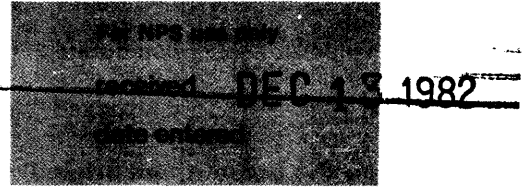


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Silver Bow Brewery Malt House

and/or common n/a

2. Location

~~Ests~~ W of Butte rd us 91

street & number Niseler Junction one mile east of Silver Bow n/a not for publication

city, town Butte vicinity vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Montana code 030 county Silver Bow code 093

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Charlotte Lynch

street & number 305 East Front Street

city, town Butte n/a vicinity of state Montana 59701

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Silver Bow County Courthouse

street & number Montana and Granite Streets

city, town Butte state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Silver Bow Brewery Malt House is a two story, coursed rubble stone, detached stone structure originally built for the malting of barley and the drying of the malt. It has been converted to a single family residence.

The Malt House is about 20" x 60", the long sides run due north and south. The stone walls are about two feet thick and of rubble masonry with cut stone quoins at the corners and at the sides of the original window and door openings. The walls are actually an extension fo the basement walls; the basement grade being completely below at the north end and about half exposed at the south. The hip roof is covered with rolled asphalt roofing. Several of the windows are original to the stone structure; all five on the south and five of six on the east. Openings for these windows are spanned with brick relieving arches and have cut stone sills. Openings for the remaining windows, one each on the east and north and two on the west, have been more recently cut through the stone masonry. There are two doors on the east side of the building, each with a brick relieving arch. There is a double door at the south end of the building at the basement level. This basement door opening and the window next to it are spanned by stone voussoirs rather than brick.

Internally, the structure is divided into a basement space which runs the entire length of the building, and two major upper spaces which are divided by an east-west masonry partition. The basement is covered by a stone vault and there is a turnbuckle tie rod connecting the outside walls and located directly beneath the masonry partition to help carry the load of that partition. The first floor is of joists and plank decking which rest on the vault. Each of the upper two spaces are divided horizontally by a joist and plank deck floor. 1891 and 1900 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of Butte described the Malt House as having "one perforated floor". The perforated floor was probably located in the basement and was the platform on which the barley was piled for germination or malting. The perforations allowed moistened air to be circulated through the heaps of barley to facilitate germination. The malting process was probably done in the basement to maintain a relatively cold environment year round. Ventilation air was probably drawn into the basement through openings in the side walls which have since been filled. The Sanborn Maps showed an elevator which probably passed through the circular opening at the center of the vault. This elevator connected the malting floor with the storage levels above. The southern of the two upper spaces housed the storage floors. The northern space, about 16' x 16', contained the malt kiln in which the malted barley was dried. The kiln contained a fireplace at the first floor and a drying bin at the second floor. Controlling the heat in the kiln was critical to controlling the flavor and color of the beer. There is a brick chimney inset into the stone north wall and running from the roof down to about six feet above the ground. This chimney served for flue of the kiln. There is also a brick chimney at the southeast corner of the building. The perforated floor, the elevator, the air circulating apparatus, and the kiln have all been removed from the Malt House.

The Silver Bow Brewery Malt House sits about 200 feet north of the country road which used to be the main road between Butte and Anaconda. The Malt House is just NE of the intersection at which another county road headed south and immediately crossed the Butte, Anaconda and Pacific tracks, the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific tracks, Silver Bow Creek and the Burlington Northern tracks on its way to Dillon. This is known as Nissler junction. These buildings included the brewery, bottling

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number 7

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house, cellars and storage, saloon, dwellings, brewery stables and a pig pen. On the north side of county road between the brewery and the malt house was a large one story wood frame house, the foundation of which is still in evidence. Just west of this house were cellars and a cooperage. The only buildings remaining near the Malt House are a shop/garage directly to the north and a brick washroom to the north west. The washroom is located approximately 25 feet from the Malt House, measures 15' x 15', and originally was equipped with showers and wash basins, and is included as part of the nominated property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca 1886 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Silver Bow Brewery Malt House is significant because it represents an industry and technology that was very important on the western mining frontier. Breweries were very quick to establish themselves in mining camps to supply beer to the miners. Christian Nissler, owner of the Silver Bow Brewery, is representative of the frontier brewery entrepreneur.

