

# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site # PE#15



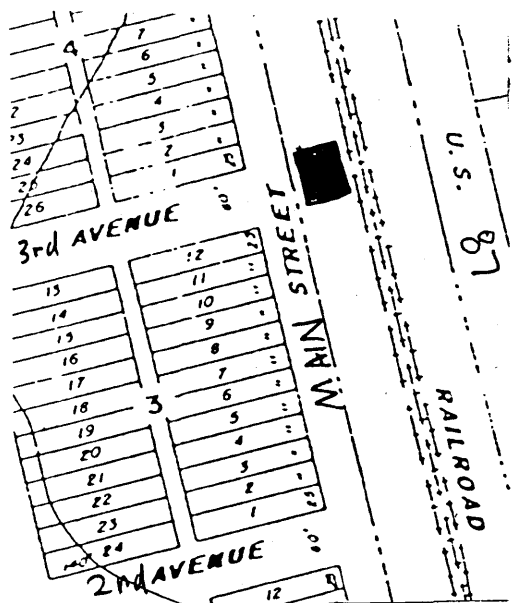
Legal Description: Opposite northeast corner of O.T. Block 3

Address: East side of Main Street, Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: John Bowman

private address: Lodge Grass, Montana  
 public

Roll # 3 Frame # 11



Location map or building plan with arrow north

Historic Name: Grain Elevator

Common Name: Grain Elevator

Date of Construction: 1918  estimated  documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: J. W. Drew Co.

Original Owner: J.W. Drew Co.

Original Use: Grain Elevator

Present Use: same (abandoned?)

**RESEARCH SOURCES:** Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Title Search: \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Records: yes

Bldg. Permit: \_\_\_\_\_ Census Records: yes

Sewer/Water: \_\_\_\_\_ Sanborn Maps: \_\_\_\_\_

Directories: yes Newspapers: yes

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

(see Footnotes)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with its original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

This is a wooden grain elevator, several stories high. Lower stories are made of clapboard, while the top story is covered by tin sheets. It has a gable roof of tin. The middle section has a ~~covered~~ window facing south, while the top section has a single 1/1 sash window on the south facade. Attached to the elevator on the west is a two part wooden addition. The east section of the addition is one and a half stories high, with a low pitch tin gable roof, and a garage door facing south. The eastern part of the addition is one story, with a shed roof, with a single entry and square 2/2 window on the south facade and three windows on the west facade.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:** Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

The grain elevator is listed in the historical record for the first time in 1919, when it appears in the Directory for Lodge Grass, with J.W. Drew listed in charge.<sup>1</sup> In 1957 the elevator appears on the county assessor's town ownership records for the first time, under Original Town, Block 4, described as "on CB&Q RR", listed under the ownership of Sheridan Flouring Mills, valued at \$3,700.00.<sup>2</sup>

Footnote Sources:

<sup>1</sup>R.L. Polk, Directory of Billings and Red Lodge, Yellowstone Carbon, Stillwater and Big Horn Counties (Helena: R.L. Polk & Co., 1919).

<sup>2</sup>"Town Ownership Books," Assessor's Office, Big Horn County Courthouse, Hardin, Montana (Microfiche).

**INTEGRITY:** Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

Like the majority of isolated, single grain elevators located along the railroad lines in Montana, the J.W. Drew elevator stands in disuse. Because the railroad offers reduced shipping rates from the large, 26-car loading terminals for grain, an enormous number of older wooden elevators in the State have been abandoned. Despite the earliest signs of deterioration, the Drew elevator retains complete historic architectural integrity.

**HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

The grain elevator harks back to a period when Lodge Grass was a regional service center for the agricultural hinterland of the Upper Little Big Horn Valley. Local residents think of the grain elevator as a local landmark, because it stands out as the highest structure in town, and is located next to the railroad tracks. The elevator is associated with the period when Lodge Grass developed as a commercial center, however, it cannot be directly linked with any specific historically important individuals or events.

The grain elevator is of architectural significance because it is an excellent, well preserved example of typical wooden crib elevator construction. The lower two thirds of the structure is composed of 2" x 6" dimensioned lumber stacked and joined at the corners and the upper third is composed of stacked 2" x 4" lumber. This elevator is unusual in that it still has its original narrow reveal bevel siding exposed.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

Address: P.O. Box 2612, Denver, CO 80201

1-3-1986

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5', 1967

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