



MONTANA
TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Main Hall Renovation

Total Main Hall LRBP request: \$30 million in legislative funding



YEAR BUILT:
1896



SQUARE FOOTAGE:
37,794



No major renovations in
the 122-year history

As Montana's Special Focus Institution, Montana Technological University provides a transformative student experience by developing leaders and advancing science, engineering, and technology, to benefit humanity while meeting the changing needs of society.



The first building on campus was Main Hall, designed by Montana architect John C. Paulsen. The building, completed in 1896, set the standard for future buildings. Main Hall is one of Montana's best-preserved examples of the Renaissance Revival style, with terra cotta "torch" keystones and wolf's head gargoyles highlighting the arcaded main entrance of the formalized façade. The third level features stone cameos of pioneers in the mining-related sciences: physics (Franklin), geology (Hunt), mineralogy (Gaetzschman), metallurgy (Percy), and chemistry (Holley). Original interior finishing includes an open granite stairway with brass railing and wrought iron balustrades framed by polished granite columns.

The crown jewel of the university, Main Hall, is part of the Butte National Historic Landmark and Montana Heritage Properties. The building has only one entrance and exit, up a flight of stairs. Without an elevator, the entire building lacks ADA accessibility and compliance. Currently, the building houses six classrooms, faculty offices, specialty laboratories, the Electrical Engineering Department, and the Interdisciplinary Arts & Sciences Department. The restrooms, located in the basement, are disjointed, small, and not accessible. The building's mechanical and electrical systems are outdated and inadequate. Due to age and construction type, the building is structurally compromised. The building's floor plan is also not conducive to modern learning.

Main Hall is long overdue for a substantial remodel to make it safe, accessible, and functional.

PROJECT DETAILS:

The renovation of Main Hall will provide modern, inviting learning spaces for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. The upgrades to Main Hall will bring the building up to current accessibility and construction codes while maintaining the historical exterior façade and appearance. Two accessible entrances will be developed to enter into Main Hall. Interior spaces will be restructured and gutted. The electrical systems, plumbing, technology, ADA accessibility, furnishings, fixtures, exterior windows, and light fixtures will all be updated. An elevator chase and elevator will be installed for ADA accessibility. The bathrooms will be configured and designed for ADA accessibility and a staircase will be configured to run from the basement to the 3rd floor.