
5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing:
Historic Resources of Alberton, Montana

Number of Resources within Property	
Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	___ building(s)
___	___ sites
___	___ structures
___	___ objects
<u> 1 </u>	___ TOTAL

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Commerce/trade: Specialty store

Current Functions:

Commerce/trade: Specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Western false-front

Materials:

foundation: concrete
walls: wood
roof: metal
other: n/a

Narrative Description

Bestwick's Market is a two-story, wooden, falsefront commercial building. The building has an irregular plan, resulting from a series of historic-period additions. Built of frame construction, the two-story, western portion of the market is the original building. Its two-story front has a simple cornice with brackets, and is finished in clapboard with vertical board corner trim.

The design features two original entries: a central, recessed storefront entry flanked by chamfered piers, and a secondary entrance to the east accessing the upper level. Recessed panelling finishes the apron beneath the window bays. Windows on the storefront are non-original plate glass panels. The storefront is now covered by a non-historic, suspended flat metal awning.

Windows above the storefront and on the side elevations are the original 2-over-2, double hung corniced windows. Those on the front are now trimmed with shutters.

Two additions were constructed to the east of the original two-story market. The first addition, completed prior to 1915, widened the building, and carried the false-front motif, although it is of lower height. This addition has historically been an integral portion of the commercial use of the building. An additional one-story wood frame mass with a false front parapet was also added historically, although a firm construction date has not been determined. The use of the same scale of clapboard sheathing for this portion of the building suggests that its construction likely occurred during the historic period prior to 1925.

The roof over the original market is gabled with square bracketed eaves; over the middle and eastern portions, the roof is a shed. The entire building is covered with metal roofing. A covered stairway accesses the building on the west. Two brick interior chimneys are visible on the building. The building rests on a concrete foundation.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C

Areas of Significance: Commerce, Architecture

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1910 - 1940

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1910, ca. 1915, ca. 1920

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

Bestwick's Market is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its association with the commercial development of Alberton and for its role as a meeting place for local civic and fraternal groups. The building's significance is enhanced by its architectural value according to Criterion C, as the only historic, wood frame, false-fronted commercial structure in the community which still retains primary historic architectural integrity.

Bestwick's Market was one of Alberton's earliest established businesses. Joe Boileau, formerly the foreman of the planing mill at Lothrop, moved to the new town of Alberton, built and opened a meat market here in 1910. William Bestwick purchased Boileau's business in 1912 and operated a meat market/grocery/frozen foods locker business until the 1950s.

For many years, the west second floor provided space for meetings of the Masons, Eastern Star, Odd Fellows and others. During the 1970s, Lew Kinney operated a restaurant and soda fountain in the front eastern storefront. It currently houses a bookshop and a private residence.

In addition to its strong historical associations, Bestwick's Market gains significance as the best preserved example of vernacular commercial architecture in Alberton dating from the Milwaukee Road era. The double recessed entrance, a unique feature in a single commercial building of this size, and large plate glass display windows are intact -- offering an important example of commercial small town construction.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bowman, Audrey "Alberton, MT". Looseleaf notebook, n.d.

Kinney, Della "Yesteryears in Montana". Unpublished manuscript. 1978.

Polk, R.L. & Co. Directories for Alberton, Montana: 1907, 1911. P. 311, 330.

See *Historic Resources of Alberton, Montana* MPD.

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 one

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	11	691820	5208450

Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)): Located in the NW¼, SE¼, NW¼ of Section 2, T14N, R23W.

Verbal Boundary Description

Bestwick's Market is located on Lots 10 - 12, Block 5, Alberton Townsite.

Boundary Justification

This is the property associated with Bestwick's Market since its construction in 1910.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: James R. McDonald Architects, P.C.	revised by: Mike Koop, SHPO staff, 1986
street & number: P.O. Box 8163 telephone: date: 1986	updated, 1996
city or town: Missoula state: MT zip code: 59801	

Property Owner

name/title: Keren Fredette
street & number: Box 355 telephone:
city or town: Alberton state: MT zip code: 59820