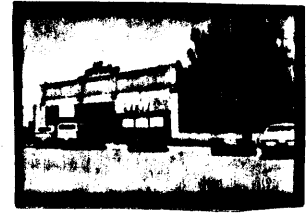


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See photograph # 13, 14

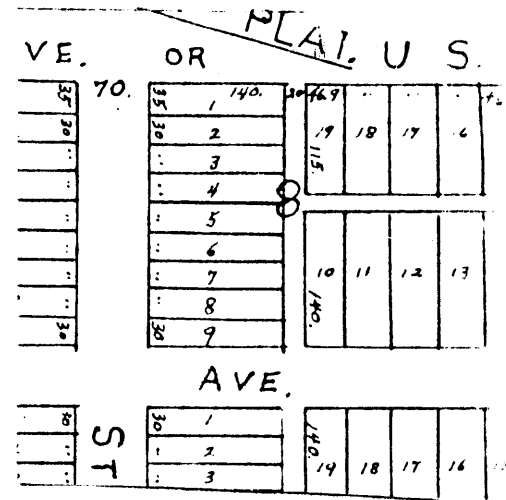
**MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY**

Legal Description: Original Plat Block 8 Lots 4 and 5  
Address: Main Street, Joliet, Montana  
Ownership: Name: VFW  
Address: Joliet, Montana



Roll#8/Frame#7,18

Historic Name: Baker and Lovering Store  
Common Name: VFW Hall  
Date of Construction: 1902, 1910  
Architect: unknown for original store;  
Curtis C. Oehme for 1910 addition  
Builder: Goss and Lancaster- original store;  
Patsy Lothus- 1910 addition  
Original Owner: C.W. Baker and Guy Lovering  
Original Use: merchantile establishment  
Present Use: VFW hall and Senior Citizens Center  
Research Sources:  
Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse  
Plat Records: Original plat, 1968 plat  
Tax Records: not applicable  
Building Permits: not available  
Sewer/Water Permits: not available  
City Directories: 1905-1922  
Sanborn Maps: 1907, 1912, 1927  
Newspapers: Red Lodge Picket,  
Carbon County Journal,  
Joliet Journal



Location Map

**HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Baker and Lovering and then Lovering and Smith mercantile business was one of the initial businesses in Joliet to supply the region with supplies. It reflects the two developmental phases of Joliet. It was the first permanent brick building built in 1902 when Joliet was just being established as the trading center for the surrounding agricultural community. The addition to the south and the new storefront constructed in 1910 reinforced Joliet's commercial development, corresponding with the construction of several other brick buildings between 1910 and 1912. The building served as the primary mercantile business in Joliet until 1929, therefore significant to the stability and survival of the town by providing a continuous service to the community.

The Lovering and Smith store is one of the most substantial brick structures in the town of Joliet, built with local materials and local labor and designed by Curtis C. Oehme, a reputable Billings architect at the turn of the century.

**HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Red Lodge Picket in July, 1902, noted that "Joliet is to have a new brick block as a home for a new merchantile establishment to be conducted by G.A. Lovering of Fullerton,

California and C.W. Baker of Westminster, Calif., nephew and brother-in-law respectively of Bert Simpson, the Joliet rancher." The article continues that the brick work will be contracted to Goss and Lancaster of Red Lodge and the framing to local contractors Underwood and Hart and will be erected "in the burnt district at Joliet of a one-story building, 30x60." The Carbon County Courthouse recorded Baker & Lovering obtaining lot 4 from the Joliet Townsite and Improvement Company in August, 1902 and lot 5 in February, 1903. It appears that the original store was built in lot 4. In 1907, T.W. Smith bought out C.W. Baker's 1/2 interest in the business.

The Carbon County Journal noted in December, 1909, that T.W. Smith plans "to build a large addition" to the Lovering and Smith store. The paper recorded the progress of the building, stating it was obvious that Lovering and Smith spared no expense. By April, 1910 the work began. Patsy Loftus of Billings laid the brick and Curtis C. Oehme, a Billings architect, designed and supervised the addition and the new store front. The brick was from Fromberg and the sandstone from Columbus. The plate glass front was especially impressive and built by Hemry and Lowe of Joliet, who also put up the steel ceiling. The building was wired for electricity by the Billings Electrical Company and an George Garlow of Billings layed the tiling "a white bordered in blue" in the doorway, and considered very artistic by the Carbon County Journal.

Gladys Dowell, the daughter of Guy Lovering, recalls how the store was divided with dry goods on one side and groceries on the other, her mother ran the dry goods portion of the store. Lovering and Smith sold the business in 1929 but both men remained in Joliet until their deaths.

Guy Lovering and his wife Cora contributed much to the early social development of Joliet. T.W. Smith was one of the earliest homesteaders in the area, receiving his patent in 1898 and was one of the most successful farmers in the immediate area of Joliet. T.W. Smith also served as major of Joliet in the early days and was sheriff of Carbon County from 1920 to 1922.

