

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Legal Description: Block 9, E50' Lots 17-20 O.P.
Address: 209 E. Broadway
Ownership: Name: Elizabeth Rodgers
Address: 1885 McKinney Way
Seal Beach, CA 90740



Roll# 2/Frame# 6

Historic Name: Heatherington Boarding House
Common Name: None
Date of Construction: circa 1899
Architect: None
Builder: Charles A. Heatherington
Original Owner: Charles A. Heatherington
Original Use: Boarding House
Present Use: Apartments

Research Sources:

Abstract of Title: Carbon County Courthouse:
1902, Charles Bucic; 1902, Bridger Improvement
Co.; 1904, Clarisey Premo; 1905, Mary Bird;
1906, Bridger Coal & Improvement Co.; 1906,
Frank Bird; 1911, Lincoln Land Co.; 1917,
Charles Heatherington; 1919, Charles
Heatherington; 1930, C.A. & Helen
Heatherington; 1951, Nola Jones; 1951,
Matt, Katie & Alex Sticka; 1954, Matt,
Katie & Alex Sticka; 1955, Katie Sticka;
1962, C.A. Hall; 1968, Betty Rogers; 1970,
Elizabeth Rodgers

Plat Records: Carbon County Courthouse

Tax Records: Carbon County Courthouse

Building Permits: N/A

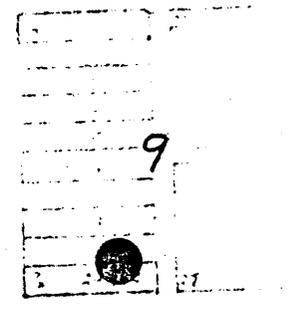
Sewer/Water Permits: N/A

City Directories: 1905-1922

Sanborn Maps: 1907, 1916

Newspapers: Red Lodge Picket; 7-13-00; 7-4-02;
1-16-03; 11-24-04; 12-8-04; Free
Press; 8-29-02; 9-25-03; 6-17-04;
9-2-04; Bridger Tribune 11-22-04;
12-22-04; Bridger Times; 5-7-09;
9-30-10; 10-14-10; 4-2-15; 12-17-15;
4-28-16; 5-4-17; 11-23-17; 1-11-18;
7-18-35; 7-25-35; 6-25-36

Other: 1900-1910 Census; 1928 Voters
Register



Location Map

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

(Reappraisal Form) 816 sq. ft. - 624 second story - 32 sq. ft. enclosed porch. Pier & posts foundation, frame wall construction, single siding exterior. Gable roof, wood shingle roofing. Softwood floors, lath & plaster interior, pine or fir trim.

Built to the front lot line, the Heatherington Boarding House is a two story, gable roofed, rectangular structure with a central, interior, corbelled brick chimney. A small, shed roofed addition is appended to the rear of the structure and may have been original to the building. The boarding house is sheathed with novelty siding. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles.

The gable end of the boarding house faces Broadway (south). Two doors are cut into this facade, one at the southeast corner and the other at the center. The center door is flanked by two double-hung windows with three-over-one sash. Likely, the original four-over-four sash was replaced with these windows during the 1910's or 1920's. Although the original sash on some of the other windows has also been changed, from four-over-four to one-over-one, it appears that all of the window openings are original, with the exception of the tripart, four-light sliding sash on the west facade. Possibly a transom light over the central doorway on the front (south) facade has also been removed.

A small, gable roofed, novelty-sided garage sits to the rear (north) of the boarding house.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION:

The June 1st census of 1900 found Charles and Grace Heatherington running a boarding house in "Bridger Village." Their boarders were Sansen Ringer, a saloon keeper, from Iowa; Henry Werysema, also a saloon keeper from Germany; Robert A. and Annie E. Parks, who ran a restaurant; Frank Kichles, a second generation German immigrant who worked as a plasterer; and John P. Baker, a clerk in a local store. The Heatherington's Boarding House and George Town's hotel were the only places for itinerates or new arrivals to stay in the developing community, unless they were employed at the Bridger Coal Mine, where workers' housing was available.

