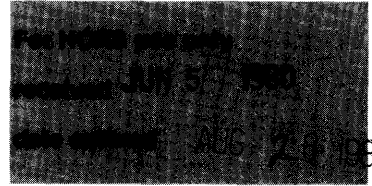**United States Department of the Interior**
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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   Gladstone Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number   101 Main S†.   ____ not for publication

city, town   Circle   ____ vicinity of   congressional district

state Montana   code   county Mc Cone   code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
____ district	____ public	_x_ occupied	____ agriculture	____ museum
_x_ building(s)	_x_ private	____ unoccupied	_x_ commercial	____ park
____ structure	____ both	____ work in progress	____ educational	____ private residence
____ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	____ entertainment	____ religious
____ object	____ in process	____ yes: restricted	____ government	____ scientific
	____ being considered	_x_ yes: unrestricted	____ industrial	____ transportation
		____ no	____ military	____ other:

4. Owner of Property

name   Mark and Mary LaRowe

street & number

city, town   Roberts,   ____ vicinity of   state Montana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.   McCone County Courthouse

street & number

city, town   Circle   state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title   has this property been determined elegible? _x_ yes ____ no

date   ____ federal ____ state ____ county ____ local

depository for survey records

city, town   state

7. Description

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gladstone Hotel situated In Circle (McCone County) Montana includes the original two story rectangular building of clapboard siding, 50 ft. wide by 65 ft. long and a concrete block single story addition, 65 ft. long. The original portion is flat sided with a flat roof and a 2 ft. parapet of clapboard above. A wooden cornice extends just below parapet on west and south sides. One chimney located in NE corner extends approximately 3 ft. above parapet.

Second story: There are 5 wooden frame single windows along west elevation, 2 double windows & 1 single along front (south) elevation, 6 on east elevation. Facing the north rear there is one exit door opening onto roof of single story addition.

First story: On the west are 3 small windows, 2 fan openings, and 1 single frame window at NW corner plus two large display windows at SW corner into lobby. The front (south) has been altered so that 2 large windows have been replaced with 2 smaller ones and covered with 4 x 8 pressed wood panels covering old bar entrance. (all pictures) On the east are 1 door and 3 windows. At NE corner is a one story frame addition completed shortly after the original construction. East single elevation has 2 double windows and 1 single window, 1 single window faces south.

Alterations: Besides the aboved mentioned addition, a single story concrete block addition 65 ft. long was made in 1948. The chimney on W face (see early picture) has been removed.

8. Significance

Specific dates Sept. 1915–Dec. 1915   **Builder/Architect** W.T.Perham

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Commerce and Exploration/Settlement

From the time the Gladstone Hotel opened for business in December 1915
it has served as a stopping off place for the families who continued to settle
eastern Montana well into the 1930's. It was built to accomodate the large number
of people beginning to settle this area which did not become McCone County until
April 1919. The idea to build a hotel in Circle first appeared in the 1/15/14 issue
of the Yellowstone Monitor. At the time they predicted that the GN railroad would
reach that inland city within months and the firm was complimented on having the
foresight for making preparations to care for the "large number of people who will
be interested in the town of Circle when the rails touch that point." The hotel
was completed in 1915; the railroad, 1929.

Land fever had increased around 1910 when Dawson County newspapers carried
articles on the awaiting opportunites in this area and the railroads offered town
lot sales (in Circle, Sept. 1914) on their proposed routes plus excursions for home-
steaders to see the Redwater Valley. As an example of the influx of people during
those years, Marie MacDonald writes that in 1900 Dawson Co. had a population of 2,443;
in 1920 it had 25,000 people and had divided into 6 counties.

The hotel remains almost the same today but includes a ten room addition which
was built to accomodate another influx of people into the area. The time was 1948
and awaiting opportunities came not with land development but with oil. 1980 finds
the area awaiting still another opportunity for growth--synfuel plants to use the
coal underneath the ground--an opportunity for "progress" discouraged by many, hoped
for by others.

The original building had offices with outside entrances on the west. The hotel's
second owner, Jack Kendig, ran a real estate office. The NP land men also conducted
land sale business there and for 20 years the Selective Service operated in an
office at the Gladstone Hotel.

