

DRAFTUnited 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 PropertyHistoric name: Mountain Brook SchoolOther names/site number: Mountain Brook Community Center and LibraryName of related multiple property listing: _____
N/A

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

2. LocationStreet & number: 2353 Foothill RoadCity or town: Kalispell State: Montana County: FlatheadNot For Publication: ☐ N/A Vicinity: ☒ X**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 ___ C ___ D

	
MT State Historic Preservation Officer	10/24/2025
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>4</u>	<u> </u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EDUCATION: School
SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL: meeting hall

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: school house

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Walls: WOOD: Weatherboard

Roof: METAL

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

Located in the SW1/4 SW1/4 of Section 7, Township 28 North Range 19 West, the Mountain Brook School stands 3½ miles east of town of Creston in Flathead County immediately north of Brown's Gulch on the northeast corner of the intersection of Foothill Road and Browns Gulch Road. The property that consists of the school and teacherage, wood shed, multi-purpose building, pumphouse, and playground equipment, lays at an elevation of about 3150 feet; the area to the east quickly rises in elevation to 3920 feet while the area to the west consists of lowlands with numerous small lakes, depressions, and timber mixed with agricultural fields. Although the school building itself has lost some integrity over the decades, the property retains sufficient integrity to list in the National Register.

Narrative Description

The Mountain Brook School property consists of four contributing buildings that include the simply constructed 1922 school (with later addition for more educational space) and 1934 attached wood frame teacherage, a pre-1934 shed, 1961 pumphouse, and the 1968 multi-purpose building. It also displays a collection of playground equipment counted as a single contributing object.

Mountain Brook School (one contributing building, 1922, additions 1934 and 1954)

The Mountain Brook School stands as a wood frame front gable roofed building with a 1934 dropped gable roof teacherage addition to the east and larger 1954 intersecting gable addition to the north. The entire building with additions now measures 40 ft. north-south by 60 ft. east-west.

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The school displays a similar building presentation as the homesteads and farms in the area, reflecting its period of construction. Metal panels cover the roof of the main block and additions, which feature a mixture of enclosed and exposed rafters. A brick chimney punctures the roof immediately east of the main block's roof ridge.

Oversized non-original but historic lap siding covers the west façade while the remaining walls of the school sport original narrow lapped siding painted white highlighted by green or blue painted cornerboards.

The west façade holds two entries, one centered below the original block's gable and a second to the north centered on the 1954 wing addition wall; solid wood doors fill both entries. The façade also holds four window openings, two roughly centered between the doors and one each positioned toward the end of the wall. At present, the style of the windows vary by opening: a three-over-three light double hung unit fills the northernmost opening, a three-over-three light double hung unit topped with heavy gauge screen fills the opening immediately to the south, a two-light double-hung unit covered by plywood fills the opening immediately north of the door below the gable, and a two-light double-hung unit fills the opening on the south end of the façade. Below the gable of the original 1922 block is a multi-light fixture, vent, and sign that reads, "Mountain Brook School."

A partial length open shed porch projects off the west elevation and centers on the façade, topped by metal panel roofing. The porch presents open eaves supported by four 4-in. by 4-in. posts linked by a wood halfwall railing; a railing break occurs where the porch and façade are approached by a seven-step wood staircase. Concrete blocks support the porch, the lower portion covered with a plywood screen. A small concrete pad provides access to the lowest step.

The north elevation of the 1954 wing addition features two ribbons of four, nine-over-nine double hung windows centered across the elevation below the gable. Immediately below the gable peak projects a small light, vent, and small hinged vertical board door that provides access to the gable interior. Two small boarded-over crawl space openings (likely vents) appear at the wall's juncture with the foundation. Two electrical boxes and wiring affix to the wall. The north wall of the 1934 teacherage addition presents a single window opening boarded-over with plywood.

The east wall of the 1954 addition holds one entry filled with a solid wood door; a small, shed entry overhang topped with corrugated metal provides limited protection from the elements. Paired one-over-one double hung window openings and a single opening all covered with plywood appear in the east wall of the teacherage addition.

The south wall displays two ribbons of three and four, nine-over-nine double hung windows in the original 1922 main block. The teacherage addition holds a single window opening boarded-over with plywood.

The entire building rests on a poured concrete foundation.

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Mountain Brook School Wood Shed (one contributing building, pre-1934)

A small gable roof wood frame shed stands immediately east of the 1934 teacherage addition. Metal sheeting currently covers the roof overlaying dimensional 1-in. by 6-in. decking. Simple drop siding clads the walls with edges protected by wood cornerboards painted green. The shed features open eaves with exposed rafters. North elevation fenestration includes a window opening boarded-over with plywood and a two-panel wood door approached by two wood steps; a small shed overhang topped with metal sheeting and supported by two 4-in. by 4-in. posts shelters the entry. The west elevation holds a single boarded-over window. The east and south elevations lack fenestration. A poured concrete foundation supports the shed.

Multi-purpose Building (counted as one contributing building, 1968)

The multi-purpose building stands as a single story gable-front-and-wing building that parallels Foothill Road to the west; the original building features the present library and restrooms/coatroom. The east wing consists of three additions, one constructed in 1970 for bathroom, one in 1975 that holds the kitchen, and a second in 1986 that contains a kindergarten and large hallway. Construction of the original portion began in August of 1967 indicating initial use later that year or 1968.¹ Raised seam metal roofing tops the building and vertical grooved panel siding clads the walls. The block that parallels Foothill Road displays an unusual eave; the roof projects 1½ feet beyond the wall before angling at 90 degrees from the roof to the wall presenting somewhat of a variation of a boxed eave. Grooved panel siding also clads these eaves. Boxed eaves appear on the wing. A small open shed porch supported by steel posts and approached by a three-step concrete stoop covers an entry in the south gable wall of the main block. A second open shed porch constructed post-1992, extends off the east roof of the main block stretching and covering a concrete walk that leads to a second entry in the south wall of the wing; three 4-in. by 4-in. posts set on a cinder block half-wall support this porch.

Fenestration includes a steel panel door and a ribbon of three one-light awning units in the south wall of the main (library) block, a solid panel wood door and two two-light sliding units in the south elevation of the wing, a single two-light sliding unit and one-light awning window in the east wall of the wing (a wood louvered vent is immediately below the gable), two one-light awning windows and two two-light sliding units in the north wall of the wing and north wall of the main block, respectively, and four one-light casement windows likely installed in the 1990s in the wall and eave of the west elevation (yielding a hooded presentation to the windows). All windows retain their original wood framing.

The building rests on a concrete foundation. Vertical ribbed paneling covers the lower 2½ feet of the south wall of the wing, overlying the concrete foundation. Electrical boxes and appurtenances attach to the north wall of the building. A wood sign reading "Mountain Brook Community Center, Est. 1927," affixes to the west wall near the gable entry and a free-standing satellite dish atop a steel pole stands immediately east of the east wing wall.

¹ "Many Improvements made At Area Schools," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 27, 1967, p. 19.

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Mountain Brook School Interior

The Mountain Brook School retains much of its historic interior presentation. It is presently open, but wall framing remains. The original 1922 construction and 1954 addition comprise the greatest square footage. The main block currently presents as a single room. The original north-south interior wall demarcating the entry vestibule from the main classroom remains in the 1922 block; two doorways are present in this wall indicating the original gender-separated entries. The vestibule wall extends to the north into the 1954 addition; this wall holds framing for three doorways, two that would have provided ingress to the main 1954 volume from the coat rooms. A wood door with pushbar handle in the exterior west wall allows access to and from the outside to the vestibule and former coat rooms. The east end of the school features the west wall of the 1933/1934 teacherage addition; this wall holds a boarded-over window that originally provided a view of the outdoors prior to the construction of the teacherage. A doorway to the interior of the teacherage remains that leads to a single open room. The north side of the school's east wall holds a single wood door with pushbar handle.

Two large east-west center beams placed end-to-end run the length of the original 1922 block and 1954 addition supporting the building at the junction where the two join; a large steel beam now supports the wood beams and indicates where an interior wall once occurred. The 1954 addition remains open as a single room. The lath ceiling in the original block remains though most of the plaster is gone. Walls are mostly taken down to studs. Plywood overlays original wood flooring. The original brick chimney near the interior wall of the vestibule at the west end of the building remains though with the erection of the 1954 addition, it stands closer to the center of the building instead near the northwest corner of the building as it did when only the 1922 block stood.

Multi-purpose Building Interior

Several main rooms comprise the multi-purpose building: the large room that originally served as a multi-purpose room but now mostly functions as a library, a kitchen (partially serving as a library), a bathroom/coatroom, large hallway, and a kindergarten room (now commonly referred to as the "Quilters Room," so dubbed after the group's consistent use beginning in 1994)—the latter two rooms within the 1986 addition. The former multi-purpose room space, now library, represents the largest room in the building. It aligns north-south and parallel to Foothill Road. A hallway lays between the multi-purpose room/library and kindergarten room. The kindergarten room in the southeast part of the building now serves as a meeting room and has hosted a variety of groups over the years including the Mountain Brook Women's Club. The kitchen occupies the northeast corner. Separate girls and boys lavatories and a small closet and water tank fill the space between the kitchen and the multi-purpose room/library to the west.

Interior finishes of each room vary. The multi-purpose room/library portion of the building displays an interesting, modified gambrel ceiling and sheetrock walls painted white. The hallway displays low pile carpeting and sheetrock walls painted white; the construction of the hallway enclosed a portion of the architecturally-interesting boxed eave variant displayed on the west and some of the east exterior wall of the original block. Linoleum flooring covers the kitchen and where visible, wood panel siding adorns the walls. Low pile carpet on the floor and

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sheetrock walls painted lavender with a wallpaper accent at the ceiling/wall intersection graces the kindergarten room. Entries between the rooms are generally highlighted by wood framing and trim.

Pumphouse (one contributing building, 1961)

A small front gable pumphouse stands immediately north of the playground equipment. The raised vertical-seam metal panel clad pumphouse features open eaves with exposed rafters. A panel door on the west wall provides entry and a concrete foundation supports the building.

Playground Equipment (counted as one contributing object, pre-1976—original swing set possibly as early as the late 1930s/early 1940s)

Immediately northeast of the school/teacherage and shed lay a veritable register of historic playground equipment that brings a smile to any person over the age of fifty. The equipment includes two six-person steel teeter-totters and a merry-go-round with steel handrails and wood deck. The playground also hosts two steel swing sets. One set boasts two swings with approximate 1-foot steel link handles and rubber seats, and a horizontal single-person bar and paired single-grip handles from which to hang and swing. The second set features four swings with chain link handles and rubber seats. A wood picnic bench sits near the middle of the equipment to afford a break from the rigors of play.

Immediately east of the multi-purpose building and west of the playground equipment lays a blacktopped basketball court replete with a hoop fixed to steel stanchions at each end.

Integrity

The Mountain Brook School and teacherage, shed, pumphouse, and multi-purpose building display sound integrity. All stand where originally constructed yielding strong integrity of location. Integrity of setting, feeling, and association also remain exceptionally strong. The setting continues to impart its rural agricultural roots, allowing for continued integrity of feeling and association of the property to the surrounding area. Two additions occurred to increase school functionality, one in 1934 that served as the teacherage, and the other in 1954 that doubled the size of the building for additional educational space; both these additions date within the period of significance for the property. The enlargement of the school with the 1954 wing addition significantly altered the original façade of the front gable entry that was protected by an open hipped porch approached by stairs that flanked each side of the porch. The wing addition extends from the north wall of the original block and provides another person door and two additional windows on the elevation. The present open shed porch with central stairway and the wide siding covering the narrow lapped siding on the façade likely dates to 1970.² Despite the addition, the original gable presentation, entry, and windows of the original block remain. The elevation remains essentially unchanged since the 1954 addition, except for the porch alteration and application of wide width siding over the narrow siding that likely occurred in 1970 following the bid to replace the porch. The remaining walls of the main block, 1934 addition,

² Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for June 22, 1970. Former Mountain Brook teacher Arla Culver stated the façade is the same as when she taught at the school in 1972. Personal communication to Sharon Martin, August 11, 2025.

