

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Bearcreek Bank  
other name/site number: Carbon County Bank in Bearcreek; Clark-Wright Bank in Bearcreek; Miner's State Bank; Bearcreek Town Hall/24CB1206

## 2. Location

street & number: Main and Second Streets not for publication: n/a  
city/town: Bearcreek vicinity: n/a  
state: Montana code: MT county: Carbon code: 009 zip code: 59007

## 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    statewide X locally.  
[Signature] 2/13/2004  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Montana State Historic Preservation Office  
State or Federal agency or bureau (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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):     
[Signature] 3/31/04  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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### 5. Classification

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

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### 6. Function or Use

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**Historic Functions:**

COMMERCE/Financial

**Current Functions:**

GOVERNMENT/City Hall

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN/Romanesque Revival

**Materials:**

foundation:	Concrete
walls:	Sandstone
roof:	Asphalt
other:	Brick

### Narrative Description

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Bearcreek is the third smallest incorporated city in the State of Montana and is located at the northeast base of the Beartooth Mountains in south central Montana. The community is located at the eastern base of a high divide that separates the Bear Creek drainage from Rock Creek and Red Lodge. The divide is not only an imposing physical barrier between the two communities, but also a climatological one as well. While Red Lodge enjoys an alpine setting with cooler weather and significant rain and snow fall, Bearcreek, just seven miles to the east, has a semi-arid climate in a rain shadow caused by the nearby Beartooths. The area between Bearcreek and Red Lodge contains extensive high grade coal deposits that were commercially mined from about 1897 until 1953. Evidence of the area's industrial past is still evident along Montana Secondary Highway 308 between Bearcreek west to the head of the creek that gave the community its name.

The Bearcreek Bank is located at the northwest corner of Main Street (Montana Secondary 308) and Second Street in the City of Bearcreek. Main Street is an east-west trending thoroughfare that runs the length of Bearcreek parallel to the creek. Much of the community's historic business district has been demolished or relocated to Bridger, Belfry and Red Lodge in the aftermath of the Smith Mine Disaster in 1943. The bank building has historically provided the nucleus of the city's commercial district, a function it continues to serve as the town hall. Currently, it is located adjacent to the Bearcreek Post Office (west) and across Second Street from the F & S Garage building (24CB1210). On the south side of Main Street are mostly vacant lots and the remains of the Ellingson Mercantile building (24CB1218). Other historic buildings in the vicinity of the bank include the Jankovich & Pekich/Bearcreek Saloon (24CB1209), Keckler Drugstore (24CB1212), Keckler Residence (24CB1204), Lamport Hotel Foundation (24CB1217) and the Fred Merkel Residence (24CB1207). (see continuation sheet)

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The Bearcreek Bank consists of a one-story Romanesque Revival-style building. It is oriented north to south and faces south onto Main Street (Montana Secondary 308). The building has a shed roof flanked by parapet walls; the roof is sheathed in asphalt sheets with galvanized steel flashing. There is an interior brick chimney to the east that is veneered in stucco. The façade (south) and east elevations of the bank are composed of rough-faced sandstone blocks set in a regular course. The top of the cornice and a belt course composed of sandstone is extended on the façade and east elevation. The building rests on a concrete foundation. There is a partial daylight basement with windows on the east. The windows are single-lite casements with iron grates and a low brick window well enclosure.

The façade and east elevation exhibit regular fenestration. The primary entry is centrally located on the façade and is recessed. The entry and flanking window openings are arched with sandstone voussiors and keystones. The entry has a wood door with a single, full-length fixed window. A three-paneled decorative wood frieze is located above the door and on the ceiling above the entry. The walls flanking the recessed entry are horizontal wood boards. The entry is reached by a sandstone step and concrete stoop. The entry is also flanked by arched openings with 1/1 double-hung windows. There are three window openings with 1/1 double-hung windows evenly spaced across the east elevation. All three have sandstone surround-type lintels and sandstone lug sills. A recessed entry is located at the north end of the east elevation. This entry has a wood paneled door with a single fixed lite and a decorative crest below the window. Two low brick window wells spaced across the east elevation at the basement level reveal single one-lite casements with iron gates.

The rear (north) elevation is sandstone and covered with stucco. There is no fenestration across the north side of the bank. The west elevation is formerly a shared wall, but the adjacent building has been demolished. The modern siding is board and batten at the top two thirds, and stuccoed below to the ground level. There is a single window opening at the south end of the west elevation. The window is wood framed, 1/1 double-hung style.

Interior: The interior of the bank contributes to its significance, as original finishes and fixtures are present throughout. There are two rooms on the first floor, including a large room at the front, and another smaller office/kitchenette at the northeast corner of the building. The bank vault is located across the center of the north wall, and a wooden staircase to the basement is located to the northwest corner. The teller's counter runs west to east a few feet south of the vault. The first floor ceilings and walls are lathe and plaster, and the floor is hardwood. The basement features the concrete finish of the foundation walls and houses a huge coal-fired furnace. A swinging door conceals the toilet facilities.