A brick building appears on the 1907 Sanborn map on the north lot. With the 1910 addition, the one story brick building covers two lots in the 1912 Sanborn map. The lower facade alteration occurred in 1982.

#### PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This common bond, one story, brick structure has sandstone corner stones and a rubble stone foundation which stands approximately 9" at the rear wall and tapers to the front. The lower facade has a centered oblique recessed entrance with two doors and fixed windows in the angled walls. The lower facade is clad with vertical paneling and has a row of three, rectangular fixed windows flanking the central entrance. The upper level has three recessed panels accentuated by the four symmetrical pilasters corbelled at their base and terminating directly below the brick panels. The parapet has a stepped pediment capped with dressed stone, which also caps the cornice. A solid common bond brick wall is visible on the south side elevation. The rear facade has a segmental arched doorway and

two large rectangular windows, both filled in or replaced with smaller windows.

The only alterations are to the lower facade and infill of rear facade windows and door.

**INTEGRITY:**

The building is on its' original location. The upper facade retains its' original appearance and construction but the lower facade has been altered. It is unknown if the original transom glass remains.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

Name: Joan Louise Brownell  
Address: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office  
Red Lodge, Montana  
Date: August, 1985

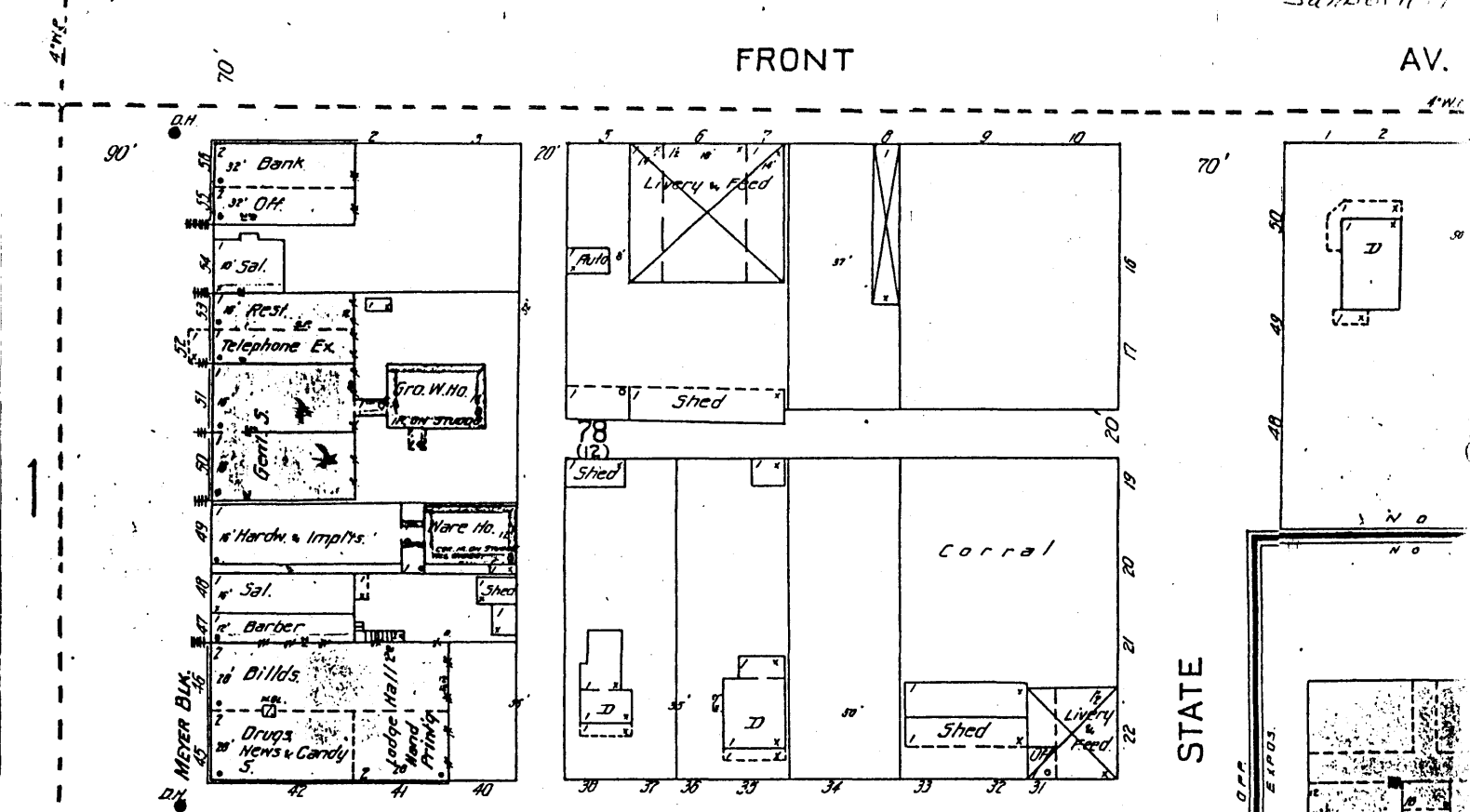
**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Acreage: less than one acre  
USGS Quad: Fromberg, Montana/7.5 minute/1956  
UTM's: 12/658680/5038610

Verbal Boundary: Lots 4 and 5 of block 8 of the Original Townsite of Joliet.

