

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Lohman Block

and/or common M.J.W. Block

**2. Location**

street & number 239-225 Indiana Street \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Chinook \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district two

state Montana code 30 county Blaine code 005

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Warp, Crescencia B. ET AL

street & number c/o Lynn Minnick

city, town Chinook \_\_\_ vicinity of state Montana

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Blaine County Courthouse

street & number Ohio Street

city, town Chinook state Montana

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>December 28, 1979</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Lohman Block consists of a two-storey commercial building of brick masonry construction, with a partial basement and a built-up composition roof. There is a parking area at the rear of the building. The building is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Indiana and Third Streets. The front of the building, which faces Indiana Street, is 118 feet long. The south-facing side of the building runs 140 feet along Third Street, but the rear 50 feet is only one storey high.

On the ground floor, the Lohman Block has a total of 12,720 square feet. This is divided into seven different areas, five of which are currently occupied. Currently occupying space on the ground floor are two taverns, a senior citizens center, a barber shop and an accounting firm. The two northernmost spaces, which have been used by various retail establishments, are vacant.

The second floor has a total of 9,680 square feet, of which 5,900 square feet are occupied by four recently remodeled apartments. The remaining 3,780 square feet on the second floor consists of one large room on the southeast corner that is now vacant. A mezzanine floor between the first and second stories has a total area of 924 square feet, 300 of which has been used for a small office but is now also vacant.

The basement consists of three large rooms, all of which are 90 feet long. The one-storey portion of the building does not have a basement. Two of the rooms lie beneath the two vacant stores on the northern side of the building. A religious organization is currently using one of these rooms. The other is vacant. A twenty-foot crawlway separates these basement rooms from the remainder of the basement, which is also vacant. In all, the basement has a total area of 8,820 square feet.

In the rear of the building, there is a parking lot and a landing, consisting of 2,996 square feet of asphalt and 804 square feet of concrete, respectively. Interior stairways at the front and south sides of the building provide access to the second floor. At the rear, an exterior building with an enclosed porch and a balcony provides access to the second floor apartments (see attached floor plans for illustrations of the building's basic layout).

The Lohman Block dominates Chinook's business district. The building's most distinctive features are the two-storey east and south walls, which to this day retain their original integrity and architectural unity. Two window balconies, containing three double-hung windows framed by cathedral arches distinguish the second storey of the east-facing wall.

Ten double-hung windows framed by brick arches connect the south wall with the front of the building. Five strips of horizontal metal trim, which continues around to the front, dramatically unify the line of windows on the south wall.

Finally, a two-foot high parapet runs along the entire length of the two storey east and south walls, giving the walls a total height of twenty-eight feet. The parapet is crucial to the building's overall appearance, for it blocks the roof from view, thereby accentuating the windows, brickwork and trim on the east and south walls. It should be noted that these walls are twelve inches thick and rest on a stone foundation.

(See continuation sheet)

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED <b>MAR 19 1980</b>

CONTINUATION SHEET	ITEM NUMBER	PAGE
Lohman Block	7 Description	1

The northern portion of the Lohman Block, containing the apartments on the second floor and the two vacant stores, was built in 1900. It measures 56' X 90'. The southern portion of the building was built in 1910. A small one-storey office was added to the rear of this addition somewhat later. The two-storey addition, which includes one-half of the east face of the current structure and the entire south face, measures 62' x 90'.

Remarkably, the building's overall appearance has changed little since 1910. The east and south walls, with their distinctive features and integrity, dominate the store fronts that have been added on the ground floor. The current Senior Citizens Center and the two vacant stores in the northern wing of the building have not been altered, but the two other stores that face Indiana Street have new fronts. Included on the fronts of these stores are two advertising signs that protrude from the building's last wall and an awning. These storefronts were altered in the late 1940's.

The only other alterations that have occurred during the building's life involve the second floor apartments and the one-storey wing at the southeast corner. Originally, the Lohman family occupied this area. With slight modification, the Lohman home was modified to make twelve small apartments. In 1975, the current owners removed some partitions and remodeled this area of the building into four luxury apartments. The original woodwork, plumbing fixtures and doors were restored and incorporated into the new apartments.

The one-storey wing at the southwest corner of the building was remodeled at the same time as the apartments. The interior work is modern in design and this space is now an office for an accounting firm. The exterior remains consistent with the rest of the building. At the time the new owners made their modifications to the building's interior, they also restored the exterior brick and trim to near-original condition.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1900, 1910      **Builder/Architect** A.S. Lohman

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The historical significance of the Lohman Block is tied to the building's vital importance to Chinook's early development, its central role in the community's commercial and social activity for eighty years, and its link with a prominent Montana pioneer businessman. To a remarkable degree, the history of the Lohman Block is the history of Chinook.