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and 1954 addition retain their narrow lapped siding. Although simply constructed, the school and teacherage retain integrity of workmanship, design, and materials, as does the shed and pumphouse. The 1968 multi-purpose building displays three additions; the bathroom addition dates to 1970 and the kitchen addition to 1975, both within the period of significance. The 1986 kindergarten addition was constructed outside the period of significance. The 1986 addition covered the front façade of the 1975 addition as the building's footprint migrated further south. Although the 1986 addition covered the 1975 addition, the vertical siding installed replicated that used on the 1975 exterior walls. Other changes to the multi-purpose building included the post-1992 construction of a shed style porch to cover the walkway to the eastern entry and the addition of four windows in the west wall of the original block. These alterations significantly diminished the physical integrity of the multi-purpose building; however, sufficient integrity remains to allow the building to count as a contributing resource of the district by virtue of its Criterion A significance.

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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.)

EDUCATION

Period of Significance

1922-1976

Significant Dates

1922, 1933/1934, 1954, 1968

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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 Mountain Brook School is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at a local level of significance under Criterion A. Under this criterion, the school gains significance from its association with the history of early public education in rural Flathead County, specifically in the Mountain Brook, District #62, area. Like many rural schools, the Mountain Brook School served both as an educational facility and as a location for local gatherings and functions. A variety of groups and organizations met at the school, cementing its significance to the local population.

The school was constructed and opened in 1922, marking the beginning of the period of significance. The period of significance extends to 1976, the end of the historic period. Significant dates include 1922, the year of construction of the original block, 1934, when the teacherage was added, 1954, reflecting the year of the large north addition and 1968, the year the multi-purpose building first opened for use.

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

The Establishment of Flathead County

Archaeological evidence suggests early Indigenous use of the Flathead County area extended beyond 10,000 years ago. Bands of Kootenay, historically associated with the Ktunaxa, occupied the area near the head of Flathead Lake in the 18th and 19th centuries. One of the Ktunaxa's two principal groups utilized the mountain regions of Canada, following the buffalo, while the other hunted, fished, and gathered in what became the United States. The two southern groups today are comprised of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho and the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe near Elmo, Montana.³ Montana's Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribe include the Salish and Pend'Oreille who shared a number of traditional lifeways. Both utilized camas, bitterroot, and other edible plants, fish, and large game that included bison. The Pend d'Oreille, identified as Q'lispé in their own language, witnessed the anglicization to "Kalispel," while the Salish, received the appellation of Flathead by Europeans.⁴ The arrival of Europeans in the Flathead area and their introduction of disease, virtually eradicated many of these groups.

The Flathead Valley's isolation resulted in it being one of the last areas west of the Mississippi settled by Euro-Americans, despite it receiving early visits by traders and trappers after the Lewis and Clark Expedition and sojourns by David Thompson of the Northwest Company in 1805 and 1806.⁵ Thompson's presence extended to founding nearby trading posts at Spokane House near Hope, Idaho, Saleesh House, near present-day Thompson Falls, and Kullyspel House (from which the nearby town of Kalispell derives its name) on Lake Pend d'Oreille in northern Idaho.⁶ Six years later, the Hudson Bay Company gained a foothold in the area through the establishment of Howse House, near the head of Flathead Lake. Christian missionaries, including the Jesuits, arrived thirty years later, by the 1840s and 1850s.

The military soon followed bringing with it government survey for roads to link the eastern U.S. with the Pacific Ocean. The drive to accelerate settlement west of the Mississippi necessitated treaties with the Indigenous groups; the 1855 Hellgate Treaty established the Jocko (Flathead) Reservation for Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai, and Salish peoples.⁷ The treaty resulted in a massive

³ *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook*, "Brief History of the People," http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/history_people.shtml accessed on July, 9, 2025.

⁴ *Flathead Watershed Sourcebook*, "Brief History of the People," http://www.flatheadwatershed.org/cultural_history/history_people.shtml accessed on July, 9, 2025.

⁵ Kathrine McKay, *Historical and Architectural Properties of Kalispell, MT National Register Multiple Property Document*, documentation accepted June 1994, p. 1; Ellen Baumler, *C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December of 2012, pp. 11, 12.

⁶ Ellen Baumler, *C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December of 2012, p. 11.

⁷ Ellen Baumler, *C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December of 2012, p 12.

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reduction in Indigenous territory, constrained to a small area in Western Montana. The treaty land became the Flathead Reservation, generally restricted to the area around the southern half of Flathead Lake. Most Bitterroot Salish moved to the reservation in 1873; in 1891, Chief Charlo and his group faced removal by U.S. soldiers to the Flathead Reservation under armed guard.⁸

The discovery of gold in British Columbia's Kootenai District in 1862 unleashed the arrival of Euro-Americans seeking their fortune, many whom found their way to the Flathead Valley.⁹ Timber and the agricultural potential of the valley lured some though the pace of settlement gained steam with the arrival of the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1883 and the advent of steam boating on Flathead Lake in 1885.

Demersville/Kalispell

Early settlements soon arrived and often disappeared; however, the establishment of Demersville in 1887, catapulted it as the primary location for commerce from 1887 to 1891. Freighter and cattleman French Canadian T. J. Demers founded the namesake community on the Flathead River at the north end of Flathead Lake. Demersville offered all the amenities a small bourgeoning community could including theaters, saloons, and houses of ill-repute. Goods arrived at the 1500-person town by train, then wagon, then via steamboat up Flathead Lake.¹⁰

The belief in the promising future of Demersville grew as J.J. Hill planned to extend his rail line to Seattle, Washington, from St. Paul, Minnesota. "Demersville saw a rosy future and preened herself accordingly."¹¹ However, such belief proved false as Hill reportedly hired Charles E. Conrad to establish a townsite to receive his rail line. Conrad dutifully followed Hill's instructions. By 1891, Conrad, now treasurer of the Kalispell Townsite Company, began the platting of the new townsite of Kalispell.¹² The Great Northern Railway pulled into town on New Year's Day, 1892, and a year later, in 1893, the town found itself elevated to county seat of the new Flathead County. Kalispell represents the largest population density to the Mountain Brook School, 11 miles to the west.

Mountain Brook

Settlement around the area referred to as Mountain Brook dates to the early 1900s. Some of the earliest to arrive included Neva and Abraham Brown, who in 1901 homesteaded on both sides of

⁸ Ellen Baumler, *St. Mary's Mission Historic District Boundary Increase National Register nomination*, NR #10000552, listed August 2010, p. 29.

⁹ Kathrine McKay, *Historical and Architectural Properties of Kalispell, MT National Register Multiple Property Document*, documentation accepted June 1994, p. 2.

¹⁰ Ellen Baumler, *C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December of 2012, p 12.

¹¹ Frank B. Linderman, *Montana Adventurer: The Recollections of Frank Linderman* (Lincoln, NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1968), p. 57.

¹² Ellen Baumler, *C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December of 2012, p 13.

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Brown's Gulch near the future site of the Mountain Brook School.¹³ Similar to many homesteading families, Henry Brown, Abraham's brother, homesteaded nearby. The Browns were soon joined by Fanny and Peter Sutter in 1904, followed by the Ruckdashel and Eicher families.

Establishment of School District No. 62

The original immense size of Flathead County allows it to boast of its support of nearly 100 school districts over the years.¹⁴ Some of these early districts no longer fall within Flathead County but transferred to other counties as new county development occurred and Flathead lost acreage.

District #62, Mountain Brook, was created in December of 1908 with its first appointed trustee assigned the same month. District #62 included nearly all Township 28 North Range 19 West and 3½ sections of the east portion of Township 28 North Range 20 West. As consolidation wove its way through Montana, Mountain Brook was annexed into Cayuse Prairie School District #10 in April of 1992.¹⁵

Mountain Brook School—Part 1

With slow but continual growth of the area, educational facilities for the children of the settlers proved paramount. The closest school at the time was the Cayuse Prairie, necessitating a near four-mile walk to attend. Such a situation proved untenable for the long run compelling the community to construct and operate their own school. Circa 1908/1909, a one-room, dirt-floor, log schoolhouse came to fruition to serve the children of the Mountain Brook area with school first opening in February of 1909.¹⁶ Located west of Foothill Road (the present school sits east of the road), eight to 12 students initially attended the facility that sat on the property of Henry Brown. Instruction provided to the new disciples of learning ensued via Ms. Frances Leary in a building constructed and equipped by contributions from nearby residents.¹⁷ By 1913, Thelma Breckenridge began instruction at the school, replaced the following year by Maria Andrews.¹⁸ Arlene Tennyson assumed teaching responsibilities in 1921.¹⁹ Instructors during the early years

¹³ Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation, "Our History," <https://www.mtbrookfoundation.org/history>, accessed June 4, 2025.

¹⁴ "A history of current Flathead districts," *Daily Inter Lake*, January 18, 2010.

¹⁵ "History of Flathead School Districts," https://flathead.mt.gov/application/files/6716/5635/8966/HISTORY_OF_FLATHEAD_COUNTY_SCHOOL_DISTRICTS.pdf, accessed June 19, 2025.

¹⁶ Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation, "Our History," <https://www.mtbrookfoundation.org/history>, accessed June 4, 2025; "Local Mention," *Kalispell Bee*, February 9, 1909, p. 5.

¹⁷ Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation, "Our History," <https://www.mtbrookfoundation.org/history>, accessed June 4, 2025; "Local Mention," *Kalispell Bee*, February 9, 1909, p. 5; "Local News," *Daily Inter Lake*, February 6, 1909, p. 8.

¹⁸ "Local News," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 13, 1913, p. 3; "Local and Personal," *Kalispell Bee*, September 29, 1914, p. 5.

¹⁹ "Local Mention," *Whitefish Pilot*, November 14, 1921, p. 1.

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of Mountain Brook tended to rotate yearly and generally found living accommodations with Abraham Brown's family.²⁰

The early formative years of the school witnessed an academic calendar varying in length from five to nine months, depending on the area's financial capacity. Other circumstances also played into the school operation, such as an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1917.²¹

Similar to many schools that often served as the focus of a community, Mountain Brook School found community use for reasons extraneous to its the educational purpose; the county assessor used the building as a base of operations in 1917 when he visited the area "for the purpose of taking up assessments."²² Amenities increased as the school's stability seemed assured after a decade of service. The community felt confident enough in 1919 to purchase a new organ paid for through a basket social.²³

Mountain Brook School—Part 2

By spring of 1922, Flathead County financial shortfalls resulted in the closure of six rural schools that included Mountain Brook.²⁴ The early school closures meant "72 children... are being deprived of two months and in some cases, two and a half months, of schooling." In the case of Mountain Brook, the closure affected 11 students. However, not all was lost, as by late August of that year, the county announced plans to construct and open two new schools, the Swan River School at Mud Lake, and the Mountain Brook School, the subject of this nomination.²⁵

Many instructors passed through the doors of the second Mountain Brook School. A general overview of former teachers at Mountain Brook comes into view courtesy of newspaper accounts. One of the first to provide educational guidance under the roof of the new building was Ms. Albera Wyman, "a graduate of the high school."²⁶ In January of 1927, teaching duties transferred from Mrs. Beulah Strand to Ms. Lucille Peoples for the remainder of the school year with Ms. Strand returning the following year.²⁷ Nineteen thirty-three found Eleanor Boles providing instruction.²⁸ Jacqueline Graves assumed the role in 1935.²⁹ By 1940, teaching

²⁰ Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation, "Our History," <https://www.mtbrookfoundation.org/history>, accessed June 4, 2025.

²¹ "Echo Lake," *Daily Inter Lake*, January 19, 1917, p. 3.

²² "Assessor's Schedule," *Kalispell Bee*, May 4, 1917, p. 4.

²³ "Creston Briefs," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 16, 1919, p. 8.

²⁴ "Schools Closed By Lack of Funds," *Daily Inter Lake*, April 14, 1922, p. 1.

²⁵ "Two New School Buildings," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 30, 1922, p. 1; "County Supt. On School Matters," *Columbian*, September 7, 1922, p. A2.

²⁶ "Brevities," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 24, 1923, p. 6.

