

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received MAR 27 1986

date entered

MAY 2 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name 2 ind. + 1 Dist

historic Historic Resources of Joliet, Montana

and/or common

2. Location

street & number roughly bounded by city limits of Joliet N/A not for publication

city, town Joliet N/A vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Carbon code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> multiple resource	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carbon County Courthouse

street & number Broadway Avenue

city, town Red Lodge state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Joliet Historic Resources Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Montana State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society

city, town Helena state Montana

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>multiple, see text</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The properties included as part of this Joliet, Montana multiple resource area nomination well represent the physical growth and development of a small eastern Montana farming community during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The Joliet Residential Historic District is composed of unpretentious, one and two story wood frame dwellings, which primarily reflect the popular "pattern book" designs of the historic period. Eight independent resources are also included in this submission, including three of the most important commercial buildings, which mark the establishment of Joliet as a permanent and stable trading center for the surrounding agricultural population between 1900 and 1915; the Joliet Fire Hall/City Hall, which has served as the center for all local government services since its construction in 1910; two residences, which lie outside of the platted townsite and were built by some of Joliet's most prominent early settlers and business people; the substantial, brick Joliet High School; and the pin-connected Pratt through truss over Rock Creek, which since 1901 has provided the vital link between the early townsite commercial center and the rich agricultural areas to the south that were intensively homesteaded during the early years of the twentieth century.

Geographical Setting and Townsite Orientation

Joliet is located in the valley bottom of Rock Creek in Carbon County in the southeastern portion of the State. The town is bounded to the south by Rock Creek, to the north by an irrigation ditch, to the west by farmland and to the east by open fields and an embankment, which drops down to the stream bed of Rock Creek. Surrounding the Rock Creek valley bottom are dry land benches to the north and south.

The townsite of Joliet is oriented to the railroad line and gridded in the popular "T"-shaped configuration, which provided for a single main street for commercial development that was set perpendicular to the railroad and began at the tracks, creating an arrangement in which the railroad formed the bar of the "T". This "T-town" grid pattern was used repeatedly in western towns that sprang up along the rail lines, although the streets and avenues of Joliet run northwest by southwest, as does the railroad, rather than due north and south, as was common to the pattern. The Main St. lots were a standard 30' x 140' and the residential lots varied in size, the largest being 60' x 150'. Thirteen blocks were platted within the original townsite, including two north of the tracks and several irregular shaped blocks.

The Joliet historic residential area developed around the town's Main St., along the northeast-southwest running railroad right-of-way and to the north of that right-of way. The brick high school building is situated on a slight rise at the most northern edge of town, on land donated to the town by one of its early promoters. Many of the historic residences to the north of the right-of-way have experienced extensive alteration, and modern infill construction has further undermined the historic character of the area. This area is excluded from the Joliet historic district. Newer additions to the townsite extend to the west of the original historic area. The boundaries for the Joliet Residential Historic District include the park-like railroad right-of-way, as well as the concentrations of historic structures located to the east and west of Main St.

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The commercial area of Joliet is concentrated along Main St. Two contemporary gas stations are situated immediately east of Main St. on Front St., on lots where historic structures were demolished during the 1940's and 1950's. New construction and extensive alteration to some of the historic buildings within the commercial area have severely compromised the historic integrity of the streetscape. Three of the significant historic commercial buildings are included as part of this multiple resource area submission as independent resources. However, Main St., as an entity, is not included within the boundaries of the historic district.

Early Development: 1900-1907

The construction of the steel, pin-connected Pratt through truss across Rock Creek in 1901 helped further the commercial development along Joliet's Main St. and the influence of the Joliet business people by furnishing the homesteaders of "Poverty Flats" to the south with convenient access to town (photo #1 #2 #3). In 1902 the first brick "block" was constructed to house a mercantile store owned by Guy Lovering and C.W. Baker. Occupying one lot, the erection of this one story brick building marked a new plateau for Joliet, indicating faith in the future permanence of the community. By 1903, four mercantile stores, four saloons, an insurance company, a drug store, and two liveries (all of frame construction except for the Lovering-Baker Mercantile) were in business. The Blacksmith Shop at the corner of Main and Carbon Sts., constructed in 1903, remains a good, although altered, representative of the early phase of wood frame commercial building in Joliet, exhibiting the use of large, wooden sash display windows and a false fronted parapet (photo #4).