**Integrity**

Although the Bearcreek Bank has undergone several incarnations since its construction in 1906 – being used as a restaurant and a town hall – the building retains a high degree of integrity. Its integrity of feeling, location, materials, workmanship, and design is intact. The town of Bearcreek suffered the loss of many of its historic buildings through the second half of the twentieth century, and therefore the setting of the bank has been diminished. However, the bank's building's association with the commercial development of the town, and Romanesque Revival architecture remains clear.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria: A and C

Areas of Significance: Commerce, Politics/Government

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): n/a

Period(s) of Significance: 1906-1928

Significant Person(s): n/a

Significant Dates: 1906

Cultural Affiliation: n/a

Architect/Builder: Architect unknown/John Russell, Builder

### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

Constructed shortly after Bearcreek's founding, the Bearcreek Bank building was significant to the development of the small mining camp from 1906 until 1928. The miners working in the camp deposited money in the institution and relied on it to cash their weekly paychecks. Loans made by the bank aided the commercial and residential development of the city during its peak years from 1906 until 1919 and were made to the mining companies to develop and expand their properties. The facility was also important to the ranchers located in the Bear Creek drainage to the east of the community. It is a significant part of the architectural landscape of the community and is composed of native sandstone, a material used on many of the commercial and residential buildings in the town. The building retains a high degree of architectural integrity and is a good example of a simple Romanesque Revival-style commercial structure. Its original configuration, appearance and association with the roadway are intact. All of the original architectural details are still present and have not been changed since the building's construction in 1906. It is the finest example of stone construction remaining in Bearcreek. The Bearcreek Bank is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

### **Historical Background**

James "Yankee Jim" George discovered extensive coal deposits in the Bearcreek area in 1866. Its remoteness, lack of a market for the product, and its location within the Crow Reservation, delayed its exploitation for over two decades. In 1887, a cartel of Bozeman and Helena businessmen formed the Rocky Fork Coal Company to mine the fossil fuel at the site of a tiny stage stop settlement on the Meteeetsee Trail called Red Lodge. By late 1887, the company's owners made an arrangement with the Northern Pacific Railway (NPRR) to construct a branch line from Laurel, Montana 44-miles south to Red Lodge and the coal mines. Completed in April 1889, the Rocky Fork & Cooke City Railway sparked an expansion of coal mining in the region, especially after the line was acquired by the NPRR the following year. The boom was further augmented in 1892 when the Crow Tribe ceded the region from its reservation, thereby opening up the territory to agricultural development. Much of the coal mined at Red Lodge was utilized by the NPRR. Over the hill in the Bear Creek drainage, development of the coal reserves was hampered by its inaccessibility and the lack of a good transportation system. Small-time miners, however, established a number of wagon mines in the district to sell coal for domestic purposes in Red Lodge.<sup>2</sup>

By the mid-1890s, many entrepreneurs recognized that the coal in the Bear Creek district was of much higher quality than that mined a few miles away in Red Lodge. Consequently, Billings surveyor George T. Lamport and former NPRR executive Elijah Smith established the first commercial mine in the district in 1897. Coal extracted from the mine was freighted over the hill to Red Lodge customers during the winter months. In 1905, Billings bankers Christian and Peter Yegen, Bert E. Vaill, and Lamport formed the Bear Creek Coal Company and began operations a mile to the east of the Lamport/Smith Mine. Still, mining in the district was hampered by the lack of good roads and a railroad. Although the NPRR investigated the possibility of building a branch line to the mines from its terminus at Bridger, it continued to rely on Red Lodge and Bridger coal to fuel its locomotives in the division. In 1905, Billings entrepreneur Phil Gallaher was able to convince a group of Pennsylvania businessmen to finance the construction of a short line railroad from NPRR terminus at Bridger to the coal mines on Bear Creek. In May 1905, they incorporated the Yellowstone Park Railroad. The owners of the Bear Creek Coal Company also offered incentives in the form of rebates to construct the line to their mine. Construction of the line began in September 1905 and was completed to the Bear Creek Coal Company Mine in September 1906. The railroad established the community of Belfry eight miles east of the mines at the mouth of Bear Creek to serve as its headquarters.<sup>3</sup> (see continuation sheet)

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In anticipation of the arrival of the railroad, Lamport, together with his son-in-law and business partner Robert Leavens, purchased land just east of the mines between 1903 and 1905 and formed the Bearcreek Town & Improvement Company. Lots in the new community of Bearcreek sold quickly as mining expanded in the district. Even before the mining camp had incorporated, the *Red Lodge Picket* reported "Bearcreek is showing signs of thrift and activity each succeeding day. At present fourteen stores have been opened up or are about ready to start for business, the buildings yet unfinished receiving the last touches." By December of that year, the town incorporated, had a post office, began construction of concrete sidewalks, a telephone system, a city water system, and the installation of electric streetlights. The *Picket* reported in August 1906:

