

**United States Department of the Interior  
 National Park Service**

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Hillcrest Cemetery

Other names/site number: Cemetery Beyond the River

Name of related multiple property listing:  
NA

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: West Milwaukee Avenue

City or town: Deer Lodge State: Montana County: Powell

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A     B X C     D

<p><b>MT State Historic Preservation Officer</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date</b></span></p> <p><u>MT State Historical Preservation Office</u></p> <p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>	
<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Date</b></span></p> <hr/> <p><b>Title :</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></span></p>	

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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:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 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>2</u>	_____	buildings
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

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

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY/Cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Greek Revival (mausoleum)

Craftsman (tool house)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

STONE, Granite, Marble; WOOD, Weatherboard; CONCRETE,

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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

#### Summary Paragraph

Hillcrest Cemetery sits on a hill under the shadow of Mount Powell to the west, overlooking private ranchlands to the north and south. The residential development to the east is not visible and, therefore, does not intrude on the cemetery's viewshed. The Hillcrest Cemetery is a pioneer community cemetery of 49 acres that includes more than 4,600 graves that date from 1870 to the present. The cemetery represents the final resting place of many prominent Montana pioneers and mirrors major events that impacted the Deer Lodge community, Montana Territory, and the state. The cemetery is one of Montana's oldest existing, active cemeteries, created when city planners realized encroaching development would negatively impact and limit the city's first urban burial grounds. The Hillcrest Cemetery plan evolved from a simple, central wagon road laid out in quadrants with Protestants buried south of the road and Catholics and Masons interred on the north side. The cemetery's first rectangular sections were well defined by 1872. The cemetery expanded over time, adding further sections for Protestant, Catholic, military, and fraternal organizations. The earliest markers, a few of wood and many of imported marble, characterize the 1870s and 1880s interments. Artistic zinc and locally made monuments

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showcase the talents of early tombstone makers of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The cemetery features early flat upright gravestones, tall obelisks, sturdy granite monuments, and later flat markers, all revealing care and reverence for the dead. Contributing sites within the Hillcrest Cemetery include the highly visible gravesite of copper king William A. Clark's two children, a section devoted to the Montana State Prison, and 24 tombstones of Japanese residents, most associated with the Northern Pacific railyards in Deer Lodge. A stunning architect-designed Greek Revival mausoleum and a Craftsman style tool house recall the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Monuments include memorials to civil and foreign war veterans, unidentified Catholics removed from the earlier burial ground, and a monument to pioneer Granville Stuart.

The well-kept grounds retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Integrity of design, workmanship, and materials also remain strong evidenced by not only the historic layout of the grounds, which includes the old-growth spruce trees and graceful driveways that loop around each defined section, but also through the presence of the variety and quality of gravestones and markers. The cemetery's prominent setting atop a hill, undisturbed viewshed, and historic monuments preserve the ambience and integrity of the "cemetery beyond the river" as it was originally known.

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## **Narrative Description**

### **CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

#### **Hillcrest Cemetery (one contributing site)**

Loosely bounded by West Milwaukee Avenue (Old Stage Road) on the north, Airport Road on the west, and private property to the east and south, the cemetery is more definitively defined by the outer driveway that borders the grounds. Tall, old growth, spruce trees, juniper, and weeping birch tower overhead and shade much of the grounds. A simple metal wire and stake fence surrounds the property on the north and south. Two gates from Milwaukee Avenue access the cemetery grounds: the centrally located main gate and a secondary entry at the east end. A sign that reads "Hillcrest Cemetery Est. May 8, 1883," marks the main central entry, partially-lined with old growth spruce. Just south of this sign is a modern memorial to the unborn child. To the west lies a section of undeveloped grounds. An old-growth, spruce lined-avenue defines the secondary driveway near the northeast corner of the cemetery. Because the vegetation lining the northeast entry is much more extensive than that at the main gate, it is likely that the main entry was once at the cemetery's northeast end.

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7, mostly on the cemetery's south side, are Protestant burials. Sections 1-5 lie in the cemetery's southwest quadrant. Sections 6 and 7 lie in the southeast quadrant. The oldest graves generally lie in the more central sections of 3, 4, 5, and 6. The southwest corner of Section 4 is set aside for county burials; the eastern half of this section is reserved for the Knights of Pythias. The east half of Section 5 includes unmarked graves of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Civil War veterans.

Within the Protestant Section 7 stands the headstone of the 1882 grave of Anna Adelaide Napton, a fine example of a zinc marker with a graceful figure of an angel.

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East of Protestant Section 7 is a section devoted to members of the Loyal Order of Moose.

The section east of the Loyal Order of Moose is divided into two halves, the Old Southeast and American Legion. The section east of Old Southeast and American Legion is further divided into two: New Southeast and Veterans of Foreign Wars (V.F.W.).

There are six sections set aside in the cemetery's northwest quadrant for Catholic burials. These include sections 1 (DeRyckere), 2, 3 (Pierre), 4, 5, and 6 (Landy). The named sections honor members of the Catholic clergy. The Landy section lies on the cemetery's northern edge, bordering Milwaukee Avenue. The oldest Catholic burials generally occur in sections 4 and 5. Distinctive gravestones in the Old Catholic Section 5 include two children's graves, one features a lamb curled on the tombstone of one-year-old Marjorie Macone, who died in 1915 of septicemia following a throat infection. The second one is a large, handsome marble tombstone with a circular portrait of baby Marjorie and an epitaph that reads: "Budded on earth to bloom in heaven." The second child's tombstone features a child's chair that marks the grave of three-year-old Katie Blessinger who died in 1888 of diphtheria. The chair of carved marble has little shoes tucked underneath and clothing draped along the chair's back. The marker is a specialty of monument maker A. K. Prescott of Butte and Helena and bears his company signature. Two wooden markers in this section indicate the graves of unidentified persons, one, a simple weathered post and the other a worn cross.

The easternmost section of the northeast quadrant is divided into three: Old Masonic, Masonic Hill, and the Independent Order of Oddfellows (I.O.O.F.). The Old Masonic portion includes the resting places of some prominent pioneers including Thomas Stuart, James Stuart, Granville Stuart, Conrad Kohrs, and John Bielenberg. A more recent Masonic section lies at the northwest corner of this quadrant, east of the Main Gate.

Perpetual Care sections 1, 2, 3, and 6 lie to the east of the Masonic and I.O.O.F. sections.

One undeveloped section marks the southeastern boundary of this quadrant, and a section of tilled grounds marks the northeast corner.

At the western edge, a sign and a circle of stones marks the Montana State Prison cemetery.

Within the individual cemetery sections are individual resources noted as contributing or noncontributing.

### **Hillcrest Cemetery Spatial and Circulation Pattern (one contributing site)**

The main driveway, entered from Milwaukee Avenue on the north, is the central crossroad which serves as the division point between east and west halves of the property. The east-west avenue intersects at the central point and serves as the division between the Protestant and Catholic/Masonic sections. The oldest Protestant, Catholic, and Masonic sections cluster toward the center around this intersection. The east-west axis extends to the western boundary and loops around the Montana State Prison portion. The east entrance driveway roughly serves as the east

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cemetery boundary. The flow pattern of traffic was not a conscious plan, rather and typical of many pioneer cemeteries, it evolved according to convenience as the cemetery expanded. Gravel drives, laid out in a simple rectangular grid, separate, define, and curve around the various sections.

### **Montana State Prison (one contributing site)**

At the far southwest corner west of Cemetery Section 1 and separated from the larger cemetery by undeveloped tended grounds lie former inmates of the Montana State Prison. The area measures 200 feet by 200 feet. A drive loops around this section, loosely connecting it to the cemetery's other sections. The area was set aside for use by the federal territorial prison, circa 1870, and after Montana statehood in 1889, for the Montana State Prison. A wooden sign marks this section that reads:

MONTANA STATE PRISON  
EST. 1870  
"LORD REMEMBER ME,,,"  
ST. LUKE, 24:42

A circle of stones with seasonal flowers planted within the circle surrounds the sign. Fifty-eight burials are recorded but many more remain unmarked or marked without identification. The first burial site that dates to 1872, that of H.B. Fanning, remains unidentified. There are some 14 neat and orderly rows and half rows set out with tended grassy areas between them. Large unlettered rocks note some older graves while concrete squares that date to a 1967 Jaycees project, mark most known graves of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Several polished granite headstones exist, one with the inscription "John—1875-1958," and another that reads:

P. G. "PETE" EITNER  
CHAMP  
1877 1967

A few concrete markers are inscribed with names and dates going back to the 1880s. Some are identified only as "Indian." Marble squares inset with a simple nameplate identify most of the graves of more recent decades.

### **Clark Children's Grave (one contributing site)**

Located in the Old Masonic Section 6, this gravesite represents one of the cemetery's most visible features, dating to 1878. A delicate, lacy, cast-iron fence encloses the graves of two small daughters of copper king William A. Clark. The site faces east. The fence is set into blocks of cut granite curbing. The fence displays sections of open posts and finial caps and round finial-topped pickets with decorative cast balusters. Below the gate, the family surname is inscribed in the curbing. The gate bears the maker's name, Champion Iron Fence Co. Kenton Ohio, a company founded in 1876 and remaining in business.

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An imported marble tombstone memorializes the two Clark children within the enclosure. It features an upright marker with an open half-round arch at the top and lettering in *bas relief*. The top of the arch is inscribed: Nearer My God To Thee. The body of the marker reads:

JESSIE  
Daughter of  
W.A. and K.L. Clark  
Born May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1875  
Died April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1878  
and  
BABY  
Born Aril 10<sup>th</sup>, 1874  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1874

The back, west surface, of the monument includes the maker's mark in the lower right-hand corner: J.W. Bray, Fecit [made] N-Y. The stone rests on a stepped marble base set onto pink granite.

### **Japanese Row (one contributing site)**

A row and a half of 24 gravestones in Protestant Section 2 marks the resting places of Japanese residents of Deer Lodge. Most are male and were employed or retired railroad workers but a few are female or children. All display upright markers of varying size and quality and range in date from the early to the mid-twentieth century. Some of the markers yield names and dates in English and some in Japanese. Compared to other graves at Hillcrest, these tombstones are all very closely spaced. One tombstone features a Christian cross. Many markers are illegible, but most are handsome and well-made, usually of granite.

### **Catholic Memorial (one contributing object)**

Near the southeast corner of the Old Catholic Section, an unusual east-facing cross that measures 5 feet 4 inches tall by 7 feet 10 inches across, marks a mass grave of unknown Catholics originally buried in the town's urban cemetery. Locally called a "Celtic cross," the monument was fashioned from concrete and pink and gray rough-cut porphyry from the entry gate to the community's first cemetery. The porphyry blocks are of many sizes and shapes. A single stepped block sits on top at the end of each arm, suggesting the appearance of a totem. A concrete slab set on a porphyry base covers the crypt that holds the collective remains. The stone's many sizes and shapes, along with grooves from the gate's original hardware visible at the foot of the concrete slab, bear out the repurposing of the material. The cross lacks wording or interpretation and stands by itself, surrounded by tended grounds. Into the twentieth century, the original covering of the crypt at the base of the cross deteriorated, exposing bones. The covering over the crypt was then refurbished with the present concrete slab added circa 1940.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Author communication with Terry Jennings, August 31, 2022, and interview with Megan Thompson, September 21, 2022.



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**Stuart Memorial Monument (one contributing object)**

The Stuart Monument consists of a rough-cut rectangular gray granite slab that slightly curves toward the top of the monument. It sits on a square finished gray granite base. A bronze tablet is anchored to the boulder's face, and reads:

GRANVILLE STUART  
PIONEER GOLD MINER  
STOCKMAN AND STATESMAN  
DISCOVERER OF GOLD IN MONTANA  
BORN AUGUST 17, 1834  
DIED OCTOBER 2, 1916

THIS GRANITE BOULDER IS PLACED  
HERE BY HIS FRIENDS AND ADMIRERS.  
IT IS EMBLEMATIC OF HIS STERLING  
CHARACTER AND THE ENDURING  
RESPECT AND ESTEEM OF THOSE WITH  
WHOM HE LABORED WHEN MONTANA  
WAS IN THE MAKING.

