

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

BRIDGER SURVEY

Legal Description: Section 21, Tract L,  
South 1/3 Lots 7,8

Address: 106 North E Street

Ownership: Name: Kenneth C. & Sandra L. Gomer  
Address: Box 57  
Bridger, MT 59014

Historic Name: Corey House

Common Name: Pillsbury House

Date of Construction: 1906-07

Architect: Unknown

Builder: R.R. Crool

Original Owner: Mary W. & Leonard A. Corey

Original Use: Residence

Present Use: Residence



8 31  
Roll# 8/Frame# 33

Research Sources:

Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse:  
1907, Mary Glidden Corey; 1909, S.W. Rankin;  
1915, F.C. Shurtleff; 1917, S.W. Rankin; 1918,  
S.W. Rankin; 1925, Alfred Pillsbury; 1930,  
Bertina Levander; 1949, Fred Chase; 1955,  
Myrtle Chase; 1959, Clarence Coon; 1971,  
Donald Schultz; 1972, Cora Coon; 1977,  
Lon E. St. Clair; 1978, Carl Grisso;  
1982, Richard Nordberg

Plat Records: Carbon County Courthouse

Tax Records: Carbon County Courthouse

Building Permits: N/A

Sewer/Water Permits: N/A

City Directories: 1905-1909

Sanborn Maps: No Exposure

Newspapers: Red Lodge Picket; 1-5-00; 1-26-00; 2-27-03; 3-20-03;  
3-27-03; 4-3-03; 4-10-03; 5-15-03; 5-22-03; 7-17-03; 8-7-03;  
10-29-03; 11-19-03; 1-21-04; 2-4-04; 6-30-04; 8-25-04;  
9-15-04; 9-22-04; 10-27-04; Free Press; 1-16-03; 2-27-03;  
3-27-03; 5-15-03; 8-7-03; 9-4-03; 9-25-03; 11-20-03;  
11-27-03; 12-11-03; 1-8-04; 2-12-04; 2-19-04; 4-8-04;  
4-22-04; 5-13-04; 5-20-04; 7-1-04; 7-15-04; 7-29-04; 8-12-04;  
8-19-04; Bridger Tribune; 10-6-04; 11-14-04; 11-21-04;  
12-22-04; 12-29-04; 1-19-05; Carbon County Gazette; 3-16-05;  
7-20-05; 7-27-05; 10-12-05; 11-9-05; 1-12-06; Carbon County  
Republican; 7-6-06; 7-20-06; 9-28-06; 11-16-06; Clarke Fork  
Herald; 5-16-07; 5-23-07; 6-13-07; 7-18-07; Bridger Banner;  
1-2-08; 2-20-08; Bridger Times; 5-21-09; 7-2-09; 9-4-09;  
10-29-09; 12-31-09; 2-18-10; 6-24-10; 7-8-10; 9-16-10;  
10-28-10; 5-19-11; 1-26-12; 2-9-12; 7-19-12; 1-10-13;  
1-17-13; 3-7-13; 8-1-13; 10-17-13; 10-31-13; 4-24-14;  
1-15-15; 2-12-15; 4-16-15; 6-25-15; 7-30-15; 10-1-15; 6-6-16

Other: 1910 Census

						357.
						10
						9
						119.
3	4	5	6	7	8	
		TRACT			"L"	
113						119.

Location Map

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

(Reappraisal Forms) Single dwelling - 2228 sq. ft. - 2228 sq. ft. 1/2 story - 60 sq. ft. enclosed porch. Formed concrete and stone foundation, frame wall construction, wood shingles exterior. Hip roof, composition shingle roofing. Hardwood floors, lath & plaster interior, pine or fir trim.

The Corey House is a transitional residence that combines elements of Queen Anne and Arts and Crafts styling. The irregular massing of this 1 1/2 story house incorporates a basic cross gable roofed form with a protruding two story polygonal bay on the south elevation and a hipped roof portion to the rear. The foundation and full basement are constructed with coursed sandstone block. Masonry work, either an extension of the sandstone foundation or dark colored, high fired brick, wraps around the building to the sill level of the first floor windows. This masonry work encompasses both the front and rear porches and is built out to form sidewalks for the porch steps. The central, interior chimney is of dark colored, high-fired brick, while the exterior chimney on the north facade that runs up from the north end of the front porch is of coursed sandstone. This chimney and fireplace in the porch/sun room was built during the 1920's, likely at the same time that windows were installed within the porch openings to make it into a sun room.

The Corey House was originally shingled and is now covered with asbestos shakes. The roof is covered with light-colored asphalt shingles. The irregular form of the building helps to minimize the negative impact of the asbestos siding material and the present owners intend to uncover the original shingles beneath.

The majority of windows in the house are one-over-one double hung sash. The upper sash of each double hung window is fashioned with decorative, mottled clear glass set in 14 small rectangular lights around the large panes of clean glass. Two shed roof dormers project from the gable roof plane on the front portion of the house and three dormers project from the rear hipped roof portion. The two lights of the southern dormer are filled with a green and rose colored stained glass and the windows of the north dormer are tall, narrow, twelve-over-one double hung sash

set to either side of the sandstone chimney.

