

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

JUN 25 1987

Site # PE#18



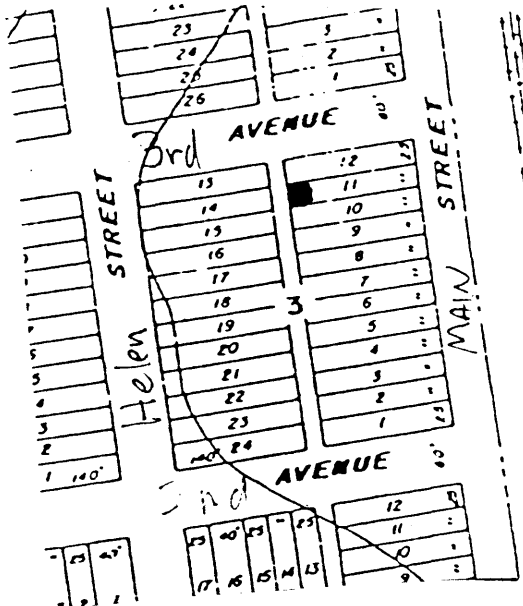
Legal Description: Original Town, Block 3, Lot 11

Address: On alley south of Third Ave., Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: Glenn Fritzier

private address: Lodge Grass, MT 59050

Roll # 3 Frame # 10



location map or building plan with arrow north.



Historic Name: City Jail

Common Name: Old City Jail

Date of Construction: 1930 estimated documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: City of Lodge Grass

Original Owner: City of Lodge Grass

Original Use: Jail

Present Use: 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.

Square poured concrete structure, with a flat roof. On the south facade is a single, metal door. On the west facade is a single small window, with bars. The interior of the building features a wrought iron cot built into the concrete wall. No sanitary facilities are provided.

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

The city of Lodge Grass was incorporated in September, 1927.¹ In 1930 the city acquired lots 11 and 12, in Block 3 of the Original Town, and erected a municipal light plant and built the city jail.² Local informants recall that the jail was mainly used to hold people who were arrested for public intoxication.³ The city sold this land to the Farmers Union Oil Company in 1954, and by that time the jail was no longer being used.

¹"Lodge Grass Votes to Incorporate, 44-17," Hardin Tribune-Herald 16 September 1927, p. 1.

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

³Interview with Joe Medicine Crow, Lodge Grass, Montana, 11 October 1985.

Footnote Sources:

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

The site has good integrity. This is its original location, and it still resembles a jail, with its iron door, metal bars on the window, and thick concrete walls. In 1981 there had been oil storage tanks on the roof of the jail, but these have been removed by 1985.

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 jail was one of the few municipal structures built by the city government of Lodge Grass, soon after its incorporation in 1927. Apparently, two of the major functions of the city was to provide lighting for the town through its municipal power plant and police protection, including the building of this jail as part of its overall law enforcement responsibilities. The light plant building and jail both were built on this land, but the light plant has been removed and only the jail remains.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

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

Date: 1-3-1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5, 1967

UTM's: 13 | 317660 | 8320670