

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

DEC 11 1993

1. Name of Property

historic name: Residence at 809 W. Watson

other name/site number: Stone building #301

2. Location

street & number: 809 W. Watson

not for publication: n/a

vicinity: n/a

city/town: Lewistown

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Fergus

code: 027

zip code: 59457

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination    request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Manella*

*Shapiro*

SHPO

12-11-93

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   determined not eligible for the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   removed from the National Register

   see continuation sheet

   other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

*Patricia Andrews*

Date of Action

*1/27/93*

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Category of Property:** Building

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing
_ 1 _	___ building(s)
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
_ 1 _	___ Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** 0

**Name of related multiple property listing:** Stone Buildings in Lewistown, Montana and Vicinity

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions:**  
Domestic/single dwelling

**Current Functions:**  
Domestic/single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification:**  
Other: Pyramid cottage

**Materials:**  
foundation: stone  
walls: stone  
roof: asphalt shingles

**Narrative Description**

This single story, roughly coursed stone residence is purely rectangular in plan with the narrow dimension of the shape parallel to the street. The hipped roof is interrupted by a single west-facing, gable-roofed dormer centered on the long axis of the roof ridge and a stucco-covered chimney that penetrates the north slope of the roof. A low-sloped, hipped porch roof extends from the center of the street elevation to shelter the entry door; it is supported by two slender corner columns. Roof covering is T-lock composition shingles. The wood fascia is narrow and the soffit boxed. The stone walls are coursed, pitched-faced, cut sandstone of varying lengths with alignment that is not precise. Smear mortar joints were used in construction of this stone residence. Joints have raised beads. A large repointing job has been done to repair this mortar. Replacement mortar with a high content of Portland cement was used in this reparation. Stone lintels and sills are simple, single pieces. Dormer walls are clad with painted wood shingles. Windows in the side elevations are individual 1-over-1 double-hung wood windows that are equally spaced in the walls. A single entry door is centered on the front elevation. The remaining stone wall planes to either side of the door have a symmetrical cottage window placement composed of a single large, fixed glass panel with a fixed stained glass transom above. Wooden storm windows cover both cottage windows.

An engaged back porch is recessed in the southeast corner of the back side of this house. This porch is infilled with plywood. A small window toward the south edge of this rear facade has also been infilled with plywood.

Note: The three residences at 805, 809 and 813 West Watson are very similar in size, style and construction and form a small specialized subdivision within the block.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria:** C

**Areas of Significance:** Architecture

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):** n/a

**Period(s) of Significance:** 1905

**Significant Person(s):** n/a

**Significant Dates:** 1905

**Cultural Affiliation:** n/a

**Architect/Builder:** unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

This residence is significant because it is an excellent example of stone masonry construction of the early twentieth century in Lewistown. The use of coursed cut stone with smear mortar joints was a technique commonly employed by Lewistown's earliest stone masons. As was typical in communities across the country, early buildings were constructed of materials found near the building site--stone, logs and sod. Materials were prepared by the builders themselves, rather than in distant mills, kilns or factories. In Lewistown, local sandstone could be easily gathered or quarried and the stone building traditions imported by the earliest settlers provided a natural solution to the housing needs created by population growth in the days prior to improved transportation.

Built to serve a burgeoning population in Lewistown in 1905, this house is one of three nearly identical houses owned by John Charters as investment property. This example and its two neighbors at 805 and 813 West Watson feature simple rectangular plans with hipped roofs. While this roof design required a more complex framing, it used fewer long-spanning rafters and thus was less expensive to erect. The three stone houses, unique in Lewistown, remained in group ownership through three owners until 1922.

This stone residence maintains historic integrity of design, location, setting, materials, and workmanship. However, it has lost a small amount of historic integrity because of porch alterations, replacement roofing and some obvious repointing. These alterations are reversible, though, and because of design, location and setting, the residence still conveys its association with its period of construction.

**9. Major Bibliographic References**

Abstract of title

Tax cards

Sanborn Insurance maps, 1901, 1908

Sievert, Ken and Ellen, "Historical and Architectural Survey of Sandstone Resources of Lewistown, Montana," unpublished manuscript, March 31, 1987. Available at State Historic Preservation Office.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other -- Specify Repository:

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** Less than one acre

<b>UTM References:</b>	<b>Zone</b>	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
A	12	619285	5212885

**Verbal Boundary Description**

This property is located in the Stafford #3 Addition, Block 5, Lot 3, City of Lewistown, in the SE quarter of the NE quarter of the SW quarter of Section 15, T15N, R18E.

**Boundary Justification**

This property is part of a discontinuous multiple property nomination. This specific parcel includes only the city lots upon which the building is located.

**11. Form Prepared By**

**name/title:** Jeff Sheldon, Lewistown Historic Preservation Officer/edited by Kim Currie, SHPO Intern

**organization:** Lewistown Historic Preservation Office **date:** 2/23/89, Rev. 5/29/91

**street & number:** Box 626 **telephone:** 406/538-2201

**city or town:** Lewistown **state:** MT **zip code:** 59457

**Property Owner**

**name/title:** David and Norma Robertson

**street & number:** Box 5050 **telephone:** 538-9548

**city or town:** Lewistown **state:** MT **zip code:** 59457