

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUL 9 1979
DATE ENTERED 5 1979

District 3  
B Street  
District

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

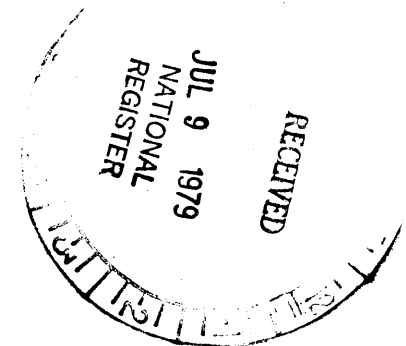
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1. Name: B Street District  
Livingston, Montana
2. Location: 307-317 S. B Street
3. Classification: District  
Private Ownership  
Occupied  
Accessible  
Present Use: Private Residence
4. Owner of Property: Multiple Ownership
5. Location of Legal Description: See Historic Resources of Livingston form
6. Representation in Existing Surveys: See Historic Resources of Livingston form
7. Description:

These four small one-story houses form an architectural unit on the east side of South B Street, one block southeast of the edge of the present business district. In composition they are identical, but subtle differences in detail distinguish one from another. The houses have rectangular plans (approx. 20' x 40') and simple gable roofs. They look like little wooden temples, having recessed front porches supported on four thin columns. Small windows light attics; two are half-round and two rectangular. Other slight variations include eave returns on two, vertical slats over shingles in one of the gables, vestigial doric capitals on two sets of columns, and brackets on one porch. All have lean-to additions at back. Each has two chimneys and originally had two doors at the front, indicating they were intended as duplexes.

South B Street District

<u>Street Address</u>	<u>Present Owner</u>	<u>Present Owner's Address if Different</u>	<u>Evaluation</u>
307 S. B Street	Thomas Brook & Marna Durden, Jr.		Primary
311 S. B. Street	John Rank		Primary
315 S. B Street	John & Mary Bailor		Primary
317 S. B Street	Walter & Alma Wilson		Primary



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### 8. Significance:

In a settlement with a large transient population of single men, particularly a railroad town, the red-light district was inevitable. Hordes of "camp followers" came west, following the railroad construction crews. As the crews moved on, so did most of the ladies. But not all of them. Apparently the "B Street" district was established early in Livingston, just outside the commercial district, situated a convenient but respectable distance from the town's railroad hub and blue collar neighborhoods. In later years, taxi service ran between the train depot and the district, and of course not all the patrons were transients. Livingston's red-light district was comprised of about nine houses along a block and a half. Pressures in the 1940s finally forced the "girls" to move out to the town's fringes.

These four houses in the district were built between 1896 and 1907, probably as duplexes intended to house working families. This particular design is unique in Livingston except for one house at the end of the block (301), which has been greatly altered and is not in the District. The houses are unusual in that they look like fragments -- the gables and porches -- of much larger houses. Of the nine former "houses of ill repute" in the neighborhood only these four are being nominated because of their architectural quality and unity.

### 9. Bibliographical References:

See Historic Resources of Livingston form

### 10. Geographical Data:

Acreage .5 acres

UTM Reference A. 

1	2	5	3	4	6	7	0	5	0	5	6	1	2	0
zone			eastng					northing						

Verbal Boundary Description See Maps C & D