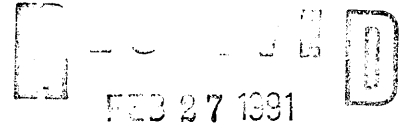


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Reno Apartments

other name/site number: Custer Apartments

2. Location

street & number: 719 North Custer Avenue

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Hardin

state: Montana code: MT county: Big Horn code: 003 zip code: 59034

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	_____ building(s)
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>2</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources of Hardin

4. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Maude Shiff Signature of certifying official 2-12-91 Date

MT SHPO State or Federal agency and bureau

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 Antoniotti J. Ree 4/11/91
 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):

for Signature of Keeper Date

6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic/multiple dwelling

Current: Domestic/multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Prairie School

Materials: foundation: concrete
walls: brick
roof: asphalt
other: weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Reno Apartments is a five-unit apartment building built in the Prairie Commercial style. This two-story, brick-bearing-wall, rectangular apartment building sets on a concrete foundation and has a flared, hipped roof with asphalt shingles. The front elevation is divided into three bays. The central bay consists of a main entry on the first floor, and a second floor window opening with a pair of 6-over-1, double-hung wood sash windows. This is flanked on each side by a bay consisting, on both the first and second floor, of a window opening with a pair of 6-over-1, double-hung wood sash units on either side of an 8-over-1, double-hung wood sash unit. A concrete stoop, featuring paneled guardrails and newells, serves the main entry, consisting of a wood door with four-pane side lights. A flat roof supported by brick columns shelters the stoop and entry. Near the center of the side elevations, on both the first and second floors, are window openings containing 6-over-1 and 8-over-1, double-hung sash windows similar to those on the front elevation. Other side elevation windows have 6-over-1, double-hung sash units. All windows have aluminum storms and all window openings have rowlock sills and steel lintels. The second floor sills extend to form a continuous string course belting the building. The basement has windows with 8-over-1, double-hung sash units set in light wells. The soldier course headers of the basement windows extend to form a continuous belt course around the base of the building. A centrally-located brick chimney, with a corbelled top capped with concrete, extends through the roof. The roof has a recent aluminum soffit under the eaves. The major alteration to the building occurred at the rear, where the porch has new siding. The north half has simulation brick, asphalt siding; the south half has plywood siding.

The front entry of the building leads to a first floor foyer and second floor stairway. Each floor has two one-bedroom units. All of the original wood trim appears to be intact in the apartments and the foyer/stairs area.

A wood frame garage with a hipped roof sets on the rear of the lot. Originally built with four stalls, there is a fifth stall with a shed roof on the south end. Each stall has been extended eastward about eighteen inches. The garage was constructed ca. 1925 and retains sufficient historic architectural integrity to be considered a contributing building.

8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1919-1925

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1919, ca. 1925

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Dedrick and Bobbe (architects)
Adler, Ernest (builder)

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

The Reno Apartments is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for its important associations with post-World War I town development. In addition, the building is significant under Criterion C, as a well-preserved local example of early 20th century multi-family residential construction exhibiting Prairie Commercial style influences.

In 1919, William E. Reno, one of Hardin's first residents and a local entrepreneur, hired Dedrick and Bobbe, an architectural firm based in Billings, to design this two-story apartment building. Erected by Hardin contractor, Ernest Adler, the apartment was completed later that year, and Reno remained the owner-operator for five years.

The Reno Apartments, and other apartments built that year, were erected in response to a demand for housing in Hardin resulting from continued development of agricultural lands throughout Big Horn County following the First World War. Farm and ranch families with high school age children found it necessary to move their families into town to enable the students to continue their education. Although there were several boarding houses in Hardin, they generally did not take young boarders. A flurry of single and multi-family housing construction took place in 1919, and the resulting apartment buildings gave Hardin an increasingly urban character. The Reno Apartments reportedly filled as soon as they were completed.

The Reno Apartments reflects the influences of Prairie School architecture in the 6- and 8-over-1 window units, paired and triplicate fenestration rhythms, masonry bandings, and wide, unadorned eaves, all of which lend a horizontal emphasis to the building. The building retains a high degree of integrity, both inside and out, with the original interior spaces and detailings being well-preserved.

Today, the Reno Apartments continues to reflect the influences of Prairie School design simply applied in commercial building, as well as a strong sense of its associations with the period of town development when functional multi-family units were erected to accommodate a burgeoning population. The garage was added at the back of the property reflecting the period through the 1920s when automotive transportation became increasingly prevalent and many Hardin homeowners added garages. Although the garage does not exhibit the stylish influences apparent in the apartments, it is a historic development which adds significance to the property as a whole.

9. References

Hardin Tribune, December 13, 27, 1918; January 17, April 25, July 4, October 23, 1919; April 15, 1921; October 5, 1923.
Quivik, Frederic L., "Development of the Built Environment in the Original Townsite of Hardin, Montana," Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, September 1984.
Ibid., "Historic Resources of Hardin, Montana," National Register Nomination, Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Helena, 1984.

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State historic preservation office
 Other state agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing
 13 296200 5067800

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Reno Apartments are located on Lot 11, Block 12, 4th Addition, Hardin, Montana. The property is located in the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of section 23, T1S, R33E.

Boundary Justification:

These boundaries encompass the legally recorded property which contains the buildings described in this nomination.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Jackie Redding Date: July 1988
Organization: Center on Hardin Telephone: 406/665-2137
Street & Number: 204 North Center Zip: 59034
City or Town: Hardin State: Montana