

Preserve Historic Missoula
2012 PAINT GRANT REPORT

Nine Mile Community Center (aka Stark School House)
25620 Nine Mile Road
Huson, Montana 59846

The Nine Mile Community Center was awarded a \$500 Preserve Historic Missoula grant in 2012. This greatly appreciated grant was part of nearly \$31,000 received in support of the project (see attached funding recap). We ran out of good weather before the end of 2012, but were able to complete the project during 2013.

Below are a series of “Before” and “After” photos:

This photo shows the front of the Nine Mile Community Center clearly indicating the need for a paint job! It also shows the front entrance before it was renovated during the fall of 2012. Note the bare light bulb just above the front doors and critter holes above the entrance.



This 1918 photo indicates the building (built in 1915) originally was not completely white but had strong dark horizontal and vertical features painted in what we believe was a dark brown color.



Before the weather got too cold during autumn 2012, the contractor was able to begin working on the trim around the windows, replicating the original paint scheme. He also reglazed the windows as part of the larger exterior restoration project. Damaged trim still shows below the roof and a hole in the siding.



This early photo also shows some of the dark trim and an original dark paneled door with large windows...much taller than the white door which replaced it at an unknown date during the twentieth century.



By late November 2012, the contractor was able to install the new front doors and an era-appropriate new porch light (also installed over the rear door). Paint is still peeling from the siding, and holes pockmark the vertical board to the left of the door.



Below is a photo of the completely repainted building, November 2013. Also, please note the restoration work included repairing rotten boards, critter holes in the exterior, and 60 tubes of caulking!



These photos show improvements to the basement, including construction of a wall around the “furnace room” which included extension of wainscoting to match the rest of the room. Also a new wood stove was installed which meets current codes. Finally, “school house” ceiling fixtures were installed in the back of the room, matching fixtures in the larger front portion of the basement.



This photo shows the contractor's meticulous attention to detail as he removed damaged woodwork and replaced it with milled hardwood which matched the original.



Finally, resources were used to remove an unused oil tank from behind the building and continue a process of upgrading the building's electrical conduits. Old carpet was removed from the entry way, the original hardwood steps were refinished and a runner carpet installed in the middle of the stairway going both up and downstairs. Sturdy in/outdoor carpet was installed on the entry landing. And new handrails were installed.

The refurbished exterior provides a “Glimpse Into the Past” as the nearby historic Nine Mile church is reflected in some of the School House’s original wavy panes of window glass.



The citizens of the Nine Mile Valley are very grateful for the grant support for this project provided by Preserve Historic Missoula.

February 12, 2014