**G.A.R. Memorial Monument (one contributing object)**

The roughly square pink, black and white composite monument rests on a terrazzo base with a strip of yellow quartz. A bronze tablet, affixed to the terrazzo, reads:

ERECTED IN HONOR OF THE FOLLOWING GRAND  
ARMY COMRADES WHOSE BODIES LIE IN UNMARKED  
GRAVES IN THE CEMETERY AND TO ANY GRAND ARMY  
COMRADE WHOSE BODY LIES IN AN UNMARKED GRAVE  
IN THE COUNTY OF POWELL, MONTANA.

A list with the names of 34 veterans whose graves are unmarked follows below the inscription.

A five-pointed bronze star, the standard grave marker emblem of the G.A.R., is affixed to the top of the granite. The star has a center circle that reads GAR 1861-1865.

**American Legion Monument and Flagpole (one contributing object)**

A bronze plaque set into a rough-cut granite block that measures about 2 1/2 feet square complements the center flagpole. The monument sits at the section's northwest corner on a triangular cement base with cement curbing. It reads:

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## AMERICAN LEGION PLOT

DEDICATED TO  
THE MEMORY OF ALL DEPARTED  
COMRADES WHO SERVED UNDER  
THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES  
IN TIME OF WAR

POWELL POST NO. 10

### **Marony Mausoleum (one contributing building)**

Overlooking the broad sweep of the Deer Lodge valley, the Morony Mausoleum sits on the top of a ridge that slopes to the north toward Milwaukee Avenue. Designed by prominent Great Falls architect George H. Shanley in 1916, it dominates the cemetery's northwest edge. Built in the style of an early Greek temple, the side walls of the north façade extend to frame Ionic columns, a method termed *distyle in antis*. Constructed of Vermont marble, the columns flank double bronze doors and urns flank the columns beneath a pedimented roof. "MORONY" is carved above the bronze doors in *bas relief*. The east facade originally featured a Tiffany window that depicted a sunrise over a mountain peak with the inscription, "Between the Darkness and Dawn." Vandals destroyed the window in 1928 and the present replacement window, an Art Deco design of stained glass, casts its colored hues on the interior which is finished in fine Italian marble. The mausoleum contains eight drawers, but only two are occupied. First National Bank of Great Falls president John G. Morony, who died in 1915, was interred here in 1916 when the mausoleum reached completion and Annie Morony, his mother, was interred here in 1921. From the bronze doorway, the grassy terraced grounds lead to a gateway of cut stone. Heavy chains that connect massive granite pillars at intervals surround spacious grounds set aside around the structure. The north-facing grounds include a sundial to the east and a Greek style bench to west, both finished in marble.

### **Tool House (one contributing building)**

A Craftsman style tool house, built circa 1920s, stands in the center of the cemetery, north of the road at the southeast corner of the Old Catholic section. The building is of simple stuccoed wood frame construction with a square plan, a newer metal hip roof, and exposed rafter tails beneath the roof's eaves. The one-story house, painted white with green trim, sits on a concrete foundation that extends past the façade to form a half-wall entry. The building faces east.

The east façade holds a central wood plank door set in a wood frame. The extended hipped roof is supported by two large square wood posts set into a low concrete wall that extends around the porch's south and north sides. The south façade contains one small window opening set into a wood frame; two wood mullions divide the window into three parts. The north façade features a small, shed-roofed addition constructed of wood planks; the addition covers a central window identical to that on the south façade. The west façade lacks fenestration.

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## **NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES**

### **Rachel Mourning monument (one noncontributing object)**

Sited at the edge the Catholic #5 section, just inside the central main gate entry, this large modern memorial is dedicated to the unborn child. It is a gently curved rectangle wall constructed of very large cobblestones with three pink granite inset slabs. The west slab displays, "Rachel Mourning" and features a quote from Jeremiah 31:15:17. The smaller middle slab is inscribed "In Memory of the Unborn Child." The east slab includes a dedicatory phrase and a quote from Isaiah 49; the bottom line reads, "Knights of Columbus, Council 1810." Centered in this monument is a large gray granite angled cross.

### **New Annex (one noncontributing site)**

The newest section of the cemetery referred to as New V.F.W., and New Southeast and undeveloped land, lies in the extreme southeastern corner and central eastern portion of the property. This parcel was annexed in 2010 and is considered noncontributing due to its recent annexation.

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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.)

RELIGION

SOCIAL HISTORY

EXPLORATION /SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**

1870-1973

**Significant Dates**

1870, 1883, 1892, 1916, 1927, 1967

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

**Cultural Affiliation**

ASIAN (Japanese)

**Architect/Builder**

George H. Shanley

**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.)

Hillcrest Cemetery is eligible for listing in the National Register under criteria A and C at a local level of significance. Hillcrest Cemetery mirrors events that impacted the Deer Lodge community and Montana. Burials occurred in the “cemetery beyond the river” by at least 1870. Among the early graves are those removed from the first community cemetery due to encroaching development. The old “cemetery hill” lay in the pathway of a new Catholic church and the Montana Collegiate Institute. Mass removals of these first burials resulted in at least one significant area of unmarked graves at the Hillcrest Cemetery, memorialized in the Old Catholic Section with a large brick cross. Creation of the federal penitentiary at Deer Lodge prompted opening a cemetery to accommodate prisoners whose remains were unclaimed by relatives. Hillcrest represents the main burial ground for Montana’s earliest pioneers from far-flung mining camps. Prominent pioneers who helped lay the foundation of the State of Montana and interred at

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the cemetery include the Stuart brothers, Conrad Kohrs, John Bielenberg and two children of copper king William A. Clark. The very early Old Masonic section echoes the strong Masonic presence in Montana's earliest mining camps such as Bannack, Virginia City, and Helena. A Grand Army of the Republic monument names unmarked soldiers' graves and memorializes all Union veterans of the Civil War. National creation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1919 triggered the V.F.W. sections and the creation of the flagpole as a veterans' memorial. Japanese graves illustrate the railroad workers who kept the railyards at Deer Lodge functioning. Those buried throughout the sections in the cemetery well reflect all levels of the social, professional, and economic status in the early community from its documented inception in 1870 to 1967 when the prison gravesites were refurbished. The cemetery provides a birds' eye perspective of Deer Lodge's growth from a pioneer community to a community that contributed, and continues to contribute, to the vitality of the state. For these reasons, Hillcrest Cemetery is eligible for listing under Criterion A.

Hillcrest Cemetery beautifully reflects the pioneer settlement period of one of Montana's earliest communities. Its simple layout with a central crossroad, initial division of Protestant and Catholic citizens, natural setting high atop a hill, remnant wooden markers, simple obelisk monuments, and upright imported marble tombstones are all features indicative of frontier burial practices. Later zinc and locally produced gravestones follow the evolution of the community as it stabilized and grew. Old growth evergreens along the main avenues reflect the early attempts at formal landscaping on a hilltop with little water and sandy soil. The elaborate, architect-designed Greek Revival style mausoleum overlooks pristine ranchland. The cemetery's overall viewshed is a dominant feature and survives nearly as it was in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. For these reasons, Hillcrest Cemetery is eligible for listing under Criterion C.

The period of significance for the Hillcrest Cemetery begins in 1870 with the first interment and ends in 1973, the end of the historic period. Significant dates include 1870, 1883, 1892, 1916, 1927, and 1967. The year 1870 denotes the first burial that occurred in the nascent cemetery. The year 1883 marks when Deer Lodge County formally established the 10-acre cemetery and charged a Committee on Cemeteries with the first formal platting and recording. The county gave up title of the cemetery to the City of Deer Lodge in 1892. Nineteen-sixteen reflects the construction of the Morony Mausoleum designed by prominent Great Falls architect George H. Shanley. The year 1927 corresponds to when Mayor Conley and the Deer Lodge city council granted Powell Post #10 its own section at Hillcrest Cemetery with space for 100 graves. Lastly, 1967 marks the year when refurbishment of the prison gravesites occurred.

### **Criteria Consideration D Justification**

d. A cemetery which derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events

Hillcrest Cemetery represents a microcosm of the emerging Montana frontier as it evolved from territory to state and loose settlements to established towns. It well reflects the broad patterns of history on the early frontier. Mortuary practices evolved as needs changed from haphazard urban

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burials to a well-defined rural cemetery. From unmarked graves to imported upright marble gravestones and slender obelisks to later artistic gravestones signed by Montana's first monument makers, the cemetery illustrates the desire to honor the dead in a rural setting. Graceful driveways and old growth evergreens reveal the early community's desire to make its cemetery representative of a stable and educated town.

Some of Montana's most revered pioneers rest at Hillside including Thomas, James and Granville Stuart, ranchers Conrad Kohrs and John Bielenberg, and Warm Springs founder physician Armistead Mitchell. In contrast, those unclaimed persons buried in the prison section—including Native Americans, some identified only as "Indian" on their grave markers—represent marginalized populations.

Hillcrest Cemetery reflects events of local and state importance. One of the earliest planned sections was for the Masons, a highly influential fraternal organization that helped lay the cornerstones of the territory and the state. The designation of Deer Lodge as the location of a federal penitentiary and the first federal presence in the Territory of Montana had far-reaching impacts throughout the region and the state; the establishment of a prison cemetery was a direct consequence. The territory's first institution of higher learning, Montana Collegiate Institute, was part Deer Lodge's urban development that necessitated moving existing graves at the planned location of the institute to a more rural setting. A row of Japanese railroad workers illustrates the regional practice of importing foreign workers and expresses one aspect of Montana's diversity. Some graves serve as a reminder of a devastating diphtheria epidemic that took a toll throughout the county.

In contrast to the less fortunate buried at Hillcrest, the architectural significance of the Morony Mausoleum, where prominent and wealthy businessman John G. Morony was interred in 1916, not only speaks to the influential citizens buried at Hillcrest, but also to the architectural value of this expensive and highly visible building.

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

### **The Deer Lodge Valley<sup>2</sup>**

The Deer Lodge valley in southwestern Montana is one of the state's most fertile agricultural areas with a long prehistory and history. Watered by Warm Springs Creek, Clark's Fork (headwater of the Columbia), and the Little Blackfoot rivers, the valley served as a convenient travel corridor for generations of Indigenous tribes on the way to hunt buffalo. A curious sedimentary cone some 40 feet high dominated the valley. A bubbling thermal spring within the cone emitted a plume of steam visible for miles on cold, clear days. Native peoples, explorers, trappers, and traders took notice of the oddity. The mound with steam issuing mysteriously from

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<sup>2</sup> This section partially adapted from Ellen Baumler, "Legacy of the Grant- Kohrs Ranch, *Beyond Spirit Tailings* Helena: Montana Historical Society, 2005) pp. 69-74.

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its peak looked like a huge Indian lodge with smoke from a campfire curling out the top.<sup>3</sup> The Shoshone knew the cone as *it-soc' ke en car' ne*. They and others believed it was sacred, imbued with great spiritual and medicinal power.

The thick grass grew that grew at the base of the mound brought herds of white-tailed deer and other animals to graze and lick the natural saline deposits from the hot spring. The Warm Springs Mound, as it is known today, is some 15 miles north of Deer Lodge on the property of the Montana State Hospital.

The valley's strategic location made it a place of summer encampment where Blackfeet, Pend' d' Oreille, Nez Perce, Salish, Kootenai, and Shoshone gathered. French trappers and traders also rendezvoused there. The French translated *it-soc' ke en car' ne* as *La Loge Du Chevreuil*, "the lodge of the white-tailed deer." Father Pierre-Jean De Smet met the Salish at La Loge Du Chevreuil in 1840. At the base of the mound, he held the first Christian service in what would later become Montana. The next year he brought the first wagons through the valley enroute to found St. Mary's Mission at present-day Stevensville. The French name grew to include not just the mound, but the valley as well. White settlers shortened the French translation to "Deer Lodge."