²⁷ "Brevities," *Daily Inter Lake*, January 4, 1927, p. 5; "Mountain Brook School Is Closed By Scarlet Fever," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 26, 1927, p. 5; "Rural Techers Meeting Aug. 31," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 28, 1928, p. 7; Ms. Strand is the first instructor to use the shed on the property to live while teaching.

²⁸ "Teachers Of Rural Schools, 1933-34," *Daily Inter Lake*, September 11, 1933, p. 2.

²⁹ "Former Teacher Visits," *Hungry Horse News*, August 24, 1956, p. 6.

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responsibilities transferred to Dora Franks.³⁰ Five years later, Georgianna Zimmerman became instructor—the same year, Ms. Zimmerman married Redford Turner of nearby Creston.³¹ Mrs. Harvey Swenson of Big Fork followed Ms. Zimmerman the next year when Mountain Brook School boasted a student population of 25 kids.³² In 1947, Mrs. Donelly, originally from Roundup, helmed the teaching position, followed by Ethel Beller in 1949, and Lucille Nost in 1950 and 1951.³³ The year 1956 welcomed Joe Kauffman who instructed the school's upper graders and under his tutelage used a loom to create a "Keep Montana Green" mat; Mrs. Trablik taught the lower grades.³⁴ Mr. Kauffman remained at the school for several years and assumed the after-school athletics in 1960.³⁵ Around the same time, in the early 1960s, Mrs. Bernice Haviland instructed the upper grades of the school soon followed by Duane Oesch, then by Jon Krause, in 1966, a Mountain Brook graduate.³⁶ By 1971, three teachers instructed at the school: Leon Sanz, Vera Spangler, and Rebecca Trablik.³⁷

In October of 1927, scarlet fever again struck the Mountain Brook area initiating the short-term closure of the school with "two children among the 11 belonging to the Shoemaker family, having come down with the malady."³⁸ However, affirming the adage, one man's trash is another man's treasure, "Mrs. Beulah Strand, teacher at the Mountain Brook school... is having a holiday on account of scarlet fever amongst her pupils. The school will be closed several weeks."³⁹ Attempts to quell serious outbreaks of illness witnessed rural school visits from travelling nurses illustrated by such a stop on October 21, 1930, when "Mrs. Storms, county nurse for Flathead county" paid a visit.⁴⁰ Regardless of these efforts, illness in the Mountain Brook area proved severe enough in the winter of 1958 that "attendance has been pretty lean lately. There seems to be a lot of tonsilitis, flu and bad colds in the neighborhood."⁴¹

Despite hiccups with illness, Mountain Brook School moved forward providing the best education possible for their students. Acknowledgment of these efforts found recognition in

³⁰ "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 7, 1942, p. 2.

³¹ "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, April 4, 1945, p. 3.

³² "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 25, 1945, p. 5; "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, September 22, 1945, p. 3.

³³ "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, April 8, 1947, p. 7; no title, *Daily Inter Lake*, May 18, 1949, p. 9; no title, *Daily Inter Lake*, June 6, 1950, p. 7.

³⁴ "Warp and Woof," *Inter Lake*, July 27, 1956, p. 11; "Mt. Brook School Has 23 Students," *Hungry Horse News*, September 14, 1956, p. 2.

³⁵ "Board Hires Teachers," *Daily Inter Lake*, March 8, 1960, p. 1.

³⁶ Ladies Club, *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979), pp. 7 and 8.

³⁷ "Mountain Brook Folks 'Hang Tough' For Their Kids, Their Community," *Daily Inter Lake*, March 28, 1971, p. 13. Leon Sanz, also noted as Leon Danz in *Babblings from Mountain Brook*, p. 9.

³⁸ "Mountain Brook School Is Closed By Scarlet Fever," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 26, 1927, p. 5.

³⁹ "Local Briefs," *Kalispell Times*, October 27, 1927, p. 8.

⁴⁰ "October Schedule For County Nurse," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 7, 1930, p. 3.

⁴¹ "Sickness Thin Ranks at School," *Hungry Horse News*, January 17, 1958, p. 6.

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June of 1930, when Howard Brist was one of 171 eighth grade students across Flathead County recommended for state examinations.⁴²

A steady student population and obvious need to find a solution for the lack of teacher housing outside of a host family provided the impetus for the community to explore options. Discussion of the construction of a teacherage by the Board of Trustees occurred during their June 11, 1934, meeting.⁴³ Possibly as early as 1933, but definitely by 1934, a teacherage addition to the school began. Mountain Brook Board of Trustee Minutes from 1934 indicate the work was initiated by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). However, unknown circumstances intervened prior to completion of the project.⁴⁴ The project was then let to W. B. Roberts for \$55 to finish the project; for that sum, Roberts agreed to finish “all work left undone, such as shelving, siding, (illegible), flooring, doors and one brick chimney.” Interior paint work on the teacherage went to Marion Murer for \$30. The completion of the teacherage on the east end of the school brought a close to the days of instructors living in neighbors’ houses. The small teacherage melded nicely with the school sporting a dropped gable roof and matching lap siding. On weekends, the small teacherage often housed visiting family members of the teachers noted when “Misses Eloise and Beth Graves (who)...spent the week-end with their mother, at the Mountain Brook teacherage.”⁴⁵

The idea of school consolidation garnered significant traction in the 1960s and later, but it appeared as a topic of discussion as early as 1933 with the release of a report from the National Educational Financing Conference that explored a plan for the consolidation of rural schools.⁴⁶ Results of the conference suggested building centralized school facilities and raising “one-room buildings.” Flathead County explored the possibility and found 22 of the 54 school districts “could be consolidated to an advantage and even a greater number might be consolidated should the plan be put into effect in the near future.” Further, “one of the main consolidations under this plan that would prove a decided advantage would be to include Creston, Egan, Cayuse Prairie, Deer Park, Lake Blaine, Montford, Fairview, Riverside and Mountain Brook. These nine districts could be consolidated and one modern Central School building erected in the vicinity of the Fehlberg corner, which would require people to travel only about 6 miles at the most.” Such planning, however, went nowhere to the good fortune of both Mountain Brookers past and present.

A review of the Board of Trustee minutes from 1934 and early 1935 illustrate the nuts-and-bolts tasks assumed by the Board—motions to pay outstanding bills, discussion of future projects on the school, and for the tidy sum of \$2.50, have Mrs. Rucksidashel “oil the floor and wash

⁴² “Good Showing made In Rural Schools Here,” *Daily Inter Lake*, June 6, 1930, p. 4.

⁴³ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings June 11, 1934; use of the shed reportedly found some degree of use to house teachers prior to the teacherage addition. Magdalyn Brosten in *Babblings from Mountain Brook*, p. 31.

⁴⁴ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings August 15, 1934.

⁴⁵ “Cayuse Prairie,” *Daily Inter Lake*, November 14, 1935, p. 3.

⁴⁶ “School Centralization,” *Flathead Monitor*, September 28, 1933, p. 4.

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window (sic) on the inside.”⁴⁷ The April 17, 1937 minutes regarding materials to use in the construction of a fence included the use of barbed-wire, leaving one to conclude few children ever made the bold decision to climb the fence regardless of reason.⁴⁸ Meetings generally began late, around 8:00 or 9:00 p.m. and ended from 11:00 at night to 12:30 in the morning.

Turning of the page from 1939 to 1940, School District No. 62 sent out a call for bids “to install a water system in Mountain Brook School,” suggesting to this point any sort of lavatory facilities existed outside the walls of the building-proper.⁴⁹ Six years later, the school district sought a bid to install fencing with materials furnished by the school.⁵⁰ The Board of Trustees made final payment on the playground swing sets in 1947 and discussed repairing other playground equipment the following year.⁵¹ Repainting the school with two coats occurred in 1948.⁵²

Also in 1948, the Board discussed constructing a small wood frame garage for use by the teachers; the endeavor went so far as to draw up plans for a building constructed on the south side of the school and to elicit bids with the hope of bringing the garage to fruition by the fall.⁵³ At least one bid exceeded the budget the Board envisioned.⁵⁴ The Board further discussed constructing the garage from rough lumber in such a manner that allowed its relocation in the future, if needed; the northwest area of the school property was proposed for its location.⁵⁵ By early December of 1948, with the construction of a garage falling behind schedule, the Board floated the idea of seeking donations to build the structure in the near future.⁵⁶ Built it was, but by 1950, with yard improvements occurring, “the garage moved for better arrangement.”⁵⁷ The garage was built and subsequently moved in 1950 .

Landscaping was not forsaken during the community’s drive to improve the school building. Volunteers regularly gathered to beautify the property grounds; work entailed leveling some of the grounds, cleaning up the property, and raking.⁵⁸ Fund raisers occurred to purchase

⁴⁷ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for June 2, 1934, June 11, 1934, January 5, 1935.

⁴⁸ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for April 17, 1937.

⁴⁹ “Call For Bids,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 11, 1940, p. 5.

⁵⁰ “Call For Bids,” *Daily Inter Lake*, July 8, 1946, p. 6.

⁵¹ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings March 8, 1947, April 19, 1948.

⁵² “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 20, 1948, p. 9; Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 1, 1948.

⁵³ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 1, 1948, October 1, 1948.

⁵⁴ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for October 22, 1948.

⁵⁵ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for October 22, 1948.

⁵⁶ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for December 8, 1948.

⁵⁷ “Improvement Projects Completed in Rural Schools,” *Daily Inter Lake*, p. 6.

⁵⁸ “Group Improves Mountain Brook School Grounds,” *Daily Inter Lake*, September 14, 1950, p. 10; “Hold Clean-up Day At Mountain Brook,” *Hungry Horse News*, May 2, 1958, p. 7.

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playground equipment and a movie projector.⁵⁹ Although painting undoubtedly occurred sporadically through the life of the school, the building received a fresh coat in 1981 with the request for bids specified to paint the “exterior... of white school building and adjacent storage shed... and include labor only for preparation and painting.”⁶⁰

The entry of the United States into World War II witnessed people of all ages contributing to the cause. Mountain Brook students received recognition as they “are doing their bit collecting scrap iron. They already have a large pile of it in front of the school.”⁶¹ Individual collection efforts throughout the Flathead area were noted and special acknowledgment went to Rose Marie Peters of the Mountain Brooks School who collected 2125 pounds.⁶² Mountain Brook School found use during the War as a location to celebrate when furloughed soldiers, such as Private Vernon Roberts, returned home.⁶³

By 1953, the Board of Trustees recognized the growing student population and discussed a means to deal, including the possibility of remodeling the school, employing two teachers, and remodeling the teacherage for additional classroom space.⁶⁴ One year later, in the middle of June of 1954, the possibility of constructing an addition surfaced.⁶⁵ At the June 18, 1954 meeting, the Board voted to raise funds for an addition and to also use over \$500 from its reserve fund.⁶⁶ The additional space for education proved timely as five months later, in November of 1954, student enrollment ballooned to 32 as the area’s population continued to grow.⁶⁷ The construction of the addition to the original block allowed the school “to care for the children in the lower grades.”⁶⁸

The result is an attractive room north of the original building and a library room opening from either room.

Folding doors between the two rooms make it possible to have a good sized auditorium for community gatherings.

⁵⁹ “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, November 28, 1945, p. 3; “School Benefit Held At Mountain Brook,” *Inter Lake*, April 15, 1953, p. 8; “School Plays,” *Inter Lake*, May 12, 1954, p. 2; Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for April 17, 1937.

⁶⁰ No title, *Daily Inter Lake*, June 14, 1981, p. 33.

⁶¹ “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, October 22, 1942, p. 6.

⁶² “157,541 Pounds Scrap Is Total of Rural Schools,” *Flathead Monitor*, January 21, 1943, p. 1.

⁶³ “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 24, 1944, p. 2; “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, September 1, 1944, p. 6.

⁶⁴ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 1, 1948, June 13, 1953. The original schoolhouse also held two cloak rooms with separate entries, which occupied potential learning space. Personal Communication from Sharon Martin to John Boughton, October 27, 2025.

⁶⁵ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 1, 1948, June 12, 1954.

