

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation 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 Culver Studio

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 212 5th Ave North ___ not for publication

city, town Lewistown ___ vicinity of congressional district 2nd

state Montana code 30 county Fergus code 027

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name George W. and Donna L. Brenner

street & number 212 5th Ave N. Box 776

city, town Lewistown ___ vicinity of state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fergus County Courthouse, Clerk and Recorder

street & number

city, town Lewistown 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

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Walking down Fifth Avenue in Lewistown, one sees the original, though faded, sign for the CULVER STUDIO painted on the side wall of the studio itself, built in 1899. This two-story brick structure has been altered slightly over the years by the removal of a second story balcony which hung over the Fifth Ave sidewalk and the closing in of the transom lights over the front doorway and two front, lower level windows. Otherwise the building retains its original shape and features.

The Culver Studio is rectangular in shape and rests upon a sandstone foundation. Interconnected wooden structures extend from the rear of the building and were used as living quarters. Original daylight printing hoods are set in the second story windows on the south and west corners. The glassed-in camera room extends from the north side of the building and catches the east light. An outdoor stairway is also original although the enclosed entry way was added later.

The windows are set below brick relieving arches with sandstone keystones and on sandstone sills. On the front facade, there are two fixed windows on the ground floor with covered transoms and two smaller fixed windows on the second floor with open transoms. The side windows are double hung one-over-one. There is a doorway with a transom on the south side and two doors on the front: the main entrance and one above which once opened to the original balcony. The roof is flat and there is decorative brick corbelling at the roof line on the front facade.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899 **Builder/Architect** William Culver

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Culver Studio, a typical late 19th Century, two-story, brick commercial/residential structure built in downtown Lewistown, Montana, is significant in its association with William Culver. Culver was a noted photographer who, in addition to his commercial portraiture, captured many scenes and events of the early day central portion of the state. He photographed the Judith Roundup in 1884 and the opening of the English Sapphire mine (a difficult project in the pre-flash or floodlight era).

Before William Culver settled down to his professional career as a photographer, he caroused the west, hunting, trapping and trading with the Indians. Culver established his first studio in Maiden, Montana in 1883, but moved to Lewistown three years later. He built his brick studio and residence on Fifth Avenue in Lewistown in 1899. During the winter of 1899-1900, the upper story served as a classroom for Lewistown's first high school and the Culver family moved in in the spring. Culver also established a studio in Old Utica, then a leading cowtown. He spent a few days each month in the Utica area, travelling by buggy with a signboard on the back.

William Culver's interests ranged far beyond the camera and darkroom. He played the cornet and organized and directed the first Lewistown band. When Lewistown was organized as a city, he was elected to the city council and aided in the early planning and development of the city. He helped build the first opera house in Lewistown and managed it for many years. Culver lived in Lewistown for a total of 44 years.

The Culver Studio remains a repository for several collections of historic photographs which form a pictorial record of the growth and development of central Montana. Culver himself photographed and catalogued 138 early pioneer residences during his career.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bill Culver, Early Day Photographer, Mrs. Lute Musson, publisher and date of publication unknown

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property less than one

Quadrangle name Lewistown

Quadrangle scale 1:62,500

UMT References

UTM NOT VERIFIED

A

1	2	6	19	3	25	5	2	13	2	0	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 most southeasterly 43' of Lots 1 and 2 in Block 12 of Stafford's Original Addition to the City of Lewistown, Fergus County, Montana. NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 15, T.15N., R.18E.

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

state None code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title George W. Brenner, Co-owner

organization Brenners Studio

date 5/7/79

street & number 212 5th Ave N.