Christian Nissler was born in Germany in 1836 and emigrated to the United States at age 16. In Philadelphia he learned the trades of baker and confectioner. In 1856 he moved to California where he continued to practice these trades for six years before beginning to prospect for gold in California, Oregon and Idaho. He settled in Virginia City, Nevada, for three years where he worked in a brewery and learned that trade. Nissler headed for Montana and more prospecting in 1865. After trying several camps, he finally struck gold at Bear Gulch and used that money to purchase an interest in a brewery at German Gulch. But in two years he was losing money because German Gulch was a declining camp. So in 1871 he moved to Silver Bow, a camp along Silver Creek. Both Silver Bow and nearby Butte City were declining placer camps, but some of the miners were hanging on, trying to be successful at the more capital-intensive quartz mining necessary to extract the rich minerals laden in the Butte Hill. Shortly after he started his Silver Bow Brewery in a log cabin, budding Montana capitalists, A.J. Davis and W. A. Clark, began to invest in Butte and the real Butte boom began.

Early breweries were to be found throughout Montana. In 1871, there were four breweries in Helena, three in Virginia City, as well as as single breweries in Blackfoot City, Diamond City, Missoula and elsewhere. Before Prohibition in the 20th Century, there were at least 50 breweries in Montana large enough to be recorded in the register of United States Breweries. As Butte grew, several more breweries were started. In 1876, the Centennial Brewery was founded in Butte by Leopold Schmidt who was later to move on to Tumwater, Washington, to start the famous Olympia Brewing Co. By 1900 there were five breweries in Butte and its surroundings. Business was good enough for Christian Nissler that in 1886, he built his brick brewery. None of that brewery remains except the Malt and Wash Houses. Although the technologies employed in the malt house had been in existence for some years, the stone malt house probably dates to 1886. The type of malt kiln that seems to have been used at the Nissler Brewery was patented in 1796. The use of perforated floors for malting goes back to about 1860.

Christian Nissler owned and operated the Silver Bow Brewery at Nissler Junction until his death in November, 1901. His estate sold the business in 1902 and it operated under several names (Silver Bow Brewing Company, Capitol Brewing Company, and Crystal Springs Brewery) and owners until 1912. By 1915, only two breweries in Butte remained, Centennial Brewing Company and the Butte Brewing Company. The latter, which operated until 1963, was the only Butte brewery to come back to life after Prohibition. Of all the brewery operations in the Butte vicinity, the Malt House and the Wash House of the Silver Bow Brewery are the only two remaining structures.

9. Major Bibliographical References

One Hundred Years of Brewing, A Supplement to the Western Brewer, (New York and Chicago: A.S. Rich and Company, 1903)
 Miller, J., History of Montana, 1894, (Chicago-Lewis Publishing, Co.)
Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps City Directories

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Butte North

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

A

1	1	2	3	7	1	2	7	1	8	1	0	5	1	0	9	1	5	8	1	3	1	0
Zone			Easting						Northing													

B

Zone			Easting						Northing													

C

Zone			Easting						Northing													

D

Zone			Easting						Northing													

E

Zone			Easting						Northing													

F

Zone			Easting						Northing													

G

Zone			Easting						Northing													

H

Zone			Easting						Northing													

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is a 150' x 150' parcel of land centered at the NW corner of the Malt House T3N, R8W, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, section 18

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	n/a	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fred L. Quivik, Architectural Historian

organization Butte Historical Society

date April 22, 1982

street & number P.O. Box 3913

telephone (406) 782-5464

Butte

Montana

city or town

state

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Maella DeFoy

title Deputy SHPO

date 11-17-82

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Linda McClure
 Keeper of the National Register

date 1-19-83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date