The present townsite of Circle was platted in 1914 by the Great Northern rail-
road on their proposed line from New Rockford, N.D. to Lewistown. All business
firms from the old town (1/2 mile away at the old Circle Ranch) moved to the new
site and several new businesses were started--among them the Gladstone Hotel, the
Circle Banner, Circle Mercantile Co.

W.T. Perham of Glendive had been awarded the contract to build the hotel by
the Gladstone Hotel Company which included C. E. Ward, one of the owners of the
Glendive Bottling Works; M. A. Thoreson of the Redwater Valley State Bank in Circle,
and Joseph O'Keefe, also of Glendive. Work began as soon as wagon loads of supplies
arrived from Glendive. The structure was to be two stories in height with full con-
crete basement, 20 sleeping rooms, offices, lavatories, and storerooms. Mr. O'Keefe
had been awarded a liquor license by the commissioners in February, 1915 which the
company took over. They planned to operate a "high class bar" in connection with
the hotel. The basement was dug by horses and fresnoes, workers paid $2 a day and
the construction supervised by postmaster McClatchey while the others remained in
Glendive. Only the bar, restaurant and twelve rooms were completed, however, and

9. Major Bibliographical References

Dawson County Review 1913-1916
Yellowstone Monitor 1914-1916
Circle Banner
Montana, The land and the people

Glendive, The History of a Montana Town
Historical Background of McCone County

Gladstone Hotel guest registers
Personal interviews

10. Geographical Data UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property _____.25 acre_____

Quadrangle name __unsurveyed area__   ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED   Quadrangle scale _____

UMT References   (not available)

A [ ] [   ] [   ]   B [ ] [   ] [   ]
  Zone Easting   Northing   Zone Easting   Northing

C [ ] [   ] [   ]   D [ ] [   ] [   ]

E [ ] [   ] [   ]   F [ ] [   ] [   ]

G [ ] [   ] [   ]   H [ ] [   ] [   ]

Verbal boundary description and justification

Lots 10, 11, 12 of Block 3, Original Townsite of Circle, Montana
Township 19N; Range 48E   NW¼NW¼SE¼ Section 10

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

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

state _____ code _____ county _____ code _____

11. Form Prepared By

name/title   Mary Meissner

organization _____   date   4/14/80

street & number   1702 Washington   telephone   622-3605

city or town   Fort Benton   state   Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national   ____ state   _X_ 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

GPO 938 835

FHR–8–300 (11–78)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

1980

| Continuation sheet   / | Item number | Page |

the remaining excavation stood for some time with a fence around it. The first guests
registered December 25, 1915.

Social/ Humanitarian
        Prohibition brought an end of the sale of liquor in Montana and closed the bars
housed in the Gladstone Hotel where returning World War I soldiers gathered to cele-
brate. The bar was never re-opened although many private parties were held in the
restaurant over the years.
        The lobby provided a meeting place for the shoppers from outlying districts.
An early Circle Banner advertisement for the hotel invited "Farmers and their wives
to use our lobby for a rest room or to meet friends."
        In the winter of 1918-1919 the building was put to use as a hospital during
the flu epidemic. Room #7 upstairs was used as a morgue. Coffins were purchased
at the Circle Mercantile owned by A.A. Sorg.
        The latest war news from a GE radio made the restaurant a gathering place
during the Second World War. Every time the news came on, the dining room filled
up. Coffee, donuts, cookies were served.
        The guest registers include a host of individuals—the earliest merchants of
Circle: A.A. Sorg, M.A. Thoreson, Max Lehman, "Tenny" Stephens; the homesteaders:
Mr. and Mrs. Roy LaRowe, C. B. Stewart from Sousa's band; the early county govern-
ment employees: Matilda Kirchner, Charles Darby; The town's first teachers;the dis-
trict judges and their secretaries; Frank P. Leiper, F.S.P. Foss; the sheepherders,
the horse buyers, the whiskey runners (names withheld), the judge and the witnesses
from the London murder trial; the oil company officials; governors. . .
        Before retirement homes accomodated the elderly, they found a hotel their home.
One old timer who spent his last days there was Rufus Morris, retired cattleman,
former county commissioner who, as a young man, came to Montana with a cattle drive
to the 44 ranch on the Powder River.