The future of the little city of Bearcreek may not be written until some other day. Its location is not the most desirable, topographically speaking, for a city of extensive magnitude. That it is destined to become one of the greatest coal mining camps in the entire western country, is an assured fact, and those who are acquainted with the lay of the country say that further down the valley, a short distance, may be found a location for a fine residence district. At present the town is growing rapidly, no less than ten buildings being in [the] course of construction. Among these are a building that is being erected by B. E. Vaill in which a bank will be established, a business building adjoining it . . . three other businesses and a number of dwelling houses.

By end of the year, 250 miners (about half of the population of the district) were working in the four commercial mines operating in the district. Since coal mining did not require skilled labor, the mines attracted immigrants from Serbia, Croatia, Montenegro, Italy, and Scotland. As in other mining camps, ethnic groups settled together in neighborhoods. The broken topography encompassing Bearcreek and the seasonal nature of the work, compelled builders to hastily construct rudimentary residences (lean-to's and dug-outs) in the community to house the miners. From 1906 to 1921, Bearcreek suffered from a chronic housing shortage. Despite the lack of good housing, Bearcreek boomed in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>4</sup>

In late June 1906, Bert Vaill, the cashier of the Carbon County Bank in Red Lodge, announced plans to build a branch institution in Bearcreek. Butte copper king and financier William A. Clark opened the Carbon County Bank in Red Lodge in the late 1890s. By mid-1906, the bank claimed \$50,000 in capital assets and actively solicited the miners for loans. Vaill, who was also the Treasurer and a director of the Bear Creek Coal Company and heavily invested in the Yellowstone Park Railway, was the cashier for the bank. Vaill purchased Lot One, Block Three of the Original Townsite of Bearcreek from the Bearcreek Town & Improvement Company in February 1906 for \$800. Six months later, in August, the *Red Lodge Picket* announced that Vaill began "hauling rock for his bank building next to the LeBrun Hotel." A week later, he hired coal miner John Russell to construct the bank building. The sandstone used for the building was obtained from the same quarry north of town that had provided stone for the Jurcak Boarding House (24CB1203), the Ellingson Mercantile Building and for the adjacent commercial building.<sup>5</sup>

Despite the initial coverage given the new bank in the *Red Lodge Picket*, there was no announcement of its opening for business. It is known that by December 1906 Vaill had hired former International Coal Company bookkeeper, J. Harry Wright, as the cashier of the Bearcreek branch. A native of Pennsylvania, Wright came to Bearcreek about 1905. In May, 1907, the bank was renamed the Bearcreek Bank with William A. Clark the president, Wright the cashier, and his brother-in-law, Joseph Van Winkle the clerk. Wright was active in the development of Bearcreek during the first years of its existence. In addition to running the bank there, he was also the manager of the Bearcreek Water & Light Company and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Wright Realty Company. He owned a substantial residence (now demolished) in the Hi-Bug District of Bearcreek at the southeast end of the community.<sup>6</sup> Through the bank and his other improvement interests, Wright was instrumental in the development of the mining camp from a rude collection of buildings to a modern 20<sup>th</sup> century community.

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By 1910, Bearcreek claimed a population of 302 people. The mines employed about half the adult male population of the community. The commercial district had expanded to include 23 businesses, including ten saloons. The Carbon County Chamber of Commerce touted Bearcreek's main street as

[T]he center of a district that is destined to become famous for its building stone. There is a brickyard there and other industries in the first stages of development. There are two hotels, one as fine as can be found in this part of the country; . . . a bank, lumberyard, furniture store, drug store, jewelry store, two butcher shops, two restaurants, livery and feed stables, barber shops, stage lines and one of the finest water systems in the world, a splendid electrical-light system, besides many small stores, lodging houses and telephone exchanges. The town is the center of a population of about 1,200, which includes the mining communities and the outlook is for an increase in the population within the next year . . . .