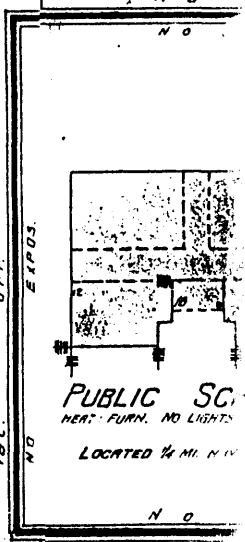
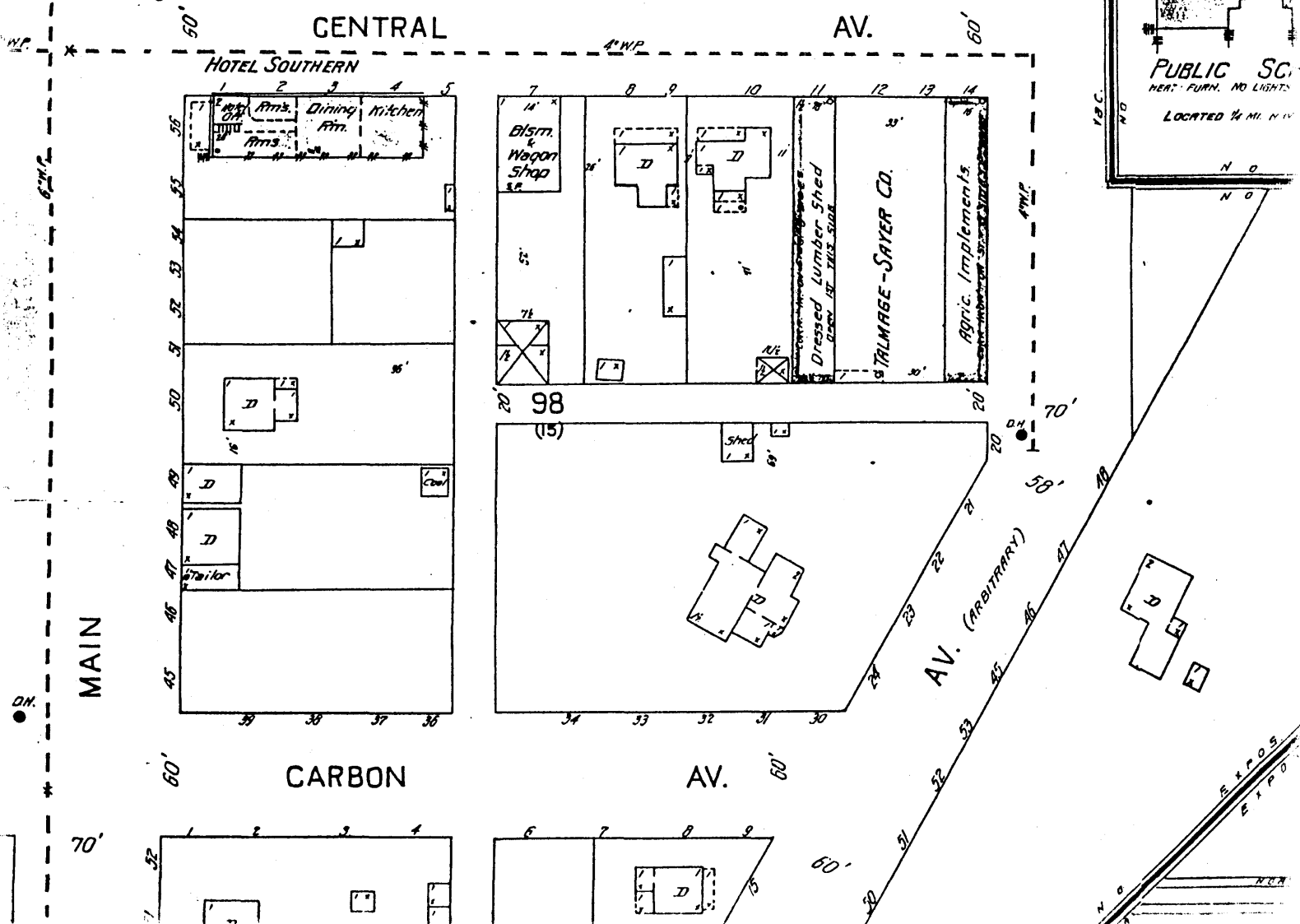
FRONT

AV.



CENTRAL

AV.



AV. (ARBITRARY)