        Today the Gladstone Hotel is one of the few remaining original buildings on
the main street of Circle. The others have been torn down or drastically altered.
It represents the era of the beginning of McCone County.

FHR–8–300 (11–78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form
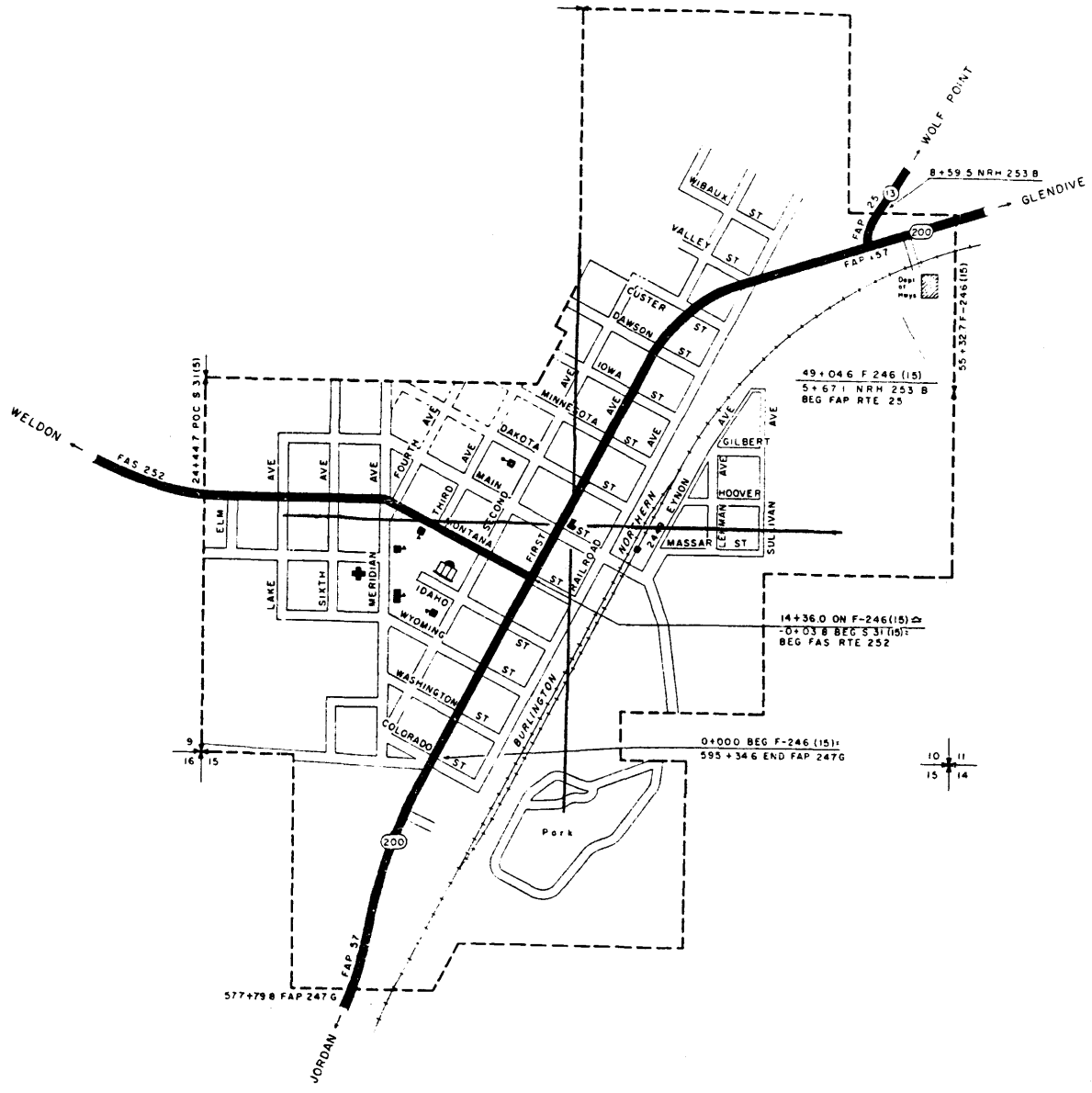
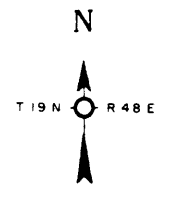| Continuation sheet | Item number | 8 | Page | 1 |