The city's economy, however, was based on the ability of the mines to ship coal out on the Yellowstone Park Railway (renamed the Montana, Wyoming & Southern Railway in 1909). Unfortunately, the railroad was dependent on the NPRR, which provided coal cars to the railroad for the shipment of coal out of the mines. The NPRR, therefore, had indirect control of the fortunes of the Bear Creek district and Bearcreek. Even considering its reliance on the seeming vagaries of the NPRR, Carbon County was the dominant coal producer in Montana, with Bearcreek providing the necessary services to the miners working one of the richest underground coal mines in the northern Rockies.<sup>7</sup>

In June 1911, J. Harry Wright left Bearcreek, ostensibly for a vacation in western Montana to visit relatives in Virginia City. A week later the *Red Lodge Picket* announced that Wright would also visit Butte and Helena, the known haunts of his boss, William A. Clark. It is likely that the men discussed the reorganization of the bank in late June. An advertisement appeared weekly in the *Republican Picket* for the Bearcreek Bank Company until June 27, 1911. Beginning on June 27, 1911, advertisements appeared in the newspaper for the Clark – Wright Bank in Bearcreek. It operated under that name until 1921, when the International Coal Company defaulted on a \$170,000 loan, forcing the bank into receivership. The bank was closed from 1920 until November 1921, when it reopened under the name of the Miners' State Bank with former mine foreman Tom Frasure as president. The bank remained open until 1928, when it went into receivership and closed permanently. The City of Bearcreek then acquired the property from Carbon County.<sup>8</sup>

The coal industry in south central Montana waned after World War I, initiating a boom and mostly bust cycle in the Bear Creek fields. The MW&S remained dependent on the NPRR, which often withheld coal cars from the mines. The precarious economic condition was exacerbated by the NPRR's increasing reliance on coal strip mined at Colstrip and by the increasing popularity of alternate fuels used for domestic purposes. Bearcreek's commercial district remained intact during the 1920s, but hard economic times during the 1930s caused a profound change in the city's appearance. In 1935, the Bearcreek High School's newspaper reported "Such a thing as passing a house on the road is not unusual to anyone around here. At the rate the houses are being moved, we may need a traffic cop to 'let the houses go by!'" Others burned down their buildings for the insurance money. Many just quit paying taxes on their property, which was then seized by the County. The old bank building, however, was used as a restaurant until 1943. The Smith Mine Disaster on February 27<sup>th</sup> of that year was the final straw for Bearcreek's already shaky fortunes. An explosion in the Smith Mine and resulting methane gas inhalation killed 74 men, many of whom lived in Bearcreek. The widows of many of those men soon left town, abandoning their properties to the Carbon County tax collector. It is likely that the café housed in the old bank building closed at that time as most of its customers had either been killed in the mine or had left town.<sup>9</sup>

The City of Bearcreek used the old bank building as a city hall for only two years before it was seized for back taxes in December 1945. The closure of the Smith Mine and the abandonment of the MW&S Railroad in 1953, virtually guaranteed

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that the depressed economy in the Bear Creek District would continue for the foreseeable future. The population of Bearcreek dropped from 237 individuals in 1950 to only 61 in 1960, making it the smallest incorporated city in Montana at that time. The bank building was used for storage until 1966 when Bearcreek's newly elected mayor, Fay Kuhlman, began a drive to restore the old bank building and once more acquire it for use as a town hall. Kuhlman and her husband had moved to Bearcreek from Billings in 1963. Recognizing the potential of the near ghost town as an artists' and retirement community, she began publication of small mimeographed histories of the community and actively promoted the sale of city lots that were owned by the county. Her efforts to restore the Bearcreek Bank building included the organization of rummage sales and other fundraisers to pay for the installation of a new roof on the old bank. In 1967, the city reacquired the building and it has functioned as the Bearcreek Town Hall since then.<sup>10</sup>

The Bearcreek Bank was an institution of great importance to the development and continued stability of the town of Bearcreek from its creation in 1906 until it closed in 1928. The bank was the financial heart of the community, and patronized by miners, retailers, and farmers in the area. Commercial and residential development was largely financed through the bank, and its solvency resulted in the development of the town of Bearcreek for 22 years. For these reasons, the Bearcreek Bank is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A.

**Architectural Significance**

The Bearcreek Bank is an excellent local example of a modest Romanesque Revival-style stone commercial building. The Romanesque Revival style of architecture was often used for financial institutions and other commercial enterprises through the turn of the twentieth century, as its massiveness is suggestive of stability and longevity. Round arches over windows and/or entryways; thick, cavernous entryways and window openings and thick masonry walls identify the style. Each of these elements is present on the Bearcreek Bank building.

The City of Bearcreek was established in 1905, when coal mines in the district were first developed by local and out-of-state entrepreneurs as large commercial operations. The expansion of the mines was also directly tied to the completion of the Yellowstone Park Railroad into the district. A mining camp in the truest sense of the term, Bearcreek did not develop like other coal camps in south central Montana. The initial development of the community consisted of substantial stone and masonry buildings. Stonemasons who had practiced their craft in nearby Red Lodge and Belfry quarried sandstone in the hills north of Bearcreek. Consequently, there were a number of buildings on Bearcreek's main street that either had foundations composed of sandstone or the buildings themselves were comprised of sandstone. The architecture of those buildings consisted of vernacular, false front, Greek Revival, or the Romanesque Revival styles. Photographs taken of Bearcreek's main street in the 1910s shows a substantial commercial district that denoted the developers' faith in the future of the community. The Bearcreek Bank, while of simple Romanesque design and smaller than many of the other commercial buildings in the district, served as an important anchor, denoting its significance to the economic prosperity of the city.