⁶⁶ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 1, 1948, June 18, 1954.

⁶⁷ “School Enrollment,” *Inter Lake* November 11, 1954, p. 6.

⁶⁸ “Mountain Brook School Completes Addition,” *Inter Lake*, April 24, 1955, p. 2.

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To celebrate the new addition, primary grade teacher Rosella Kauffman presented her students “in several rhythm band numbers... ciphering match... knowledge of the four fundamental operations in arithmetic... singing... history.”⁶⁹

Despite the construction of the addition to allay issues with future student growth, the following year, 1956, witnessed a constriction in student population to 23 students, “the smallest number they had in a long time.”⁷⁰ The decrease in students, however, had no effect on the number of teachers as the school continued to boast two, one for the lower grades and one for higher levels, a situation that allowed for more individual instruction.⁷¹ Mountain Brook School adjusted its school attendance hours the same year by transitioning lunch from one hour to 30 minutes allowing the school to close 30 minutes earlier.⁷² By at least 1954 and possibly as early as the 1940s, the school received a “superior” designation, an acknowledgment proudly displayed on a sign above the gable of the school. The student population continued to decrease in the late 1950s, reflected in 1958 with “the lower grade room... expected to be 15 this year;” this decrease, however, proved short-lived with the arrival of five new students only a month later.⁷³

By April of 1958, discourse arose regarding the installation of indoor toilets.⁷⁴ Placement would occur in the no-longer-used former teacherage. If future occasion necessitated a teacherage, plans included remodeling the nearby shed.⁷⁵

Although limited in students numbers, Mountain Brook School hosted several sports teams including a soft ball team.⁷⁶ Scores proved generally high, and in one instance, Mountain Brook tallied 10 runs against their Cayuse Prairie counterparts; unfortunately, Cayuse Prairie exceeded Mountain Brook’s total by seven.⁷⁷ By the 1970s, however, Mountain Brook’s basketball acumen coalesced as the boy’s team hit their stride boasting “valley champion in rural basketball play” with a sterling record of 14-0 in 1971.⁷⁸ The team’s championship banner found a place of honor affixed to the multi-purpose building’s door for all to see. Mountain Brook continued to host sports teams through the 1980s.⁷⁹

⁶⁹ “Mountain Brook School Completes Addition,” *Inter Lake*, April 24, 1955, p. 2.

⁷⁰ “Mt. Brook School Has 23 Students,” *Hungry Horse News*, September 14, 1956, p. 2.

⁷¹ “Mt. Brook School Has 23 Students,” *Hungry Horse News*, September 14, 1956, p. 2.

⁷² No title, *Hungry Horse News*, December 21, 1956, p. 7.

⁷³ Rebecca Trablik, “Set Opening Day For School Year,” *Hungry Horse News*, August 15, 1958, p. 9; Rebecca Trablik, “Enrollment Up At Mountain Brook,” *Hungry Horse News*, September 26, 1958, p. 6.

⁷⁴ Mountain Brook Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for April 19, 1958. A kitchen was also installed in the teacherage around this time.

⁷⁵ Use of the shed for lodging apparently occurred at least once per a former student. Other information suggests the shed’s use for lodging occurred on more than one occasion. Sharon Martin, Personal Communication to John Boughton, July 12, 2025.

⁷⁶ “Cayuse Prairie,” *Daily Inter Lake*, October 8, 1938, p. 3.

⁷⁷ Cayuse Prairie,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 13, 1940, p. 8.

⁷⁸ “Letting Everyone Know,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 12, 1971, p. 5.

⁷⁹ No title, *Daily Inter Lake*, October 28, 1988, p. 18.

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Flathead County schools received good news about the 1961 district mill levies passed within the county. Mountain Brook's constant support for education-based levies came to the fore with their passage of a 78.2 mill appropriation for the school, ranked highest of those passed acknowledging the strong community investment to the school.⁸⁰ Similarly, the district later passed two levies, one for a general fund transfer and the other to provide additional monies to partially fund employment of a third teacher.⁸¹

In October of 1963, the topic of consolidation in the Flathead area again reared its head with Mountain Brook receiving scrutiny.⁸² Meetings explored "overloaded classrooms and heavy teacher loads... at all seven schools." Despite the discussion, the suggestion floundered with the topic moving from the public eye until 1971.

The continued rise in student population and community use of the school prodded the district in 1967 to undertake a major property improvement with the construction of a "multi-purpose room to be used for indoor recreation and community get-togethers."⁸³ A goal to raise \$2000 toward the new building was set and the effort resulted in the construction of the multi-purpose building.⁸⁴ Chairman of the Board of Trustees Loyal Murer designed the multi-purpose building and donated significant time toward its construction as did many of the area's residents who volunteered on Saturdays.⁸⁵ A receipt for \$771 for "general sheet metal" likely for roofing, a bid of \$300 for wiring indicates the multi-purpose building first opened for use in 1968.⁸⁶ School board minutes note the multi-purpose room received eaves, trim, and a front porch in 1969.⁸⁷ Eugene Ohmstead provided the labor. The construction of the multi-purpose building yielded ever greater use of the property. Timing of the construction proved fortuitous as enrollment continued to grow. Bathroom were added in 1970 as the building found use for sixth, seventh, and eighth grade lessons.⁸⁸ Soon, however, plans were afoot to enlarge the building with a 16-foot by 16-foot addition with work to include "jacking up the roof line," a likely reference to bring the future addition's roof in line with the original multi-purpose building's roof line to present a harmonious wing.⁸⁹ The addition occurred by 1975 and included a kitchen.⁹⁰ A second addition constructed immediately south and off of the 1975 addition was built in 1986 and included a room used for a kindergarten and also a large hallway.

⁸⁰ "School Levies Approved," *Hungry Horse News*, September 7, 1961, p. 8.

⁸¹ "Mountain Brook Levy OK'd," *Daily Inter Lake*, July 11, 1984, p. 6.

⁸² Larry Stem, "Discussing East River School," *Hungry Horse News*, October 11, 1963, p. 10.

⁸³ "Many Improvements Made At Area Rural Schools," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 27, 1967, p. 19; copious school board minutes detailing the expenditures for the construction of the multi-purpose building and its additions exist.

⁸⁴ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for May 31, 1967.

⁸⁵ Ladies Club, *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979), p. 8. It remains uncertain if the gymnasium opened for use the end of 1967 or in 1968.

⁸⁶ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for February 2 and 9, 1968.

⁸⁷ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for September 7, 1969.

⁸⁸ Ladies Club, *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979), p. 9.

⁸⁹ Mountain Book Board of Trustees Minutes of Board Meetings for April 18, 1970.

⁹⁰ Ladies Club, *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979), p. 9.

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The gifting of a United States flag to the school in March of 1969 by the family of longtime Mountain Brook resident Harry Jones underscores the obvious appreciation and recognition of the property's role in the community, both for education and as a venue to host non-school functions.⁹¹

Perhaps it was fitting the ceremony took place at the very heart and soul of America—a two-room country school.

Five Brothers, all former students at Mountain Brrok gathered to present the school with anew flag... The brothers, sons of the late Harry Jones Sr., a World War I veteran, presented the flag while the school's 51 total students stood by proudly. One son, Rex, a Vietnam combat veteran, made the actual presentation... the family felt... the school would appreciate it most. The flag was draped on the coffin of ones Sr. at graveside military rights... Those present knew of the late Jones' strong feeling for the school. When he came to the valley in the summer of 1935 from Indiana, he built his home barely 200 yards through the trees from the school. For several years he served as a trustee. Five of his sons and three of his daughters attended the school—then a one-room unit with a single teacher.⁹²

Mountain Brook students stayed active in the community illustrated by their participation in Earth Day in 1970, “continuing the tradition... and demonstrating the Earth Day spirit to be a continuing commitment rather than a one-day activity... in a road side cleanup...assisted by teachers and neighborhood mothers the children collected a country truck load of litter.”⁹³

Regardless of the importance of Mountain Brook School to the community, consolidations discussions continued to crop up despite their past rejections. By 1971, the issue again percolated, with the denizens of the Mountain Brook area less than enamored:⁹⁴

In the small, dispersed community of Mountain Brook in the foothills of the Flathead Range, its known as “damned foolishness.”

Elimination of the Mountain Brook School District would mean the end of much of their community and perhaps, their family life.

⁹¹ Jim Peterson, “School Given Flag In Memory Of Former Trustee,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 30, 1969, p. 6.

⁹² Jim Peterson, “School Given Flag In Memory Of Former Trustee,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 30, 1969, p. 6; “Harry Jones Dies; Rites Monday at 2,” *Daily Inter Lake*, p. 8.

⁹³ Bob Muth, “The Earth Warden,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 12, 1970, p. 3.

⁹⁴ “Mountain Brook Folks ‘Hang Tough’ For Their Kids, Their Community,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 28, 1971, p. 13.

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To Mountain Brook, it means closing their half-century old school and busing their 65 kids to town. That to Mountain Brook's residents, isn't just undesirable, its downright damaging.

"When our kids get on that bus, we lose them..." said Georgia Turner... "they're no longer part of the community"

"Consolidation has nothing at all to offer us... " says Mrs. Helene Clark... "we have good teachers and we don't really mind the expense. At least we can see where our money goes, so we don't mind so much."

Nothing shows the community's support of the three-room school more than their financial backing. Mountain Brook is a rural community in every sense of the word; the people there are farmers, loggers, or commuters, and their families are scattered along the foothills road for about 10 miles.

Consolidation would not mean better education for their children, Mountain Brook residents feel.

"Our kids go out after they graduate from the eighth grade and they do very well," Mrs. Clark said. "They go on to high school and some go on to college, and they've been well-prepared to handle themselves."

"There are some advantages to our small, three-room school that other schools just don't have..." Mrs. Turner said... "the older kids take a hand in teaching the younger ones; they learn from each other as well as from the teachers."

"Their salaries aren't as much as they could get some places..." Mrs. Turner said, "but they're better than others. I know you can't bank it, but our teachers get love and respect and that counts for something."

Consolidation?

"Damned foolishness."

Similar to previous discussions and to the relief of the Mountain Brook population, consolidation efforts receded, and Mountain Brook School continued along as usual, educating the local youth and serving as a meeting location for non-education related gatherings. One such meeting debated a proposed development in the area, with property owners and interested parties invited to provide input.⁹⁵

Although the early 1970s consolidation discussions floundered, like the previous decades, by 1987, the dialogue grew louder as enrollment declined. A meeting in January between Cayuse

⁹⁵ "Input needed on lots," *Daily Inter Lake*, August 5, 1975, p. 2.

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Prairie, Creston, Fairmont-Egan, and Mountain Brook school trustees, held at Mountain Brook School, explored the “relative merits of various forms of school district consolidation.”⁹⁶ Follow up meetings occurred a year later in March, with reporting not kind to the chances of Mountain Brook’s stand-alone survival.⁹⁷

Thriving Cayuse Prairie School has 210 students, a library, a counselor, music and athletic programs. Faltering Mountain Brook School, 3 1/2 miles down the road, has 33 students and none of the above.

Lately there has been talk of consolidating the two school districts.

How would the consolidation work? It is a question that has parents wondering and in some cases, worried.

Mountain Brook's big problem, it is generally agreed, is its dwindling enrollment. The number of students has declined from as many as 60 some years ago to 33 now. Last year there were 48.

Although many opposed the idea of consolidation, exceptions existed:

Cindy Burns lives in the Mountain Brook district but takes her children... 1½ miles to the bus stop... so they can attend Cayuse Prairie School... Burns says she’d like to see the Mountain Brook School close... “that’s more feasible than trying to keep an old dinosaur going.”⁹⁸

An additional complication to a Mountain Brook closure was the property’s legal reversion to original ownership if it ceased in its educational use. The school and property also represented “a tradition that older residents cherish. Three generations of some families have attended the school.”⁹⁹

The April meeting, which “has become an emotional issue for some Mountain Brook residents,” resulted in “a first step toward possible consolidation... with what one school trustee termed a fact-finding sort of meeting.”¹⁰⁰ The majority of the people in attendance came from the Mountain Brook area, though former Mountain Brook teacher and district trustee Clara Tennant noted, “the majority appeared to favor consolidation.” Although Cayuse Prairie afforded more programs, it was noted “Mountain Brook, although limited by size, does offer sports, including basketball, baseball, soccer and cross country running, and music, periodically producing

⁹⁶ “Meetings,” *Daily Inter Lake*, January 18, 1987, p. 7.