Gold deposits laced the valley. Before the first Montana gold rush brought a deluge of miners to southwestern Montana, former trader Richard Grant and his two sons, John and James, drove some cattle over the Continental Divide from Fort Hall in present-day southeastern Idaho, into the nearby Beaverhead Basin to graze for the winter. In the spring, they drove the fattened herd west to the Oregon Trail to trade with westward immigrants. They traded conditioned livestock for travel-worn horses, cattle and oxen, then wintered the animals and conditioned them. In this way, trading along the Emigrant Road, the enterprising Grants built up sizable herds.

By 1857, Johnny Grant, whose mother had been of French and Indian descent, had at least five children and several Indian wives. The Grants, along with a company of other men and their Indian wives and children, returned to the rich grazing land of southwestern Montana. Johnny and his Bannock wife Quarra split off from the group and brought their cattle into the valley of the "lodge of the white-tailed deer" where they wintered. The livestock mingled with deer and migrating buffalo, sharing the bunchgrass that stretched in places nearly as far as the eye could see. The valley proved an irresistible home to Johnny and Quarra Grant. They returned again in 1859 with 250 head of horses and 800 cattle, this time to settle in the Deer Lodge valley. They built a log cabin and a small trading post at the valley's north end, trading with the many Indians and occasional miners who traveled through. Indians, Mexicans, Canadian Metis like Johnny himself, and whites soon joined the Grants in the Deer Lodge valley. Gold deposits had been discovered at Gold Creek in 1852 and again by the Stuart brothers and Reece Anderson in 1858. A small settlement, called American Fork, sprang up there.

The Grants' home however, was the heart of the valley where an ethnically diverse settlement called Grantsville became the social center. Also called Cottonwood, and Spanish Fork for its

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<sup>3</sup> Michael Leeson, *History of Montana 1739-1885* (Chicago: Warner, Beers & Co, 1885), p. 551.



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Mexican residents, the Grants hosted frequent all-night balls and social affairs with the locals who dressed in a colorful mix of beaded buckskins and trade calico.<sup>4</sup>

In the spring of 1861, flood waters took the Grants' cabin, and the family moved to the present location of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch where Johnny Grant built two cabins and joined them together for his large extended family. In the fall of 1862, Grant built one of the first clapboard homes in the territory. Its 28 glass windowpanes, packed in sawdust and shipped at great expense by steamboat to Fort Benton, then freighted overland to the valley, were an expression of the Grants' wealth and importance.

Gold discovered at Grasshopper Creek in 1862, at Alder Gulch in 1863, and Last Chance in 1864, brought a flurry of miners and white settlers to the Deer Lodge valley. Racial tension among the Metis, Indians, and whites ended the days when neighbors were tolerant of other cultures, plural wives, and inter-racial marriages. Grant's worth stood at half a million dollars, a symbol of Metis prosperity.

The first of many Montana hangings, that of C. S. Spillman for horse stealing, took place at Gold Creek in 1862. Vigilantes organized late in 1863 to combat lawlessness in the region. In 1865, Indians ran off most of Grant's cattle and the following year, in 1866 an arson fire destroyed his best barn. Grant told the *Montana Post* that if he could find a safer place, he would "clear up and go among the Indians again."<sup>5</sup>

Grant's worry over the safety of his family led him to sell the ranch to Conrad Kohrs for \$19,200 in August of 1866. Kohrs took possession in 1867. He and his half-brother, John Bielenburg, pioneered ranch management, feed production, and cattle breeding, shipping eight to 10 thousand head to market every year. Ownership of the working ranch remained in the Kohrs family through grandson Conrad Warren until the 1970s when the Park Service began restoration. The Grant-Kohrs Ranch, adjacent to the town of Deer Lodge, is a National Historic Landmark and a National Park.

### **The Town of Deer Lodge**

The settlement that grew up around the Grants' home was first known as Grantsville and Spanish Fork because many of the early residents were of Mexican descent. Although Montana's first gold discovery was in 1852 at Gold Creek, the Stuart brothers and Reece Anderson made a second discovery there in 1858 and quietly worked a claim. It was not until 1862 with the discovery at Grasshopper Creek that gold mining brought new blood into what was then Washington Territory. Bear Gulch, Ophir, and Blackfoot City were a few of the local booming gold camps. The gold rush prompted Congress to create Idaho Territory in 1863 which included the western portion of Montana. New discoveries in the Deer Lodge Valley prompted the local rise of many mining camps.

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<sup>4</sup> Granville Stuart, *Prospecting for Gold from Dogtown to Virginia City 1852-1864*, ed. Paul C. Phillips, reprint of 1925 *Forty Years on the Frontier*, Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 1977. Pp. 193-194.

<sup>5</sup> "Letter from a Special Correspondent at Deer Lodge," Virginia City, *Montana Post* Feb 17, 1866.

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With the gold rush came a need for services. Steamboat Captain Joe La Barge of the LaBarge, Harkness & Company came to the settlement of Cottonwood in 1862 intending to open a store. A town of four blocks was laid out on Cottonwood Creek and named La Barge City, but the store did not materialize, and the name did not stick for long. When western Montana became part of Idaho Territory in 1863, the settlement became known briefly as Idaho City. With the creation of Montana Territory in 1864, the settlement became Deer Lodge City. The county of Deer Lodge was one of Montana's original nine counties, created by the territorial legislature in 1865. The seat of Deer Lodge County moved from Silver Bow (the forerunner of Butte) to Deer Lodge City in 1867 even though Deer Lodge had a smaller population than most of the local mining camps, such as Blackfoot City, Ophir, Pioneer, and Bear Gulch.<sup>6</sup>

James Stuart hired Walter De Lacy to lay out a town one mile square. The Deer Lodge Town Company gave most of the lots away to current residents.<sup>7</sup> Deer Lodge County saw many changes over the next decades. Powell County, carved from a portion of the original Deer Lodge County, was created in 1901 with Deer Lodge as the county seat.

Important Deer Lodge events impacted not only the local community but also the territory and later, the State of Montana. The federal penitentiary impacted the not just territory and later, the state, but also the region. Throughout its history from 1871 to the present day, the prison has been a major employer of Deer Lodge residents and a major source of local income. The facility closed in 1979 and moved out of town but remains important to the local economy today. The prison cemetery reflects this relationship.

The opening of Montana Collegiate Institute at Deer Lodge in 1881 was the first institution of higher learning in the territory. Built upon the community's highest point in 1878, where a portion of the old urban cemetery once sat, its location was soon known as "College Hill." Most of the prominent Deer Lodge citizens served either as officers or trustees.<sup>8</sup> The development of the Montana Collegiate Institute served as one catalyst to move the urban cemetery out of town.

The advent of the Northern Pacific and the driving of the golden spike, commemorating the meeting of the western and eastern halves at Independence near Gold Creek brought rail travel to the area. Not only did it drastically change the lives of Montanans, it also facilitated shipping livestock from the Grant Kohrs Ranch, boosting the local Deer Lodge economy. The railyard at Deer Lodge brought a community of Japanese workers, some of whom spent the rest of their lives in the community and are buried in Japanese Row.

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<sup>6</sup> Deer Lodge Chamber of Commerce, [History of Deer Lodge & Powell County – POWELL COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – \(powellcountymontana.com\)](https://powellcountymontana.com) accessed 10/18/22.

<sup>7</sup> Leeson, 560.

<sup>8</sup> Owens, Steve, Trask Hall National Register nomination form, 1982 at [ecaeb9cd-2bd6-4d1d-94d6-c5cc42315d21 \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/epa/record/caeb9cd-2bd6-4d1d-94d6-c5cc42315d21) accessed 10/18, 2022. As was the case in Helena, where construction of the first graded school was built upon the highest point in the community to advertise its importance as a place of education, the Helena institution also entailed removal of the settlement's first graveyard see.

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These important events helped shape the character and future of Deer Lodge and directly affected its interment history. Related National Register listings in the local Deer Lodge community include the Montana State Prison Historic District, the Grant Kohrs Ranch (an NHL), the Deer Lodge Historic District, and Trask Hall. All these places and events are connected to the history of Hillside Cemetery.

### **Interment History of Deer Lodge**

Deer Lodge mortuary history reflects western frontier burial practices and the evolution of Montana's rural cemeteries. From the earliest period, Deer Lodge buried its dead on high ground, a community's most prominent location. This was typical of Montana's first settlements including Helena, Bannack, and Virginia City whose early cemeteries were all built on the point of highest elevation.

#### ***Early Interments***

Father Remigius De Ryckere founded a Catholic church at Deer Lodge in 1866, first holding services at the home of Johnny Grant. Fr. De Ryckere built a log cabin which served as a church, and in typical fashion, the churchyard sat on a slight rise. Catholics were buried in the churchyard, which apparently adjoined the portion of ground where non-Catholics were buried. This area was collectively known as "cemetery hill," and after 1878, "College Hill." Although Deer Lodge was fast expanding and development encroaching, burials still occurred in the old urban cemetery at the beginning of the 1870s. Mary Jane Whitford, for example, "was buried in the old cemetery on College Hill" in July 1870.<sup>9</sup>

Meanwhile, a new cemetery, the future Hillcrest Cemetery, began to be used in a more rural area. One of the oldest tombstones is that of Elizabeth Payne Countryman who died in July 1870. However, the earliest documented burial in the new cemetery is that of Timothy Driscoll who died from a mining accident at German Gulch in December 1870. His imported marble tombstone is incorrectly dated 1871. Companions brought his remains to Deer Lodge where they waited several days for the return of Fr. De Ryckere. He was then interred "in the new Cemetery."<sup>10</sup>

By early 1871, the new rural cemetery was in regular use ending interments in town:

It is a well advised movement to prohibit further interments in the old burial ground. The Cemetery is well located and will be made a fitting place of Sepulchre. Some day it will be decided to move the bodies from the burial ground by the jail, and it is better the number to be moved should not be increased.<sup>11</sup>

Edwin H. Irvine, a prominent landowner with mining interests, donated 10 acres on the top of the hill in the area where burials were already underway. The title conveyed to the county

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<sup>9</sup> "Personal," NNW, Dec 14, 1883 and "Death of Mrs Whitford," Deer Lodge, New North-West (NNW) July 8, 1870.

<sup>10</sup> "Cave [in] at German Culch," NNW, Dec 23, 1870."

<sup>11</sup> "Action of commissioners," NNW, Jan 27, 1871.

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commissioners came with the understanding that they fence the cemetery and care for it. At this time, the early cemetery was designed in four quadrants, the usual layout for Montana's earliest planned burial grounds, with an east-west and north-south wagon road and central intersection. Sections were laid out for Protestants, Catholics, Masons, and other fraternal organizations.<sup>12</sup>

### The Stuarts

The death of James Stuart illustrates the lengths family and friends would sometimes go to fulfill a loved one's burial wishes. Stuart died on September 30, 1873, at Fort Peck. His brothers, Thomas and Granville, were enroute to his bedside from the Deer Lodge valley when the death occurred and arrived after James passed. Before Thomas and Granville arrived, James was buried at the fort. James was subsequently disinterred and his remains placed in a metallic burial case and transported 500 miles through Sioux country to Deer Lodge, a treacherous journey of 12 days. A full Masonic funeral was held in Deer Lodge more than a month after his death. James became the first of the three Stuart brothers interred in the new cemetery's Masonic section.<sup>13</sup>

### ***Catholic Influence and Reinterments***

Father De Ryckere planned to build a new church and purchased the land on the site of the old city cemetery. In 1874, city commissioners were authorized to remove bodies and reinter them at the new cemetery. Fr. De Ryckere took charge of this work, removing 48 bodies and reintering them in what is now the Old Catholic Section of Hillside Cemetery. At this time, Father De Ryckere invited families and friends—presumably Protestants as well as Catholics—to remove their loved ones to the new cemetery.<sup>14</sup> These graves were mostly unmarked as were most graves during this early period. A large brick cross, built with rough-cut porphyry, reputedly repurposed from the entrance to the old urban cemetery, was erected at the southeast corner of the Old Catholic Section acknowledging these anonymous remains. With the removal of the graves, the new Church of the Immaculate Conception was built on the partial grounds of the old cemetery and completed in 1875.<sup>15</sup> The original Immaculate Conception Church survives today as St. Mary's Hall. Finally, Trask Hall of the Collegiate Institute of Montana (also known as the College of Montana) was built on "cemetery hill," thereafter known as "college hill." This was the first institution of higher learning in Montana Territory. It operated until 1914.<sup>16</sup> The Diocese of Helena retained ownership of the Catholic sections of Hillcrest Cemetery until 1910 when they relinquished title to the City of Deer Lodge.