In 1904, several brick and stone buildings were constructed on either side of Main St., including Tom Collin's Store and Whitney's first, one story store, which was described in the typical hyperbole of the local paper as "the model of neatness, stability and safety". The replacement of frame commercial buildings with masonry structures along Main St. was lauded by the Joliet Journal as a "source of considerable satisfaction to anyone interested in the welfare of Joliet...the improved quality of the buildings...brick and stone...taking the place of lumber and "rag" shacks so prevalent at first and the improved appearance of the town is very noticeable."

In 1906, a number of other important commercial buildings were erected. Two substantial, two story, architect-designed brick buildings were built on the corners of the intersection of Main St. and Central Ave. The Hotel Southern (photos #5 #6) still stands, but the Meyer Block burned in 1922. Both buildings were constructed of locally made brick. That year, Tom Collins completed the Whitney Building (photo #7) at the corner of Main and Front Sts. The Joliet Journal did not mince words of praise for the building, stating, "there isn't a neater or more substantial building front to be found in the state." Several large wood frame businesses were constructed by A.H. Holder, the local railroad agent, including a wood frame opera house east of Main St., which burned in 1909.

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The building boom in Joliet's commercial district continued through 1907 with the construction of the Rock Creek State Bank (photos #8 #9). This one story brick building with a canted entrance complemented the existing pair of two story brick buildings at this intersection of Main St. and Central Ave.

The 1907 Sanborn Fire Insurance map illustrates how Joliet's commercial district developed. Brick buildings are interspersed with one and two story frame buildings. The commercial district is concentrated in a two block area, with a few commercial buildings on the periphery (photo #10). The businesses in 1907 included two restaurants, a meat market, four saloons, an opera house, two barber shops, two general stores, a hardware store, a trading company, several offices, two lumber yards, two blacksmith shops, two livery stables, and a fruit and confectionery store.

Growth in the residential district paralleled the development of the commercial sector in Joliet during this initial period between 1900 and 1907. The 1907 Sanborn map identified 47 dwellings in Joliet, 36 of which retain sufficient historic architectural integrity today to clearly recall their origins.

Residential development in Joliet exceeded the initial conservative projections of the townsite planners. The original townsite plat was enlarged a number of times during the early years to accommodate residential expansion. One major factor that spurred Joliet's success was the abandonment of the nearby community of Carbonado in 1901. A significant number of residences were moved from Carbonado to Joliet within two years of the closing of the Carbonado mines, which conforms with a typical, regional pattern of building relocation. In October, 1905, Harry Duffield, who had been integrally involved with the establishment of the Joliet townsite, had 13.17 acres surveyed and platted to the west of the original plat. Immediately during that winter, lots were purchased by local businessmen and farmers "in this beautiful suburb of Joliet, thus showing their faith in [the] rapidly growing city", the Journal reported. Two other residential developments occurred to the north of the railroad during this period. William Goff, a homesteader who became a successful businessman in the young town, built a substantial residence in 1904 to the north of the railroad and west of the center of town (photo #11), began to sell property to the east of his land. This became a small addition to the townsite, known as Goffville, but was never platted. Ehler Meyer, the businessman who had built the Meyer Block, owned a five acre tract directly east of Goff and west of block 11 of the original plat. Although in 1905 he had this land planted in potatoes, the following year Meyer had the tract surveyed and planned "adding several desirable lots to this attractive residential locality." During the winter of 1907, lots were being purchased and the new Meyer Addition was expected to be "one of the most delightful residential portions of our delightful city."

By 1907, the "little city of Joliet [was] noted as a city of pleasant homes" by the local newspaper. The majority of these dwellings were simple, functional, one story, unpretentious houses. The more substantial, 1 1/2 story and two story residences were most often located on corner lots and today serve as the

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focal points of the streetscapes (photo #12).