In 1900, when Andrew S. Lohman constructed the northern half of the current building, Chinook was a small village with a tiny business district. The Community's other commercial buildings were constructed of wood and lacked permanence. Fire was a constant hazard. The local editor was therefore proud to announce in response to many rumors that a ". . . handsome brick structure will be constructed as soon as the work can be done." He continued:

A.S. Lohman, while east, had plans and specifications for a large building drawn. The building will be 56X90 feet, two stories and basement under the full size. The main floor is to consist of two store rooms and the upper storey will be divided into office rooms as well as living rooms for Mr. Lohman and family. It is proposed to make the building a most complete and substantial one and it will certainly be a great addition to Chinook. (1)

Throughout the summer and fall of 1900, the newspaper reported progress on the new building, announcing in mid-October that "the new Lohman building is fast nearing completion, the work of plastering being finished. The store room on the main floor will be ready for occupancy in the near future." (2)

In 1910, Lohman built a two-storey addition to his structure that was larger than the original building. This further stimulated Chinook's economic growth. The homestead rush was just beginning and the Lohman Block contained the town's leading general merchandise store, as well as several other businesses. Lohman's building became the center of commerce in Chinook. Reporting on Lohman's intention to expand, the editor of the Chinook Opinion wrote the following story:

A BUILDING BOOM ON  
Chinook to Witness Extensive Building  
Operations During the Present Season Both in the  
Business and Residence Districts

Preparations for one of the most active building seasons ever seen in the history of the City of Chinook have already commenced. This past week work commenced clearing the vacant lot between the Lohman Block and the Lehfeldt Store on the corner. Teams will begin at once to haul rock and as soon as the frost is out sufficiently, excavation will be commenced for a modern store building. The owner of the property, A.S. Lohman, has his plans complete for the building, which is to be occupied by the general merchandise firm of Julius Lehfeldt. The new building is to be a two-storey brick block . . . There will be . . . large spacious salesrooms in the front on both the first and second floors. The new building

(See continuation sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Burlingame, A History of Montana, Vol.III: Family and Personal History (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., 1957).  
 Chinook Opinion (various issues, 1895-1900, 1909-1910).

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreege of nominated property 0.379 Acres

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle name Chinook

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	2	6	3	0	5	0	0	5	3	8	3	5	2	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property occupies city lots 13, 15, 17 and 19, of Block 11, Chinook Townsite, Chinook, Blaine County, Montana. The property is roughly 118'x140' in size. Northwest corner of Indiana and 3rd Streets.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state None code  county  code

state  code  county  code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dick King, Assistant Director

organization Bear Paw Development Corporation

date 12-28-79

street & number P.O. Box 1549

telephone (406) 265-9226

city or town Havre

state Montana 59501

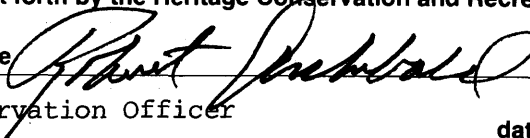
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

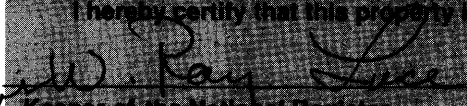



title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 4, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Willard Ray  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  William H. Lubman  
 Chief of Registration

date 3/19/80

date 3/18/80

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Lohman Block

8. Significance

1

is to be completely equipped in the most modern fashion for mercantile business purposes and will be a creditable improvement to the appearance of the downtown district as well as giving much needed store space to the active firm that will occupy the handsome new quarters. (3)

Lohman's project spurred the establishment of a new business in Chinook that supplied materials for numerous other buildings in the following years. The Opinion reported that ". . . the (brick) yard will probably furnish brick for the new \$30,000 building that A.S. Lohman is to erect for the Lehfeldt store this spring." (4)

When construction began, the Opinion's editor enthusiastically wrote that the new ". . . building is to be elaborate with mercantile conveniences in the way of elevators, show cases, cabinets and display cases. It is planned to make it one of the best equipped mercantile establishments in the state." (5) The building was ready for occupancy in the late fall and the new tenant, Julius Lehfeldt, invited the entire community to a "grand ball" on Thanksgiving Day to celebrate the occasion. (6)

Chinook was beginning to experience a boom in 1910 and the ambitious expansion of the Lohman Block stimulated even greater optimism for the community's future. The editor captured this excitement in the following article:

BUSY DAYS IN CHINOOK

The busy days are at hand at Chinook and in every line there is unusual activity. The streets are crowded with stangers coming in to look for land or moving in with their household goods to settle on the claims they filed last fall. Every day loads of lumber go out from the local yards to the new settlers' claims. The carpenters and masons are unable to handle the work that is offered them on every side.