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<sup>12</sup> "The Deer Lodge Cemetery," NNW, May 16, 1884.

<sup>13</sup> "Funeral Ceremonies of James Stuart," NNW, November 8, 1873.

<sup>14</sup> NNW March 44 and April 4, 1874; July 8, 1870 NNW It was likely that Mary Jane Whitford—a Protestant—was disinterred at this time. Her grave was unmarked but in 1884, her son disinterred her a second time, identifying her remains by the initials of her husband in the band of the wedding ring, still on her finger. She was moved to Mountain View Cemetery in Butte.

<sup>15</sup> Leeson, 562.

<sup>16</sup> Steve Owens, NR Nomination for Trask Hall.

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### ***Mining Camp Burials***

From the earliest times, Deer Lodge received the remains of deceased persons for burial. The presence of permanent clergy to conduct services may have factored into this. Friends, family, and sometimes strangers, brought the dead to Deer Lodge for burial. When miner James McArrison—a Scottish immigrant with no local family—perished in a rockfall at the Sierra Lode in December 1874, for example, 20 of his coworkers—none of whom knew him well—formed a funeral procession and brought him to Deer Lodge for interment. It proved a difficult journey of four or five days in winter and a roundtrip of some 150 miles. McArrison’s interment at Deer Lodge was not uncommon, and by 1874, likely a third of those buried in the “Silent City beyond the little river” were brought there from remote camps by hard-handed comrades.<sup>17</sup>

### ***The Children of William Andrews Clark***

The gravesite commemorating two children of copper king William Andrews Clark is one of the cemetery’s most poignant and prominent features. Clark—who ultimately became a U.S. senator—was involved in many different ventures before he made his tremendous mark on Montana in the copper mines at Butte. Clark came west to Colorado and then to Bannack, arriving in 1863. His keen business sense and a nose for profit allowed him to seize opportunities in freighting and merchandising.<sup>18</sup> In 1871, he settled in Deer Lodge where he and several partners established a bank before he moved to Butte in 1880.

During Clark’s tenure at Deer Lodge, his wife Katherine gave birth to three children. Only Charles, a son born in 1871, survived. Another son born in 1872, lived only a few weeks and a daughter, Jessie, born in 1874, died in 1878 of pulmonary consumption, six days before her third birthday.<sup>19</sup> Jessie’s funeral was one of the largest attended and was covered in the local newspaper in heartbreaking detail:

Lying in a casket of satin, her head turned aside as though sleeping, the expression natural as life and choicest flowers disposed around, it seemed almost impossible to realize that the little one was dead.<sup>20</sup>

Their burial site in the Old Masonic Section 6 is one of Hillcrest’s most prominent features and a grand example of the expense some bereaved families expended. Pre-railroad and before Montana had its own tombstone makers, the expense of transporting heavy mail-order tombstones proved prohibitive for many. But Clark spared no expense marking the burial place of his two deceased young children. A delicate wrought iron fence made in Ohio and a marble headstone imported from New York illustrate the diversity and art of Hillcrest’s early markers.

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<sup>17</sup> NNW, Dec 18, 1874.

<sup>18</sup> Michael P. Malone et al, *Montana: A History of Two Centuries*, rev. ed, (Seattle: University of Washington, 1991), p. 202.

<sup>19</sup> “Died,” *Butte Weekly Miner*, April 23, 1878. The notice gives her death as “phthisis pulmonalis (i.e. pulmonalis)” an archaic term for pulmonary consumption or tuberculosis.

<sup>20</sup> “Personal,” NNW, April 26, 1878.

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At one time, plot enclosures like that of the Clark gravesite, were common to pioneer cemeteries and to Hillcrest, but over time they either deteriorated, were stolen, or removed to make cemetery maintenance less difficult. Survival of the entire Clark gravesite, including its lovely wrought iron fence, stands as a testament to the importance of the Clarks to Montana history and to the history of Deer Lodge.

### Formal Establishment of the Deer Lodge Cemetery

On May 8, 1883, Deer Lodge County formally established the 10-acre cemetery and charged a Committee on Cemeteries with the first formal platting and recording. As in most frontier burial grounds, private citizens cared for their own family plots and spent considerable funds on plot enclosures and imported headstones—there being very few local headstone makers until the mid-1880s in Montana. The county was supposed to keep the cemetery neat and properly fenced, which alas, it failed to do. The location of Hillcrest Cemetery presented several problems. First, the sandy soil lacked water, proving unsuitable for eastern shade trees that had been planted and soon died. Second, sited upon a hill, the original gate sat on the donated land at the top of the ridge where the snow drifted. It was just at this spot where horses pulling a hearse became fractious and disruptive; to remedy this issue, the solution was “to extend the cemetery to the bottom of the hill on the north.”<sup>21</sup> As citizens began to complain about the inconvenient location of the gate, Irvine, who donated the initial 10 acres, donated additional land to the county to extend the property “to the road on the north” and thereby improve access.<sup>22</sup> Over time, the current traffic pattern logically evolved from use until the driveways were well defined.

The first locally made monuments and headstones began to appear on the grounds in the mid-1880s. Contractor George Cushing of Deer Lodge added monument making to his business, advertising employment opportunities for stone cutters. *The Butte Weekly Miner* noted that Cushing “adorned the cemetery with magnificent artistic granite monuments.”<sup>23</sup> Unfortunately, Cushing’s work cannot be identified, and his business in Deer Lodge eventually closed. However, by the mid-to later 1880s, other tombstones at the Deer Lodge cemetery began to display the signed work of other prominent Montana monument makers; these include A.K. Prescott of Butte and Helena and George Pringle of Missoula. The work of these early Montana tombstone makers is amply represented in many communities across the state.

One stellar example of A. K. Prescott’s work is connected to an 1888 diphtheria epidemic in the county that claimed the lives of children and at least one adult. Among the 23 cases at nearby Pioneer, Montana, 7 fatalities occurred. All seven were buried in Hillcrest Cemetery. Among these graves are those of Roy and Lulu Brent and three-year-old Katie Blessinger, whose lovely tombstone in the shape of a little child’s chair, bears strong resemblance to those of other children’s tombstones of this period—most victims of diphtheria—at Helena, Butte, and Bozeman. The poignant child’s chair, with little shoes tucked underneath, clothing carelessly draped over the back, and a beribboned hat, is exclusive to A. K. Prescott’s stone cutters. These charming memorials—including the Hillcrest example—carry the signature of A.K. Prescott.

<sup>21</sup> “The Deer Lodge Cemetery,” NNW, May 16, 1884.

<sup>22</sup> NNW, May 30, 1884 and June 11, 1886.

<sup>23</sup> *Butte Weekly Miner*, September 2, 1885 and advertisements, April 22, 1885 *et passim*.

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The lone adult victim of the 1888 epidemic, 17-year old Celestia “Celia” Thrasher, was newly married and caring for some of the sick children when she became ill and died. She is also buried at Hillcrest, but her grave is unmarked.<sup>24</sup>

Following national trends, in the 1880s, zinc tombstones, also known as “white bronze,” became popular and Hillcrest Cemetery has numerous examples. Lightweight and durable, these hollow markers were easy to ship and have weathered the test of time.<sup>25</sup> The monument to Anna Napton, who died at age 35 in 1882, represents one artistic example. A graceful angel rests atop her tombstone with an epitaph that reads: “Who are the Saved, the Woman who lives Retired from the World and Devoted her Life to her God, her Husband, and her Children.”

### Cemetery Upkeep

The community struggled to landscape the cemetery. By 1886, new fencing enclosed the area and community members urged a second planting of trees, noting the expedience of planting native species since other attempts at planting eastern shade trees failed.<sup>26</sup> The incorporation of the town of Deer Lodge allowed the regulation of cemeteries and the acquisition of lands for that purpose, but it was the county who oversaw cemetery upkeep and received the numerous complaints about its condition. A major issue was that visitors left the gate open so that livestock could enter and damage property. Other complaints focused on the lack of vegetation and unwelcoming appearance with residents urging the planting of native trees “...on the avenues to counteract the bleakness...”<sup>27</sup>

The county continued to ignore its responsibility for cemetery upkeep and the public continued to complain, noting a cemetery’s presentation as a reflection on the town: “The state of cemeteries,” wrote one citizen, “shows the state of civilization of the community to a marked degree.”<sup>28</sup> Finally in 1892, at the public’s urging, Deer Lodge County relinquished title to the cemetery and the City of Deer Lodge assumed responsibility of what was then known as the Deer Lodge City Cemetery.<sup>29</sup> The city undertook improvements in fencing, headstones, coping, cleaning, and planting native trees. By 1899, the *Butte Daily Post* noted, “In a few years the Deer Lodge cemetery will be a beautiful forest.”<sup>30</sup> Some of the old growth junipers still on site certainly date to this period.

In 1901, Powell County was carved out of Deer Lodge County with Deer Lodge remaining the county seat. Anticipating an increase in population, the cemetery was enlarged at that time. Frank Hardenbrook of the Denver and Montana Reduction Works at Beartown drew a plan of the cemetery, noting the various sections, graves, and those interred. Impetus for this project likely

<sup>24</sup> “The Scourge of Diphtheria,” NNW, August 17, 1888.

<sup>25</sup> Ellen Baumler, *The Life of the Afterlife* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska, 2021), pp. 94-95.

<sup>26</sup> NNW, Sept 10, 1886.

<sup>27</sup> NNW, July 20, 1888.

<sup>28</sup> “Improvements at the Cemetery Suggested,” NNW, April 11, 1890.

<sup>29</sup> *Anaconda Standard (AS)*, June 21, 1892. The cemetery is never referred to as Hillcrest until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>30</sup> “County Commissioners,” *Butte Daily Post*, May 18, 1899.

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originated with the death of Hardenbrook's brother, David, who was buried at Hillcrest a few months previous. An article from 1901 noted that the Deer Lodge cemetery represented one of the oldest in the state. At that time, it held 1,106 burials, 154 of those were unknown and another 186 unmarked indigents.<sup>31</sup>

### **Construction of the Morony Mausoleum**

The death of wealthy John G. Morony in 1915 directly impacted the Deer Lodge City Cemetery. Morony, born in Springtown at the head of Bear Gulch in Deer Lodge County in 1869, served as director of the Amalgamated Copper Company. Morony was a major developer of hydraulic power and industrial interests in the state as an organizer, director, and major stockholder in the Montana Power Company. At the time of his death, he served as president of the First National Bank of Great Falls. The Morony Dam bears his name. Morony married Mary Edith Mills, daughter of James H. Mills who founded the New North-West. Mary was a Deer Lodge native. At the time of her husband's death, Mrs. Morony was in Torquay, Devonshire, England, serving with the Red Cross as a nurse caring for wounded soldiers.<sup>32</sup>

After her husband's death, Mrs. Morony inherited several million dollars and spent thousands on the construction of the Rainbow Hotel, the Park Hotel, the First National Bank building, and the Morony Natatorium, all in Great Falls.<sup>33</sup> She commissioned George H. Shanley, the architect of the Rainbow and Park hotels and Morony's bank, to design a mausoleum for her husband in the Deer Lodge cemetery. The press, in discussing the mausoleum, includes the first references to the cemetery by its current name, "Hillcrest." The Greek Revival style mausoleum, containing eight drawers for family members, was sited on a prominent overlook: "From it, on every side, mountains and valleys are seen, Hill Crest cemetery being an unusually picturesque spot."<sup>34</sup> Proclaimed one of the finest structures of its kind in the West, the mausoleum received the casket of John G. Morony a year after his death.<sup>35</sup> Although the interment was not publicized, many Montanans attended the service as John G. Morony was laid to rest "in the deeply shadowed reposeful cemetery of Deer Lodge city where sleep hundreds of pioneers of western Montana..." As Rev. T. R. Landy read the service, a costly Tiffany window, entitled "Between the Darkness and the Dawn" of a sunrise gilding a mountain peak, cast a golden light on the white Italian marble interior where Morony was placed for his final rest.<sup>36</sup>

A few years later in 1919, Right Reverend John P. Carroll, bishop of Helena, consecrated the mausoleum and Father Landy again read the solemn, lovely service.<sup>37</sup> In the interim in 1917, Mrs. Morony married John C. Lalor, a close family friend, and did not attend the consecration. When Morony's mother, Anna Morony, died in California in 1921, she too was interred at

<sup>31</sup> "Deer Lodge," *Butte Miner*, August 11, 1901.

