

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000086

Date Listed: 2/12/90

Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Hall Rosebud  
Property Name County

MT  
State

Forsyth MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for* Patrick Andrus  
Signature of the Keeper

2/12/90  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Statement of Significance: Area of Significance reads Social History. It should include Architecture.

This information was confirmed with Pat Bick of the Montana SHPO by telephone.

-----  
DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

JAN 02 1990  
86

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "NA" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS HALL  
other names/site number: B OF L E HALL

## 2. Location

street & number: 262 South 7th Avenue  not for publication  
city, town: Forsyth  vicinity  
state: Montana code: MT county: Rosebud code: 087 zip code: 59327

## 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public - local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public - State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public - Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		1	Total
Name of related multiple property listing: HISTORIC RESOURCES OF FORSYTH, MONTANA		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0	

## 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Marcella [Signature] Date 12-21-89

State or federal agency and bureau MT SHPO

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**5. 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
- removed from the National Register.
- other. (explain:)

Patrick Andrus

2/12/90

---

for Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Vernacular: gable-front

foundation: stone  
 walls: stucco  
           wood  
 roof: metal  
 other:

Describe present and historic physical appearance:

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Lodge Hall is located on the west side of South Seventh Avenue in the community of Forsyth, Montana. Forsyth has an estimated 1989 population of 2,100; its economy is based largely on agriculture, railroad, and energy-related employment. The building site is in a relatively small, largely historic residential area with limited, relatively modern commercial development nearby. This "south-side" neighborhood is separated from the bulk of the Forsyth community by the right-of-way of the Northern Pacific (now Burlington Northern) Railroad.

The hall is a small single-level wood-framed building, rectangular in plan, with a wood-framed end-gable roof. Wall surfaces are stuccoed, probably covering original clapboard. The building rests on a stone foundation. The wood-framed roof is covered with vertical corrugated metal, probably replacing original wood shingles. A red brick chimney with a corbled cap is centered on the rear (west)

See continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

---

wall; the brickwork evidences considerable decay. All fenestration is wood-framed and appears historic. Fenestration is arranged symmetrically on each of the outer walls. The only entry door is on the street (east) elevation; it is of four-paneled wood with a two-light transom area above. Windows are relatively high and narrow; they are two-over-two double-hung. Simple triangular pediments (of wood molding) above the door and window openings provide some architectural detail. The building is painted white.

The building's interior retains its historic configuration and much period detail. The entry door opens to a small vestibule; a small closet is to the left of this area. The remaining floor space is taken up by a single meeting room. This room has a wood floor with plastered walls and ceiling. Historic varnished wood baseboards and chair rails remain in place. A propane stove (not historic) connected to the historic chimney provides heat. Many furnishings are historic as well, including a roll-top desk, wooden chairs, and old photographs in historic frames.

---

## 8. Statement of Significance

---

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally       statewide       locally

Applicable National Register criteria:     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)      Period of Significance      Significant Dates

SOCIAL HISTORY

ca. 1895-1939

ca. 1895

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

n/a

unknown

---

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Forsyth Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Union Hall meets criteria "a" and "c" for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The building is significant as the long-time meeting hall for the Forsyth local of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE). As a railroad community, Forsyth's labor unions played an often-important social role in the town. Architecturally, the building is the finest surviving local example of the numerous small, rectangular, end-gable buildings that were very common in late nineteenth-century Forsyth.

### Historical Significance

A primary reason for Forsyth's establishment by the Northern Pacific Railroad in 1882 was the need for a local base for railroad maintenance and operating crews. Locomotive servicing was performed locally, track maintenance gangs were based here, and a number of train crews were based in Forsyth. Most of these men were unionized -- locomotive engineers unions, for example became nationally entrenched by the late 1860's. Railway union locals were established in Forsyth in the late 1800's as employee numbers began to grow. Initially, each specific craft was represented by its own union: engineers, fireman, boilermen, shopmen, etc.

Although the exact date is not known, a Forsyth local of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers had been established in Forsyth by the 1890's. Forsyth was a crew-change point for freight trains (although generally not for passenger runs), and freight train crews based here worked the roughly 100-mile stretch of main line between Forsyth and Billings (later, between Forsyth and Laurel). The

See continuation sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8 Page 1

---

number of engineers based in Forsyth varied over the years, between approximately 10 and 40.

Little written information concerning the BLE lodge hall survives. Its building style suggests an 1890's construction date. At that time, the building site was on an unused portion of the Northern Pacific Railroad right-of-way. The area was subdivided and platted as the "Northern Pacific Addition" to Forsyth in 1899. Soon after, all remaining Forsyth lots owned by the Northern Pacific were sold to Judson Wicks, representing a Minneapolis-based land syndicate. A deed recorded in 1903 transfers the BLE lot from Wicks to James Eckles; Eckles was a Northern Pacific engineer who maintained a residence on North 11th Avenue. No other deeds affecting the lot have been filed for record, and the building is not listed on county appraisal records. The building has seen very little use in recent years, although the local BLE chapter still occasionally meets in the facility.

#### Architectural Significance

This small building is locally important as an excellent surviving example of one of Forsyth's earliest building forms. Small, rectangular, end-gable buildings such as this were frequently erected (primarily for residential purposes) during the 1880's and 1890's. These buildings served as an interim structural form, replacing pioneer log construction and fairly quickly giving way to larger, more complex building forms (including vernacular foursquare and Queen Anne styles). The somewhat later gable-front-and-wing still found in Forsyth are structural outgrowths of this form. Very few of these early rectangular buildings survive today; the BLE building is unique in the level of historic integrity it displays.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

---

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

Acreeage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	B	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	D	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of Lot 4, Block 7, Northern Pacific Addition to the Town of Forsyth, Rosebud County, Montana.

See Continuation Sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes only the city lot upon which the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers Hall is located.

See Continuation Sheet

---

## 11. Form Prepared By

---

name/title Mark A. Hufstetler

organization \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 610 Dell Place, #10

city or town Bozeman

date November 1, 1989

telephone (406) 587-9518

state Montana zip code 59715

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number   9   Page   1  

---

**Major Bibliographical References:**

Dietchler, Karen. Forsyth: 100 Years. Forsyth, Montana: Forsyth Independent, [n.d].

Interview with Max Blakesley, Forsyth, Montana, February 11, 1989.

Records of the Rosebud County Appraiser, Forsyth, Montana.

Records of the Rosebud County Clerk and Recorder, Forsyth, Montana.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: 1910, 1920.