The settlement of the country is partially completed. (7)

The Lohman Block has seen many businesses come and go in the last seven decades. The Lohman family sold its last interest in the building only ten years ago. Although much of the building is now vacant, it is still the site of four businesses. It continues to dominate the community's business district. With the Senior Citizens Center, the Lohman Block is also a center of social activity as the decade of the 1980's begins. Preservation of the building would keep Chinook's business district intact and protect this link to the community's origins.

The significance of the Lohman Block is also tied to its builder, A.S. Lohman. He came to Chinook with his young wife in 1889, after several years of engaging in mining and industrial development in Colorado and Alaska. They were the fifth white family to settle in the Chinook area.

Lohman opened a small general store, purchased a ranch one mile from the tiny community, and built up a herd of 20,000 sheep. His new store in 1900 was his first large commercial venture. After expanding his building in 1910, Lohman entered the banking

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9

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Lohman Block

8 Significance

2

and grain dealing businesses. These later ventures were made possible by the success of his early commercial efforts in his Chinook store. He also promoted the construction of Chinook's first electric light and power plant, helped establish the local Catholic Church, and supported the Mission at Hays.

Lohman was Chinook's first mayor. While in that position, he secured the construction of a municipal water plant and distribution system. He was a director in the Stockman's Bank of Fort Benton, Montana's oldest bank, and a member of the Montana State Highway Commission. He campaigned vigorously in the 1920's for the routing and construction of U.S. Highway Two, which is still Northern Montana's primary transportation artery.

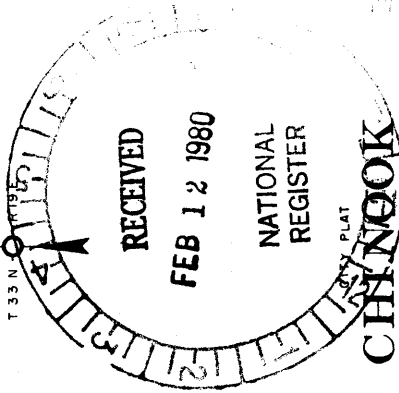
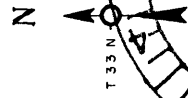
Chinook's leading citizen died in 1930. In a long obituary, the Great Falls Tribune reviewed his many achievements at the local, regional and state levels. But above all, the Tribune emphasized Lohman's key role in the history of the community he made his home, dubbing him the "Father of Chinook." (8)

Footnotes:

- (1) Chinook Opinion, April 12, 1900.
- (2) Ibid., October 18, 1900.
- (3) Ibid., February 3, 1910.
- (4) Ibid., March 31, 1910.
- (5) Ibid., May 19, 1910.
- (6) Ibid., December 1, 1910.
- (7) Ibid., March 17, 1910.
- (8) Great Falls Tribune, October 12, 1930.