Even after the bank closed its doors in 1928, the building remained an important component of Bearcreek's commercial district, first as a restaurant and finally as the city hall. The Great Depression of the 1930s, the Smith Mine Disaster in 1943, and the conversion of the railroads from steam to diesel locomotives caused a long decline in Bearcreek's fortunes. Most of the stone and masonry buildings that once lined the street were razed or destroyed by fire. As the streetscape changed, one constant that remained was the Bearcreek Bank building. By 2003, the building is still the focus of the commercial district and is the sole remaining intact commercial building from the initial phase of Bearcreek's development from 1905 to 1910. The bank building retains its original rectangular configuration and fenestration; there have been no additions added or removed from the building. The original and architecturally important recessed arched window and entry openings are intact and unchanged. The rough-faced coursed sandstone walls are intact and unchanged. The stone ornamentation, including

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arched window and door openings, water table and stringcourse are also intact and unchanged. Stylistically, the building is similar to the remains of the contemporary Jurcak Boarding House (24CB1203), Ellingson Mercantile (24CB1218), and a stone house in the residential district indicating that the stone for the bank was extracted from the same quarry as these three structures. John Russell, a stonemason who was active in the Red Lodge, constructed the Bearcreek Bank, and worked in and around Bearcreek from about 1900 to 1917. The Bearcreek Bank is the town's last remaining intact example of a stone commercial building, a style once common to Bearcreek's commercial district. It is also the only standing building in the city built by John Russell, a prominent area stonemason. The historic bank is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C.

**Endnotes**

1. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1914, 1927, 1937 update. Montana Historical Society, Helena.
2. Jon Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation: Bearcreek – East & West [S-RS 308-1(1)8], Montana Department of Highways, 1991, 4-5; Shirley Zupan and Harry J. Owens, *Red Lodge: Saga of a Western Area*, (Red Lodge: Carbon County Historical Society, 1979), 9-10, 20, 22, 38-39, 47-49; Albert L. Babcock, *An Illustrated History of the Yellowstone Valley*, (Spokane: Western Historical Publishing, 1907), 234-235; Jon Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value: the Montana, Wyoming & Southern Railroad, 1905 – 1953, *Montana The Magazine of Western History*, 40:4, (Winter 1999), 51; *Red Lodge Picket*, February 1907.
3. *Red Lodge Picket*, February, 1907; Helen Fitzgerald Sanders, vol. II, *History of Montana*, (Chicago: Lewis Publishing, 1913), 1192; Babcock, *History of the Yellowstone Valley*, 242-243; *Red Lodge Picket*, 23 August 1906; Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value," 51-52, 56.
4. Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory, 4-5; Deed Record 3, 282; *Red Lodge Picket*, 18 January 1906; *Ibid*, 4 January 1906; *Ibid*, 18 January 1906; Roberta Carkeek Cheney, *Names on the Face of Montana: The Story of Montana's Place Names*, (Missoula: Mountain Press, 1990), 15; *Red Lodge Picket*, 23 August 1906; *Ibid*, February, 1907.
5. The building adjacent to the Bearcreek Bank functioned in so many different capacities from 1906 to 1927 that it is difficult to keep straight. It was the home of the Ellingson Mercantile Company until 28 November 1908 when it moved across the street (24CB1218). Then it served as a hotel (under two different names during two distinct periods), a furniture store, hardware store, and a dry goods emporium. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, 1914, 1927; *Bearcreek Miner*, 28 November 1908 ff; *Red Lodge Picket*, January, 1906 – December, 1912. *Red Lodge Picket*, 9 August 1906; *Ibid*, 23 August 1906; *Ibid*, 2 August 1906; Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value," 53; *Red Lodge Picket*, 9 August 1906; R. L. Polk, *Directory of Billings, Red Lodge and Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater and Big Horn Counties*. (Helena: R. L. Polk, 1909); Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory, 12.
6. *Red Lodge Picket*, 29 November 1906; U.S. Census Records: Carbon County, 1910; Deed Book 15, 493; Axline, Cultural resource Inventory, 25; Polk, Directory, 1913-1914; *Bearcreek Miner*, 19 December 1907.
7. Many of the miners in the Bear Creek District lived in the nearby Anaconda Copper Mining Company town of Washoe or in boarding houses adjacent to the mines. U.S. Census Records, 1910; Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory, 5; T. E. Butler, *Carbon County: Its Resources and Its Future*. (Red Lodge: The Republican Picket and Bridger Times, 1909), 13, 40-41; Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value," 48-49, 57-59.
8. *Red Lodge Picket*, 8 June 1911; *Ibid*, 15 June 1911; *Ibid*, 29 June 1911; *Ibid*, 27 June 1911; Deed Book 20, 47-48; Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory, 25; Deed Book 45, 526; *Ibid*, 45, 550.



