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Introduction

Origins and History

Vision for the Future

Origins and History

The College Takes Form – 1890 to 1900

Founded in 1893, Montana State University was established as Montana's Land Grant Institution. The Morrill Act of 1862 enacted a publicly funded higher education system nationwide that provided land for the advancement of agriculture, mechanical arts and military tactics.

Officially called the *Agricultural College of the State of Montana*, Bozeman was selected as the site for the state's first legislatively created college. Its original enrollment of eight students attended classes in a former roller skating rink on Main Street.

Concurrently, a few miles to the south, construction was underway on what would become the permanent home of the university. Completed in 1894, Taylor Hall was the first building constructed on the current campus and housed the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station, which was established through the Hatch Act (1893) to create a national and state research and outreach system. The campus facilities continued to expand as enrollment increased, academic programs expanded and women began to attend for the first time in 1894. In 1898, four years after the completion of Taylor Hall and one year after the first four students graduated, Main Hall, now known as Montana Hall, was completed.

Taylor Hall, the first building on campus, completed in 1894 (attributed to Helena, Montana Architect Charles S. Haire).



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Turn of the Century – 1900 to 1920

In 1906, the agricultural department expanded from a single course in agriculture to include specialized majors in agronomy, animal industry, dairy, and horticulture. Construction of Linfield Hall (1907) was necessary to accommodate the specialized course needs and the agricultural student enrollment.

In 1913 the institution's name changed to "State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts." Following the passage of the Smith-Lever Agricultural Extension Act (1914) the university housed the Cooperative Extension Service

office and performed contract education for industry and government agencies. James Hamilton (university president, 1910-1919) foresaw the institution's ability to become a leader in engineering and mechanical-based academic programs. Hamilton promoted academic and social program advancement by articulating the institution's mission with the motto "Education for Efficiency," which was used for many years.

World War I influenced the curriculum and student population during this era. Agricultural programs and experimental farming practices for maximum production



Biology lab, 1896.



Montana Hall is completed in 1898.



Linfield Hall, constructed in 1907 (Helena, Montana Architects Charles S. Haire and John G. Link).

1890

Montana State University is established as a Land Grant Institution in 1893. It was named The Agricultural College of the State of Montana on February 16, 1893 by the State Legislature.

Football team, 1897.



1900

Women's Basketball team, 1903, MAC-Montana Agricultural College.



Survey Class, 1907.



1900 to 1920 continued

yields increased, along with female enrollment. The Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) was formed on campus in 1917 as a college-based military officer commissioning program under the provisions of the National Defense Act. University students became involved in World War I and expressed their intense loyalty by constructing the “M” on Mount Baldy, located north of Bozeman and visible from the campus.

The campus facilities continued to develop in conjunction with the growth of the institution. In 1917, architect George Carsley was contracted to prepare general plans

and “bird’s eye views of the buildings and grounds” of both the State University in Missoula and the State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Carsley collaborated with well-known architect Cass Gilbert in development of the campus plan. The resulting George Carsley/Cass Gilbert Plan has also been referred to as the 1917 Cass Gilbert Plan.



Hamilton Hall was built as the first student residence, dedicated in 1910.



Research and teaching farm at South 3rd Avenue and Lincoln Street.



Uniformed students working on campus, 1918. Visible in the background is Montana Hall.

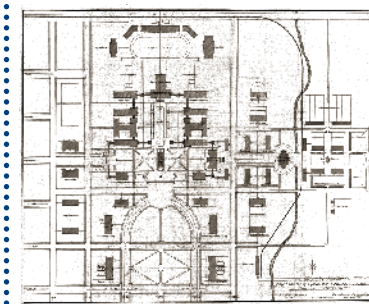
1910

The institution’s name changes to “State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.”

“The M” on Mount Baldy.



1917 George Carsley/Cass Gilbert Plan, which was approved by the Montana Board of Education in 1920.



1920

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The Early Years – 1920 to 1940

In 1920, the institution officially became Montana State College. The “Agricultural and Mechanic Arts” portion of the name was removed because it no longer reflected the expanded programs of the college. The student body increased to nearly 360, with 40 professors specializing in agriculture, engineering, science, and the mechanical arts.

During this era, the George Carsley/Cass Gilbert Plan continued to inspire the development of the campus. The construction of Romney Gymnasium, Roberts Hall, Lewis Hall (between 1922 and 1923), and several other notable campus buildings began to form the basis of the historic campus core and very closely resemble the layout represented in the 1917 plan.



Roberts Hall was designed by Bozeman Architect Fred F. Willson and constructed in 1922, during the first construction boom that resulted in seven new buildings between 1920 and 1929.



Duck Pond (referred to then as Frog Pond) with Traphagen Hall in the background (left) and Romney Gymnasium (right) circa 1922.



Aerial photograph of the campus, 1933, shows implementation of elements of the 1917 George Carsley/Cass Gilbert Plan (foreground right is Linfield Hall; center right is Montana Hall; top center is Herrick Hall.)

1920

Romney Gymnasium was constructed in 1922 (Stanley & Barker Architects, Great Falls, Montana, and George Carsley, consulting architect, Helena, Montana).



A basketball game in Romney Gymnasium, 1929.



1930

Agricultural barns along South 11th Avenue. Taylor Hall is visible in the background on the right side of the photo.



The Second World War Era – 1940 to 1960

World War II had a significant impact on the institution's population and programs. Bozeman-based flight training exposed military personnel to the college, and returning Veterans sought out the area for post-war education. During the post war education boom of the mid-1940's the college population increased to 1,200 students and 140 professors. Programs expanded to include degrees in Liberal Arts and Humanities. Student housing needs changed with the student demographic, which included more married students with families. Danforth Chapel opened in 1952, funded by campus faculty and students desiring a non-denominational spiritual place within the campus community.

