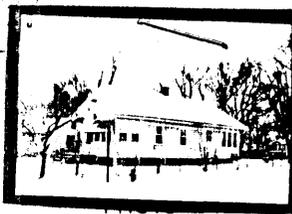


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Site# PE #198



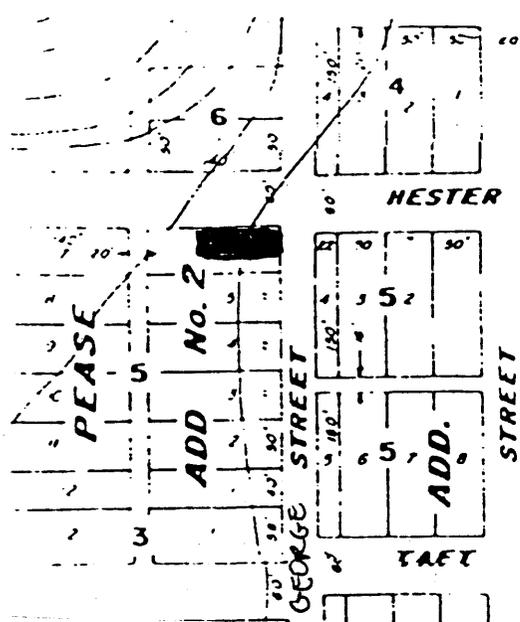
Legal Description: Pease 2nd Addition, Block 5, Lot 6

Address: 4 S. George St., Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: Edna Dust

private address: Lodge Grass, MT

Roll # 4 Frame # 8



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

NT

Historic Name: Simonsen's house

Common Name: Chipman's house

Date of Construction: circa 1920 estimated documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: J.R. Simonsen

Original Owner: J.R. Simonsen

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:

(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.

A long, narrow, rectangular single story frame dwelling. It appears to be a restatement of the "bungalow" style. It has a gable roof, with a brick chimney at the center of the roof ridge. The front facade on the east, facing George St., has an enclosed entry, with a gable roof, with brackets under the eaves, and three adjacent windows next to the door on the north, covered by a cloth awning, and a window box supported by brackets under them. Three brick steps with a metal railing led up to the entry. The east elevation has wood shingles on the upper facade and horizontally laid planking over the lower exterior, with a single window south of the enclosed entry. The house has a concrete foundation, probably over a basement, and there are eight windows on the north elevation.

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

In 1922, the first year that tax records are available for this block, a house already existed on this property, indicating that it was built prior to that date. That year this lot was owned by J.R. Simmons, with \$1200 worth of improvements on it.¹ Unfortunately, nothing is known of Simmons from other historical records. In 1925 the house was bought by J.M. Daniels. From December 31, 1923 until its closing on August 12, 1924, J. Mason Daniel was the cashier at the First National Bank of Lodge Grass.² Later he was in the construction business. In 1926 the property was acquired by Francis Cresswell.³ Carl Cresswell was a butcher, listed on the Directory for Lodge Grass as early as 1917, selling meats.⁴ He had apparently first lived on Block 7 of the original town, facing Helen Street (R8-14), in a house torn down by the Community Development Program in 1985, and owned for a time the old cafe on First Ave (PE#9).⁵ The property then passed to Luella Chipman in 1943. Ira Chipman was a cowboy who worked for the Crow tribal livestock program.⁶ Apparently the Chipman family owned the house through the mid-1960s. Local informants recall that Fred Burilson, a state highway employee once lived here. After Ira Chipman passed away, Willie Wilson, the railroad depot agent

Footnote Sources: (Cont.)

¹"Town Ownership Books," Assessor's Office, Big Horn County Courthouse, Hardin.
(Cont.)

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

The house has excellent physical integrity, being in good condition, at its original location. The house has retained its original forms and can convey feelings for 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.

Although J.R. Simmons, who probably built this house, is not considered an important figure in Lodge Grass history, many of the later owners of this property were significant members of this community. Carl Cresswell, for example, was the town's first butcher. The house is distinctive, for its good condition, design, and period of construction. It is one of the earliest residences in Lodge Grass still standing, have been built prior to 1922. It is one of the few "bungalow" style houses in town. Also, its assessed value in 1922, of \$1200, indicates that it was probably one of the more substantial and important early houses in Lodge Grass. For example, the house next door was worth only \$200 that same year. The house can be considered significant because it

embodies a distinctive style and is representative of a type and period.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

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

1-30-1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acres: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5, 1967

UTM's: 13|514380|5020310

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY
CONTINUATION FORM

PE#198
Simmonsens house
Pease 2nd Add, Block 5, Lot 6

Footnotes (Cont.):

²Bicentennial Committee of the Big Horn County Historical Society.
Lookin' Back, Big Horn County (Hardin: Big Horn County Historical Society,
1976).

³"Town Ownership Books."

⁴R.L. Polk, Directory of Billings and Red Lodge, Yellowstone,
Carbon, Stillwater, and Big Horn Counties (Helena: R.L. Polk & Co.,
1917).

⁵"Town Ownership Books."

⁶Interview with Joe Medicine Crow, Lodge Grass, Montana,
22 November 1985.

⁷"Town Ownership Books."

⁸Interview with Joe Medicine Crow.

Historical Information (Cont.):

for Lodge Grass lived here for several years before it was bought by
its current owner, Edna Dust.