

# MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

JUN 25 1987

Site # PE#41



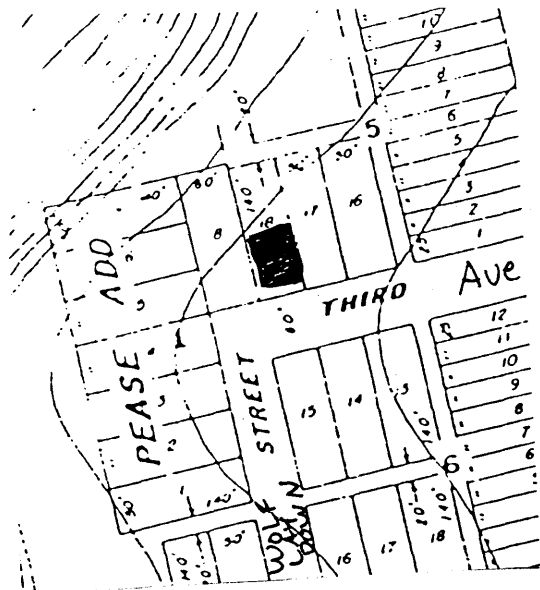
Legal Description: Original Town, Block 5, Lots 17-18

Address: 25 Third Ave., Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: Big Horn County

private address: Hardin, MT  
public

Roll # 3 Frame # 12



Location map or building plan with arrow north.

Historic Name: Baldwin house

Common Name:

Date of Construction: 1918

estimated  
 documented

N/A

Architect:

Builder: E.D. Baldwin

Original Owner: E.D. Baldwin

Original Use: House/residence

Present Use: House/residence

**RESEARCH SOURCES:** Note all records consulted to determine dates of construction, original owners, builders, uses, etc.

Title Search: Tax Records: yes

Bldg. Permit: Census Records: yes

Sewer/Water: Sanborn Maps:

Directories: yes Newspapers: yes

## BIBLIOGRAPHY:

(see Footnotes)

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** Describe present appearance of structure/site, then contrast and compare that with its original appearance, noting additions, alterations, and changes in materials. Discuss significant architectural features.

A two story wooden rectangular dwelling. Jerkin head roof, with return cornices and open eaves, covered by asphalt shingles. Exterior of house is made of shiplap siding. The south elevation has one central window on each floor. On the east side of the building is a one story addition, with a screened sun room and central door facing south. At the rear of the building, on the north side, is a one story addition covered by masonite horizontal siding, with a gable roof of asphalt shingles, and a single entrance on the east.

**HISTORICAL INFORMATION:** Describe the persons, important events, and/or historical patterns associated with the structure/site and surrounding area.

The Big Horn County assessor's records show that, in 1915 this property was owned by E.D. Baldwin, with no improvements.<sup>1</sup> Edward Baldwin was listed on the 1917 Directory for Lodge Grass as owning a garage, with \$1,970.00 worth of personal property.<sup>2</sup> In 1918 Adelia Baldwin was credited with making \$500 worth of improvements on lots 17-18, Block 5, of the Original Town of Lodge Grass, indicating that this house was built at that time. Verndell Reinhart acquired the property in 1921. In 1937 it was listed under the ownership of Empire Realty and Loan Company. B.A. Zimmerman, a prominent local cattleman, acquired the property in 1942. It then passed to Donald and Hildegard Clawson in 1959, to Joseph Clawson in 1964, and to Robert and Mary Howe in 1965, with the improvements that year assessed at \$1835.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>"Town Ownership Books," Assessor's Office, Big Horn County Courthouse, Hardin, MT (Microfiche).

<sup>2</sup>R.L. Polk, Directory of Billings and Red Lodge, Yellowstone, Carbon, Stillwater, and Big Horn Counties (Helena: R.L. Polk & Co., 1917).

Footnote Sources:

<sup>3</sup>"Town Ownership Books."

**INTEGRITY:** Assess the degree to which the structure/site, and surrounding area accurately convey the historical associations of the property.

The house has good integrity. It is at its original location, and looks much as it did originally. There have been few major alterations to the house. However, it has become run down somewhat over time.

**HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:** Justify how the persons, important events, or historical patterns associated with structure/site lend the property significance and/or describe the ways in which the structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular period, building type, or style.

This is one of the few older houses in Lodge Grass still standing. At the time of its construction, this house was undoubtedly one of the more substantial residences built in town. Its roof design, two stories, and large size make it architecturally distinctive. It is associated with the broad pattern of the early development of the town of Lodge Grass, and its original owner and builder, Edward Baldwin, can be documented as an early resident and businessman in this community. That this was an important house in town appears to be supported by the fact that B.A. Zimmerman later bought it. Zimmerman was a partner in the Spear-Zimmerman Cattle Company, a prominent local cattle ranching firm. The house appears typical of a period (early Lodge Grass, circa 1911-1921) and type (residence) of which only a few representatives still remain.

This site appears to be significant within the context of the history of Lodge Grass.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

Name:

Address: P.O. Box 2612, Denver, CO 80201

Date:

1-7-1986

**GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:**

Less than one acre.

Acreage:

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5, 1967

UTM: 13 | 314500 | 5020700