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9. Axline, "Something of a Nuisance Value," 61-63; Axline, Cultural Resource Inventory, 7-9, 25.

10. The building's roof leaked in 1965 destroying the city commission records from 1906 to 1965. Deed Book 57, 398; "Something of a Nuisance value," 62-63; *Great Falls Tribune*, 29 May 1966; Fay Kuhlman, "Bearcreek, Montana." (Privately Published, no date), np; Fay Kuhlman, *Bearcreek, Montana*, (Bearcreek: Banner Press, 1972), 27; Deed Record 85, 459.

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Name of Property

Carbon County, Montana  
County and State

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### 9. Major Bibliographic References

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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: Carbon County Historical Society, Red Lodge, MT

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### 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property:** less than one

**UTM References:**   **Zone**    **Easting**       **Northing**  
                          12      644752       5002276

**Legal Location (Township, Range & Section(s)):**   SE¼ SE¼ NE¼ of Section 5, T8S, R21E

#### Verbal Boundary Description

Original Townsite, Block 3, Lot 1, City of Bearcreek.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary is drawn, based on legally recorded boundary lines, to include the land surrounding the building that has been historically associated with the building and conveys the property's historic setting.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title: Jon and Lisa Axline/Private Consultants

organization:

date: September 11, 2002; edited February 2004

street & number: 448 Parriman Street

telephone: 406-442-3959

city or town: Helena

state: MT

zip code: 59602

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### Property Owner

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name/title: City of Bearcreek/Pitts D'Armond, mayor

street & number: 119 Main Street

telephone: (406) 446-3481

city or town: Bearcreek

state: MT

zip code: 59007

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**Bibliography**

Anderson, Paul. Cultural Resource Inventory and Evaluation: Red Lodge East Bench – Washoe – Highway – Burns – Smith Mines. Prepared for the Montana Department of State Lands by GCM Services, Inc., 1983.

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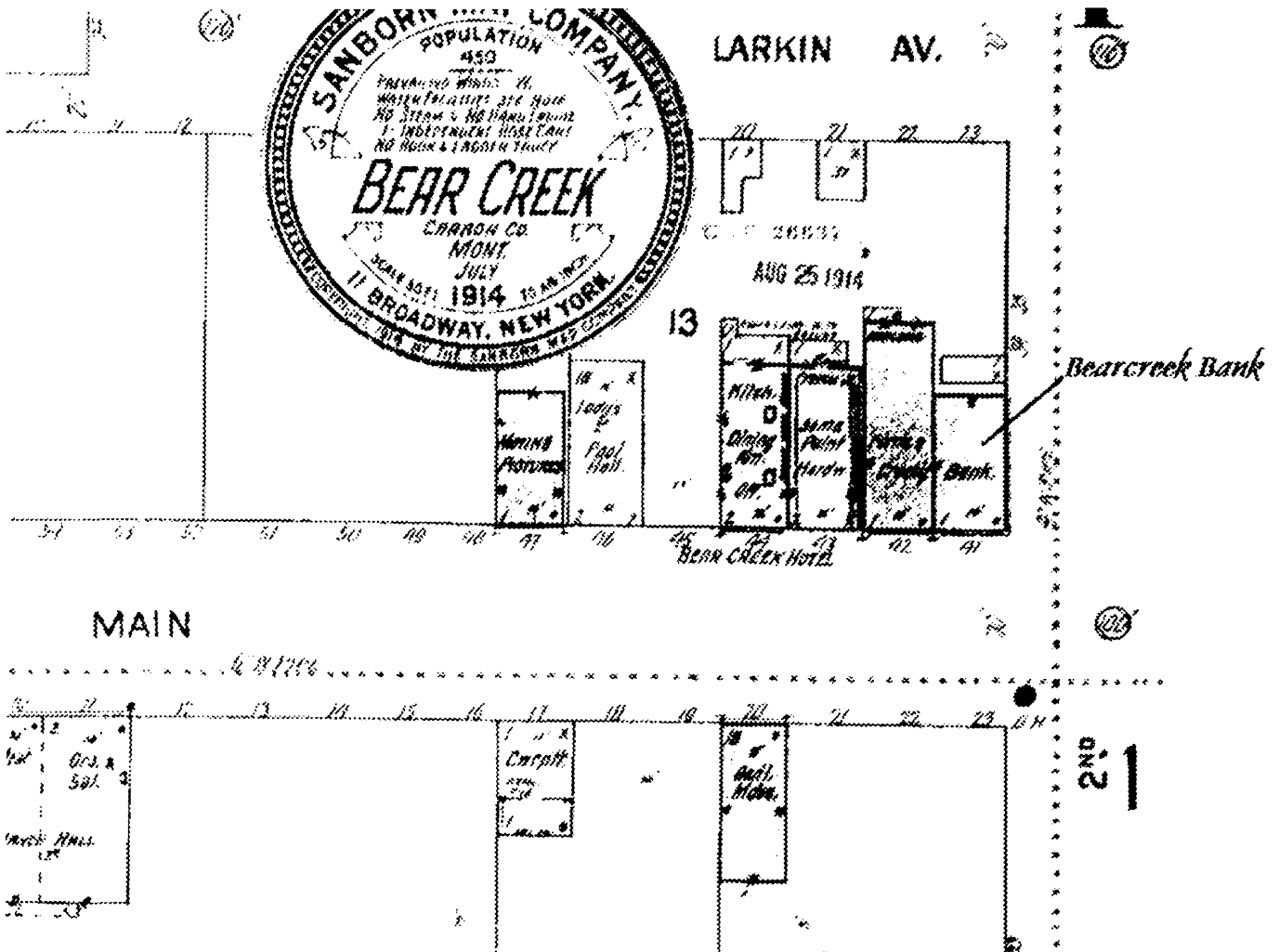
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Bearcreek Sanborn map detail, 1914, sheet 1