⁹⁷ “Meetings,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 10, 1988, p. 5; “Consolidation talk causes stir in rural school districts,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 12, 1988, p.4.

⁹⁸ “Consolidation talk causes stir in rural school districts,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 12, 1988, p.4.

⁹⁹ “Consolidation talk causes stir in rural school districts,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 12, 1988, p.4.

¹⁰⁰ “School districts take step toward consolidation,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 15, 1988, p. 4.

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musical programs for the neighborhood. The school also has library facilities.” A Cayuse Prairie trustee noted, “They have a good program – everything they need.”

Although larger, the limited physical space afforded by Cayuse Prairie School would still necessitate the use of Mountain Brook.¹⁰¹ Despite the ongoing discussions, consolidation fell by the wayside for several more years as “the idea never jelled.”¹⁰²

By 1991, however, the Kalispell school board voted to allow the upper grades of Mountain Brook and Creston schools to attend school in Kalispell at lower tuition.¹⁰³ This vote occurred because the two rural schools no longer offered seventh and eighth grade programs, presaging the continued slow enrollment decline and serving as a harbinger of things to come.

Despite the lack of consolidation “jelling” in the late 1980s, by 1992, coagulation indeed began to occur by the end of April: “Mountain Brook school district voters will decide... whether to combine their district with Cayuse Prairie’s... if the issue passes, Mountain Brook will retain its school, probably as a primary school for grades K - 4.”¹⁰⁴ Informational meetings stated, “annexation ‘wasn’t a way to do away with the school, but a way to save it...’ as Mountain Brook has a tradition that makes residents proud of its education.” Voting results tallied 78 for annexing to Cayuse Prairie School District and 52 opposed.¹⁰⁵ Although annexing meant increased services for the students, it also brought “a ‘certain sadness’ at seeing the end of the little rural school’s independence... ‘its been a very special space. It has a lot of history.’ ” With the vote, Mountain Brook ceased as District #62 and with Cayuse Prairie, became District #10.

Mountain Brook School—A New Beginning

Mountain Brook School buildings found declining use over the next couple years. With the threat of losing the buildings, Mountain Brook citizenry approached the School Board and suggested creating a community library on the property.¹⁰⁶ Created in 2002 to bring the mission to fruition, the Mountain Brook Homestead Foundation manages the property and established a library in the multi-purpose room. The Foundation hosts a variety of events to support its cause and the property continues to serve the local community, as it did historically, as a gathering place. Through Judicial means, ownership of the Mountain Brook School property fell to the great grand-daughter of Abraham and Neva Brown, Earleen French. Ms. French graciously donated the property to the Foundation who intends to “maintain and develop the Mountain Brook campus as a historic site and vibrant community center.”

¹⁰¹ “School districts take step toward consolidation,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 15, 1988, p. 4.

¹⁰² “Rural school boards to meet, swap ideas,” *Daily Inter Lake*, January 24, 1992, p. 4.

¹⁰³ “Kalispell affirms tuition program,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 10, 1991, p. 6.

¹⁰⁴ Chery Sabol, “Vote to decide future of Mountain Brook district,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 24, 1992, p. 4.

¹⁰⁵ “Rural school district votes to annex,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 29, 1992, p. 6.

¹⁰⁶ “Our History,” <https://www.mtbrookfoundation.org/history>, accessed June 18, 2025.

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Mountain Brook School as the Community Anchor

Education was the paramount reason for the construction of the school but its value as the social core of the rural community proved incalculable for a variety of events and occasions beyond the standard academic service.

Nary a holiday passed that didn't find a welcome at the Mountain Brook School. December of 1940 proved especially busy with a plethora of activities that included a Christmas party "sponsored by the ladies' club," a Christmas program presented by the Sunday school, and a program put on by the students.¹⁰⁷ The 1958 Christmas program found the students tackling Charles Dicken's, *A Christmas Carol*, a decidedly ambitious project for children.¹⁰⁸ Mothers Day also proved popular as students regaled their respective parent with a program and lunch in 1943.¹⁰⁹ Valentines Day of 1957 found the students' mothers furnishing sandwiches, cake and Jello with the citizenship club determining "what they would do for entertainment," the consensus involving a geography contest between the kids and mothers; in an instance of stacking-the-deck, three of the mothers were also teachers leading to a maternal victory.¹¹⁰ Results of the geography and arithmetic contests the next Valentine's Day lacked the successful parental outcome of the year before with one parent noting, "we parents will have to go back to school to keep up with those brains."¹¹¹ Aprils often found the lower grades scrambling to seek eggs hidden around the school by the Mountain Brook Easter bunny, and of course, October ushered in dancing ghosts and goblins.¹¹²

Holiday celebrations at Mountain Brook School appealed to the students but the property also accommodated gatherings that had little to do with students' education, providing a location for the rural population to meet and hear news and presentations. In November of 1924, Ms. Margaret Thomas of the state board of health held a child welfare meeting at the school, a meeting "believed to be of particular interest to rural mothers with small children."¹¹³ The mothers were invited to "be present for all-day meetings."

Mountain Brook School often provided space for educational forums by the Forest Service through the years including a visit by the agency in May of 1935, to present "educational motion pictures" that highlighted "the various forest activities" including a warning "for greater care with fire in the forests during the summer season."¹¹⁴ Only a month later, the Forest Service returned "to put on a picture show at the Mountain Brook school house... enjoyed by a good

¹⁰⁷ "Mountain Brook," *Daily Inter Lake*, December 9, 1940, p. 2.

¹⁰⁸ Rebecca Trablik, "Scrooge Reappears At Mountain Brook," *Hungry Horse News*, December 19, 1958, p. 7.

¹⁰⁹ Mountain Brook, " *Daily Inter Lake*, May 17, 1943, p. 8.

¹¹⁰ Vicky Arno, "Mt. Brook Holds Valentine "Party" *Hungry Horse News*, March 1, 1957, p. 8.

¹¹¹ Joyce Gross, "Parents, Students Have Contests," *Hungry Horse News*, February 21, 1958, p. 5.

¹¹² "Egg Hunt At School," *Hungry Horse News*, April 26, 1957, p. 6; "Mountain Brook Spooks," *Daily Inter Lake*, October 31, 1982, p. 3.

¹¹³ "Child Welfare Meetings To Be Held Next Week," *Daily Inter Lake*, November 14, 1924, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ "Flathead Forest To Show Educational Motion Pictures," *Daily Inter Lake*, April 10, 1935, p. 2.

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crowd.¹¹⁵ These visits by the Forest Service also delved into formal public meetings including one concerning “its management of the Swan Range between Lake Blaine and Ferndale.”¹¹⁶ The meeting addressed viewshed issues for upcoming timber harvests; these public meetings proved important to the rural community with one “at Mountain Brook School” that “drew 100 people.”

Other outdoor organizations also used the Mountain Brook property to present wildlife films. The Swan View Coalition arrived bearing two documentaries for the area’s viewing pleasure: “Room to Live,” filmed in Montana discussed grizzly bears while “Who Will Answer” presents how fishermen, hunters, and other sportsmen “have responded in defense of wildlife.”¹¹⁷

Mountain Brook School fulfilled its civic duty by regularly serving as a polling location for financing, bonding, and Board of Trustee elections, a role that upon occasion required creative thinking to lure the Mountain Brookers to the school to cast their ballots. In 1943, a voter who cast their ballot was treated to “nature slides... and lunch.”¹¹⁸ Other elections held at the school, such as one in 1947, sometimes related to issues not directly related to the school itself but instead to fund high school projects, funding that would benefit the Mountain Brook students as they matriculated upwards.¹¹⁹ Similarly, a 1957 election at the school involved potential funding for “the purpose of modification, improving and repairing the present Flathead County High School facilities.”¹²⁰ Mountain Brookers took their elections seriously, dutifully fulfilling their obligation: “Joe Sutter has been elected for a three-year term at the Mountain Brook School... 35 voters... turned out to the election despite rain, snow and muddy roads.”¹²¹

Other outside groups to routinely use the Mountain Brook facilities included local 4-H Clubs. The Mountain Brook Busy Bees who often congregated at the school assembled in July of 1939 to “completed their aprons and started on dresses,” an accomplishment acknowledged by the newspaper.¹²² Groups met in the school to formally organize, such as the Mountain Brook Mountaineers 4-H-er in January of 1957, who with 14 charter members initiated their club.¹²³ Evidencing the breadth of the new club’s interest, its inaugural meeting included a “talk on cooking and... forestry.” The nascent club proved active early, as only a week later, Flathead County extension agents visited the school and spoke to 13 members and 12 visitors on their

¹¹⁵ “Cayuse Prairie,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 11, 1935, p. 11.

¹¹⁶ “Swan Range public meeting set,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 13, 1984, p. 4.

¹¹⁷ “Film showing,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 5, 1985, p. 7.

¹¹⁸ “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 22, 1943, p. 7; “School Elections Will Be April 2,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 24, 1949, p. 1; “Mt. Brook Trustees To Be Nominated,” *Hungry Horse News*, March 9, 1956, p. 7;

¹¹⁹ “Notice Of Bond Election Of The County Of High School District Of Flathead County, Montana,” *Flathead Monitor*, March 20, 1947, p. 2.

¹²⁰ “Notice, A Special Election,” *Daily Inter Lake*, July 22, 1957, p. 7.

¹²¹ “Mtn. Brook Club Meeting Is Postponed,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 10, 1950, p. 8.

¹²² “4-H Clubs,” *Daily Inter Lake*, July 29, 1939, p. 2

¹²³ “Mountain Brook Has New 4-H Club,” *Hungry Horse News*, February 22, 1957, p. 6.

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activities.¹²⁴ Other 4-H groups, including the Pine Grove Beavers and the Mountain Brook Hustlers held meetings at the school that sometimes included ceremonial award activities.¹²⁵

Established circa 1940 and possibly as early as the early 1930s, the Mountain Brook *Friendly Birthday Club*—later known as the *Ladies Club*—played a vital role in supporting the local rural school and fostering community cohesion.¹²⁶ Through organized teas, socials, dinners, and bazaars, the members raised funds to provide essential furnishings, classroom supplies, student costumes, athletic uniforms, and helping host the eighth-grade graduations. Their contributions extended to improvements such as electrical wiring for the multipurpose room and equipment for the school kitchen. Active with the school for more than five decades, the Ladies Club exemplified the spirit of volunteerism and civic engagement that characterized mid-twentieth-century rural communities. Even though the school closed December 1, 1995, the Ladies Club continues to this very day.

Construction of the multi-purpose building allowed the property to host events of larger scale, including graduation ceremonies.¹²⁷ The Hustlers made good use of the multi-purpose building kicking off Spring of 1972 with a presentation on the great horned owl, followed a few days later by a spaghetti supper.¹²⁸ By early June of the same year, the multi-purpose building floor felt the pitter-patter of square dancers across its surface.¹²⁹ Following the lead of the square dancers, exercise and diet classes found the multi-purpose building a welcoming venue.¹³⁰

The school also hosted less frequent, or one-off meetings or presentations, such as a joint meeting with the Cayuse Prairie School District that welcomed Colonial Ralph Sleator who spoke and showed slides at a civil defense meeting in 1961.¹³¹

Religious-focused events transpired at the school too, noted by “Gospel services” in May, August, and October of 1936 followed by a meeting of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in

¹²⁴ “4-H Club Hears Extension Workers,” *Daily Inter Lake*, February 7, 1957, p. 2.

¹²⁵ “4-H Clubs Have Joint Meeting,” *News*, June 4, 1964, p. 4; “Mountain Brook 4-H Club Elects Officers,” *Daily Inter Lake*, October 13, 1968, p. 19.

¹²⁶ Information from *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979) suggest the Ladies Club name changed from the earlier Friendly Birthday Club moniker. The 1979 edition of *Babblings* stated the group was also referred to as the Friendly ladies Club around the late 1930s.