LEGEND

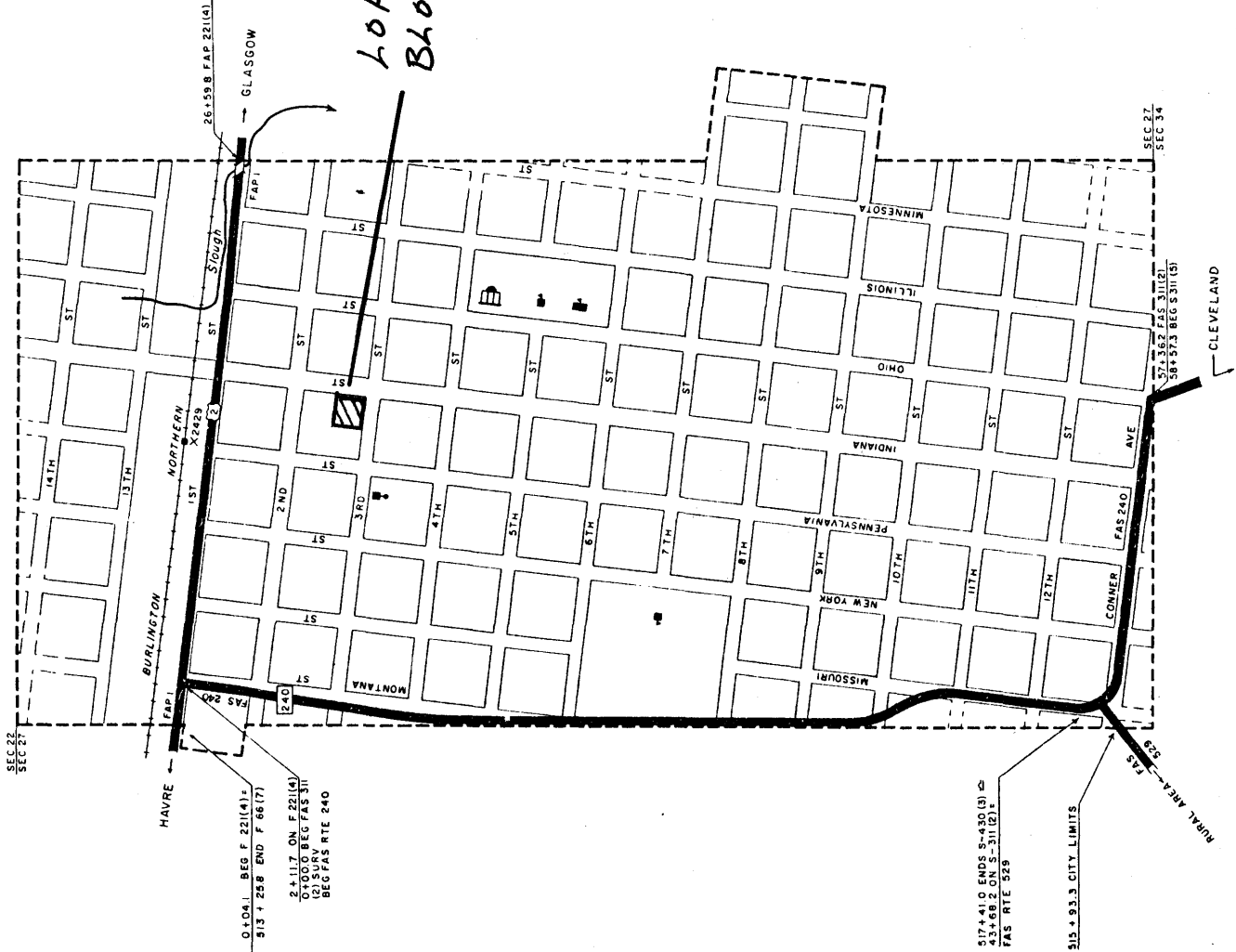
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- GRAVEL AND DRAINED ROAD
- GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD
- LOW TYPE BITUMINOUS ROAD
- PAVED ROAD
- DIVIDED ROAD - TRAFFIC FLOW
- FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM
- FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM
- FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
- FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
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- US NUMBERED ROUTE MARKER
