

JUN 25 1987

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

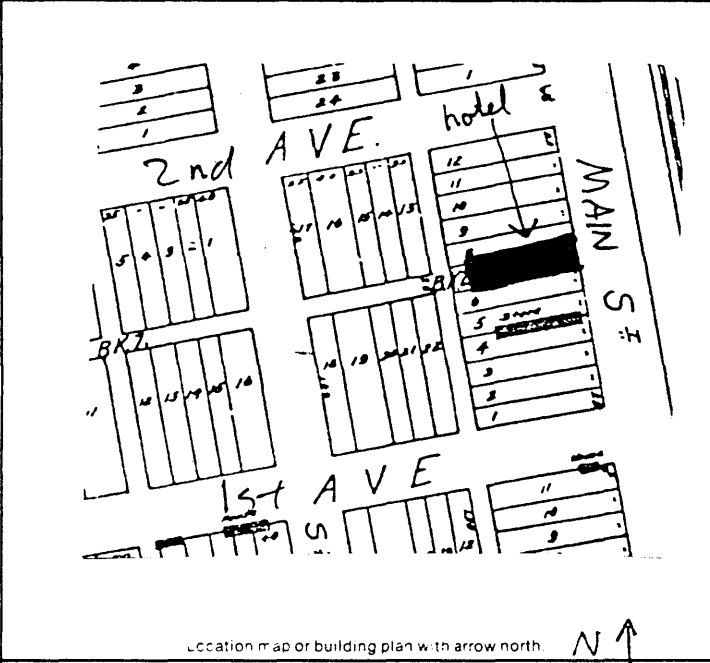
Site# PE#12



Legal Description: Original Town, Block 2, Lot 7, S 49' of 8
Address: 28 N. Main St., Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: Wallace Red Star
 private address: P.O. Box 75, Lodge Grass, MT
 public

Roll# 3 Frame# 7



Historic Name: Cammocks' Hotel

Common Name: Old REA building

Date of Construction: 1920 estimated documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: Edward Cammocks

Original Owner: Edward Cammocks

Original Use: Hotel and Restaurant

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 Footnote Sources in Historical Information)

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 two story rectangular commercial brick structure. Flat roof, with parapet stepped walls on the north and south sides. Concrete foundation. East elevation facing Main St. has a central door, with a single concrete step. Two large display windows, with four pane transoms, flank the door on either side, on the first floor, but are boarded up. Above the door and windows is a place for a central signboard, surrounded by bricks in a rowlock course. On the second story of the east facade are three recessed 1/1 sash windows. There is another rowlock of bricks below the windows and a soldiers course used to make archs above the windows. The rowlocks and soldiers course, which extend the length of the east facade, are of darker bricks than the rest of the building. The main brick work is of Flemish bond. Two courses of dentils on the cornice of the east facade. On the south side of the building is a single boarded over window on the first story, an open covered wood and wire porch/shed addition on a concrete foundation, and no windows on the upper story. There are a number of windows on the second story on the north side. At the rear of the building (west side) is a concrete block addition with a wood roof.

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

According to local tax records, this structure was built by Edward Cammock in 1920. That year he was assessed for having \$7,000.00 worth of improvements on Lot 7 and S 49' of Lot 8, Block 2, Original Town, Lodge Grass. ¹ Prior to 1920 this property had no improvements listed. The Directory for Lodge Grass for 1919 listed him as owning a restaurant. ² Local informants recall that Cammocks built this structure, ³ and it was operated as a hotel and restaurant by a man named Johnson. The 1925 assessment records show this property owned by Cammock and Johnson. The following year it was acquired by the Western Loan and Building Company. In 1945 Frank R. ⁴ Mason purchased this building. In 1948 it was acquired by the REA. ⁴ Lodge Grass had its own municipal electric power plant until 1936 when it joined the Rural Electric Association. In 1957 the headquarters of the Big Horn County Rural Electification Cooperative was housed in this building. ⁵ The Coop, however, moved to new offices in Lodge Grass that year. ⁵ In 1960 this property was bought by Donald Clawson.

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

Footnote Sources:

² R.L. Polk, Directory for Billings and Red Lodge, Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater and Big Horn Counties (Helena: R.L. Polk & Co, 1919).

³ Deborah Rokita, Montana Historical Architectural Inventory, Form #R6-6, Rokita Associates, Hardin, Montana, 4-8-81. (cont.)

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

The building has excellent integrity, being located in its original place, and resembling its original form. It can convey its historical associations. The site was once part of a thriving commercial section of Lodge Grass, developed between 1908 and 1925.

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.

This is one of only three commercial structures still extant in Lodge Grass built of brick. These brick commercial buildings were once the pride of the town. As an 1925 newspaper article noted: "Lodge Grass boasts of more substantial brick buildings than any town of its size in this part of the country." ⁶ This site was one of only two early hotels in Lodge Grass. Later, it was the headquarters of the Big Horn County Rural Electification Cooperative. The building is associated with events important in the history of Lodge Grass. Moreover, as one of the first brick commercial structures in town it has some architectural merit. It is distinctive in terms of its building type and style, its historical functions, and the periods of its use and occupation. Therefore it is thought to be significant within the context of the history of Lodge Grass.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

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

Date: 13 December 1985

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: Less than one acre.

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5', 1967

UTM's: 13 | 314740 | 5020550

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

PE#12 Cammock's Hotel
Original Town, Block 2, Lot 7 and S 49' of Lot 8
Lodge Grass, MT

FOOTNOTE SOURCES (Cont.):

⁴"Town Ownership Records."

⁵"'Greasy Grass' Attracted Early Traders," Hardin Tribune-Herald,
Golden Anniversary Edition, 16 May 1957, p. 50.

⁶"Lodge Grass and Wyola Real Burgs," The Searchlight (Hardin, Montana)
15 April 1925, p. 1.