telephone 406-538-8077

city or town Lewistown

state Montana

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title

date

5-29-80

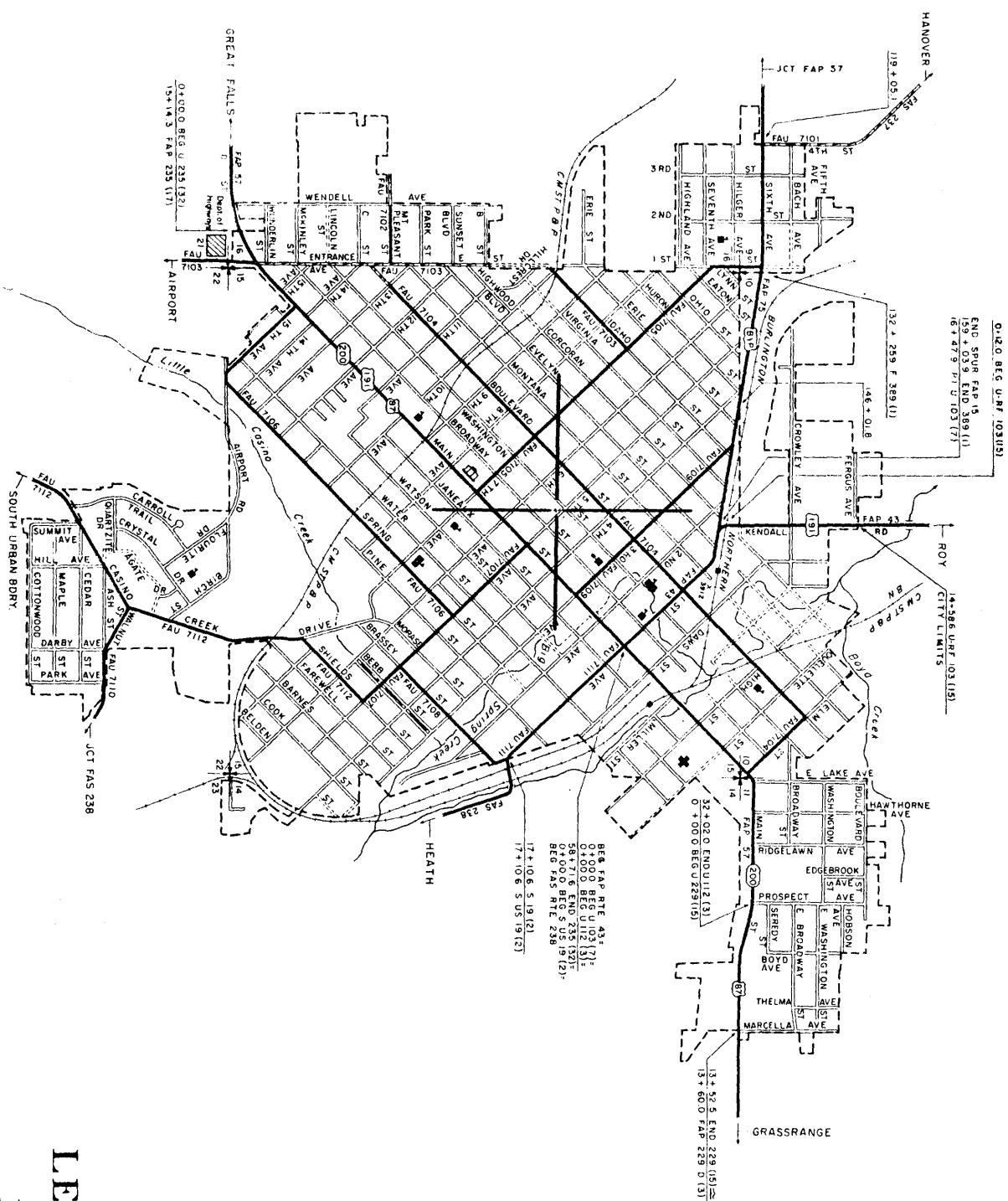


for Act

JUN 5 1980



Copies of this map are available for a nominal cost at the Montana Department of Highways—Helena, Montana 59601.

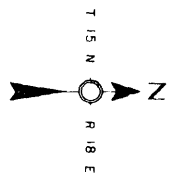


0+020 BEG U R F 103(11)
 END SPUR FAP 15
 END SPUR FAP 15
 6+479 U R F 103(11)
 6+479 U R F 103(11)

BEG FAP RTE 433
 0+000 BEG U R F 103(11)
 0+000 BEG U R F 103(11)
 58+771.6 END 235(12)
 58+771.6 END 235(12)
 BEG 235 BEG 235
 BEG 235 BEG 235
 17+106.5 U S 19(12)
 17+106.5 U S 19(12)

13+152.5 END 229(15)
 13+152.5 END 229(15)
 0+000 BEG U R F 103(11)
 0+000 BEG U R F 103(11)

- LEGEND**
- FEDERAL AID HIGHWAY SYSTEMS
 - PROJECTED ROAD
 - GRAVEL AND DRAINED ROAD
 - GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD
 - PAVED ROAD
 - DIVIDED ROAD - TRAFFIC FLOW
 - FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM
 - FAP FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM
 - FAS FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
 - FAU FEDERAL AID URBAN SYSTEM
 - U S NUMBERED ROUTE MARKER
 - STATE ROUTE MARKER
 - OTHER ROUTE MARKER
 - CORPORATE BOUNDARY LINE
 - NON-EXISTENT DEDICATED STREET
 - CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
 - RAILROAD AND STATION
 - POST OFFICE
 - COURT HOUSE
 - ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 - HIGH SCHOOL
 - HOSPITAL
 - ELEVATION



CITY PLAT
LEWISTOWN
 FERGUS COUNTY
 MONTANA

1970 CENSUS 6,437

SCALE IN FEET
 0 500 1000

REVISED DEC 31, 1974

1981 11 AUG 5 JUN 5 1980