

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

FEB 2 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: H. D. Rossiter Building

other name/site number: J. M. Maddison Store, Jensen Family Market

2. Location

street & number: 115 South Main Street

not for publication: n/a
vicinity: n/a

city/town: Sheridan

state: Montana

code: MT

county: Madison code: 057

zip code: 59749

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally X statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Maurell Sheff MSHPO 1-25-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Montana State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency or bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet
- determined not eligible for the
National Register
 see continuation sheet
- removed from the National Register
 see continuation sheet
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Beall Signature of the Keeper 3/7/94 Date of Action

Entered in the
National Register

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private	Number of Resources within Property	
Category of Property: Building	Contributing	Noncontributing
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> building(s)
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE:department store	Current Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
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7. Description

Architectural Classification:
Other: Western Commercial

Materials:
foundation: stone
walls: brick
roof: asphalt
other: n/a

Narrative Description

The H. D. Rossiter Building is a masonry commercial store building constructed of red brick in 1897. The building is a large rectangular mass, one story in height with an elaborately pedimented and corbelled cornice. In style, the store reflects a popular Western Commercial form of architecture which proliferated in Montana during early history of the state.

The primary facade faces to the west. On this elevation, the design is organized around a central recessed entry with large flanking display windows. This storefront features cast iron columns with Ionic capitals, panelled wood and tiled kick panels skirting the windows, large double transoms framed by multi-pane borders and a pair of heavy wooden glass and panel doors. The design of this facade is completed by the brick parapet which crowns the building. Supported by l-beams which span the storefronts, the parapet is heavily ornamented with towering gable-capped pilasters, a central pediment, corbelled brickwork, and dentil courses. Handpainted lettering across the flat planes of the facade now advertise Jensen's Family Market and the goods carried. A solid, flat awning has been added to the storefront, probably during the 1960s, stabilized by metal rods.

On the north and south sides of the building, the parapet steps down toward the rear. Built on a corner, the south facade presents a flat masonry plane to the street, interrupted only by pilasters which mark the steps of the roofline. The pilasters are accentuated by peaked caps which crown each, echoing those on the primary facade. The sole opening toward the rear houses a secondary entrance. The doorway frames a single wooden door with a transom, and is hooded with a brick molding. A single story building abuts the market on the north, and only the upper facade is visible. Treatment of the upper masonry is similar to that described for the south facade. At the rear, a single story frame building now abuts the

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store on the east and only the upper courses of brickwork are visible. In 1979, a new warehouse was also added to the back of the store, to accommodate the Maddison meat processing business.

The interior of the H. D. Rossiter Building is laid out as a single, large store space ringed by a balcony along the sides and across the rear of the store. Many important elements of the original interior design have been retained including the wooden balcony, the high ceiling, and the open center floor plan. A pressed tin ceiling dating to the late 1920s is also extant. New shelving has been rearranged on the floor but some of the historic wood framed glass cases remain. Square pillars down the center of the floor provide bearing strength; they are ornamented at the top with scrolled volutes. Various alterations dating to the late 1940s, the 1960s and the 1970s include addition of wooden panelling across the storefront transoms, the replacement of wooden shelving which historically lined all the walls, and newer fluorescent ceiling lights which have replaced small hanging glass globes. A wooden soda fountain counter with fixed metal stools, which appears in 1928 photograph, no longer lines the south wall.

Integrity

The H. D. Rossiter Building exhibits an excellent retention of integrity, having all the original elements and fabric preserved on the exterior, and many on the interior as well. On the exterior, the only noticeable impact to the building is the addition of the modern awning projecting from the storefront. This element is distracting across the historic facade, although it masks little of the original design. On the interior, the original open balconied floor plan and high tin ceiling establish a very clear feeling and understanding for the design and use of the building throughout its history. The store, now known as the Jensen Family Market, continues to serve an important commercial function in this small town, and is a vital part of Sheridan's business district.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Areas of Significance: Commerce
Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1898-1944

Significant Person(s): H. D. Rossiter

Significant Dates: 1898

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

A commanding business block which has served the Sheridan community for over 100 years, the H. D. Rossiter Building is an integral part of the downtown streetscape in this small town. Reflecting the business aspirations and influence of its original owner, H. D. Rossiter, the building reflects Rossiter's contributions to commercial development of Sheridan during the late 19th and early 20th century. For these associations, and as an example of Western Commercial form of architecture popular during the settlement period throughout Montana, the H. D. Rossiter Building is eligible for the National Register under Criteria A, B and C.