Prior to World War II the college's facilities consisted of about 600,000 gross square feet. The campus facilities experienced significant growth in the two decades following the end of World War II. Building construction boomed and building space more than doubled on campus. During the 1940s and 1950s the university added approximately 1 million gross square feet of building space. It was during this period of growth that the University departed from the 1917 George Carsley/Cass Gilbert Plan. In some instances, development was outside of the planned area of the 1917 plan, such as the Fieldhouse, which was constructed in 1957.



Campus housing for students with families known as "Trailer Village," 1944.



Fieldhouse dome under construction; completed in 1957 (Bozeman, MT Architect Oswald Berg).

1940

1950

1960

Atkins Quadrangle, a women's dormitory, was designed by Architects Fred F. Willson (Bozeman) and Gordon Cottier (Great Falls, Montana) and constructed in 1935.



Danforth Chapel, built in 1952.



Reid Hall under construction in 1959.



Origins and History *continued*

Turning the Tide – 1960 to 1970

Political consciousness peaked throughout the United States, and a progressive demeanor influenced by politics, foreign policy and social change affected student life and expectations of university campuses. A surge of new students necessitated an overhaul of administrative, curriculum and extracurricular activities. Native American studies and cultural programs were initiated in 1967. The “turning tide” was emphasized with the official name change to Montana State University on July 1, 1965.

Similar to many higher education institutions in this time period, the university’s financial state was stretched during the 1970s due to federal and state funding deficiencies. The Nursing curriculum increased along with women

faculty advancements, due in part to affirmative action programs and pay increases that supported professional women. The trend of co-ed dormitories allowed greater flexibility in meeting the shifting student gender populations, allowing the university to occupy the housing constructed in the 1970s.

Despite limited financial resources, during the 1960s and 1970s the university still continued to experience significant expansion in facility growth. Thirty five new buildings were constructed, including athletic events facilities and numerous agricultural structures. The campus facilities began to evolve in a manner similar to that at other institutions across the nation, which included high-rise style dormitories and student housing that accommodated families with young children with daycare needs.



Rodeo held in the fieldhouse.

**July 1, 1965-officially designated
“Montana State University”
by the Montana State Legislature.**



Overview of campus with Bridger mountains in the background.

1960

**The early days of Media and
Theatre Arts.**



Registration for classes in the fieldhouse.



1970

**Powwow held in
the fieldhouse.**



Modern Era – 1980 to Present

During this era communication programs and services, athletic programs and recreation facilities expanded, and the underground infrastructure was updated and encapsulated in a tunnel system in 1995.

In 1972, the Museum of the Rockies moved from the quonset buildings to its permanent location at South 3rd and Kagy – nestled in farmland at the perimeter of the city. More than a decade passed before the current museum building was constructed in 1987.

The increased campus housing created in the previous era accommodated an unprecedented population growth which impacted academic programs and facilities. It became necessary to develop a plan to further guide university development. In 1982 the Office of Facilities

Planning prepared a development plan entitled *Montana State University: Master Plan for Campus Development*. The timing was also appropriate because the City of Bozeman was updating its master plan. Many of the previous development goals and implementation processes remained relevant to the current planning efforts, allowing the current Long Range Development Plan (Plan) to build on the 1982 plan.

By 2007, the university reached 12,338 students, with 594 full-time and 256 part-time faculty. Leadership in research-intensive academic programs, and new state-of-the-art science and engineering facilities resulted in the university being ranked 94th in the top tier of research universities in the United States (Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, 2006).



Museum of the Rockies, constructed in 1987.



Tailgating at the new football stadium.

1980

1990

2000

Centennial Mall and gates completed in 1994.



Faculty and staff help incoming freshmen move in.



Arial overview of present-day campus taken from the north side of town.



Vision for the Future

The university's historical pattern of growth is a clear reflection of the success of academic and extracurricular programs, and opportunities supported by the Montana University System and the local community. The university is continually changing and evolving, recently experiencing an influx of international influence. It has also experienced an increase in research opportunities and technological advances that contribute to a dynamic educational environment. The university's buildings and landscape reflect the ideals of the institution and influence the process of learning. A campus plan provides planning principles and guidelines to ensure that future building, infrastructure and landscapes are well-conceived and designed. In order to prepare for proper growth and success of the university, it is imperative that a campus development plan, which is in concert with the vision for the future, be put in place.

Montana State University is planning the growth of both the student body and the physical campus by creating and implementing the Plan. It is clear, from both historical growth patterns and demands by the academic community, that preservation of existing assets, along with additional campus facilities and amenities, are critical elements in the long-term success of the university. The City of Bozeman is also growing at a similar or accelerated rate, demanding an even more committed effort of

collaboration in the realm of campus planning. By working cooperatively with university students, faculty and staff, outside agencies, and campus planning professionals, Montana State University hopes to provide future designers, planners and staff with a comprehensive Long Range Campus Development Plan that is useful as a living document. The Plan is an easy reference tool to be used in project design and planning efforts in addition to long term efforts which focus on land use and expansion of the university.

A campus development plan enables the university to respond intelligently to growth pressures and constructively use these pressures as a positive force in realizing the ultimate potential for the university, both in the academic and physical senses. A useful plan is in harmony with the university's vision, incorporating lessons learned, and acting as a motivation for balanced renewal and expansion of the entire campus and its environs. The Plan is not a statistical forecast for student, faculty and staff demographics, but rather a charted course of action for realizing the potential for success given existing and future resources that may present themselves or be captured during the next 10, 25 or 75 years. The Plan is a dynamic tool which will be revisited every five years to ensure that it meets the goals of the university and changing market trends.

A view of Centennial Mall looking east.



Victoria Drummond