GLADSTONE HOTEL

The Gladstone Hotel is significant for the central role it played in the social and business development of Circle, Montana. Built within a year of the town's founding, the hotel has been the central meeting place, office space, and public accomodations for this eastern Montana community of 900 people. Small town hotels have always played an important role as the community social center for the dispersed ranching settlements of the West. The Gladstone Hotel not only offered a first stop and temporary residence for the newcomers to the area but continued to function as an intown resting place for homesteaders and stockmen residing in the outlying districts. New settlers would stay at the Gladstone until they were able to locate and begin construction on their new homestead claim. The hotel register from the early years lists names and addresses from many parts of the country. In addition to its role as a hotel, the Gladstone provided centrally located housing for the elderly and served as a community hospital for a time. An early advertisement encouraged women to use the hotel lobby as a place to meet friends.

Although the lower half of the Gladstone Hotel's front facade has been altered, the building still possesses full integrity of scale, primary facade elements on the second story level, and primary integrity of fabric. The loss of integrity does not, in the context of the community, severely detract from the building's role as a pivotal historic structure. Of the very small collection of buildings which date from the early years of the community, the Gladstone Hotel retains the greatest historic integrity and best represents the early social and commercial development of Circle.

PROPOSED ROAD
GRADED AND DRAINED ROAD
GRAVEL OR STONE ROAD
LOW TYPE BITUMINOUS ROAD
PAVED ROAD
DIVIDED ROAD - TRAFFIC FLOW
FAI   FEDERAL AID INTERSTATE SYSTEM
FAP   FEDERAL AID PRIMARY SYSTEM
FAS   FEDERAL AID SECONDARY SYSTEM
INTERSTATE ROUTE MARKER
U S NUMBERED ROUTE MARKER
STATE ROUTE MARKER
OTHER ROUTE MARKER
CORPORATE BOUNDARY LINE
NON-EXISTENT DEDICATED STREET
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
URBAN EXTENSION BOUNDARY
RAILROAD AND STATION
POST OFFICE
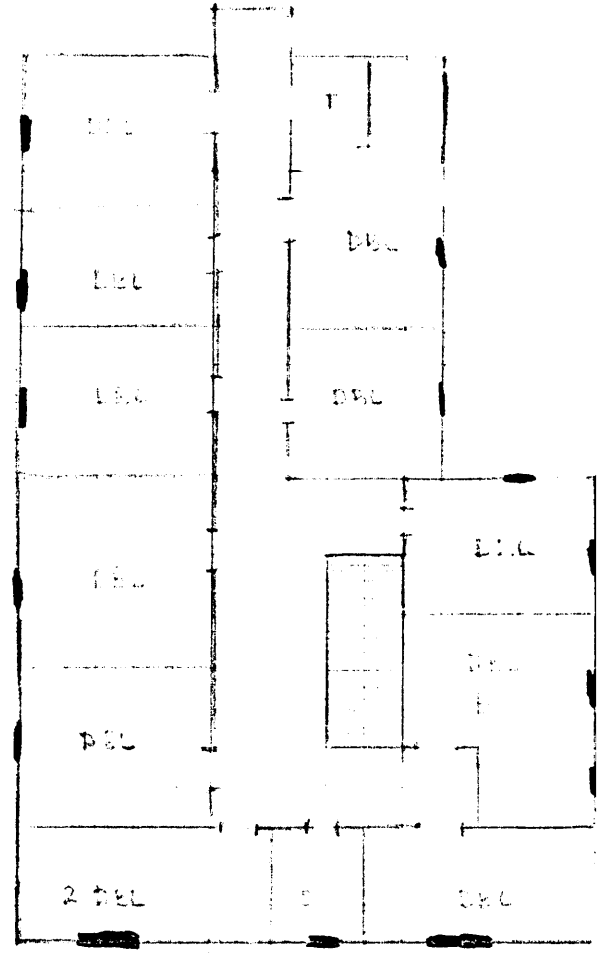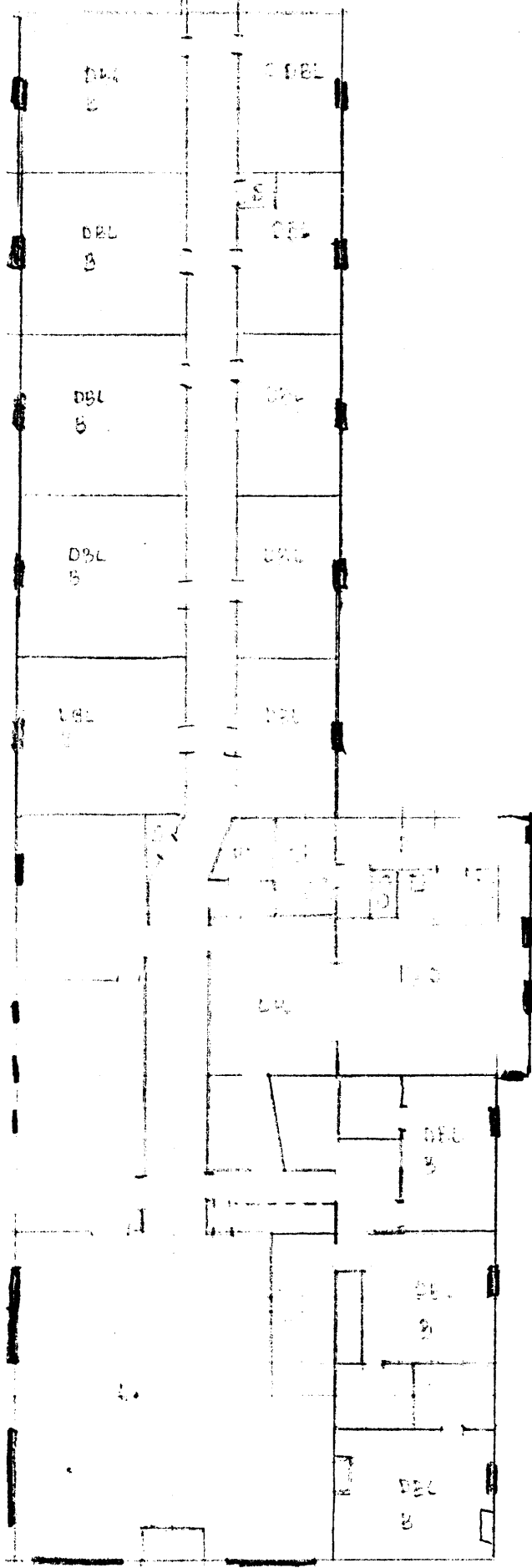COURT HOUSE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL
HOSPITAL
ELEVATION