Historical Background

Early settlement of the town of Sheridan, Montana began in 1864, following major gold strikes in Alder Gulch some 20 miles away. Miners stampeded the area, and spread into nearby mountains and gulches searching for ore. The first residents were French Canadians, Mark Perrault and Frank Birer, who built a cabin along Mill Creek, on property which later became the site of the Ruby Hotel. Other settlers began to populate the surrounding valley, and by 1866 there existed a grist mill, saw mill, school and a number of residences in the general vicinity. That year a post office was established about five miles north of present day Sheridan, and was named after General Philip Sheridan of Civil War fame. During the ensuing years, settlement grew along Mill Creek and a town emerged. An 1872 report described the town's attributes to include a hotel, store, temperance hall, schoolhouse, and blacksmith shop. Nearby industries included a flour mill, tannery, sawmills, quartz mills and smelting furnaces building upon an economic base of farming and mining of placer deposits and gold and silver quartz ledges.

The first business on this corner in Sheridan, Montana opened its doors in 1872, the year the town was founded. Erected by Beckwith Hamilton and O.M. Sweet on property purchased from Rosela P. Bateman, the man responsible for platting and promoting the town, that log and frame building initially housed a dry goods business. An original ledger starting May 11, 1872 indicates that that business might well have been the first to operate in Sheridan. Hamilton Street which runs along the south side of this property, is named for that early owner. It appears that Hamilton actively managed the business; O.M. Sweet ran a large ranch south of town and held mining interests. During the ensuing years, the store changed ownership several times, passing from Hamilton & Sweet to Hamilton & McCranor around 1876.

David McCranor arrived in Alder Gulch in 1863 via the minefields of Colorado. The first Republican to win an election in the Montana Territory in 1866, he was elected sheriff. Specializing in mining, he also invested in several mercantile businesses. In 1876, he entered into business here with former mining partner Beckwith Hamilton. Later, he bought out Hamilton and the store became known as the Sheridan Cash Store, and later, D. McCranor's Cash Store. In 1881, he sold the business to Hall and Hardesty, and focused his attentions on developing the McCranor group of mines in the Wisconsin Creek drainage.

George W. Hardesty, a miner, and John A. Hall each purchased a half interest in the store for \$1500, and operated the Hall & Hardesty Store for three years. Hardesty sold his interest in 1884 at a loss, for \$1000, to H. D. Rossiter, Hall's brother-in-law.

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Henry Douglas Rossiter came to Montana directly after the Civil War, where he was wounded in the Battle of Stone River. He engaged successfully in placer mining for a time at Summit, where his first wife died in childbirth. In 1872, he married Janet Hall, a schoolteacher from Vermont who taught in Kansas before joining Rossiter in Summit. Janet died during the birth of their first child in 1874, and sometime later, Rossiter married her older sister, Helen Cross Hall. The Rossiters moved to Santa Clara, California for a brief time in 1881, had a son there and returned in 1883 to Sheridan, Montana. They built a house on Mill Street, settled into the community and H. D. Rossiter became the dominant partner in the H. D. Rossiter General Store.

During the years that Rossiter ran the store, he regularly worked six days a week in the store, and on Sundays would load up a wagon with goods and head up into the nearby canyons to sell in the mining camps. Lake Shore, Leitherville, Fairview and Nobleville were all on his route. A prosperous figure in the local business community, he eventually purchased the entire block which contains the store. Rossiter ran the H. D. Rossiter General Store until 1896, when Robert J. Ogden, Eugene Means and Walter Mesch formed a partnership and leased the property.

Between 1896 and 1898, Rossiter constructed a new brick business building on the site and in mid-November 1898, the new store opened for business. The first check was written on November 17, 1898 and the following day the local Sheridan Paper carried ads issuing a greeting to patrons from "Ogden, Means and Company, Successor to H. D. Rossiter, Dealers in General Merchandise." It appears from early maps that the original log building was skidded to the north end of the property where it remained for a number of years, providing storage space for the store. Other outbuildings through the early period included a granary, an oil house, and an ice house. A powder house located two miles south of town was also used by the store; it still stands south of town.