<sup>32</sup> "John G. Morony Dies at Butte," *Great Falls Daily Tribune*, May 24, 1915.

<sup>33</sup> "Mrs. Morony is Married," *Great Falls Tribune (GFT)*, June 29, 1917.

<sup>34</sup> "Morony Mausoleum in Hill Crest Cemetery," *Great Falls Tribune*, August 8, 1916.

<sup>35</sup> "Morony Mausoleum One of the Finest," *Great Falls Tribune*, August 20, 1916.

<sup>36</sup> "Splendid Sepulchre," *Great Falls Daily Tribune*, July 28, 1916.

<sup>37</sup> "Bishop Consecrates Morony Mausoleum," *Butte Miner*, June 18, 1919.



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Hillcrest with her son.<sup>38</sup> Mary Mills Morony Lalor died in Cario, Egypt, in 1923 and, disrupting the original plan, was not interred at Hillcrest. Only John G. Morony and his mother rest in the Hillcrest mausoleum.

### **Hillcrest Cemetery from the 1920s**

As the 20<sup>th</sup> Century began its second decade, Hillcrest was simply known as the “cemetery at Deer Lodge.” From about 1916, it was referred to as “Hill Crest,” and soon after, as “Hillcrest.”<sup>39</sup> At this same time, the planning of the Morony Mausoleum provided impetus for cemetery improvements and an important meeting was held at the Deer Lodge Club to elect officers of a newly formed cemetery association. Prominent civic leaders that attended the meeting included Conrad Kohrs, N. J. Bielenberg, Mrs. Armistead Mitchell, Thomas McTague, and Frank Conley. Conley served as the longtime warden at the state prison and McTague was his business partner. The two took a keen interest in the cemetery since the prison cemetery was adjacent. Also in attendance were Mrs. Morony, mausoleum architect George H. Shanley, and Arthur W. Hobart. Hobart’s attendance is especially noteworthy as he was the architect of the National Register-listed C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery in Kalispell, a classic rural garden cemetery and the Montana prototype for perpetual care cemeteries.<sup>40</sup> Hobart visited Hillcrest earlier that day. During the meeting, he made suggestions for improvements and beautification of the grounds. At that time, many in attendance contributed significant amounts to the fund and Mrs. Morony gave \$5,000. The association expressed its intention to expand the property and to follow Hobart’s suggestions.<sup>41</sup>

After the forming of the association, Warden Frank Conley—later Deer Lodge mayor—offered to improve the water system at Hillcrest by building a reservoir to water trees and shrubs. The project cost \$5,000, to be paid by those owning plots in the cemetery.<sup>42</sup> This proved beneficial to Warden Conley as the prison cemetery lay adjacent to the grounds. By 1921, however, the association apparently dissolved or became inactive. Neglect soon set in, and incidents occurred that had negative effects on the cemetery, such as the gate being left open resulting in cattle entering and tromping on the graves, mutilating fledgling trees, and upsetting tombstones. Such occurrences spurred a new movement to organize an association.<sup>43</sup>

Significant activity ensued in the 1920s. The cemetery expanded, adding Moose, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars sections and a second Masonic section. The contract to

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<sup>38</sup> “Last Honors Paid Montana Pioneer,” *Anaconda Standard*, December 16, 1921.

<sup>39</sup> Among the first references to the cemetery as Hill Crest are the funerals of Heinrich Moggem, *AS*, December 11, 1916; John Murphy, *Butte Miner*, April 21, 1917; and the articles related to the Morony Mausoleum, May-June, 1916.

<sup>40</sup> Ellen Baumler, *C. E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery National Register nomination*, NR #12000995, listed December 5, 2012.

<sup>41</sup> “Deer Lodge Fairly Bustles with Business,” *AS*, December 12, 1915; “Cemetery Association Formed at Deer Lodge,” *AS*, 13 Jun 1916; National Register nomination for the C.E. Conrad Memorial Cemetery, 2012, housed at the State Historic Preservation Office, 1301 E. Lockey Avenue, Helena, MT.

<sup>42</sup> “Water System Carried to Hillcrest Cemetery,” *Butte Miner*, August 3, 1919.

<sup>43</sup> “Movement to Organize Cemetery Association,” *Butte Miner*, April 17, 1921.

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plat the new sections and erect monuments fell to George Kearney.<sup>44</sup> Kearney erected a flagpole in the center of the new American Legion section and a plaque, dedicated by Powell #10, to all who served under the American flag in time of war. In May, the city planted 50 Canadian poplars and Balm of Gileads donated by nurseryman J. B. Hare.<sup>45</sup> The tool house most certainly dates to this busy time when planting and construction required some type of storage. When Thomas McTague, who had been Warden Conley's administrative business partner at the Montana State Prison, died two months later, he was buried under the poplars.<sup>46</sup> Today, no trees shade his grave suggesting that those from this 1920s' planting no longer survive.

In 1928, vandals seriously damaged the Morony Mausoleum. Using a pick stolen from the tool house, the thieves pried apart steel bars at the window, shattered the valuable Tiffany glass, and entered through the opening. The newspaper speculated that only a child could squeeze through the opening, but the damage done to the interior was not the work of a child. The vandal, or vandals, nearly reached the coffin of Mrs. Morony, but apparently abandoned their work and the coffins of neither Morony nor his mother were accessed. The Tiffany window, depicting a scene of the Boulder valley by a French artist, was replaced with an art deco style, stained glass window. Mayor Conley offered a \$100 reward for their capture but the vandals were never caught.<sup>47</sup>

### **Organizations and Groups Represented in the Hillcrest Cemetery**

In 1919, on the heels of World War I, Congress chartered the American Legion. This patriotic veterans' organization focuses on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities. It evolved from a group of World War I veterans into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Powell County was quick to organize a post. By 1920, Powell Post #10 boasted 121 members, 36 charter members, and 80 more veterans eligible to join.<sup>48</sup> The post raised funds for a variety of veteran-related relief. In 1927, Mayor Conley and the Deer Lodge city council granted Powell Post #10 its own section at Hillcrest Cemetery, measuring 84 x 68 feet, in the center of the "new addition" with space for 100 graves. The post planned additional ways to honor veterans such as erecting a flagpole, paid for by Montana Power Company, to fly "Old Glory" on holidays and special occasions.<sup>49</sup> An accompanying monument near the flagpole, placed at the edge of the driveway at the northwest corner of the American Legion section, features a bronze plaque set atop a rectangular granite boulder.

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<sup>44</sup> "Contract Awarded for Cemetery Improvement," *Anaconda Standard*, April 14, 1926; Legion Post is Given Plot in New Cemetery, *AS*, April 6, 1926; "Masonic Lodge Seeks Plot in New Cemetery," *Anaconda Standard*, January 7, 1927.

<sup>45</sup> "Tree Donation to Beautify Cemetery," *AS*, May 3, 1927; "Hillcrest Cemetery Trees are Cared for," *Anaconda Standard*, May 8, 1927.

<sup>46</sup> McTague, *AS*, July 3, 1928.

<sup>47</sup> "Morony Mausoleum entered by Ghouls," *AS*, March 21, 1928; "Reward Offered for Grave Vandals," *AS*, April 12, 1928; "Still Seeking Culprits for Injuring Property," *Anaconda Standard*, April 12, 1928.

<sup>48</sup> "121 Members of Powell Post American Legion," *Butte Miner*, June 11, 1920.

<sup>49</sup> "Legion Plans to place Flag Pole in Cemetery," *Anaconda Standard*, March 26, 1927; "Legion Post is Given Plot in New Cemetery," *Anaconda Standard*, April 6, 1927.

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The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) formed in 1866 at the close of the Civil War with membership open to those who served in the Union army, navy, and marines. Posts in Powell County (then Deer Lodge County) organized in the 1890s.<sup>50</sup> A monument in the G.A.R. section dedicated to Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War and whose graves remained unmarked was installed in 1931. G.A.R. veterans of Butte, Philipsburg, and Anaconda furnished the monument, but it was a project to which many made contributions. The pink, gray, and black terrazzo composite was finished by the inmates at the Montana State Prison and the Anaconda Copper Mining Company donated the bronze plaque affixed to its face. The plaque lists 34 soldiers whose graves are unmarked and commemorates all those Confederate veterans who lie in unmarked graves in Powell County. The emblematic five-pointed bronze G.A.R. star caps this monument. Many other Union Civil War veterans are buried in marked graves throughout Hillcrest and some are marked with the G.A.R. emblem.

Senator Charles H. Williams, Frank Conley, and A.B. Middleton placed a granite monument in the Old Masonic Section 6 in 1935 to commemorate the life of Montana pioneer Granville Stuart. The bronze plaque, affixed to a granite boulder and donated by the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, recalls Stuart's many achievements, influence, and contributions to Montana.<sup>51</sup> Stuart's two brothers James and Thomas as well as his second wife, Allis Belle Stuart, also rest nearby.

### **Japanese Community at Deer Lodge**

The federal Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 prohibited Chinese skilled and unskilled laborers from entering the United States. As many as 17,000 Chinese workers labored on the building of the Northern Pacific Railway across the Northwest. When a large workforce was soon needed to build the Great Northern Railway in the 1890s and the Milwaukee Road in the early 1900s, officials turned to Japanese laborers. Many came to Montana under contract with Japanese companies to fill these jobs. Hundreds of Japanese "bandy dancers"—section hands who maintained the tracks—worked in cities and towns wherever there were railyards. Deer Lodge was one of these communities.

Statistics compiled from the 1900, 1910, and 1920 federal censuses reveal that Deer Lodge boasted a substantial Japanese community in the first half of the twentieth century. In 1900, 12 Japanese men were section workers at the Deer Lodge railyards. In 1910, that number increased to 38 and in 1920, there were five households that included women, four with children. The Japanese community burgeoned to include 50 railroad workers and 10 others involved in restaurant work.

A row of 24 headstones recalls the Japanese community in Deer Lodge. Headstones, some in English, mostly mark the graves of men who worked in the railyard. A few women and children appear among the group. The beautiful stone marking the grave of six-year-old Shigeko

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<sup>50</sup> "Soldiers Monument Unveiled at Deer Lodge Cemetery" *Helena Independent Record*, July 14, 1931.

<sup>51</sup> "Marker Erected at Deer Lodge in Memory of Gold Discoverer," *Montana Standard (MS)*, December 8, 1935.

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Nishimura is distinctive. Shigeko died of appendicitis in 1916 and her tombstone features a Christian cross, the only religious marker in this group.<sup>52</sup>

By 1940, the Japanese community included fewer than 12 individuals representing two families and two single men. All heads of households worked for the railroad. Among those buried in Japanese Row include the last, longtime Deer Lodge Japanese residents, the Nishimura and Hamada families. The last interred was Sada Hamada who lived much of her life at Deer Lodge and died in 1983 at the age of ninety-four. She, her husband, and the Nishimura families all rest at Hillcrest in Japanese Row.

### Prison Cemetery

With the gold rush came a need for federal presence in the fledgling western territories. Congress passed a bill that allowed the territories of Nebraska, Idaho, Montana, Arizona, and Dakota to build federal prisons with financial support from internal revenue. Montana was granted \$40,000 for this purpose. In 1867, Montana's territorial legislature designated Deer Lodge, one of Montana's first settlements, as the site of the federal penitentiary. Federal architects drew the plans and the facility—the first federal presence in Montana Territory—received its first prisoners in 1871.<sup>53</sup>

The prison was a dismal, terrible place, poorly ventilated, lacking plumbing and heat. Tuberculosis, other diseases, and violence were rife. It soon became necessary to designate a place to bury inmates whose remains were unclaimed by friends or relatives. At the same time in 1870, the settlement of Deer Lodge faced a similar challenge, a realization that development fast encroached on the existing city's urban cemetery. The area west of town proved perfectly situated on a high ridge and the new cemetery that began there also was convenient as a location for the prison burial ground. Both, therefore developed, simultaneously.

