integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although it is no longer located in an 1860s boomtown, it is on a freestanding site in a small community. Although buildings may have more closely flanked it in Diamond City, the windows along both sides provide evidence that it was freestanding.

Union League of America Hall  
Name of Property

Meagher County, Montana  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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See continuation sheet

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other -- Specify Repository:

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	507500	5154380

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Section 18, T9N, R7E

---

### Verbal Boundary Description

Lot 4, Block 39 of the Original or Parberry Townsite of the Town of White Sulphur Springs, Meagher County, Montana.

---

### Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the lot historically associated with the building since its move to White Sulphur Springs

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title: Maggie Buckingham, Ken Sievert, and Lon Johnson  
organization: Meagher County Historical Association      date: February 1998  
street & number: 859 Highway 360      telephone: 406-547-3676  
city or town: White Sulphur Springs      state: MT      zip code: 59645

---

### Property Owner

---

name/title: Meagher County Historical Association  
street & number:      telephone:  
city or town: White Sulphur Springs      state: MT      zip code: 59645

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places

## Continuation Sheet

Section number 9

Union League of America Hall  
Meagher County, Montana

Page 1

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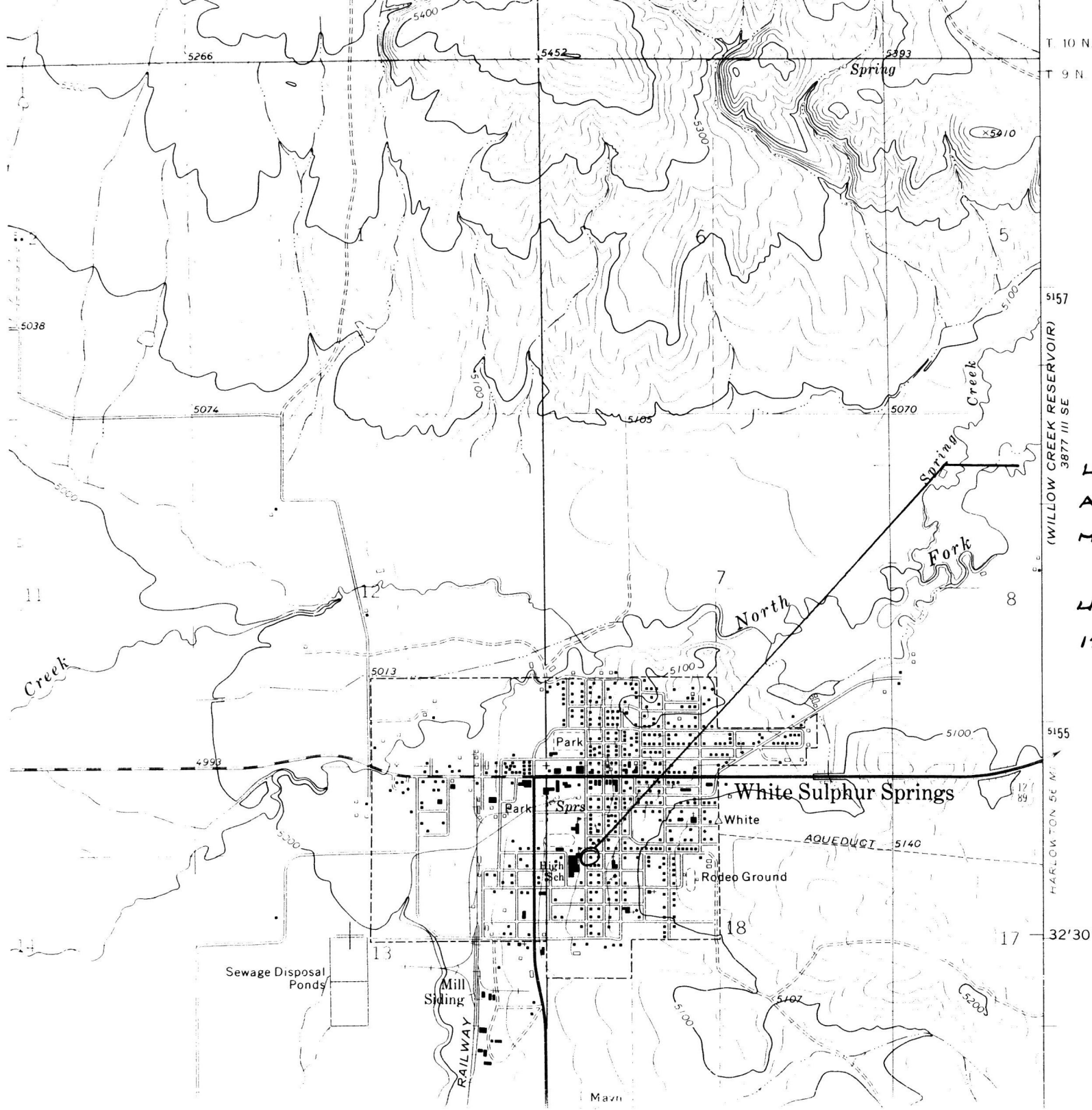
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T 10 N  
 T 9 N  
 5157  
 (WILLOW CREEK RESERVOIR)  
 3877 III SE  
 E  
 5155  
 HARLOW TON SE M.  
 32'30"