- STATE ROUTE MARKER
- OTHER ROUTE MARKER
- CORPORATE BOUNDARY LINE
- NON-EXISTENT DEDICATED STREET
- CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
- URBAN EXTENSION BOUNDARY
- RAILROAD AND STATION
- POST OFFICE
- COURT HOUSE
- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
- HIGH SCHOOL
- HOSPITAL
- ELEVATION



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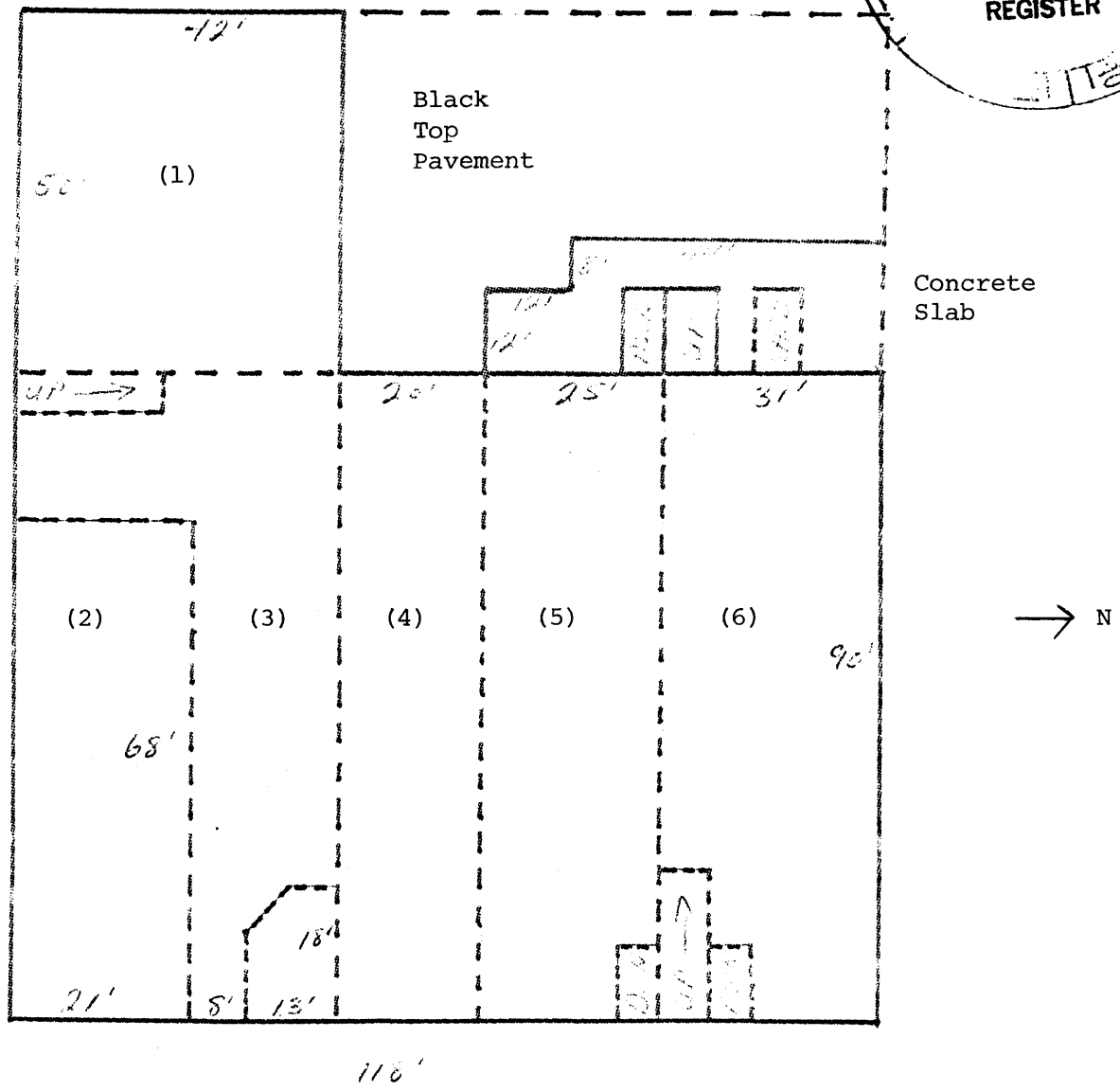
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*LOHMAN  
Block*