Later Development: 1907-1915

Between 1907 and 1915, the commercial area experienced limited growth. Lovering and Smith (formerly Baker and Lovering) decided to expand their mercantile store built in 1902 by adding a substantial brick addition and a new storefront in 1910 (photos #13 #14). This year, the local volunteer fire department also erected a wood frame fire hall west of the Rock Creek State Bank. This building was rolled over on logs to Main St. in 1940 where it now stands (photo #15). In 1912, regional entrepreneur, Oliver Hovda, completed the development of the corner of Main St. and Central Ave. by building a one story masonry building for use as a local outlet for his hardware supplies. The building stands today but has been irreversibly compromised by the complete infilling of the fenestration of the east and south facades (photo #16). Tom Collins built another one story masonry building in 1912 on Main St. (also severely altered by storefront infill) and the local bank erected a new two story, brick bank building and Masonic Lodge on the corner of Main and Front Sts. (photo #17), which was destroyed in the 1950's. By 1912, the commercial district of Joliet, occupying both sides of Main St., had reached its peak of development. The services and commodities provided by the established businesses had achieved a sort of balance with the needs of local residents and the surrounding agricultural community. The larger, competitive trading centers of Red Lodge and Billings were located 26 and 33 miles away, respectively. Further expansion of Joliet's commercial offerings was apparently unnecessary.

As growth in the commercial district subsided, residential construction continued at a moderate pace, as larger, more commodious houses were built, in some instances replacing earlier small frame dwellings. Fourteen residences within the Joliet historic district were constructed between 1907 and 1915.

Also during this period, the town's permanent church buildings were established, generally on lots donated by the town's "founding fathers." The first church built was the Episcopal Church in 1908, a simple wood frame, one story, gable roofed building with gothic arched windows, located on a residential corner lot (photo #18). In 1909, the Catholics of Joliet built the first brick church in Carbon County (no longer standing) and the Christian Church built a large, gable roofed building on the corner of Front and First Sts. This wood frame church features arched double hung windows and, although the steeple roof has been removed and the entrance relocated, retains primary architectural integrity (photos #19 #20). The small, brick Methodist Church was built by 1913, also on a corner lot, and is of an L-shape with the steeple located at the intersection of the ells. Large gothic arched windows with tracery grace each gable end (photo #21).

Joliet's original wood frame school house, another important institution for the young community, had been built by 1904 and expanded twice before it was found to be unsatisfactory by 1911. The building was divided into three sections

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and moved to lots 1, 2, and 3 of block 7, where each section was adapted for use as a residence (photos #22 #23 #24). The new brick school building, designed by professional architects, was completed in 1912 (photo #25 #26 #27).

Architectural Summary

The buildings in Joliet represent typical early 20th Century, small western town architecture, which can simply be described as "popular". Wood frame construction far surpasses the use of masonry for residential construction. In fact, only two brick residences were constructed in Joliet during the historic period, one by the owner of the local brick factory (photo #37). The builders of both commercial and residential buildings did attempt to incorporate stylistic features then in common use, freely borrowing elements from established architectural styles.

Some Italianate influence is evident in the commercial buildings, with their cast iron storefronts and tall, vertical windows. The upper facades of the buildings exhibit regular fenestration, parapets composed of recessed panels and cornices of simple corbelling. Most of the lower front facades have been infilled with modern materials, although stone quoining and brick or stone support columns are still in place.

Most of the dwellings were built by non-professionals or the home owners, themselves. They are simple, functional, single family dwellings, being comfortable, practical, and unpretentious. Gable-ended forms in the "T" or "L" shape are the most common, while hipped roof, square mass forms are in evidence. The popular use of the Craftsman bungalow form in Montana largely postdates the historic period of Joliet's development. Only one Craftsman style residence is found in Joliet, a small frame structure that was moved from the south of the bridge (see photo 12) to Central Ave. in 1912 and was there remodeled as a residence of the latest style. The typical, one story, wood frame houses of Joliet often display such decorative elements as plate glass windows with leaded glass transoms, ornate doors, large porches with turned support posts, and decorative interior wood trim (photos #28 #29 #30 #31 #32 #33). Such mass-produced materials were easily accessible at the local building supply store or from catalogs.