UNION LEAGUE OF  
 AMERICA HALL  
 MEACHER COUNTY MONTANA

UTM REFERENCE  
 12/507500/5154380

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Union League of America Hall  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MONTANA, Meagher

DATE RECEIVED: 7/24/98 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 8/03/98  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 8/19/98 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/07/98  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 98001084

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8/20/98 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in the  
National Register**

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA HALL  
MEACHER COUNTY MONTANA

VIEW TO SOUTHEAST

PHOTOGRAPHER & NEGATIVE:

VERLE RADEMACHER, MEACHER COUNTY NEWS  
SEPTEMBER 1997



UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA HALL  
MEACHER COUNTY MONTANA  
VIEW TO EAST-NORTHEAST  
PHOTOGRAPHER AND NEGATIVE:  
VEELE RADEMACHER, MEACHER COUNTY NEWS  
SEPTEMBER 1997



SCHOOL  
SPEED

UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA HALL  
MEACHER COUNTY MONTANA  
VIEW TO NORTH NORTHEAST  
PHOTOGRAPHER & NEGATIVE

VERLE KADEMACHER, MEACHER COUNTY NEWS  
SEPTEMBER 1997



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA HALL  
MEACHER COUNTY MONTANA  
VIEW TO SOUTHEAST

PHOTOGRAPHER & NEGATIVE:

VERLE RADEMACHER, MEACHER COUNTY NEWS FILES  
SEPTEMBER 1997 (PHOTO C. 1950)



"Diamond City, Montana, ca 1870-71. 1943, one house, high-front one was all that remained."

946-724

UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA HALL  
MEAGHER COUNTY MONTANA

HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF DIAMOND CITY 1870-71  
(BUILDING IS NOT VISIBLE)

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

**FOR RESEARCH ONLY.** Any other use (such as exhibition or publication) requires written permission from the MHS Photograph Archives and the payment of additional fees.  
Not to be copied for resale.



"Diamond City, Montana, 1889. Cattle owned by  
Joseph Emhoff."

