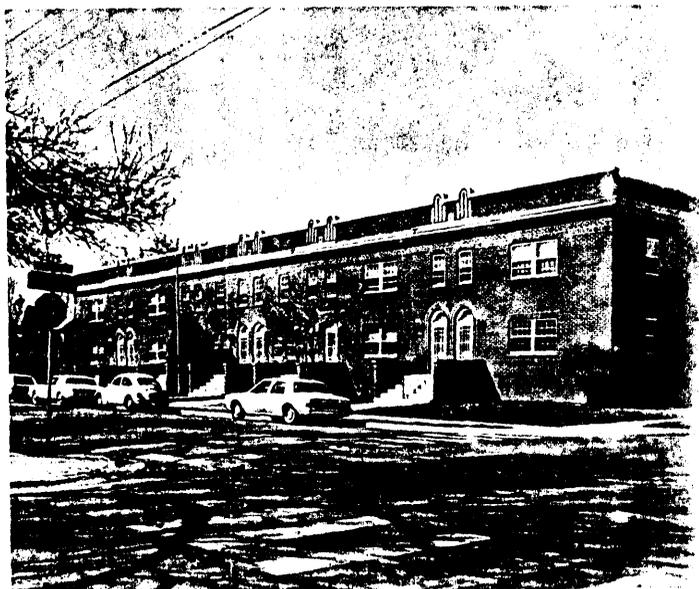


HISTORIC NAME: Bridger Arms Apartments  
 ADDRESS: 103-111 S. 4th Ave.  
 LEGAL BOUNDARY: Rouse's 3rd, Blk 1,  
 Trk 1  
 OWNER'S NAME: Bridger Arms Apartments  
 Helen Spain Parkins,  
 Robert L. Tichener, and  
 John B. Lovelace  
 OWNER ADDRESS: P.O. Box 1813, Bozeman  
 SPECIFIC DATE: 1926  
 ARCHITECT: H.C. Cheever, attributed  
 (W.R. Plew's name appears on  
 drawings; Cheever was working  
 in Plew's office at the time.)  
 BUILDER: Unknown  
 ORIGINAL OWNER: Mrs. G.D. Martin  
 ORIGINAL USE: Apartments  
 PRESENT USE: Apartments  
 UTM REFERENCE: 12/496750/5058075  
 ACREAGE: less than one  
 U.S.G.S. QUAD: Bozeman, 1953



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Applicable Criteria: A and C

Areas of Significance: social history, architecture

Number of Contributing Properties: 1

The third and last of the large apartment complexes built in Bozeman in the early 20th century, this two-story, ten-unit building is a very simple example of the Colonial Revival style. Each paired entrance, one door serving the upper floor apartment and the other serving the lower, is marked by a pair of rounded piers that project upward from the parapet - features suggestive of the Art Deco style. The building, which occupies the full half-block between Babcock and Olive Streets, faces the open yards of the Emerson School, and consequently appears quite large.

The apartment building is associated with the substantial economic growth the city underwent during approximately three decades following the turn of the century. That growth resulted in part from the expansion of the Montana State Agricultural College and part from Bozeman's expanded role in the economy of the Gallatin Valley. The demand for inexpensive housing during that time resulted in the construction of entire neighborhoods of eclectic pattern book and Bungalow style houses. The Blackmore Apartments (listed in the National Register 7/7/83) were built in 1913 on S. Black Avenue to serve a similar market, and the Evergreen Apartments followed in 1914 on Curtis Street.

The Bridger Arms Apartments were built by E. Broox Martin, an entrepreneur who also built the Evergreen Apartments. (Mrs. G.D. Martin, his wife, signed the Sewer and Water Permit for the site.) Unlike the other two apartment buildings mentioned above, as well as virtually every large, early 20th century building in Bozeman, this building was not designed by local architect Fred F. Willson, but by Hurlbert C. Cheever, who taught architecture at Montana State College. Cheever often worked for Willson during the

summers, or helped out in the office of W.R. Plew, a civil engineer who was also a professor at the College. Plew's name appears on the working drawings for this building, but it was most likely designed by Cheever.

Although a brief agricultural depression showed the city's economy immediately after this apartment building was completed, all apartments were occupied in 1927.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This two-story apartment building has a rectangular plan with six-light entrance doors and six-over-six and eight-over-eight double-hung windows. There are five pairs of 9-light wooden entrance doors with arched 6-light transoms across the front facade, which is symmetrical. Cast iron porch lanterns flank each pair of entrance doors. The brick construction rests on a concrete foundation and has a flat roof. The brick is patterned around the doors on the second story and there is a molded frieze with dentils. The parapet features colored, decorative, arched brick piers over each entrance and is finished with concrete coping. The axis of the roof is parallel to the street. Outbuildings include a garage and an incinerator.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Application for Sewer Connection: August 9, 1927, Mrs. G.D. Martin

Application for Water Service: August 9, 1927, Mrs G.D. Martin

City Directory: 1927, p. 169

Working drawings of Bridger Arms are in the possession of John N. DeHaas, 1021 S. Tracy, Bozeman, MT.

FORM PREPARED BY: James R. McDonald, P.C. (1983-84); Matthew Cohen (1985-86 revision); Patricia Bick (1987 revision), State Historic Preservation Office, 225 No. Roberts, Helena, Montana 59620 (406) 444-7715