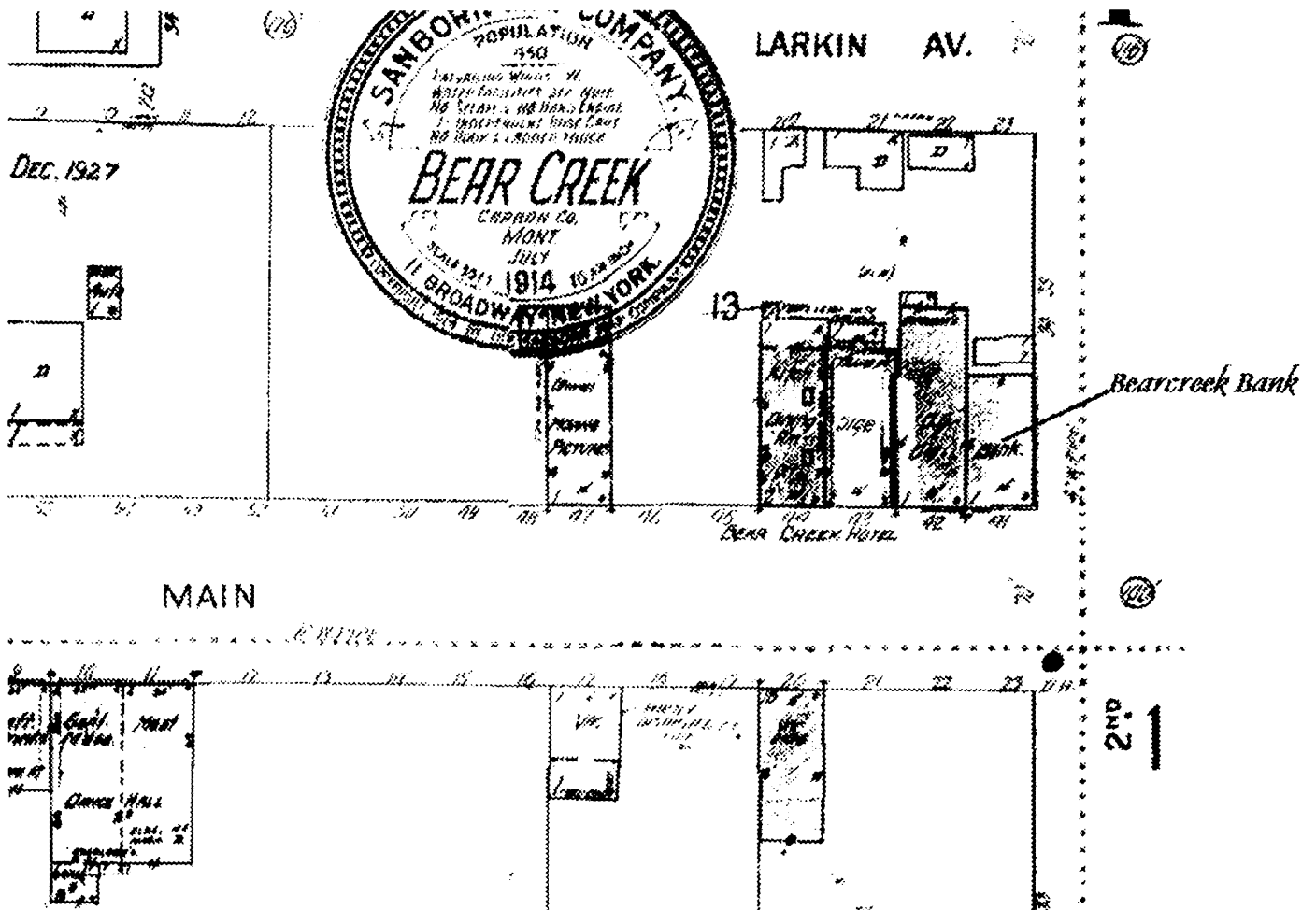
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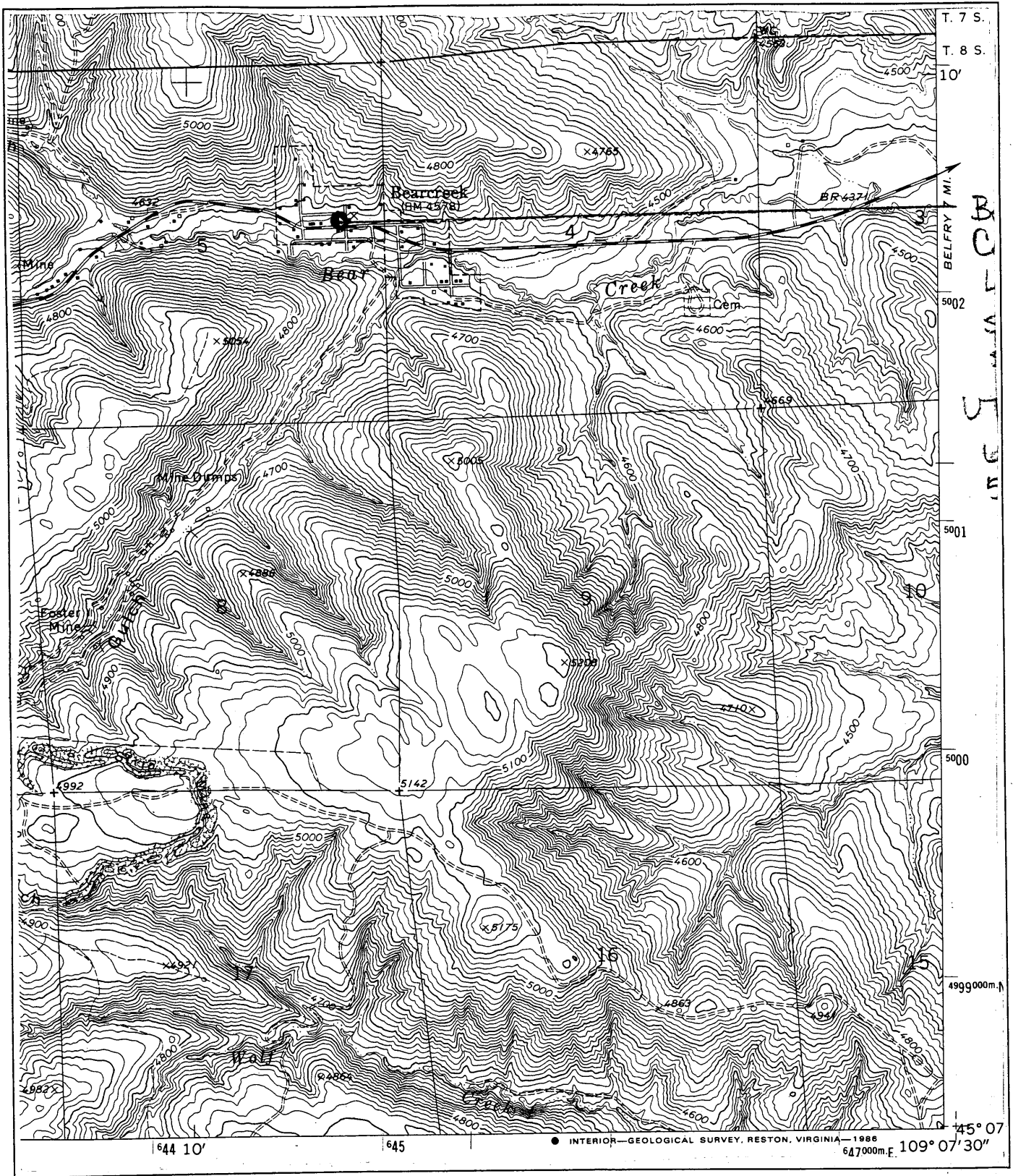
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1927 update to 1914 Bearcreek Sanborn, detail, sheet 1



**Bearcreek Bank**  
 Main and Second Streets, Bearcreek, Carbon County, MT  
 SE¼ SE¼ NE¼ of Section 5, T8S, R21E, MPM  
 UTM: Zone 12/644752E/5002276N  
 Red Lodge East 7.5 Minute USGS Quadrangle