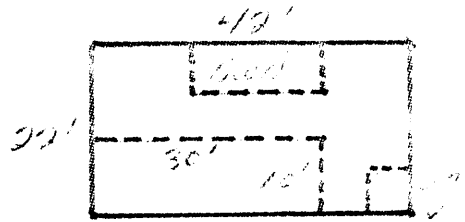
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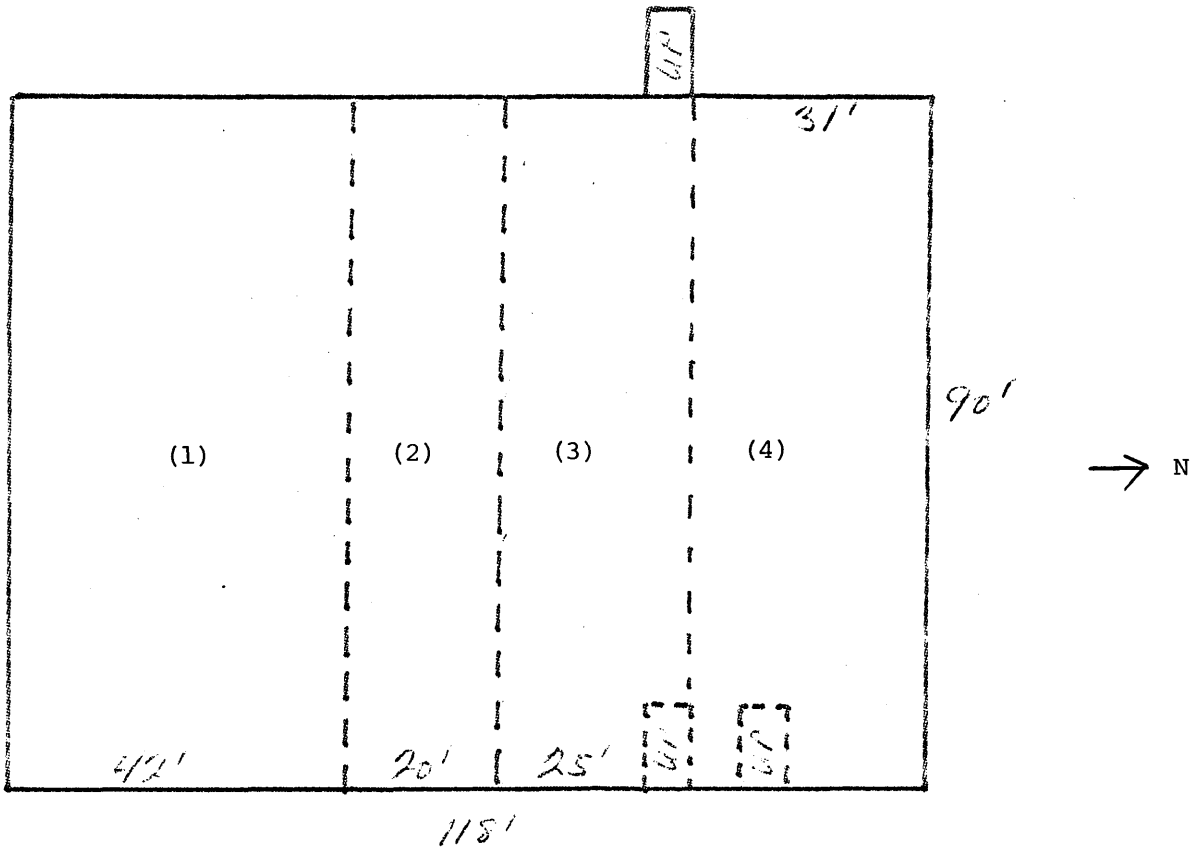
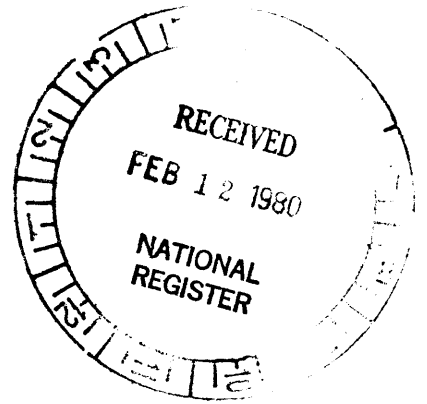