¹²⁷ Ladies Club, *Babblings from Mountain Brook, 1901-1979* (Kalispell: Trippets Printing, 1979), p. 9.

¹²⁸ “Mountain Brook Hustlers,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 16, 1972, p. 15.

¹²⁹ “On the Social Scene,” *Daily Inter Lake*, June 19, 1972, p. 5.

¹³⁰ “Instruction,” *Daily Inter Lake*, November 10, 1981, p. 12.

¹³¹ “Civil Defense Talk Saturday,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 17, 1961, p. 5.

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the 1940s.¹³² The school hosted Bible school classes throughout the 1940s with both children and adults welcome—an August 1948 class counted 21 attendees.¹³³

In addition to groups who regularly used the property for meetings, such as 4-H-ers, the Forest Service, and the Ladies Club, the school, and later the multi-purpose building, found regular usage catering to smaller gatherings and events. Card parties that included games of pinochle and canasta proved popular, enticing locals to forego the warmth of their homes during the long, cold days of March—in certain cases, those who attended were rewarded with lunch served at midnight.¹³⁴ Dance and box socials, birthdays, and golden wedding anniversaries found an accommodating space at the school property.¹³⁵

Fund raisers held at the school proved common with proceeds generally directed toward some sort of school improvement or future school activity.¹³⁶ Annual harvest dinners were staged at Mountain Brook School where “after supper the men enjoyed playing checkers while the women cleaned up and visited;”¹³⁷ no mention occurred regarding the measure of enjoyment felt by the women during the clean up nor if the men enjoyed a game of common checkers or Chinese checkers, later venerated in song.”¹³⁸

Not all activities were confined to the interior four walls of the school. Year-end picnics transpired to celebrate students’ matriculation and the arrival of winter elicited, while “snow may not please the parents... children have been making good use of it... the coasting is the best.”¹³⁹

Summary

Similar to many small schools in rural locations, Mountain Brook School hit above its weight. Its primary purpose, of course, was associated with providing a sound educational to local children of the area. The size of the school grew over the years reflecting the need to accommodate a growing population. Additional building construction occurred beyond additions to the original schoolhouse to meet the ever-increasing student body size. As class after class matriculated, the school and the associated resources, especially the multi-purpose

¹³² “Rural Services,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 8, 1936, p. 6; “Rural Services,” *Daily Inter Lake*, August 8, 1936, p. 4; no title, *Daily Inter Lake*, October 9, 1936, p. 5; “Christian & Missionary Alliance,” *Kalispell Times*, February 12, 1942, p. 4.

¹³³ “At The Churches,” *Daily Inter Lake*, August 23, 1946, p. 7; “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, August 8, 1948, p. 11.

¹³⁴ “Mt. Brook Scene of Party,” *Inter Lake*, March 4, 1951, p. 8; “Card Party,” *Daily Inter Lake*, April 10, 1969, p. 12.

¹³⁵ “Dance And Box Social,” *Daily Inter Lake*, May 2, 1939, p. 5; “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, March 18, 1946, p. 5; “Open House Today For Sutters,” *Daily Inter Lake*, October 29, 1972, p. 18.

¹³⁶ “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, November 14, 1942, p. 6; “Mountain Brook,” *Daily Inter Lake*, November 6, 1943, p. 8.

¹³⁷ No title, *Hungry Horse News*, November 30, 1956, p. 7.

¹³⁸ “Chinese Checkers,” sung by Booker T and the MGs, released January 1968 on Stax Records.

¹³⁹ No title, *Daily Inter Lake*, May 18, 1949, p. 9; Joyce Gross, “Parents, Students Have Contests,” *Hungry Horse News*, February 21, 1958, p. 5.

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building became tied to the community identity—the property served as a location to educate, celebrate, and host meetings and gatherings. The schoolhouse itself no longer serves its historic educational mission but the property remains in use via the multi-purpose building and plans are afoot by the community to also make the schoolhouse serviceable, recognizing the history of the building and its historic significance to generations of Mountain Brookers.

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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 (UTM provided is approximate center of the parcel)

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- A. Latitude: 48.199888 Longitude: -104.072379
- B. Latitude: 48.199871 Longitude: -114.071518
- C. Latitude: 48.199286 Longitude: -114.071457
- D. Latitude: 48.199282 Longitude: -114.072369

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

The Mountain Brook School, 2353 Foothill Road in Kalispell, Montana, has a legal location of SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 7, Township 28 North Range 19 West, Tract 2A in Government Lot 4. See attached maps, Section 9 pages 37 and 39; reference to these maps confirm the boundary.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the school and teacherage, wood shed, multi-purpose building, pumphouse, and playground equipment. The Montana Cadastral provides this exact information and the boundary presented on the maps below.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: John Boughton
 organization: Montana State Historic Preservation Office
 street & number: 225 North Roberts
 city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59620
 e-mail: jboughton@mt.gov
 telephone: (406) 444-3647
 date: July 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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

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

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

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

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Additional Documentation—Maps and Aerials



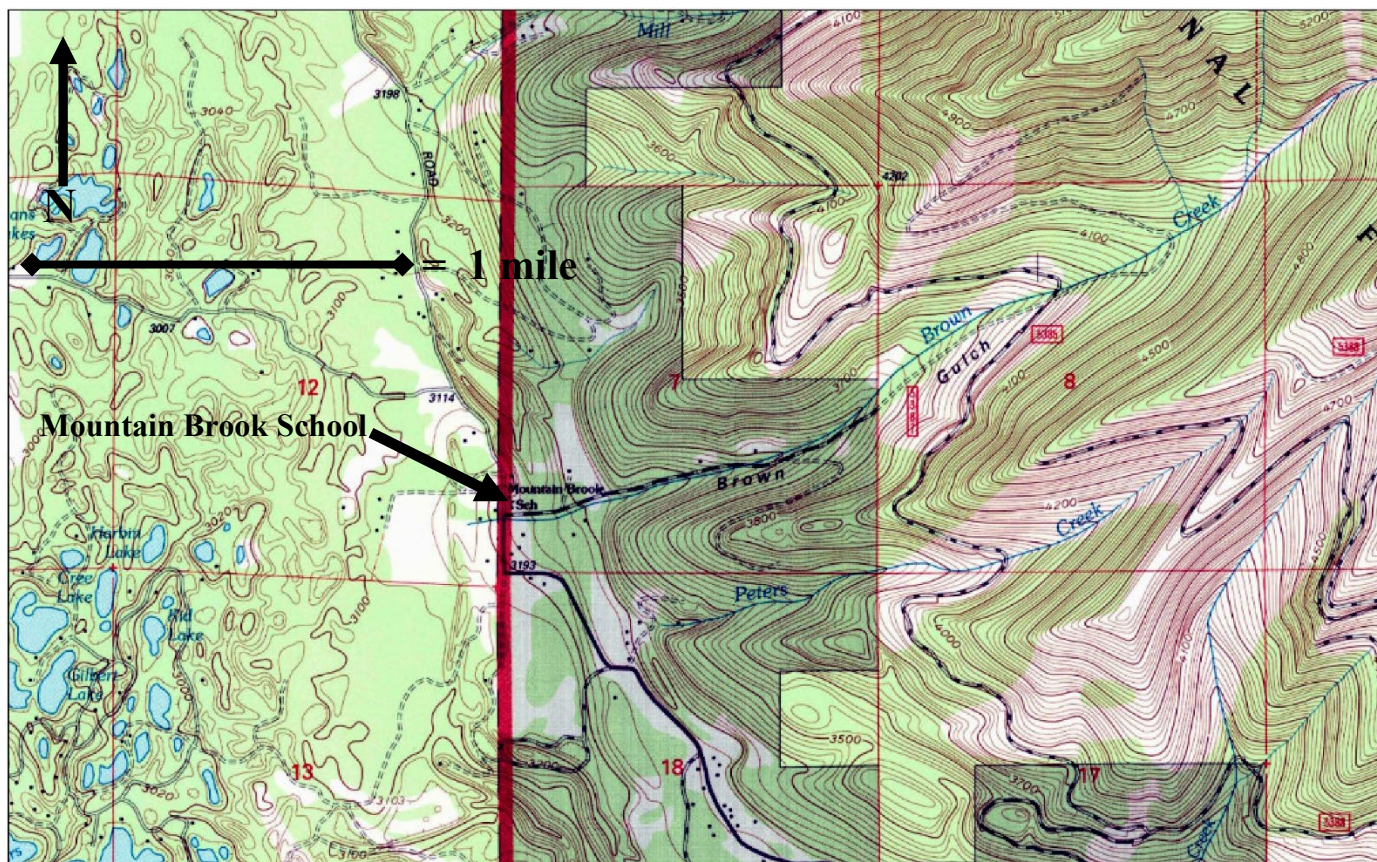
Montana State Library - Digital Library
(406) 444-5354 | geoinfo@mt.gov | <http://msl.mt.gov>

Map

Location of Mountain Brook School. 2353 Foothill Road, Kalispell, Montana, Section 7, Township 28 North Range 19 West, Tract 2A in Government Lot 4. A. Latitude: 48.199888 Longitude: -114.072379, B. Latitude: 48.199871 Longitude: -114.071518, C. Latitude: 48.199286 Longitude: -114.071457, D. Latitude: 48.199282 Longitude: -114.072369

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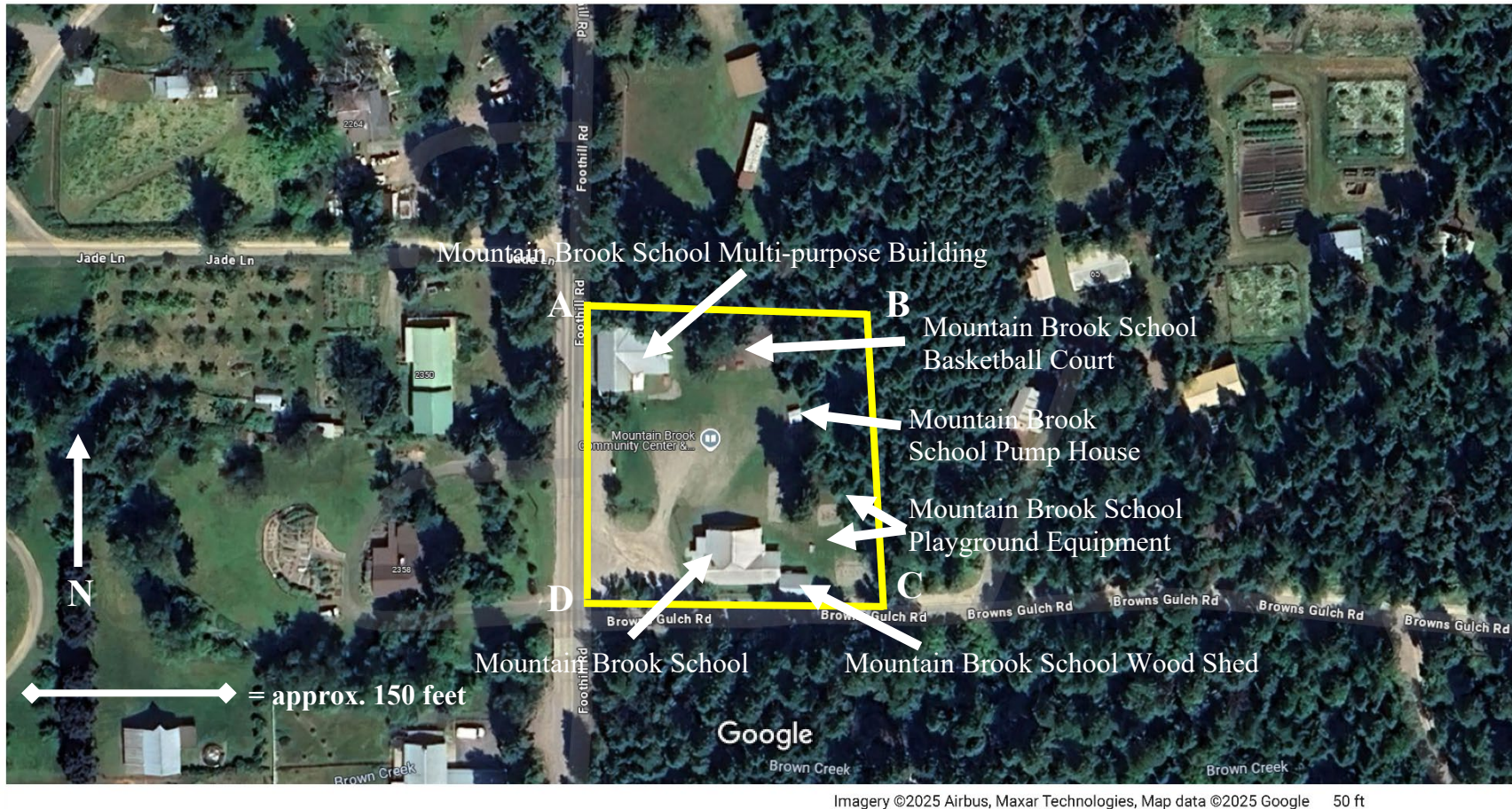
Map created using the Digital Atlas June 23, 2025
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

Location of Mountain Brook School. 2353 Foothill Road, Kalispell, Montana, Section 7, Township 28 North Range 19 West, Tract 2A in Government Lot 4.