Less than 18 residences over one story exist in Joliet today. Front gable and hipped roof four square forms predominate. These houses are also simply designed but incorporate more decorative detail and reflect closely the pattern book designs of the period. Decorative elements are borrowed primarily from the Queen Anne and Neo-Classical styles. These more substantial residences, either 1 1/2 or two stories, are generally situated on large corner lots, and are pivotal buildings of the streetscapes (photos #34 #35 #36 #37 #38 #39).

The streets of Joliet are lined with mature silver maple trees. The one park in town, bounded by silver maples and lilac bushes, is located in the center of the residential district and is composed of eight lots. The largest open

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space is the railroad right-of-way that extends along Front St. This strip divides the town and is lined with mature deciduous trees and covered in poppies during the summer. The railroad tracks have been removed. This park-like strip serves as the northern boundary for the Joliet Residential Historic District (photos #40 #41).

Background on Survey Project

The historical resources survey was initiated by the Carbon County Historic Preservation Office. Funding assistance was provided by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office. Joan Stradtman of Joliet served as the research assistant for the project and conducted preliminary primary source investigations. Joan Louise Brownell, a masters' candidate at Montana State University in history, coordinated the survey and conducted an intensive historical and architectural inventory of approximately 150 buildings.

The survey methodology included systematic and comprehensive use of the following sources: regional newspapers from 1893 to 1918, including the papers from Joliet, Red Lodge and Bridger, Montana; personal interviews with long-time residents of Joliet; historical photographs; local histories; federal census records from 1900 and 1910; R.L. Polk and Company city directories; Sanborn Fire Insurance maps; land ownership records; original abstracts, when available; Carbon County Commissioner records; voter trustee records; survey notes and land patent records maintained by the Bureau of Land Management; Bureau of Indian Affairs records concerning the cessation of Crow tribal lands; and records of the Montana Historical Society Archives.

All of the buildings located within the townsite of Joliet were inventoried except for those in the newer additions to the west and north of town. Approximately 10% of the buildings inventoried are in commercial use; the remaining 90% are residences. No archaeological testing was conducted and such was not included under the terms of the contract with the State Historic Preservation Office. The date of construction, original owners, builder and architect (if applicable), original use, historical associations, and the present and historic architectural appearance of each building and structure was recorded. The survey coordinator, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office, evaluated the historic and architectural significance of each inventoried building in accordance with the National Register criteria.

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This nomination consists of the Joliet Residential Historic District and eight independent resources. The independent resources are listed below:

Baker and Lovering Store	OT blk 8, lots 4,5 1902, 1910	one story masonry commercial photo #13 #14
	UTM# 12/658680/5038610	
Southern Hotel	OT blk 5, lots 1,2,3,4 1906	two story brick commercial photo #5, #6
	UTM# 12/658700/5038580	
Rock Creek State Bank	OT blk 4, lot 1 1906-07	one story masonry commercial photo #8, #9
	UTM# 12/658640/5038560	
Collins, Tom, House	OT blk 12, lots 9,10,11 1908	1 1/2 story brick residence photo #37
	UTM# 12/658640/5038750	
Smith, T.W., House	NW 1/4 section 13 ca. 1899	two story frame residence photo #38
	UTM# 12/659200/5039050	
Fire Hall/Town Hall	OT blk 8, lots 8,9 1910, moved 1940	frame public building photo #15
	UTM# 12/658680/5038580	
Joliet High School	W.1/2 section 14 1912, 1938	masonry public building photo #25, #26, #27
	UTM# 12/658400/5038890	
Joliet Bridge	portion section 14 1901	pin-connected Pratt truss photo #1, #2, #3
	UTM# 12/658200/5038860	

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1900-1915 **Builder/Architect** multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Joliet, Montana is historically and architecturally significant as an excellent representative of a typical pattern of the small western plains town development. Joliet is one of literally hundreds of small agricultural trade centers which sprang up along the rail lines that were built through the intensively homesteaded plains of eastern Montana and formed a system of dispersed commercial and social community centers during the first decades of the 20th Century. The built environment of Joliet basically achieved its present appearance between the years 1900 and 1915. Very little further building was required to meet and maintain the level of commercial trade and residential accommodation required by the local citizens. The surrounding agricultural development had reached its apex by this time in terms of intensive, small scale production. The simple, unpretentious, popular architecture of the town well reflects the people, money and resources that combined in the process of regional development. The character and physical appearance of Joliet reinforces a sense of historical place and time. The vast majority of buildings in the commercial and residential districts are the original structures that were built during the historic period, although many have been somewhat altered.