GROUND FLOOR

- (1) Johnstone & Warp Accountants
- (2) Senior Citizens Center
- (3) Mint Tavern
- (4) Stockman Bar
- (5) Vacant
- (6) Vacant

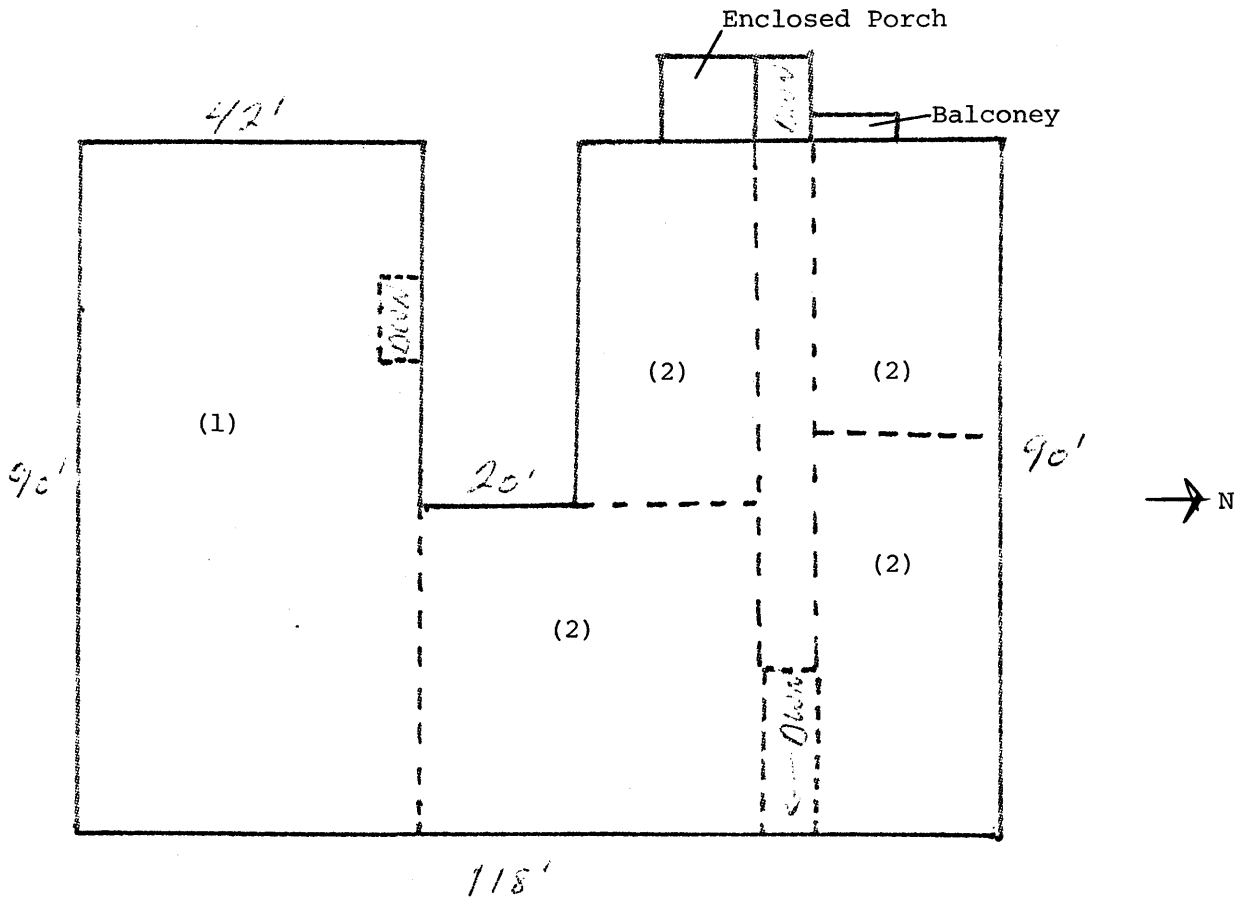


Mezzanine Floor



BASEMENT

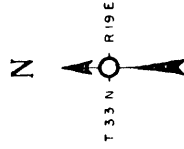
- (1) Vacant
- (2) Crawlway
- (3) Lighthouse Center
- (4) Vacant



Second Floor  
(1) Vacant  
(2) Apartments

LEGEND

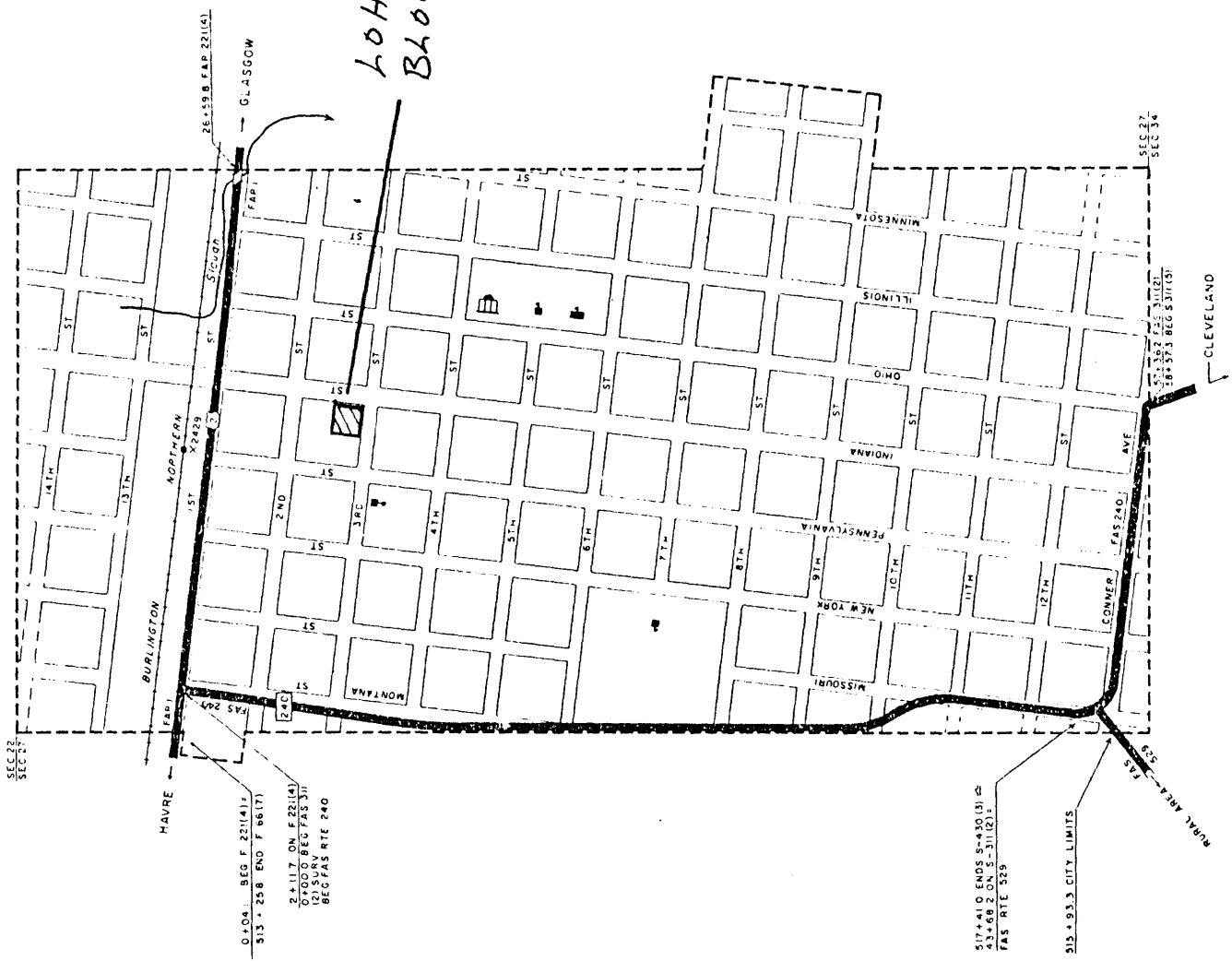
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- HOSPITAL
- ELEVATION



