

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

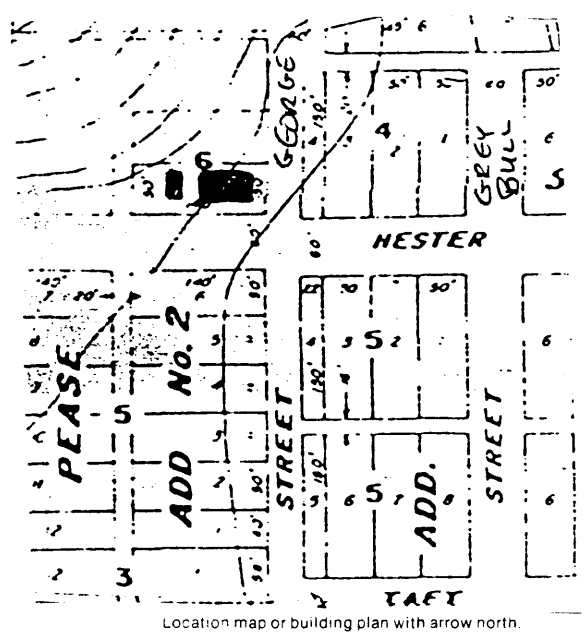
2007

Site# PE# 213



Legal Description: Pease Addition No. 2, Block 6, Lot 1
 Address: George St., Lodge Grass, MT
 Ownership: Name: Grace Pilkington
 private address: Lodge Grass, MT
 public

Roll # 4 Frame # 3



Historic Name: J.M. Trytten house
 Common Name: Fay Abel house
 Date of Construction: circa 1921 estimated documented
 Architect: N/A
 Builder: J.M. Trytten
 Original Owner: J.M. Trytten
 Original Use: House
 Present Use: House

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:

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.

A one and a half story rectangular wood frame dwelling. The exterior is covered by horizontally laid clapboard siding, with thin corner boards. The roof is a clipped gable or jerkin head, with a dormer on the south slope with a shed roof and 3/1 sash window. The roof has open eaves, exposed rafters, and is covered by asphalt shingles. At the front, on the first floor of the east elevation are four brick steps leading to an enclosed sunporch/entry, with a hip roof and eight 3/1 sash windows and central door. On the top story of the east elevation is a small double window with awning. Two windows with awnings are on the first floor of the the south elevation. At the rear of the house (west side) is a hip roofed addition, with an entry on the north. Behind the house, facing Hester Ave., is a rectangular single story wood frame garage with a gable roof.

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

This house was built by J.M. Trytten, who the the cashier at the First National Bank of Lodge Grass from 1921 to 1923.¹ In 1922 Trytten was credited with \$2000 worth of improvements on this lot, indicating that the house was built prior to that date, perhaps in 1921.² In 1924 the property was sold to Fay Abel, who was the manager of the James Tousses grocery store on Helen Street in Lodge Grass. Abel first came to Lodge Grass, with his wife Mary, in 1919 from Sheridan, Wyoming. Around 1946 he traveled as a salesman for a feed company, retiring in 1963. He owned this₃property through 1965. In 1974 he and his wife moved back to Sheridan.

¹Bicentennial Committee of the Big Horn County Historical Society, Lookin' Back, Big Horn County (Hardin: Big Horn County Historical Society, 1976).

²"Town Ownership Books," Assessor's Office, Big Horn County Courthouse, Hardin (Microfiche).

³Lookin' Back; "Town Ownership Books."

Footnote Sources:

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

The house has excellent integrity. It is in its original location and still looks very much like it originally did. This house easily conveys its historical associations.

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.

This house is significant because it is representative of a distinctive type, style, and period of construction within Lodge Grass. Although it is a house of modest size and popular, pattern book design, it was one of the most distinctive and elegant homes in the community when it was constructed in 1921. The house dates to the period in the town's history just after initial settlement. It is one of the few prominent homes built by the early white business people who settled in Lodge Grass that still stands today. The cashier at the First National Bank of Lodge Grass, J.M. Trytten, had the house built for him. After the bank collapsed in 1924, Trytten sold the house to Fay Abel, a well known local merchant, who lived here with his wife, Mary, for the next 46 years.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation
Address: P.O. Box 2612, Denver, CO 80201

Date: 1-22-1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: Less than one acre
USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5, 1967

UTM's: 13 | 314380 | 5020330