The Joliet area was settled at a relatively late date by white homesteaders. Historically, the region was considered to be Crow territory and later became part of the Crow reservation. The Crow began to migrate westward into Montana during the 15th Century and references to the Crow in this region continue into the 19th Century. A recent archaeological inventory of rock art sites in Carbon County has produced a radiocarbon date of A.D. 1820 at a site near Joliet, indicating possible seasonal, Native American occupation in the area. A series of treaties between the Crow Tribe and the U.S. Government resulted in the successive changes of the boundaries of the Crow tribal lands. In 1892, the present day Crow reservation boundaries were established and the lower Rock Creek drainage, including the future site of Joliet, was opened for homesteading.

The building of the railroad along Rock Creek preceded the establishment of the town of Joliet. Completed in 1889 by the Northern Pacific Railway to provide access to the coal mines of Red Lodge, the railroad stimulated interest in the settlement and development of the agricultural region. However, due to the late cessation and availability of the Crow lands of the Rock Creek drainage for white homesteading, the town of Joliet was not founded until the mid-1890's. The first settlers in the area located within the fertile valley floor, close to the rail lines. The first homesteaders to receive patent to their land within the Joliet township are persons whose names are closely associated with the subsequent development of the town: T.W. Smith received his patent in 1898, John McMonigle in 1899, and Harry Duffield in 1902.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 220

Quadrangle name Fromberg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 2	6 5 9 2 4 0	5 0 3 9 0 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	1 2	6 5 9 1 7 0	5 0 3 8 2 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	1 2	6 5 8 0 4 0	5 0 3 7 9 7 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	1 2	6 5 8 3 4 0	5 0 3 8 1 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H			
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification The survey area consisted of the entirety of the platted townsite of Joliet, Montana. S $\frac{1}{2}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$; SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$; SW $\frac{1}{2}$ of SW $\frac{1}{4}$; and SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 14, T4S; R22E. Townsite map is filed with the Carbon County Clerk and Recorder, Red Lodge, Montana.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Louise Brownell Survey Coordinator

organization Carbon County Historic Preservation Office date October, 1985

street & number Courthouse Annex telephone (406) 446-3157

city or town Red Lodge state Montana

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is: MK, mms
 national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Maureen Sheff*

title SHPO date 3-18-86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

See Continuation sheet for listing date _____
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____

Chief of Registration

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Two of the first homesteaders, McMonigle and Duffield, were responsible for the initial development of Joliet. In fact, the town of Joliet in 1895 was located on McMonigle's land. According to the oral tradition, McMonigle pretended to discourage the "squatters" by telling them to vacate his land because he was still proving up on his homestead patent and wanted to avoid any government complications. Duffield, however, would tell the "squatters" to stay, settle and ignore McMonigle. The two are thought to have continued this charade until McMonigle received his homestead patent in July, 1899.

By 1896, Joliet consisted of a "post office, 4 stores, 3 saloons, 2 hotels, a meat market and several residences." It was located approximately one mile from the site chosen by the Northern Pacific Railway for its station of Wilsey. A "section house, telegraph office and a few other buildings" were also located at Wilsey. Joliet prospered, surpassing the growth of Wilsey due to the advantages of Joliet's natural setting and supportive land owners. T.W. Smith, who had a homestead patent on the land where the Wilsey settlement was situated, apparently was upset by the amount of land that the railroad occupied and did not encourage the platting of a townsite on this property, which consisted of prime agricultural land to the north of the railroad depot and a steep drop to Rock Creek to the south. Joliet's more favorable location was on a gentle slope above the Creek, with ample room for subdivision, and was owned by homesteaders who were anxious to pursue townsite development.