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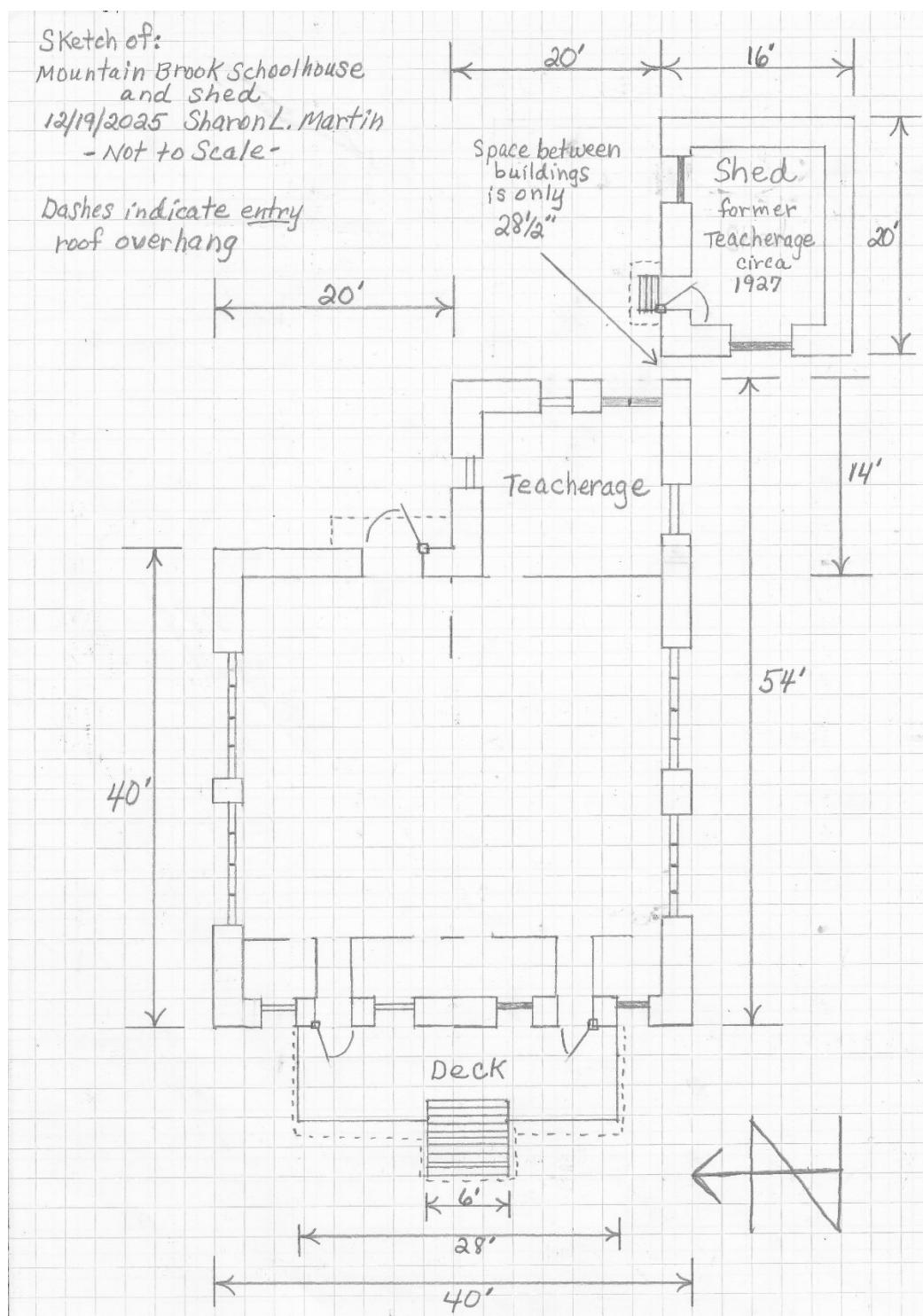


Location of Mountain Brook School, Flathead County. SW1/4 SW1/4 Section 7, T28N R19W, Aerial View.

A. Latitude: 48.199888 Longitude: -104.072379, B. Latitude: 48.199871 Longitude: -114.071518
C. Latitude: 48.199286 Longitude: -114.071457, D. Latitude: 48.199282 Longitude: -114.072369

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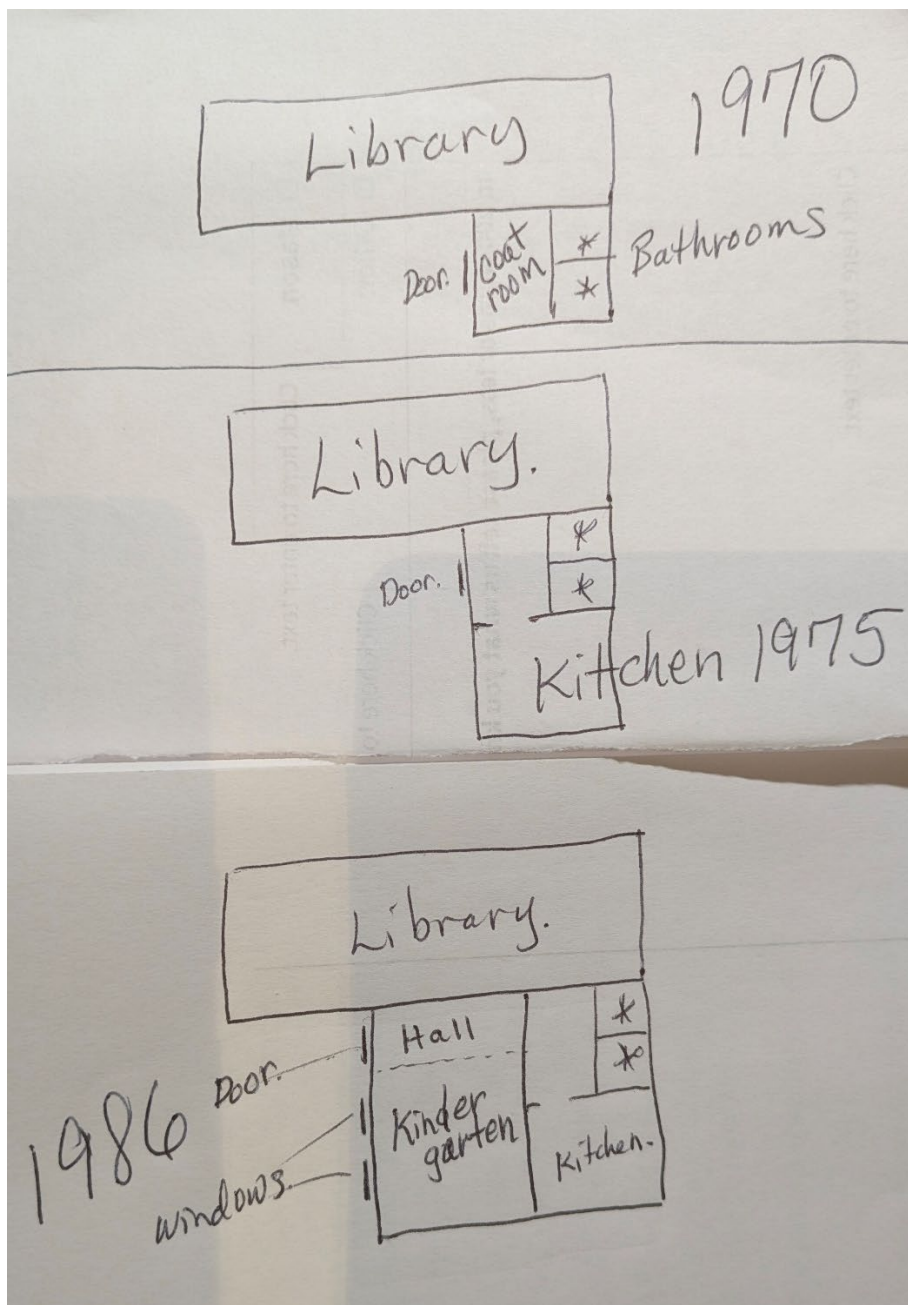
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Floorplan of Mountain Brook School and Former Teacherage

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Floorplan of Multi-purpose Building Showing Progression of Additions (not to scale).

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Historic Images



Teacher of the one-room school on the edge of the Flathead valley. Mrs. Ethel Beller sends charges on their 4 o'clock way home. They are eighth graders, Shirley Cabbage, Arlene Murer, Roy Roberts, Redford Turner; seventh, Lily Arno, Shirley Turner; no sixth; fifth Roy Jones and Richard Roberts; fourth, Lloyd Mathwig, Peggy Roberts; third, Frank Cabbage, Ed Mathwig, Jack Murer, Judy Roberts, Joyce Sutter, Ruth Turner; second, Gary Smith; first, Mel Krause, Jackie Roberts, Melinda Smith. There are two Roberts families. Photos by Mel Ruder.

Hungry Horse News, December 24, 1948, page 1.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Hungry Horse News, December 24, 1948, page 1.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Now it's vacation time for students of Mountain Brook school by the side of clear-flowing Mountain brook, and below snow-white Handkerchief peak (Columbia and Blaine mountains). Two graders, Roy Jones and Richard Roberts' job is to carefully lower the stars and stripes.