In the process of digging the foundation for the new business building, Rossiter's crew encountered five underground springs which created a building challenge. The problem was solved by draining the springs by pipeline three blocks to the west where the water ran out onto an open field. The resulting construction included a heavy roughcut timber floor in the basement above a maze of channels to drain the water.

The brick for the building was manufactured in Sheridan at Brick Hollow. Three miles east of town, this brickworks produced brick for builders around the area; the Madison County Courthouse in Virginia City was also constructed of Brick Hollow bricks. Once completed, the walls were lined with shelves and the store was stocked with sundry items, groceries, dry-goods, clothes shoes, pots & pans, material, mining equipment, coal, window glass, hats, horse shoes, fancy glassware, and more.

During these years, H. D. Rossiter became a prominent individual in the community, active in business, banking and political circles. He served as mayor of Sheridan from 1900-1902, and as a member of the Montana House of Representatives. In 1904, Rossiter, Ogden, Winthrop and Magraw founded the Sheridan State Bank, now known as the Bank of Sheridan; Rossiter served as the bank's first president. The bank was erected on the other end of the Rossiter Block, and Rossiter made an active practice of "grub-staking" miners who came to the valley hoping to make their fortunes in the small mines of the county. H. D. Rossiter died in 1909.

Ogden was another prominent local figure, serving as Sheridan's first alderman after the town incorporated in 1893, police magistrate in 1895 and mayor in 1902. Means and Mesh were miners who engaged in the business for a short while before moving on. The firm evolved, and in February 1900 Sam Ogden joined his brother Bob in the business. Concurrently, Sam was also elected sheriff, and one night in 1902 was called out of Ogden Brothers Store to break up a scuffle involving a local blacksmith, Fritz Flick. Flick was drunk at the time and had broken the ribs of a bar patron. In the process of intervening, Sam Ogden shot and killed Flick who was related to many people in town. Shortly thereafter, Ogden sold his interest to John M. Maddison and left town.

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Maddison was an English immigrant, who came to the United States at age 5. He grew up in Iowa and came west to Dillon after attending business college. Maddison stayed in Dillon for one year, then moved to Sheridan where he was employed in the Elling Store for three years. In 1902, he entered into the partnership with Bob Ogden, who soon sold his shares to Frank Carey. The store became known simply as the J. M. Maddison Store, as it remained beyond Maddison's death in 1961 until 1971. Maddison never purchased the building, preferring to lease it throughout his lifetime. Local lore has it that he chose to lease the building because "there isn't any way I'm going to pay twelve thousand dollars for something that only cost eight thousand to build."

The first proprietor who was not involved in mining, J. M. Maddison became an active, prominent citizen of Sheridan, Montana during his lifetime. He served on the Sheridan City Council and as mayor for two separate terms, 1912-14 and 1916-20.

After World War II, Maddison's son James returned from military service to help his father operate the store. Under his direction, in the late 1960s, the store specialized in meat processing and became Maddison Meats. A warehouse was added to the back of the store in 1979 to handle the large volume of business that Maddison handled. Through the 1970s, the business changed hands several times. Maddison sublet the business and in 1978, Leland and Luceal Lewis purchased the property from Rossiter heirs. Ownership then passed to Bill and Betty Webb who operated B Bar B Market from 1979 until 1985 when they sold the property to Dennis and Corinne Jensen of Layton, Utah.

The Jensens used their life savings to purchase the store, now known as Jensen's Family Market. It is truly a family enterprise, the lives of Dennis and Corinne and their seven children revolve around this small town business. They continue the long tradition of serving the Sheridan community; these days dry goods have been replaced by groceries and video rentals.

Historical Significance

When Beckwith Hamilton and O.M. Sweet opened their doors for business on this property, they helped inaugurate the business district of the newly founded town of Sheridan, Montana. Over the years, the history of the businesses on this corner mirrored the growth of the local economy and of the town itself. Serving regional mining and ranching communities as well as town residents, the businesses here grew with the regional economy and expanding local population. This building, as well as any in Sheridan, symbolizes the birth, growth and development of community and economy here, from rustic log cabin origins through years of enterprise and growth, through the construction of this impressive brick building, and stabilizing during the 20th century. These strong associations with the commercial growth of Sheridan and the outlying communities lend the H. D. Rossiter Building considerable significance for National Register listing under Criterion A.

