

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

BRIDGER SURVEY

Legal Description: Section 21, Tract L,
Middle Lots 7,8

Address: 112 North E Street

Ownership: Name: Thomas A. Ryan
Address: Bridger, -MT 59014



8 32
Roll# 8/Frame# 34

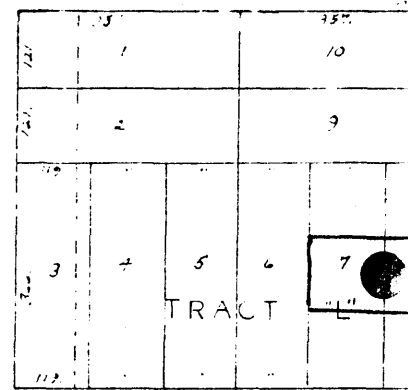
Historic Name: Glidden House
Common Name: Pillsbury House
Date of Construction: 1906-07
Architect: Unknown
Builder: Unknown
Original Owner: Mary J. and Samuel H. Glidden
Original Use: Residence
Present Use: Residence

Research Sources:

Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse:
1906, Bridger Coal & Improvement Company; 1910,
C.W. Garner; 1915, C.W. Gardner; 1916, S.W.
Rankin; 1918, S.W. Rankin; 1929, Edna Rankin;
1929, Edith Merrill; 1943, Harold Wood; 1950,
Arthur Foeste; 1959, W.J. Pokarney; 1966,
Arnold Buehring; 1972, Thomas Ryan
Plat Records: Carbon County Courthouse
Tax Records: Carbon County Courthouse
Building Permits: N/A
Sewer/Water Permits: N/A
City Directories: 1905-09
Sanborn Maps: No Exposure

Newspapers: Red Lodge Picket 10-7-93; 10-14-93;
11-11-93; 11-19-03; 12-31-03; 4-21-04; 6-3-04;
7-21-04; 12-22-04; Free Press; 7-31-03; 9-25-03;
10-23-03; 10-30-03; 11-27-03; 1-1-04; 6-3-04;
6-10-04; 6-24-04; 7-1-04; 7-15-04; 7-29-04;
8-12-04; 8-19-04; Bridger Tribune; 10-6-04;
12-29-04; 1-19-05; Carbon County Republican;
8-3-06; Clarke Fork Herald; 4-4-07; 5-16-07;
6-6-07; Bridger Times; 5-14-09; 8-27-09;
10-29-09; 11-26-09; 3-3-11; 5-12-11; 3-14-13;
10-10-13; 11-5-15; 11-19-15

Other: 1900, 1910 Census; N.J. Montgomery Photos



Location Map

1111 9 4 1007

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

(Reappraisal Forms) Single dwelling -
1888 sq. ft. 1/2 story - 468 sq. ft. enclosed porch -
35 sq. ft. open porch - 600 sq. ft. concrete. Formed concrete
foundation, frame wall construction, sheathing exterior. Hip
roof, composition shingle roofing. Softwood floors, lath &
plaster interior, pine or fir trim.

The Glidden House is a fine example of arts and crafts styling that has experienced few significant architectural modifications since its construction. Like the Corey House next door, the Glidden House is 1 1/2 stories and is of a basic cross gable plan, broken up with shed roof dormer projections. The front porch that runs the full length of the (east) front facade has been enclosed in recent years with T-111 siding and screens, although the original square porch supports remain intact.

The foundation of the Glidden House with its full basement is of uncoursed river cobbles. The river cobbles were used up to the level of the first floor window sills around the entire house and for the large, exterior chimney on the south wall. An unusual curvilinear, raised mortar joint was used to add graceful textural interest to the rock work. It appears that the cobble stone chimney was taken down at some point for rebuilding because a crude, untooled mortar technique is now evident on that feature of the building.

The Glidden House is sheathed aluminum siding and the roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The front and rear entrances to the house are both accessed from the south facade; cobble stone side walls flank the concrete steps and provide support for the heavy, square porch roof posts.

The wood frame double hung windows of the Glidden House are set singly, in pairs, and in triplets. The upper sash of all windows is composed of multiple 4" x 4" lights, while the lower sash is one sheet of glass. As many as 48 lights and as few as 15 lights compose the upper sash, depending on the size of each window.

A flat roofed, three-bay garage sets at the northwest corner of the lot. This garage is of compatible materials but of more recent construction and does not contribute to the significance of the Glidden House.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

The Carbon County Republican July 6, 1906, reported that S.H. Glidden and L.A. Corey purchased tracts east of the railroad track and would build "two fine residences this summer." The July 20th issue said that the two men and their families had "established themselves very comfortably in tent houses, which were located farther east on the Henry Gebo ranch of the Clarke Fork river. By the end of September the foundation was complete,

and carpenters began work on the frame. The paper said, "the foundation presents a beautiful appearance, being constructed of cobble stone." The use of cobble stone, while quite attractive, slows down the building process substantially, and by mid-November, when the house was still far from completion, the Gliddens moved out of the tent at Gebos, and rented the Dunn residence on 2nd Street. On May 23, 1907, the Clarke Fork Herald reported that the Glidden family moved into their new home on the "East Side Addition."