High quality materials were used to infill the porch openings during the 1920's. Large, fixed pane cottage windows flank the exterior entry and one cottage window was used on the south side. The entry is finished with fixed bevelled glass side lights with a tripartite, leaded bevel glass transom. The two, tall, narrow windows placed to either side of the sandstone fireplace in the sun room are also fixed, leaded glass.

The interior of the building was extensively remodelled during the late 1960's, although most of the original floor plan remains intact. Copper plated brass hardware was used throughout and the three original light fixtures of the front hall remain in place.

#### HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

L.A. Corey purchased a building site east of the railroad track, and beside the site purchased by Samuel H. and Mary Glidden in July of 1906. The paper said they would both build fine residences. Like the Gliddens, the Corey's set up housekeeping in a tent along the Clarks Fork River on the Henry Gebo ranch. The August 3rd edition of the Carbon County Republican said that the foundation was completed, and that Mr. Crow (Crool), the contractor from Billings, was returning home. It was not until mid-May, 1907, that the Clarke Fork Herald reported that the house was finished, and the Coreys had moved in.

The Coreys were in their mid-forties when they married in January, 1905. Mrs. Corey was Mary Wischer Glidden, elder sister of Samuel H. Glidden, and Leonard A. Corey, was brother to Anson L. Corey of Red Lodge, who with W. Smith, had set up a shoe store. Mary had spent 15 years with the school system in Minneapolis before moving to Bridger. Corey's background was not disclosed, but he apparently was an early partner of Glidden. In 1903 he was superintendent and 1904 was manager of the Bridger Stucco Works, owned by Sam Glidden and Alfred Pillsbury of Minneapolis. But his major interest, that which made and broke him, was the Bridger Canyon Oil Company. Organized in 1904, the Bridger Canyon Oil Company had Sam Glidden as president, L.A. Corey, vice president, C.J. Baldwin secretary-treasurer, and C.L. Merrill, legal counsel. Others involved were C.C. Bever, H.S. Anderson, W.L. Collins, and B.W. Morse, the latter three being from Pierre, South Dakota. They placed \$100,000 shares of stock on the market at 5 cents, and before long Minneapolis investment was heavy enough to send the price per share to \$1.00, and the firm was capitalized at \$1,500,000. In July 1907 Corey filed 30 oil placer locations with the County Clerk and Recorder, and two weeks later had 22 tons of oil drilling equipment purchased at Cody enroute to his fields. So intense was the operation, that Corey built another house there to keep track of it. But no discoveries of oil were reported. Frank Bird removed the derrick and other machinery in June of 1907 and took it to a new location at the fields of the Montana and Wyoming Oil Company.

In 1909 Corey owned the Red Ranch, 8 miles south-east of Bridger, where he raised 25,000 pounds of alfalfa seed on 56 acres, valued at \$4,000. Then in March, 1911, Mrs. C.F. Shurtleff of Evanson, Washington, purchased the Corey home in Bridger, and the Coreys moved to Seattle. In 1913 Corey was off to Alaska to investigate a mining prospect, not to be heard from in Bridger again.

It was not until August of 1915 that oil was actually discovered in Carbon County, and it was Standard Oil subsidiaries, Ohio Oil and Mid-West Oil, who brought in wells. Relatively small areas of Elk Basin and Silver Tip were oil producing, rather than most of the county in which the early speculators invested.

#### INTEGRITY:

The front porch has been enclosed, but the large windows continue to give it an open appearance. Asbestos siding covers the original shingle sheathing.

#### HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Corey House is architecturally significant as a distinctive example of an Arts and Crafts style residence in Bridger and meets criterion C for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1907 by speculative investor, L.A. Corey, the house stands with its companion Arts and Crafts style Glidden House next door, at the eastern edge of the residential district. The two houses formed Bridger's tiny "Bon Ton" district, as characterized by the local newspaper. The two houses were likely designed by the same architect and built by R.R. Crool, although documentation of the architect and builder of the Glidden House has not been found. The two houses share similar floor plans, and both are oriented to the east with full width front porches spanning the front facades. Locally quarried sandstone block was used for the building foundation to the first floor sill level of the Corey House. This stone work wraps completely around the building, forming the foundations and side walls for both porches, and is used for the exterior chimney on the east elevation. The house was covered with asbestos siding during the 1960's, but the present owners are now in the process of uncovering the original shingle sheathing. The L.A. Corey House is one of a very limited number of substantial and stylistically sophisticated dwellings in Bridger and stands as a reminder of the short-lived wealth of the early speculators in the community.

#### FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office

Address: Box 1651

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Date: October, 1986

#### GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: less than one acre

USGS Quad: Bridger, Mont. 1956 7.5

UTM's: Zone 12, 664205 E., 5017765 N.