The H. D. Rossiter Building gains significance on a local level for its associations with Henry Douglas Rossiter, whose investment in and commitment to the town of Sheridan contributed greatly to its growth and stability. As owner and developer of an entire block of business property in the heart of town, and as co-founder of the Sheridan State Bank, Rossiter made substantial contributions to the emergence of this rural town. He invested directly in local business himself, while supporting nearby mining and ranching enterprises through his bank. Rossiter's vision for Sheridan included the impressive H. D. Rossiter Building on one prominent corner, balanced by the Sheridan State Bank building on the other end of the block. Rossiter's energies and dedication were recognized by his contemporaries in Sheridan, who elected him to serve as both mayor and their representative in the Montana State House. The H. D. Rossiter Building, and others on this block, embodies the active business and financial career of this man who truly helped to shape the town of Sheridan and its history. Future study is recommended for the entire Rossiter Block, which today remains in a high state of preservation and a tribute to the local contributions of Henry David Rossiter.

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Architectural Significance

The H. D. Rossiter Building is an excellent example of popular construction in Montana during the late 19th century. Reflecting a broad body of architectural style defined as Western Commercial, this building and others like it embodied the desire of merchants and early town boosters to create urbanized settlements in the emerging western states. In Montana many buildings were erected, which, while not configuring to any formal architectural style of the day, never-the-less employed many popular elements designed to make the most of somewhat limited resources, materials and funds.

This was manifested in simple one or two story masses, with ornamented primary facades. Often the fronts are symmetrically designed, with recessed, central entry storefronts, and decorative parapets dominate the design. The H. D. Rossiter Building is no exception, and today the well preserved building remains as an excellent example of this mode of building. The quality of the brickwork on the facade lends added significance to the building, as a fine example of late 19th century brick craftsmanship.

The H. D. Rossiter Building remains relatively unchanged in appearance for over a century. Today, long-time Sheridan residents still drop by the store to shop, and to reminisce about the store, the owners and early history of this community. It continues to be a natural gathering place and focus of the community as it has been for 109 years.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other -- Specify Repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than 1 acre

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	12	406480	5034060

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):

The H. D. Rossiter Building is located in the SW¼, NE¼, SE¼ of Section 26, T4S, R5W.

Verbal Boundary Description

The H. D. Rossiter Building is located on Lot 2, Block 7, town of Sheridan, Montana

Boundary Justification

This property is that which has been historically associated with the H. D. Rossiter Building since its construction in 1898.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Chere Jiusto	date: October 1993
organization: SHPO	telephone: 406-444-7715
street & number: 1410 8th Ave	state: MT zip code: 59620
city or town: Helena	

Property Owner

name/title: Dennis & Corinne Jensen	telephone: 406-842-5414
street & number: P.O. Box 665	state: MT zip code: 59749
city or town: Sheridan	

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Gilbert, Shirley "Building Dates Back to 1874", Sheridan Messenger, no date (about 1980).

Hamilton and McCranor Ledger Books of 1876.

Handly, James The Resources of Madison County, Montana. Francis and Valentine, San Francisco, 1872.

Madison County Deed Records

Madison County History Association Pioneer Trails & Trials: Madison County, Montana 1863-1920 1876.
Progressive Years: Madison County, Montana 1920-1950 1982.

Madisonian newspaper Virginia City, Montana. Including Hall & Hardesty ads, Jan 21, 1882.

The Messenger newspaper Sheridan, Montana. Including Sheridan Cash Store ads, Jan 10 & Feb 21, 1880; Hall & Hardesty ads, Dec 4, 1880.

Montana Historical Society, photoarchives, Helena, Montana. Several historic views downtown Sheridan, Montana.

Ogden, Means & Company Ledger Books and Bank Statements 1898

Sanborn Map Company Map of Sheridan, Madison County, Montana, September 1912. New York.

The Sheridan Paper newspaper Sheridan, Montana. Including H. D. Rossiter ads, Jan 8, 1897; Ogden Means & Co, ads in Oct & Nov 18, 1898, all of December 1899.

Sheridan Weekly Chinook newspaper Sheridan, Montana. Including ads for Ogden Brothers, Feb 23, 1900.

Vanderbeck, J.H. photograph: Odd Fellows Parade on Main Street, Sheridan Montana ca. 1898.