At Hillcrest's upper west end, the plot holds some 58 recorded burials of prisoners who died while incarcerated at Montana's territorial penitentiary from 1872 to 1888 and the Montana State Prison from 1889 to the present.<sup>54</sup> Inmates were buried there either by request or because no one claimed their remains. The first burial may have been that of Harry B. Fanning who died of consumption in 1872. Fanning was one of the facility's first prisoners, admitted in July of 1871, sentenced to serve seven years for stealing four hundred dollars from W.T. Ford of Diamond City.<sup>55</sup>

Sometimes known by inmates as "The Isle of Forgotten Men," the cemetery includes both marked and unmarked graves, some anonymous and some markers bearing names. The earliest marked burial dates to 1884. Its inscription reads, "Axe Handle—Indian—1884." At this time,

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<sup>52</sup> Estimated numbers compiled from the census reports of 1900-1940 via ancestry.com.

<sup>53</sup> Ellen Baumler and J. M Cooper, *Dark Spaces: Montana's Historic Penitentiary at Deer Lodge* (Albuquerque: University of N.M. Press, 2008), pp. 6-7.

<sup>54</sup> Montana State Prison Cemetery, Findagrave.com at [Montana State Prison Cemetery in Deer Lodge, Montana - Find a Grave Cemetery](#), accessed 8/10/22.

<sup>55</sup> "The Territory," NNW, November 11, 1871; "Items," *Helena Weekly Herald*, July 18, 1872.

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the first plot map was created, but as noted above, the cemetery became sadly neglected over the next several decades. Badger holes made access dangerous and weeds four feet tall grew over the scattered markers. In the early 1960s, Warden Ed Ellsworth, Jr., along with mortician Ralph Beck, compiled a plot plan and implemented a program to rehabilitate the prison portion of the cemetery. At this same time, inmates formed the Montana State Prison Chapter of Jaycees, the third such chapter in the nation to form within prison walls. The inmate Jaycees took up the cemetery cause. In 1967, another chapter, the Spanish Fork Jaycees, organized in the prison and the two chapters furthered their rehabilitative cemetery efforts by replacing old and unreadable markers with concrete headstones.<sup>56</sup> These remain today.

### **The Masons in Montana**

Masonry represents an important thread in the history of Montana that began with the Lewis and Clark Expedition. The explorers left little tangible evidence but did leave many geographic features with names provided by them, including three rivers in Madison County, the Wisdom, Philosophy, and Philanthropy rivers, named for Masonic ritual. Likely the first Mason to set foot in the region, Meriwether Lewis's naming of such features harkened to his Masonic affiliation. Half a century later in September of 1862, Captain James Fisk's wagon train camped on the western edge of the Rocky Mountains. Nathaniel Langford, George Gere, and Richard Charlton, the only Masons in the company, climbed to the summit of Mullan Pass where they opened and closed an informal lodge of Master Masons. This meeting of the three Masons, according to Masonic tradition and as an alternative to other theories, is one of three events represented in the vigilante ultimatum "3-7-77" that symbolizes Montana's turbulent early history and survives today as part of the insignia of the Montana Highway Patrol. The second event was the funeral of William Bell whose death of mountain fever on November 12, 1862, was the first natural death at Bannack. His funeral brought 76 Masons together for the first formal fraternal gathering; Bell himself represented the 77th Mason. The third momentous event was the forming of the vigilance committee, or Vigilantes, at Virginia City in December 1863. This came in the wake of the murder trial, conviction, and hanging of George Ives on December 21. Wilbur Fisk Sanders, prominent Mason and later Montana's first US senator, served as the prosecuting attorney. The next day, 7 men, all reputedly Masons, organized the Vigilantes and adopted the "3-7-77" signature. Not all Vigilantes were Masons and although this theory has been often challenged, Masons undeniably played a very important role in laying the strong foundation upon which the state of Montana rests.<sup>57</sup> Subsequently chartered lodges quickly sprang up in most early Montana communities including Bannack, Nevada City, Virginia City, Helena, and Bozeman. At the petition of 30 Masons, Deer Lodge chartered its chapter on October 6, 1869, as Deer Lodge No. 14.<sup>58</sup> Masons held a strong presence there and a section at Hillcrest from its earliest inception.

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<sup>56</sup> Frank Quinn, "Prison Cemetery Being Restored," *Missoulian*, March 12, 1968.

<sup>57</sup> This history extracted from the Benton Avenue Cemetery, National Register nomination, 2003, at [bea8a250-d5c8-4019-bbcb-ad2e13df05a0 \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/learn/recordings/bea8a250-d5c8-4019-bbcb-ad2e13df05a0), accessed 10/21/22.

<sup>58</sup> Robert E. Miller, *The Hands of the Workmen*, Helena: State Publishing, 1966, p. 20.

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### **Prominent People Buried at Hillcrest Cemetery**

#### ***John and Nicholas Bielenberg***

John was born in Germany and came west at the age of 18 to help his half-brother, Conrad Kohrs, in the butcher business. The two complemented each other and forged a lifelong partnership in the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. John was active in Montana's territorial and state legislatures and the Montana Stockgrowers Association. His interests leaned toward horse breeding, especially cow horses from Indian mares bred with Thoroughbred stallions. Breeding thoroughbred studs to hardy native mares, Bielenberg bred cow ponies capable of a 20-mile circle in half a day during the roundup. These horses came to be known as Big Circle horses and were in high demand.<sup>59</sup> John never married and lived in the main house at the Grant-Kohrs Ranch until his death in 1922.

Nicholas, also a half-brother of Conrad Kohrs, was a successful Deer Lodge businessman and livestock grower. In 1865, at age 17, he traveled to Montana by wagon train. He apprenticed as a butcher at the Chicago stockyards and then went into the stock business, eventually raising cattle with Kohrs. Later, he and Joseph Toomey became partners and their business became one of the largest sheep operations in the northwest. They handled 130,000 head of sheep in one year were dubbed the fathers of the sheep industry in northern Montana. Bielenberg was also a prominent Republican and a delegate to the Republican National Convention at Minneapolis in 1892. He was inducted into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame.

#### ***Alma Bielenberg Higgins***

Alma Bielenberg Higgins was a lifelong advocate of conservation. Alma, born at Deer Lodge and the daughter of Nicholas and Ann Bielenberg, became a founder of the Civic Improvement League of Deer Lodge in 1902. She was active in the Montana Women's Club, and responsible for creating the State Forester position 1909. She moved to Butte in 1920 where she wrote a garden column for the local paper. Because Butte was sometimes referred to as the ugliest city in the world, she worked to dispel that title, lobbying for landscaping. Her "Garden Week," begun 1922, is still celebrated as a national event. Known as the Christmas Tree Lady, Alma promoted living Christmas trees, their legends, and history. One of those trees became the first National Christmas Tree. Alma left a remarkable legacy of conservation and advocacy, unfortunately, she and her work have mostly been nearly forgotten.<sup>60</sup>

#### ***Janette Kelley***

Janette was the original model for Betty Crocker. Born in Deer Lodge, Janette graduated in 1917 from Montana State University with a degree in home economics. She joined the staff of Washburn-Crosby in Minneapolis in 1921, which promoted Gold Medal Flour. The company created the name Betty (because it sounded friendly) and Crocker (after a retired director) to answer consumer questions. Janette set up the first test kitchen for Washburn-Crosby and its successor, General Mills. She served as the director of Home Services, supervising 50 women

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<sup>59</sup> Patricia Nell Warren, Grant-Kohrs Ranch Foundation, 2013 at [GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH FOUNDATION - Race Horses \(gkrf.org\)](http://GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH FOUNDATION - Race Horses (gkrf.org)), accessed 10-23-22.

<sup>60</sup> "Mrs. W I Higgins, 87, is Dead," *Montana Standard*, March 17, 1962.

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and developed the recipes for the Betty Crocker cookbook. Betty Crocker achieved the honor of second most recognized woman in America in 1954, next to Eleanor Roosevelt.

### ***Hiram Knowles***

Knowles, a graduate of Harvard Law School, worked in a private practice in Deer Lodge from 1866 to 1868. He served on the territorial supreme court and was a delegate to the 1889 constitutional convention. He served as judge of the district court of Montana after statehood, appointed by President Benjamin Harrison in 1892 and until 1904. He then practiced law in Missoula. Knowles wanted to die in Montana and was traveling from California by train when he became very ill with Bright's disease. He just crossed the Idaho/Montana border enroute to Missoula when the judge got his wish.

### ***Conrad, Augusta, and William Kohrs***

#### Conrad Kohrs

Although born in 1835 in Demark, Conrad Kohrs was of German extraction. He arrived in the United States at the age of 17 and became a citizen. He followed the gold rush to California and came to Montana in 1862. He quickly realized the importance of feeding the new population, so he became a butcher and bought Johnny Grant's ranch at Deer Lodge in 1866. He was also involved in politics, serving in the territorial legislature, and was elected State Senator in 1902. Kohrs and his half-brother, John Bielenberg, were among the first to adopt more modern methods of ranching. The two bought purebred breeding stock, fenced the open range, and raised and stored feed. Kohrs implemented these practices on his ranch after the disastrous winter 1886-1887. He engineered the breeding of purebred cattle and earned the nickname, "Montana's Cattle King." Kohrs served as president of the Montana Stockgrowers and the Grant-Kohrs Ranch remained under family ownership until 1972.

#### Augusta Kohrs

Augusta, also of German extraction, married Conrad in 1868, soon after he moved to the ranch. Conrad brought Augusta to the ranch where she was horrified at the condition of the house where the bachelors kept quarters. She was a meticulous housewife and cleaned things up in short order with the result that her home was one of the most beautiful Victorian residences in early Montana.

#### William Kohrs

William was the son of Conrad and Augusta, and represented the hope of the family. Unfortunately, William died sudden after an appendectomy in 1901 while a student at Columbia University studying electrical engineering. After William's passing, the Kohrs family spent more time in Helena, but grandson, Conrad Warren—son of the Kohrs' daughter—assumed the role of rancher. The Deer Lodge library, paid for by the Kohrs family and modeled after Carnegie libraries, is dedicated to William who displayed some artistic talent. Visitors to the Grant-Kohrs home today can see a lovely sketch of a horse young William.

### ***James H. Mills***

Until its demise in 1869, James Mills was the editor of the *Montana Post*, Montana's first newspaper. A Civil War veteran, Mills arrived in Montana in 1866 and came to Deer Lodge to

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found the *New North-West* newspaper in 1869. Mills was a very prominent Republican and well-known Montana journalist. His obituary called him a “graceful, pungent writer.” Without Mills’ guidance, the newspaper folded in 1897. Mills served as Secretary of the Montana Territory; Adjutant General; State Commissioner of Agriculture, Labor, and Industry; Powell County Clerk & Recorder; Grand Master of the Montana Masons; and first president of the Montana Press Association. In the battle between Anaconda and Helena over the location of the state capital, Mills editorialized unsuccessfully against copper king William Clark and Helena in favor of Marcus Daly and Anaconda. Mills’ daughter’s first husband was John Morony.

### ***Armistead H. Mitchell***

Dr. Mitchell graduated in 1852 from the New York City School of Medicine. He practiced medicine and followed gold rushes, mining in California, British Columbia, and Idaho. Mitchell then came to Montana. Unlike other gold rush doctors, he never practiced in Bannack or Virginia City. Mitchell’s success at mining provided him a considerable fortune by the time he arrived in Montana. Mitchell set up practice in Deer Lodge. Dr. Mitchell had a boisterous personality and showed great compassion. Mitchell was a Democrat and served as president of the Territorial Council during early legislative sessions from 1869 to 1885. He was building commissioner of the territorial penitentiary and its chief surgeon until 1886. Dr. Mitchell built a hospital in Deer Lodge and after Battle of the Big Hole became chief surgeon for the army in 1877. With partner Dr. C. F. Mussigbrod, he built the hospital at Warm Springs. He proved enormously successful in medicine and business. In 1893, Dr. Mitchell’s son, Hugh, while away at business college in Chicago, suddenly became ill. The parents reached Hugh’s bedside just before he died. Dr. Mitchell brought him home to Deer Lodge for burial as Hugh requested. Several years later, when the family dog died, Dr. Mitchell—despite suffering from mastoiditis, a painful terminal illness—brought the dog’s body to Deer Lodge where he had a small place dug at the foot of his son’s grave and buried the dog. “Ike” had been his son’s cherished companion.