CITY PLAT  
**CHINOOK**  
 BLAINE COUNTY  
 MONTANA

1970 CENSUS 1,813  
 SCALE IN FEET  
 400' 800'

*LOHMAN  
 BLOCK*

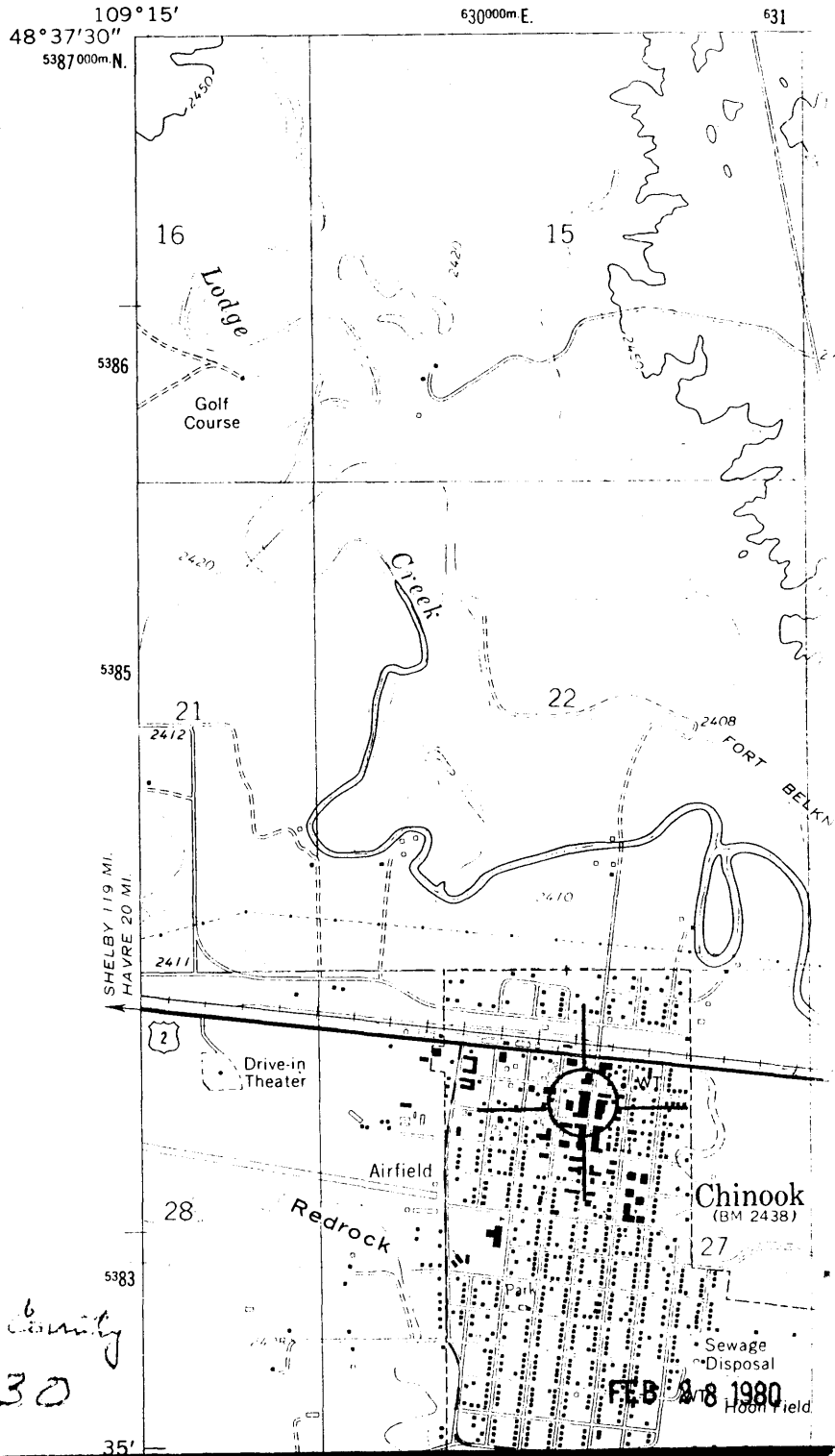


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**FEB 28 1980**

4181 III NE  
(TELESCOPE COULEE)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Chinook Block  
Zone 12  
E 630500  
N 5383505  
Chinook, Blaine County  
005, Dimension 30