The Glidden's came to the Clark's Fork Valley before the turn of the century, and in 1900 purchased the Gates & Graham buildings and remodeled them into a dwelling in old "Stringtown." The census enumerator classified Sam as a "Sec. Transp." presumably the secretary of a transportation business. The Gliddens went back to Minneapolis, and returned to Bridger in 1903. Before long there was hardly a business type in the valley Glidden wasn't associated with. He maintained strong ties with Minneapolis financiers such as Alfred Pillsbury, A.L. Corey, S.W. Rankin, C.J. Baldwin, R.W. Stone, H.F. Conn, Dr. Lester, W. Day, and George C. Stiles. He, along with his "Minneapolis Capitalists," invested in the construction of irrigation ditches; oil and gas speculation; stucco fields; the orchard business; a "gold" mine; and in 1904 purchased the entire holdings of W.A. Clark in Bridger, which included the Bridger Coal Mine and housing complex, the Bridger townsite, the water works, and the electric lighting system. In the town itself, he had a blacksmith shop, and opened the Glidden Mercantile, for which he built a grand commercial block in 1905 (See Block 7, O.P.). The Glidden Mercantile carried hardware, furniture, groceries, dry goods, clothing, farm implements and machinery, wagons, coal, hay and other goods raised or manufactured in the Clark Fork Valley.

For the historian, at least, the most valuable of his business interests was the Free Press. The paper began mid-year 1902, and was purchased by Glidden in September 1904. According to the Picket in Red Lodge, Glidden bought the "plant and the good will" of the press in order to change its politics, and to have a mouthpiece for his campaign for Senator on the Democratic party ticket. It must have worked, as Glidden was elected state senator.

But the Free Press also served to provide information on Glidden's ventures. B.F. Harris of Park City was the contractor on the 14 room "palatial" residence of Glidden built at Golden (Dry Creek) in 1904, and Henry Jessel, representative for an Oregon nursery, superintended the planting of a "model orchard" there. J.G. Link of Billings designed the Glidden Mercantile (Emporium), which was constructed in 1905 by R.R. Crool of Billings, and bricklayer Ohilin Weesh. Had Glidden kept the paper, information on the architect and contractor of this residence, no doubt, would have been published.

Glidden, dubbed the "Young Napoleon of the Clarke Fork" in 1904, met his Waterloo quietly sometime around 1910. In February a

Minneapolis syndicate took over the 640 acre ranch on Dry Creek, and Ed Jenkin bargained for the house. In 1912 the Simon Brothers were operating the old Glidden mine, and in 1913 Sam was found in Seattle. In January 1915 the Times reported that Sam Glidden was a "traveling evangelist similar to Billy Sunday, going all over the United States." In June of 1916 H.F. Conn of Minneapolis, had taken over Glidden's ranch and renamed it the "Buena Visa Ranch Company", and Sam was about to publish a religious book. Alfred Pillsbury's name kept showing up on all sorts of property which once Glidden held, or had presumed to hold, and Sam was not heard from again.

INTEGRITY

The Glidden House has been resided with vinyl siding, which is wider than the original bevel siding, and the porch has been enclosed with large windows during recent years. The original square porch support columns remain in place, as does the original bevel siding, and both alterations are easily reversible. The river stone chimney of the Glidden House has been rebuilt in recent years and, although the original stones were reused, the quality of the masonry work does not match the original and the unusual, original, curvilinear mortar joints were not reproduced.

HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Glidden House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a distinctive example of Arts and Crafts styling. Built in 1907 by Bridger's pre-eminent entrepreneur of the historic period, Samuel Glidden, the house stands with its companion Arts and Crafts style Corey House next door, at the eastern edge of the residential district. The two houses formed Bridger's tiny "Bon Ton" district, as characterized by the local newspaper. The two houses were likely designed by the same architect and built by R.R. Crool, although documentation of the architect and builder of the Glidden House has not been found. The two houses share similar floor plans, and both are oriented to the east with full width front porches spanning the front facades. River stone was used in the construction of the Glidden House to the first floor sill level, as cut sandstone was used for the Corey House. The raised, curved mortar joints used for the river stone work are of particular note. The multi-light, wooden sash windows of the Glidden House are set in pairs, and as single fixed windows add considerable interest to the building.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office

Address: Box 1651

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Date: October, 1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: less than one acre

USGS Quad: Bridger, Mont. 1956 7.5

UTM's: Zone 12, 664185 E., 5017790 N.





File: Residences

Date:

Sam Glidden Home, built, 1906, occupied May, 1907

NW corner, back side of house

Donor: N. J. Montgomery

Negative: Montgomery File 3, Row 3 #12

also original print