One noted story regarding Dr. Mitchell’s flexibility during operations involves his wide travels. During one of his excursions, he famously performed an amputation on “Shorty” at a saloon in Beartown, using a butcher knife, a common saw, with planks laid between two whisky barrels to serve as an operating table; long drinks of whiskey substituted as an anesthetic. Shorty reportedly fell into a fire and severely burned his arm. After the surgery, Shorty, apparently no worse for wear or tear ordered drinks all around.

### ***Granville, James, and Thomas Stuart***

#### Granville Stuart

Granville Stuart and his brothers were very early settlers in the Deer Lodge valley. Granville and James, along with a companion, discovered gold on Gold Creek in 1858. Granville, youngest of the three brothers, helped form the cornerstones of Montana as a statesman, rancher, and vigilante. For a few years he was in the mercantile business in partnership with Walter Dance (also buried at Hillcrest) at Virginia City. During the mid-1880s when a serious problem with horse rustling existed, Stuart organized a group of vigilantes to exact punishment for horse stealing. “Stuarts Stranglers” hung some 20 rustlers.



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Granville's first wife was a Shoshone woman, Awbonny, whom he married in 1862 at the age of 27; she was 12. Together Awbonny and Granville had 11 children; one daughter, Mary, married famous cowboy storyteller Teddy Blue Abbott. After Awbonny died in 1888, Granville married 26-year old Allis Belle Brown, a former teacher on Stuart's DHS (Davis, Hauser, and Stuart) Ranch. In his later life, Granville served as ambassador to Paraguay and Uruguay.

### James Stuart

James Stuart represented Deer Lodge County in the first territorial legislature of 1864. He served as superintendent of the A.S. & M.M. Mining Company at Phillipsburg, post trader at Fort Browning, and went to Fort Peck to assist in administration. He was acting superintendent when he died suddenly of alcohol-related liver disease in 1873.

### Thomas Stuart

Like his brothers, Thomas Stuart followed the gold rushes. He was prospecting in Colorado when Granville wrote him a letter to join him and his brother in Montana. Granville's addressed the letter, "Thomas Stuart, Colorado," and it somehow found its way to him in the mountains. Thomas came to Montana and Virginia City where he mined in 1864. Thomas lived in Deer Lodge for 50 years and worked for Kohrs-Bielenberg at time of his death in 1915.

### ***Thomas McTague***

Upon statehood in 1889, Warden Frank Conley partnered with McTague to run the Montana State Prison as a private enterprise. McTague handled the administrative and financial end of the partnership, which endured until Conley's removal under Governor Joseph Dixon in 1921. McTague was also a stockgrower and held many interests in mining.

### **Notorious Characters Buried in the Prison Cemetery**

#### ***George J. Rock and William Hayes***

George J. Rock and William Hayes were hanged for the murder of a deputy warden in 1908, their hangings the only executions that took place within the prison walls. Territorial and state law until the 1980s mandated that persons sentenced to death be executed in the county where the crime occurred. Usually, executions transpired at the county courthouse, but the circumstances surrounding this crime allowed Warden Conley to use the hangings as a warning to other inmates.

#### ***Paul "Turkey Pete" Eitner***

A well-known character, Eitner was sentenced to life for murder in 1918. Eitner was clearly mentally ill as were many of the prisoners, but in Eitner case, he became comfortable at Deer Lodge and was denied parole multiple times because officials thought him better off in familiar surroundings. Eitner died at the age of 89 in 1967 after just months short 50 years of confinement at Deer Lodge. Eitner was the only funeral held within the prison walls and his cell was never reassigned.

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### ***Jerry Myles***

Myles was one of two ringleaders in the violent prison riot of 1959 that garnered national coverage. The riot claimed the life of Deputy Warden Ted Rothe. As the National Guard stormed the prison, fellow inmate Lee Smart killed Myles and then killed himself.

### **Architectural Significance**

#### ***George H. Shanley***

George H. Shanley designed the Morony Mausoleum in 1916 that stands in the Hillcrest Cemetery. The mausoleum sits on the top of a ridge with an unobstructed view to the north. The striking mausoleum presents characteristics of an early Greek temple. It sports Ionic columns and is constructed of Vermont marble. The columns flank double bronze doors and urns flank the columns beneath a pedimented roof. The east wall originally held a Tiffany window that depicted a sunrise over a mountain peak with the inscription, "Between the Darkness and Dawn." (AS 22 Mar 1928). This window was replaced with an Art Deco design of stained glass after vandals destroyed the original in 1928. The interior is finished in fine Italian marble and holds drawers for eight people. The north-facing bronze doorway looks out over grassy terraced grounds conscribed by granite pillars set at intervals and linked by a heavy chain. Refining the mausoleum further is the presence of a marble sundial to the east and a Greek style marble bench to the west.

George Shanley stands as Great Falls' most prolific architect, designing diverse buildings there from 1908 to the 1950s. A native of Vermont, born around 1875, Shanley was educated at the University of Vermont and studied architecture at Duluth, Minnesota, under Gerhard Tenbusch. He ventured farther west, settling in Kalispell in 1896 where he established a partnership with Joseph Gibson who built many of the community's earliest homes. During his tenure at Kalispell, Shanley designed the National Register-listed Masonic Temple and Flathead County High School.

After moving to Great Falls in 1908, Shanley partnered with John Kent of Iowa (who later with his Iowa partner designed the wings for the Montana State Capitol in 1910). Together, Shanley and Kent designed the famed Rainbow Hotel, financed by the Great Falls Townsite Company in which John Morony held an interest. Kent retired shortly thereafter.

Shanley went on to design many buildings in Great Falls. These included John Morony's First National Bank (now demolished) in 1909, Shanley's home at 916 Third Avenue North, Sacred Heart Convent, St. Mary's Institute, St. Thomas Home, Columbus Hospital, Tenth Street Bridge, and the Cascade County Jail. Shanley was civic-minded and served as a state legislator, city councilman, and city planning board chair. He received the prestigious Distinguished Service Award as a member of the Architectural Registration Board, was first chair of the Montana Board of Architectural Examiners, and vice president of the Montana Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). Shanley was incredibly influential as an architect throughout his

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long career. He left an architectural mark in numerous communities spanning nearly half a century. He remained active until his death in Great Falls, in 1960.<sup>61</sup>

The cemetery grounds, while simple in presentation, conform to a designed and planned landscape. The cemetery affords different sections for interments based on different groups from both within the nearby town of Deer Lodge, and also for those outside of the town. The Hillcrest Cemetery reflects both the settlement period of the nascent town of Deer Lodge and the following decades as the town and grew and prospered. Its straightforward layout, simple landscaping, early flat upright gravestones, tall obelisks, sturdy granite monuments, and flat markers, fenced family plots reflect both the evolution of the cemetery and the changing population of Deer Lodge.

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<sup>61</sup> Candi Zion, *Great Falls Central Business Historic District National Register nomination*, 2004, at [1aad086e-a12e-4ed6-87a2-fb2b0e59c8f8 \(nps.gov\)](#) accessed 10/23/22

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“Marker Erected at Deer Lodge in Memory of Gold Discoverer,” Butte, *Montana Standard*, December 8, 1935.

“Masonic Lodge Seeks Plot in New Cemetery, *Anaconda Standard*, January 7, 1927.

Montana State Prison Cemetery, Findagrave.com at [Montana State Prison Cemetery in Deer Lodge, Montana - Find a Grave Cemetery](#) accessed 10/18/22.

“Morony Mausoleum entered by Ghouls,” *Anaconda Standard*, March 21, 1928

“Morony Mausoleum One of the Finest,” *Great Falls Tribune*, August 20, 1916.

Owens, Steve, *Trask Hall National Register nomination*, 1982 at [ecaeb9cd-2bd6-4d1d-94d6-c5cc42315d21 \(nps.gov\)](#) accessed 10/18, 2022.

Quinn, Frank. “Prison Cemetery Being restored,” *Missoulian*, March 12, 1968.

“The Scourge of Diphtheria,” Deer Lodge, *The New-Northwest*, August 17, 1888.

“Soldiers Monument Unveiled at Deer Lodge Cemetery” *Helena Independent Record*, July 14, 1931.

“Splendid Sepulchre,” *Great Fall Daily Tribune*, July 28, 1916.

“Tree Donation to Beautify Cemetery,” *Anaconda Standard*, May 3, 1927

“Water System Carried to Hillcrest Cemetery,” *Butte Miner*, August 3, 1919.

Zion, Candi. *Great Falls Central Business Historic District National Register nomination*, 2004, at [1aad086e-a12e-4ed6-87a2-fb2b0e59c8f8 \(nps.gov\)](#) accessed 10/18/22.

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_

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**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):** \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 49 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 46.396900  | Longitude: -112.755440 |
| 2. Latitude: 46.396930  | Longitude: -112.753130 |
| 3. Latitude: 46.396480  | Longitude: -112.753160 |
| 4. Latitude: 46.396470  | Longitude: -112.752760 |
| 5. Latitude: 46.394340  | Longitude: -112.752760 |
| 6. Latitude: 46.394380  | Longitude: -112.759210 |
| 7. Latitude: 46.394730  | Longitude: -112.759230 |
| 8. Latitude: 46.394770  | Longitude: -112.759940 |
| 9. Latitude: 46.395300  | Longitude: -112.759930 |
| 10. Latitude: 46.395320 | Longitude: -112.758420 |
| 11. Latitude: 46.396020 | Longitude: -112.758400 |
| 12. Latitude: 46.396040 | Longitude: -112.757960 |
| 13. Latitude: 46.396320 | Longitude: -112.757970 |
| 14. Latitude: 46.396330 | Longitude: -112.757150 |
| 15. Latitude: 46.396510 | Longitude: -112.757170 |
| 16. Latitude: 46.396480 | Longitude: -112.755360 |

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

The National Register boundary of the Hillcrest Cemetery generally follows the road system of the property; the boundary runs on the exterior edge of the cemetery roads, where applicable, to include those roads (the circulation network) within the National Register boundary. Beginning at Point 1, travel east along the south side of Stage Coach Road

Hillcrest Cemetery

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(presented on Google Maps as West Milwaukee Road) to the east edge of the treed north-south running main entry drive (Point 2). From this spot the boundary runs south for about 165 feet to Point 3, the location where the entry road joins the east-west running cemetery road. The boundary then turns east and runs to the corner of the outer cemetery periphery road (Point 4), where it turns south for approximately 765 feet to the southeast corner of the National Register boundary (Point 5). From this location, the boundary runs west, on the south edge of, and paralleling the cemetery's south periphery road to Point 6. At Point 6, the boundary jogs north for about 115 feet to Point 7, where it then turns west and runs for about 190 feet to the National Register boundary's southwest corner (Point 8). The boundary then turns north for just over 200 feet to Point 9, where the formal cemetery grounds meet an undeveloped parcel of land. From Point 9, the boundary then runs east to Point 10, the intersection of the main interior cemetery access road and the western periphery road. The boundary then runs north for about 250 feet to where the periphery road turns east (Point 11). At Point 11, the boundary runs east for about 110 feet to Point 12, where it turns north along the west edge of the formal cemetery grounds to Point 13. From Point 13, the boundary again turns east for a short distance to where it meets an alignment of north-south granite pillars connected by heavy chains (Point 14) that serve as the western edge of the Morony Mausoleum plot. From Point 14, the boundary then turns north again, paralleling the north-south granite pillars to the northwest edge of the Morony Mausoleum plot, Point 15. The boundary again turns east and runs across the north edge of the Morony Mausoleum plot, and continues east across a parcel of fallow land to where it meets the major east-west cemetery road and a secondary north-south running cemetery access road (Point 16). From this spot, the boundary turns north toward Stage Coach Road where it meets Point 1.