WOLF POINT
8 + 59 5 NRM 253 B
GLENDIVE
FAP 25
FAP 57
Dept of Hwys
55 + 32 7 F-246 (15)
49 + 04 6 F 246 (15)
5 + 67 1 NRM 253 B
BEG FAP RTE 25
WIBAUX ST
VALLEY ST
CUSTER ST
DAWSON ST
IOWA ST
MINNESOTA
DAKOTA
GILBERT AVE
HOOVER AVE
LEHMAN ST
MASSAR ST
SULLIVAN AVE
NORTHERN
EYNON
RAILROAD
FIRST ST
SECOND
MAIN
THIRD AVE
FOURTH AVE
MONTANA
WELDON
FAS 252
24 + 44 7 POC S 31 (5)
ELM AVE
LAKE AVE
SIXTH AVE
MERIDIAN AVE
IDAHO
WYOMING ST
WASHINGTON ST
COLORADO ST
BURLINGTON
14 +36.0 ON F-246(15)
- 0 + 03 8 BEG S 31 (15)
BEG FAS RTE 252
0 + 000 BEG F-246 (15)
595 + 34 6 END FAP 247 G
9
16 | 15
10 | 11
15 | 14
Park
200
577+79 8 FAP 247 G
FAP 57
JORDAN

N

T 19 N   R 48 E

CITY PLAT
CIRCLE
MC CONE COUNTY
MONTANA
1970 CENSUS 964

SCALE IN FEET
600   0   600   1200

REVISED DEC. 31, 1976

— 23 —

N

W

S

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL
B

DBL

DBL

DBL

DBL

DBL

DBL

2 DBL

Gladstone Hotel
Circle (McCone Co) Mont