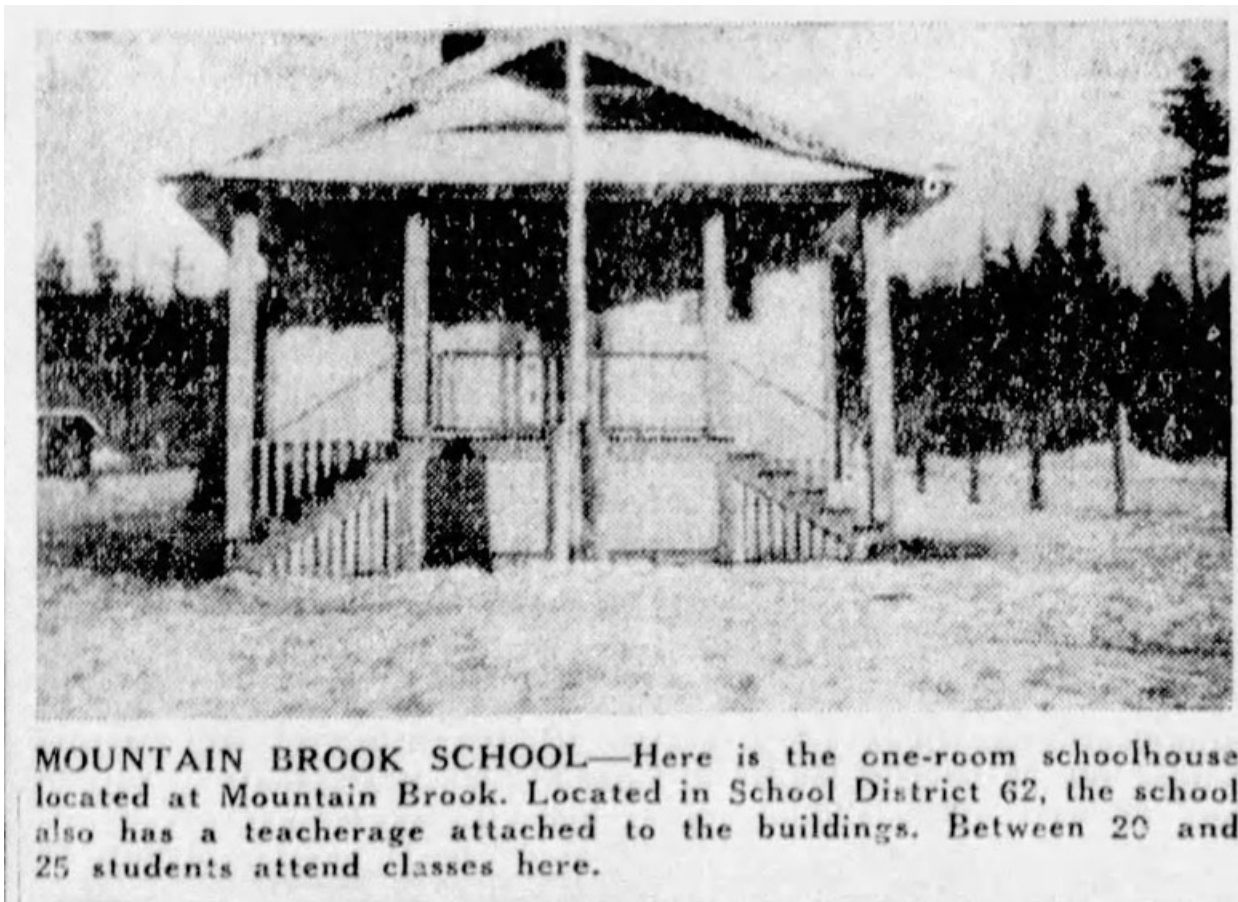
Hungry Horse News, December 24, 1948, page 1.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

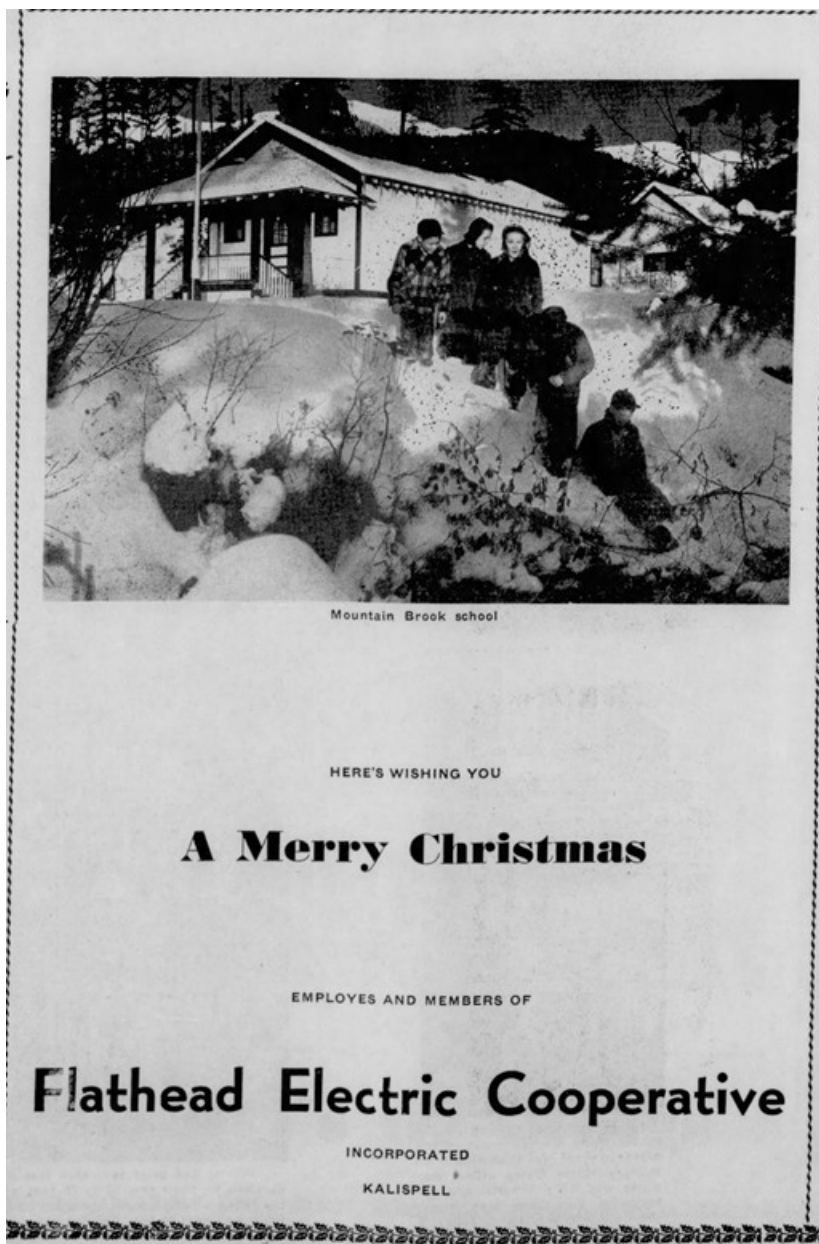
County and State



Daily Inter Lake, August 18, 1949, page 22.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Hungry Horse News, December 21, 1951, page 18.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



TEACHERS GO TO SCHOOL—Flathead County rural teachers were in final session of a three-day meeting Saturday at Flathead County High School, where Miss Lulu Barnard, county school superintendent, told them, "We are going to shoot high" in standards for the coming year. Shown here are Mrs. Rebecca Trabluk, left, lower grades teacher, and Joseph S. Kauffman, upper grades teacher, both of Mountain Brook School, looking over reports distributed by Miss Barnard.

Daily Inter Lake, September 2, 1956, page 1.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



Gable Close-up showing “Superior School” above Mountain Brook call-out. Circa early 1950s.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State

Interior Photographs

Name of Property: Mountain Brook School

City or Vicinity: Kalispell vicinity

County: Flathead State: Montana

Photographer: Sharon Louise Martin

Date Photographed: January-June 2025



Interior of Original 1922 block of Mountain Brook School, view to the north.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

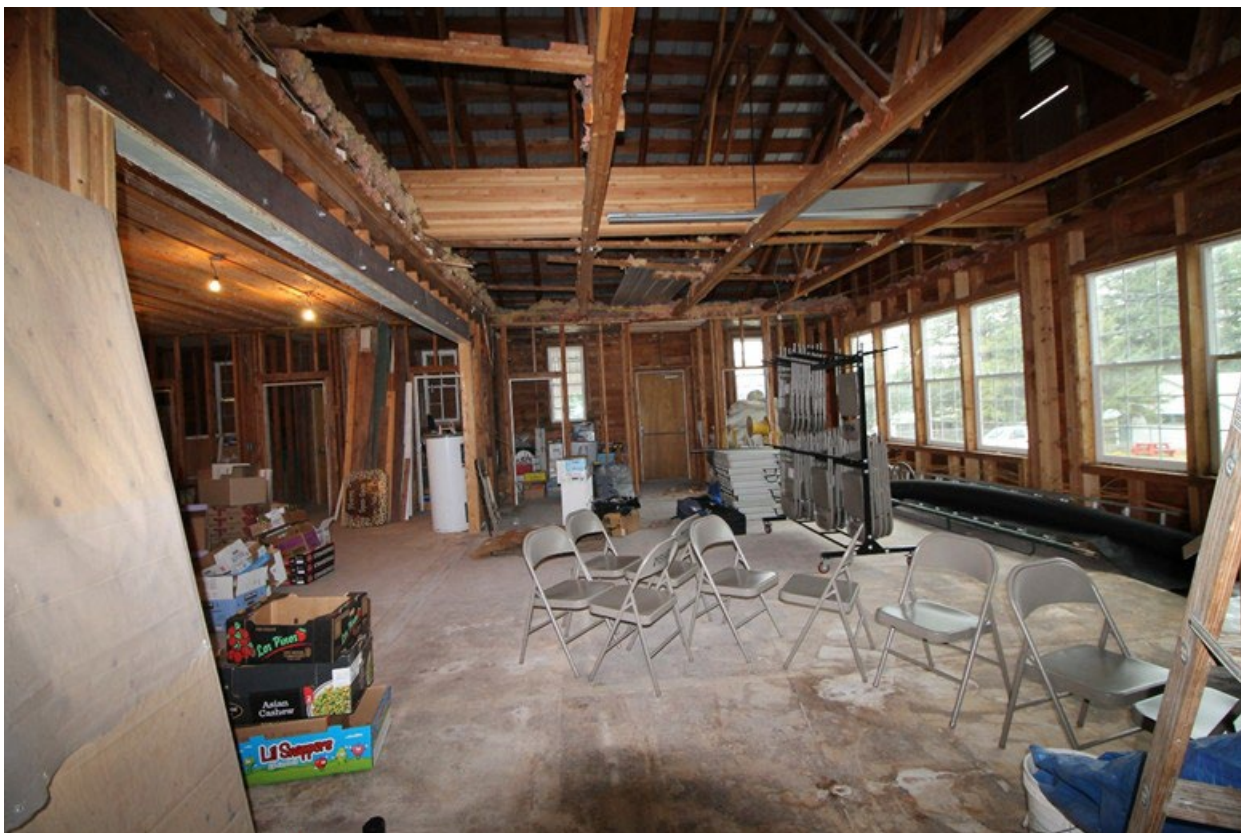
Flathead, MT
County and State



Interior of Original 1922 block of Mountain Brook School, view to the west.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Interior of 1954 Addition of Mountain Brook School, view to the west.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Interior of 1954 Addition of Mountain Brook School, view to the West-southwest.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Interior of 1933/1934 Teacherage Addition of Mountain Brook School, view to the north.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



Interior of 1933/1934 Teacherage Addition of Mountain Brook School, view to the south.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State

National Register Photographs

Photo Log

All Photographs

Name of Property: Mountain Brook School

City or Vicinity: Kalispell vicinity

County: Flathead State: Montana

Photographer: Sharon Louise Martin

Date Photographed: October 28 and November 14, 2024



**MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0001: Façade of Mountain Brook School.
View to the northeast, west and south elevations.**

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0002: Mountain Brook School (right) showing 1933/1934 Teacherage Addition and 1954 addition. Shed on left side of image. View to the southwest, east and north elevations of both the school and shed.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0003: Mountain Brook School showing 1954 addition. View to the south, north elevation.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0004: Mountain Brook School showing original 1922 block. Shed on right side of image. View to the northeast, south elevation of school and west and south elevations of shed.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0005: Mountain Brook School Shed. View to the north, south elevation.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0006: Mountain Brook School Multi-purpose building. View to the northeast, west and south elevations.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0007: Mountain Brook School Multi-purpose building. View to the northwest, south and east elevations.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0008: Mountain Brook School Multi-purpose building. View to the west, east elevation.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0009: Mountain Brook School Multi-purpose building. View to the south, north elevation.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0010: Mountain Brook School Pump House.
View to the east, west elevation.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0011: Mountain Brook School Pump House.
View to the northwest, south and east elevations.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0012: Mountain Brook School Playground Equipment. View to the southeast.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0013: Mountain Brook School Playground Equipment. View to the east.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0014: Mountain Brook School Playground Equipment. View to the southeast.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0015: Mountain Brook School Playground Equipment. View to the northwest.

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0016: Mountain Brook School Playground Equipment, basketball court. View to the southwest.

Mountain Brook School
Name of Property

Flathead, MT
County and State



**MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0017: Mountain Brook School Overview.
View to the north.**

Mountain Brook School

Name of Property

Flathead, MT

County and State



**MT_FlatheadCounty_MountainBrookSchool_0018: Mountain Brook School Overview.
View to the southeast.**

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

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

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

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