

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

05-05-1987

Site# PE #71



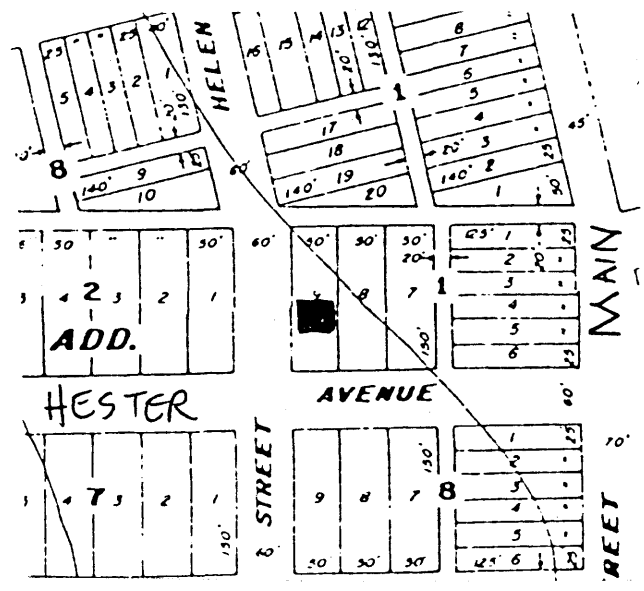
Legal Description: Stevenson Addition, Block 1, Lots 8-9, S93'

Address: 15 N. Helen St., Lodge Grass, MT

Ownership: Name: Grace Pilkington

private address: Lodge Grass, MT

Roll # 3 Frame # 37



Location map or building plan with arrow north

Historic Name: John Ryan's house

Common Name: same

Date of Construction: 1920 estimated documented

Architect: N/A

Builder: John Ryan

Original Owner: John Ryan

Original Use: House

Present Use: House

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:

(CONT. from Footnotes):

- ⁵ "Town Ownership Books."
- ⁶ Hardin Tribune Herald 16 May 1957.

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 rectangular one story wood frame dwelling. House based on the bungalow style, with a modified gable roof, and brackets under the eaves. Three steps on the north side of the front (west) facade, facing Helen Street, led up to a covered porch, with a shed roof and brick pillar support on the northwestern corner, up to the doorway. On the west elevation is a brick chimney in the center, with two sets of multi-paned windows, one on either side, with bracketed window boxes under them.

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

According to local tax records, this house was built in 1920 by John T. Ryan. Ryan was a barber in Lodge Grass, and it is guessed that his shop was also located on this land, since in 1922 he was credited with \$2500 worth of improvements on the S 120' of lot 9 (the house) and \$1000 worth of improvements on the S 120' of lot 8 (the barber-shop?).¹ There is no building on lot 8 at present (1985). In 1925 an ad in a local paper showed Ryan's Barber Shop in Lodge Grass.² Another newspaper article in October, 1925 reported that John Ryan and Jack Mason bought barber shop equipment from Jack Magoon, who was moving from Lodge Grass to Wyoming.³ Ryan was a respected member of early Lodge Grass, and after the town was incorporated in September, 1927, he was elected its first mayor, defeating Paul Johnson, owner of the local lumberyard, for that position.⁴ The Ryan family owned⁵ this property until 1962, when it was acquired by Charles Westwood. A 1957 newspaper article, however,⁶ indicated that John Ryan, by that time, had relocated to Colorado.

¹"Town Ownership Books," Assessor's Office, Big Horn County Court-house, Hardin (Microfiche).

Footnote Sources:

²The Searchlight (Hardin), 2 September 1925.

³Ibid., 14 October 1925.

⁴"John Ryan is First Mayor of Lodge Grass," The Hardin Tribune 11 November 1927, p.1. (CONT., see Bibliography)

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 in its original location, and has maintained much of its original design. It is in good physical condition and can convey historical associations.

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 property is historically significant because it is associated with the life of someone who played a prominent role in the history of Lodge Grass. John Ryan was a well know local businessman in early Lodge Grass. He came to the community around 1920 and operated a barber shop here for many years. In 1927 he was elected the first mayor of the newly incorporated city of Lodge Grass. This house is a good example of a typical 1920s era residence in the town. It is located, actually, in the heart of the business district, which is different from most of the houses in Lodge Grass.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: P. Friedman, Powers Elevation

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

Date: 1-29-1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Lodge Grass, 7.5, 1967

UTM's: 13 | 314 700 | 8020 360