946-725

**MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.**

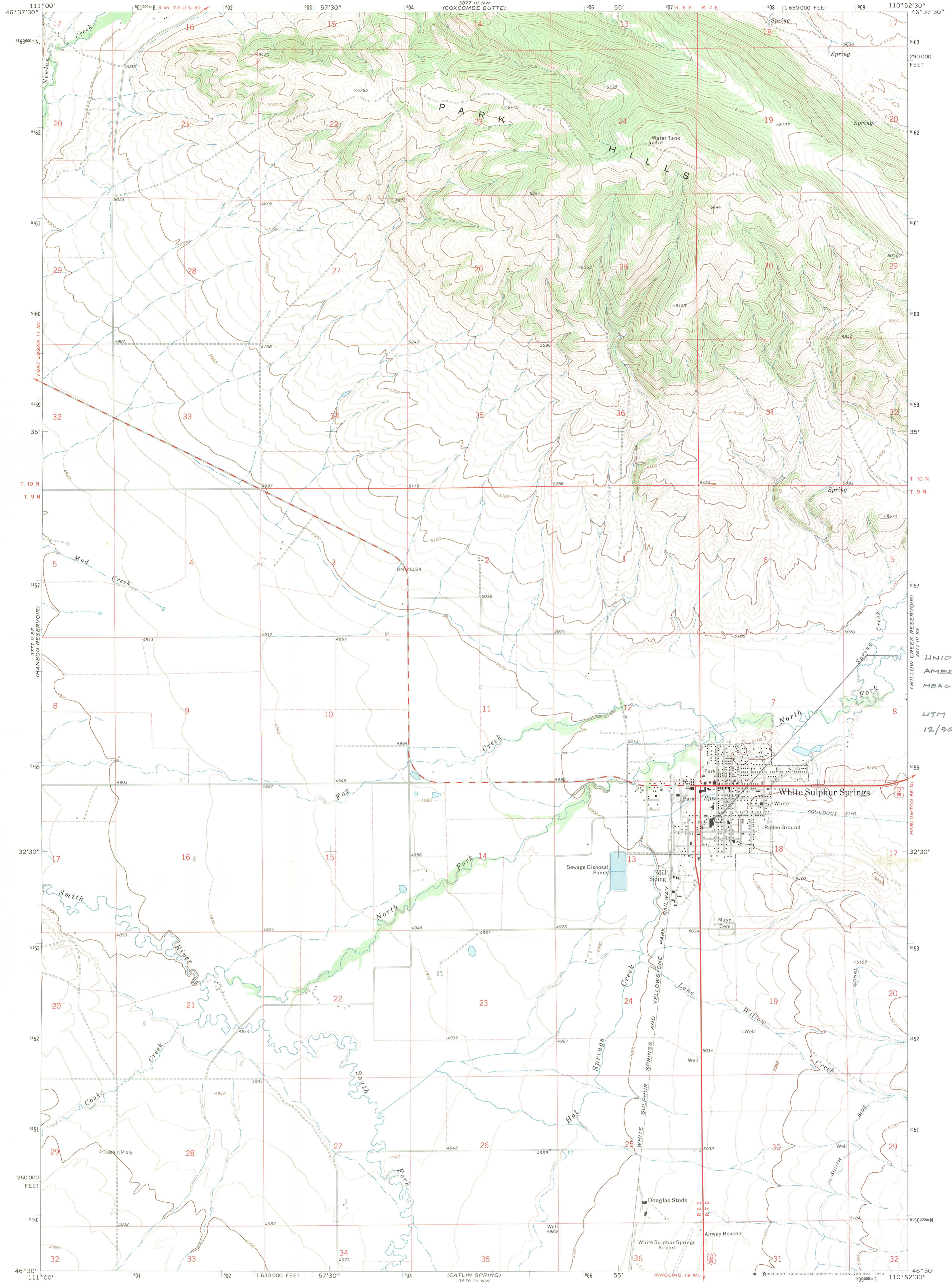
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UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
HALL  
MEADWER COUNTY MONTANA  
HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPH OF  
DIAMOND CITY 1889  
(BUILDING HAD BEEN  
MOVED BY THIS TIME)

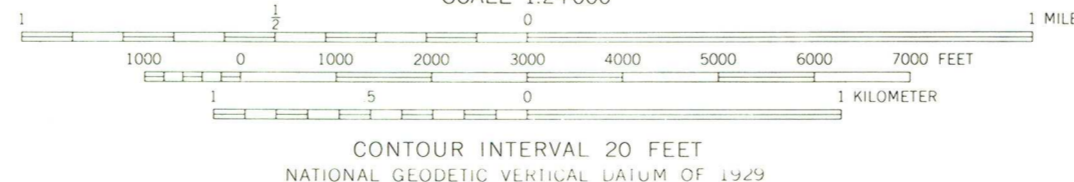
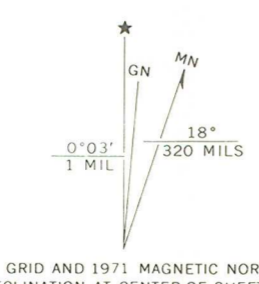
UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS QUADRANGLE  
MONTANA—MEAGHER CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



UNION LEAGUE OF  
AMERICA HALL  
MEAGHER COUNTY MONTANA  
UTM REFERENCE  
12/507500/5154380

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and U. S. Forest Service  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1970. Field checked 1971.  
Projection and 10,000-foot grid ticks: Montana  
coordinate system, central zone (Lambert conformal conic)  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 12, shown in blue. 1927 North American datum  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence lines



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, MONT.  
N4630-W11052.5/7.5

1971

AMS 3877 III SW—SERIES V894

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST