

Northern Cheyenne Agency, Building No. 57
850 Feet North of US Highway 212 on US Highway 39
Lame Deer
Rosebud County
Montana

HABS No. MT-86-B

HABS
MONT
44-LADE,
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORICAL AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
NORTHERN CHEYENNE AGENCY, BUILDING 57

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Location: On U.S. Highway 39, 850 feet north of U.S. Highway 212, Lame Deer, Rosebud County, Montana

Significance: Building 57 contributes to the signignificance of the Northern Cheyenne Agency. The building was part of the systematic construction and modernization program. The structure is significant because of its association with New Deal policies at the agency and with New Deal agency architecture.

History: This building was erected by the Indian Division of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC-ID) in 1937 as part of project number 97 of the CCC-ID at Tongue River Agency. The building cost almost exactly the same (\$4,240.63) as an adjacent quarters, Building 56. The log construction of both structures is also similar. Building 57 was built by the CCC-ID to house personnel of the Indian Emergency Civil Works program at the Northern Cheyenne Agency. Plans for Building 57 may have been prepared by engineers and draftsmen at the CCC Billings District Office.

Building 57, with its "rustic" simulated log architecture, closely resembles other CCC buildings erected on other reservations and in National Parks. [1]

Architectural Character: A one story rectangular house, which appears to sit on a stuccoed clay tile foundation. It is a timber crib structure with the timbers milled to simulate logs. Building 57 is considered to be in poor condition.

Description of Exterior:

1. Overall Dimensions: The building, including the front and rear porch, measures 26' across and 55'-1" long.
2. Foundation: The foundation is concrete and placed to form a basement. The porches rest on concrete footings.
3. Wall Construction: The walls are timber crib with timbers milled to simulate logs. Timbers are nailed together. The exterior timbers act as structural load bearing walls.
4. Porches: The west porch measures 26' across and 10' deep. It is a screened-in porch with 3/4" x 3 1/2" tongue and groove flooring. There is a 10' x 3' storage area in the north side. The

screens and framing rest on timber crib timbers. The east porch is 24' across and 9'-11" deep. Both porches have gabled roofs covered with wood shingles. Vertical siding has been placed on the lower 2 1/2' of the framing. Asphalt shingles act as siding on the peaks of both porches.

5. Chimney: The chimney is a brick masonry type that extends from the basement through the roof. The chimney is located approximately in the center of the house. It is no longer used since the house is heated by electric base board units.

6. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: Both porches have screen doors that measure 32" x 6'-8". The west interior door measures 32" x 6'-8" and is a three panel solid wood door with a 21 1/2" x 25 1/2" single pane glass. The east interior door is a hollow corewood door measuring 32" x 6'-8".

b. Windows: Windows are double-hung with single pane glass. There are two size windows in the house 27" x 53" and 26 1/2" x 33".

7. Roof: The main roof is gabled. Wood shingles were used and the end gables are trimmed with 1" x 6" boards. Both Porches have gabled roofs.

Description of Interior:

1. Floor Plan: Entry can be made at either the front or back door. The front door opens into the living room which is flanked by a bedroom. The dining and living room are a single room. The kitchen is accessed by the dining room and the backdoor. The back bedroom is accessed through the kitchen, the back door and the hallway between the bedrooms. The bathroom is accessible through either of the two bedrooms or the dining room. The basement is unfinished.

2. Stairway: Access to the basement is provided by a single flight of stairs. The tread size is 2" x 10' x 41" with 7" risers.

3. Flooring: The flooring is laid east to west and consists of hardwood 3/4" x 3 1/2" tongue and groove. Presently all the floors are covered with carpeting except the kitchen and bathroom. They have vinyl coverings. The sub-floor consists of true dimension 1" x 6" laid diagonally. The floor joist are true dimension 2" x 12" placed 16" on center, they are medially supported by a 10" x 10" pine beam.

4. Wall and Ceiling Finish: Interior wall finishes average 4 1/2". The finishes are composed of lath and plaster with an oil base coating. The base boards in the house measure 1/2" x 7" and have an oil base coating.
5. Doorways and Doors: Doors are horizontal five-panel, measuring 2'8" x 6'8". All are cased with 3 1/2" x 1/2" pine boards.
6. Windows: Windows are as described above. They are cased with 3 1/2" x 1/2" pine boards.
7. Light Fixtures: All are later twentieth century models.
8. Heating: Heating is by electric base board heaters. No insulation exists in this home.
9. Overall Condition: The overall condition of this home is poor at best. The kitchen is gutted; the roof is sagging; approximately 10% of the exterior structural members are rotting and need replacement; the roof needs to be replaced; the bathroom is gutted, and the carpet has been pulled up halfway and left. The wiring is in violation of the national electric code.

Project information:

This Historic American Building Survey (HABS) recording project was undertaken by the BIA, Billings Area Office. The historic documentation was conducted by Fred Quivik and Mark Fiege of Renewable Technologies, Inc. of Butte, Montana. The architectural analysis and descriptions were prepared by Bruce Ward of the BIA, Billings Area office. The photographs were taken by Jerry Leggate, photographer for the Bureau of Reclamation.

Endnotes:

1. Fred Quivik and Mark Fiege, Historic Architecture of 6 Montana Indian Agencies (1987) p. 146-163. Renewable Technologies, Inc. prepared for Bureau of Indian Affairs