Shortly after the census was taken Civil Engineer Malcolm Swan surveyed the Bridger townsite, and everyone had to move their buildings from the County road right-of-way to lots which they could lease, then finally purchase, from the Bridger Coal and Improvement Company. It is likely that shortly thereafter the Heatheringtons relocated this boarding house on its current site.

Heatherington came to Carbon County in 1894, and settled in the vicinity of what became Bridger some six years later. Charles was engaged in the first livery business, ran a stage line, and cut and kept ice from the Clark's Fork River to sell in town.

Like many of the early settlers, Charles was also a prospector. In 1902 he and the Shupak brothers located a mine in the Sunlight Basin, but lack of transportation made the discovery worthless. Again, in June of 1904 he and his wife went on a prospecting trip, both were bitten by ticks, and developed Spotted Fever. Dr. Lamont Addison Gates diagnosed the illness and treated the patients, but Mrs. Heatherington died. Charles, "Curley", continued to operate the livery and dray business, and for a while, operated stables known as the "Racing Headquarters." In 1909 he had a sheep ranch on Sand Creek.

By 1910 when census time came, Charles had remarried, and he and his wife Helen continued to operate the boarding house. Joseph Magli, a Hungarian labourer, James Benvar, a Scottish breadmaker, Joseph Pibis, an Austrian who worked as a foreman at the mine, and W.E. Segbert, a second generation American-German sheepman lived there. That same year Curley started a cement brick manufacturing plant.

Heatherington lost money when the Farmers State Bank closed in April of 1915, and undoubtedly lost more later that year when he participated as a speculator in the newly organized Clarks Fork Mineral Oil District. Only outside oil companies, subsidiaries of Standard Oil, profited in the oil business, except possibly Heatherington and others in the dray business who hauled supplies to the oil fields.

In 1918, when Heatherington was 63 years old, and had spent all of his life with horses in the livery, stage, and dray business, he won the new Ford car given away by the Baldwin Lumber Company. That was the end of an era! But Curley did not forget his past, or those who came before him. In 1935, he, along with Maurice Levander, C.E. Erickson and Jack Ross, all early-day pioneers, erected a monument in the City Park to the memory of the town's name sake, Jim Bridger. (See O.P. Block 12, lots 11-20).

INTEGRITY:

This boarding house has experienced only minor alterations to the window sash.

HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The Heatherington Boarding House meets Criterion A of the National Register of Historic Places, as it is associated with the original settlement and development of the town of Bridger. The Heatherington Boarding House is the only documented "Stringtown" structure that survives unaltered to this day. While many of the Stringtown buildings were hastily constructed shacks that were soon replaced with more permanent structures once the townsite was platted, Charles Heatherington's house was of sound woodframe construction that has survived the test of time.

The importance of this boarding house in Stringtown and in early day Bridger is that it provided housing for transients and new arrivals, the folks who came to start anew, or to seek their fortunes in this tiny coal camp that had but few dwellings, and little land to construct on. The owners and the boarders, though of varied nationality and occupation, shared these living quarters and took their meals together much like an extended family.

Charles Heatherington, the proprietor of the boarding house, also played an important role in the settlement of Bridger and the Clark Fork Valley by providing the first transportation of persons and goods, and probably news, with his stage lines, livery, dray and transfer service. Persons wishing to incorporate a business or company, or to exchange land ownership, would take Heatherington's stage to Red Lodge to visit the County Courthouse. Newspapers and mail from the county seat made the return trip, along with the passengers. Even after the introduction of regular passenger trains, automobiles and county roads, the dray transfer service played an important role in the exploitation of the county's natural resources in remote locations.

The old stage stop (Block 13, lot 1, O.P.), also associated with Heatherington, has been so modified in recent times that it no longer conveys a clear association with Heatherington and the stage or dray business. This boarding house, which maintains its historic appearance and setting, is the best example of a resource associated with the early Bridger Heatherington knew and served.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office

Address: Box 1651

Red Lodge, MT 59068

Date: October, 1986

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: 50' x 120'

USGS Quad: Bridger, Mont. 1956 7.5

UTM's: Zone 12, 663770 E., 5017755 N.