The Hillcrest Cemetery lies in the N1/2 N1/2 of Section 5 of Township 7 N Range 9W. See attached map Section 9 page 41; reference to the aerial view map confirms that boundary.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes all land historically used for interments including the drives that serve to access the cemetery and also provide the general National Register boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ellen B. Baumler, PhD

organization: \_\_\_\_\_

street & number: 729 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue

city or town: Helena state: MT zip code: 59601

e-mail: [mbaumler@aol.com](mailto:mbaumler@aol.com)

telephone: 406-461-2924

date: October 26, 2022

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Hillcrest Cemetery

Name of Property

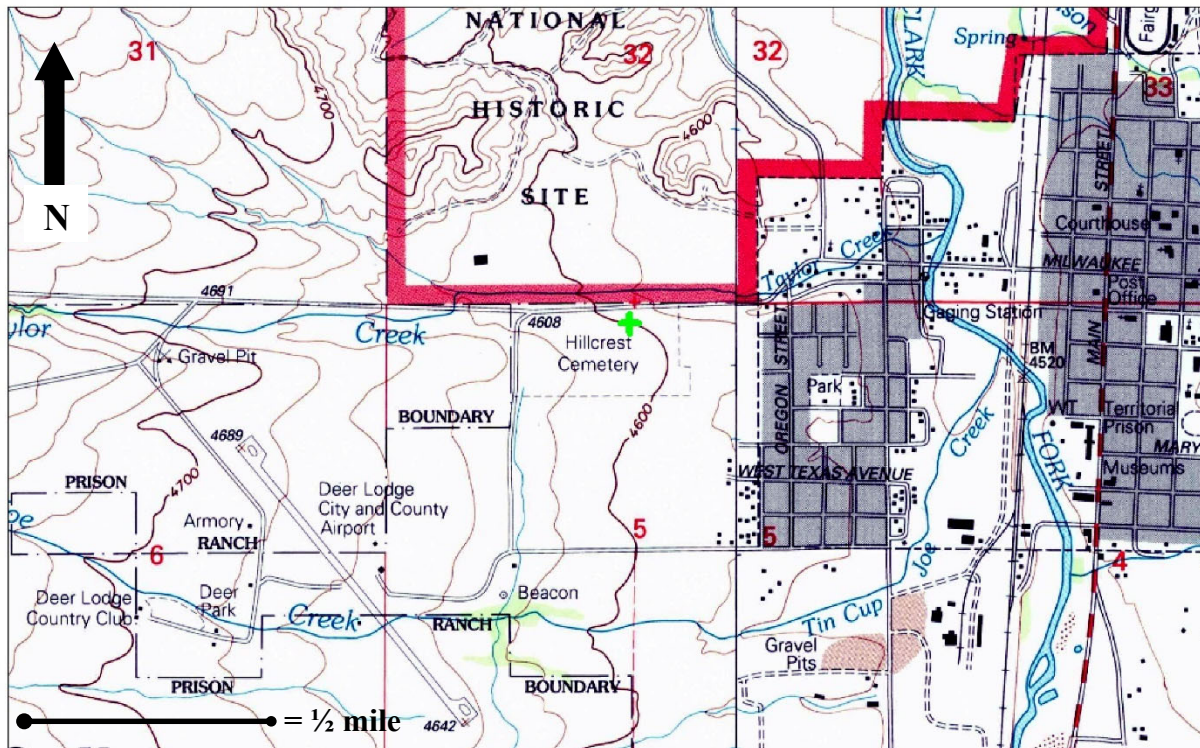
Powell County, MT

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**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.)



Map created using the Digital Atlas November 10, 2022  
<http://msl.mt.gov/GIS/Atlas>

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

**Location of Hillcrest Cemetery. Located on the Conleys Lake 7.5' Quadrangle map.**



Hillcrest Cemetery  
Name of Property  
Taylor Creek

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Imagery ©2022 CNES / Airbus, Maxar Technologies, USDA/FPAC/GEO, Map data ©2022 100 ft

**Aerial View of Hillcrest Cemetery, N1/2 N1/2 of Section 5 of Township 7 N Range 9W.** 1) Latitude: 46.396900, Longitude: -112.755440, 2) Latitude: 46.396930, Longitude: -112.753130, 3) Latitude: 46.396480, Longitude: -112.753160, 4) Latitude: 46.396470, Longitude: -112.752760, 5) Latitude: 46.394340, Longitude: -112.752760 6) Latitude: 46.394380, Longitude: -112.759210, 7) Latitude: 46.394730, Longitude: -112.759230, 8) Latitude: 46.394770, Longitude: -112.759940, 9) Latitude: 46.395300, Longitude: -112.759930, 10) Latitude: 46.395320, Longitude: -112.758420, 11) Latitude: 46.396020, Longitude: -112.758400, 12) Latitude: 46.396040, Longitude: -112.757960, 13) Latitude: 46.396320, Longitude: -112.757970, 14) Latitude: 46.396330, Longitude: -112.757150, 15) Latitude: 46.396510, Longitude: -112.757170, 16) Latitude: 46.396480, Longitude: -112.755360.

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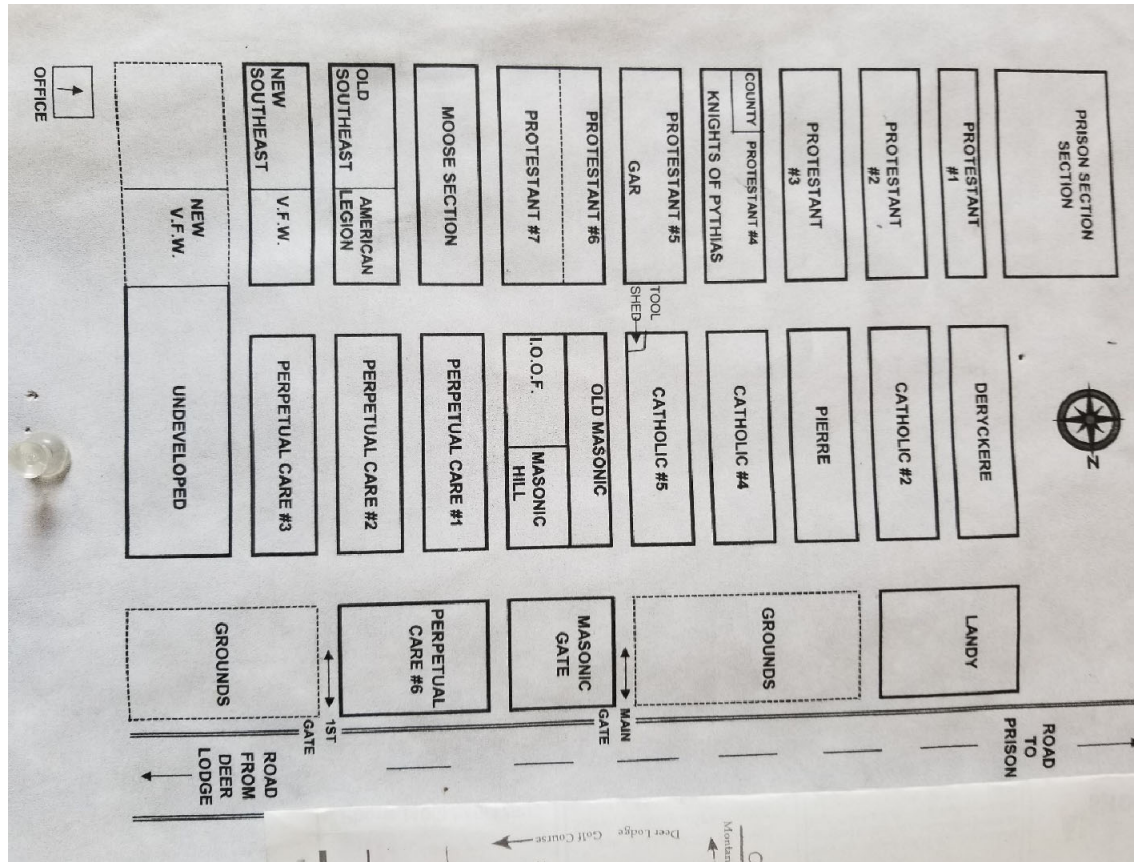


**Hillcrest Cemetery Historic District Sketch Map of Resources**

1. Montana State Prison Cemetery 2. Japanese Row 3. Clark Children's Grave 4. Catholic Memorial  
5. Tool House 6. Stuart Monument 7. G.A.R. Monument 8. Morony Mausoleum  
9. American Legion Memorial and Flagpole 10. Rachel Mourning Memorial 11. V.F.W. Annex

Hillcrest Cemetery  
Name of Property

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Section Map of Hillcrest Cemetery

### National Register Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Hillcrest Cemetery  
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**Photo Log**

**All Photographs**

Name of Property: Hillcrest Cemetery

City or Vicinity: Deer Lodge

County: Powell

State: Montana

Photographer: Ellen Baumler

Date Photographed: October 2019 to September 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of \_\_\_\_.



MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0001, old growth trees at the main entry, looking north.  
Date of Photograph: 3/14/22

Hillcrest Cemetery  
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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0002, Hillcrest Cemetery overview looking east.  
Date of Photograph: 9/27/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0003, Resource #1, Montana State Prison Cemetery, Hillcrest, looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 1/25/20

Hillcrest Cemetery  
Name of Property

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0004, Prison Cemetery, grave marker of Short Man, died 1892.

Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

Hillcrest Cemetery

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0005, Prison cemetery overview, looking west.

Date of Photograph: 8/31/22



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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0006, Clark children's grave, (Resource #2), looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0007, Clark children's gravestone, looking west. Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0008, signature on Clark children's grave.  
Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0009, Japanese Row, Resource #3, looking northwest.  
Date of Photograph: 9/27/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0010, Japanese Row, Resource #3, looking southwest.  
Date of Photograph: 1/25/20

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0011, tombstone of Shigeko Nashimura, Japanese Row, looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

Hillcrest Cemetery  
Name of Property

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0012, Tombstone in Japanese Row looking west. Date of Photograph: 1/25/20

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0013, Catholic Memorial, Resource #4, looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22



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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0014, Catholic Memorial's concrete slab base, impressions of the gate hardware.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0015, Granville Stuart Monument, Resource #5, looking west.

Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0016, G.A.R. Memorial, Resource #6, looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22.

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0017, American Legion Memorial, Resource #7, looking southeast.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0018, Morony Mausoleum, Resource #8, looking southwest.

Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0019, south (rear) and east facades looking northwest.  
Date of Photograph: 3/14/22.

Hillcrest Cemetery  
Name of Property

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0020, sun dial, Morony Mausoleum, looking southwest.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31//22.

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0021, Greek Revival style bench, Morony Mausoleum, looking southwest.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22



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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0022, Tool House, Resource #9, looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22.

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0023, Tool House, west and east facades, looking southwest.

Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0024, Tool House, south façade, looking north.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0025, Tool House, west façade, looking east.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0026, wooden cross, unidentified gravesite, looking northwest.

Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0027, Katie Blessinger tombstone by A. K. Prescott, looking west.

Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0028, Prescott signature on the Blessinger tombstone.  
Date of Photograph: 3/14/22

Hillcrest Cemetery  
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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0029, tombstone with portrait of Marjorie Macone looking west.  
Date of Photograph: 3/14/22



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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0030, tombstone, looking west. Date of Photograph: 10/6/19

Hillcrest Cemetery  
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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0031, zinc tombstone of Anna Napton, view south.  
Date of Photograph: 8/31/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0032, one of the oldest marked graves of imported marble, the date is incorrect and should be 1870, view west.  
Date of Photograph: 9/27/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0033, view to the northwest from main entry.  
Date of Photograph: 9/27/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0034, view to the southeast, Veterans Annex.  
Date of Photograph: 9/27/22

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MT\_PowellCounty\_HillcrestCemetery\_#0035, view to the south, Rachel Mourning monument.  
Date of Photograph: 8/25/22

**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.