In November, 1899, the Red Lodge newspaper reported that a "number of energetic citizens" incorporated the Joliet Townsite and Improvement Company and purchased 32 acres from John McMonigle for \$1600. Members of the Company included Harry Duffield; C.F. Oliver, another homesteader in the immediate area; C.F. Gilbert, an early Joliet businessman; L.H. Fowler, pioneer blacksmith of Joliet; and Harry Crissy, who later ran the Joliet livery. By December, 1899, the townsite was platted and the lots were for sale. The townsite company had 5000 pamphlets printed to promote their new town, "setting forth the advantage to be derived from this beautiful and fertile valley."

The initial development of Joliet was rather slow. The 1900 census listed the population of Joliet village at 100, with 21 heads of households. Carbonado, a coal mining town located approximately 3 miles west of Joliet was a thriving community of over 400 people, which included 80 miners. The success of Carbonado undoubtedly contributed to the minimal growth of Joliet during this time, even though Joliet had assumed primacy over its other competitor, Wilsey, along the rail line. The coal deposits of Carbonado had been developed by Marcus Daly and the Anaconda Copper Mining Company, an agent of which purchased the mine sites of Carbonado as early as 1895. Production began in 1897 and ran at over 700 tons a day. However, due to the impurities and poor quality of the coal, the Carbonado mines closed permanently in 1901. And, the decline of Carbonado resulted in the immediate enlargement of Joliet, as business owners and home owners actually dismantled their buildings for relocation in Joliet or moved them wholesale. Many of the occupants of Carbonado, such as Lucius Whitney, William Goff, O.G. Shankin, brought both their residences and businesses to

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Joliet.

In 1903, the Joliet Townsite and Improvement Company sold 69 lots in the original plat. Other individuals remained in the Carbonado area to homestead. In 1906, 39 homesteads had been successfully patented, marking the end of the federally mandated patenting period, just five years after the closure of the Carbonado mines in 1901. This agricultural community looked toward Joliet as its economic and social center, as Carbonado was very quickly and completely abandoned.

By November, 1906, Joliet had become an incorporated town. The importance of incorporation to a small town was adeptly stated by the Joliet Journal earlier that year: incorporation "is absolutely necessary before we can hope to secure water works and electric lights; the two are essential to the progress of any live, up-to-date town....After we have become an organized village, the rest will be easy."

Within the Joliet township, another 37 settlers had successfully proved up on their homesteads by 1907, most of which were in the immediate valley bottom of Rock Creek to facilitate irrigation. Between 1910 and 1920, corresponding to the eastern Montana homesteading boom, 60 homesteaders successfully completed their homestead patents within this township. Many of these later homesteaders located on the less desirable dry benches above Rock Creek.

While the standard crops such as alfalfa and wheat were harvested, ranchers and farmers in the Rock Creek Valley also diversified and found success in the planting of orchards, sugar beets, and even celery. Grain elevators, a beet dump, and a flour mill, locally operated since 1900, brought the farmer's produce to Joliet. In 1911, the Republican Picket noted that "tributary to Joliet are some of the most remarkable farms in Carbon County. Record-breaking yields and extraordinary crop prices are common occurrences and the varied resources of Carbon County are developed to the highest state of projection upon the thousands of broad acres in this section." The high yields, good prices and relative prosperity of the eastern Montana farmers was a transitory phenomenon. The post-war years of 1918-1920 saw an agricultural depression in Montana, occasioned by dramatically lowered prices, drought and tightening of available capital.

The period between 1907 and 1912 brought the establishment of permanent church buildings in Joliet. Local individuals began to canvass for permanent religious facilities as soon as Joliet had established itself as the trading center for the agricultural community and had acquired a sense of stability. Land for a cemetery was obtained from the federal government in 1914. The presence of the permanent churches was important to the community, helping to increase the role the town played in the social lives of the area inhabitants.

Another important institution to the community, Joliet's high school was accredited in 1912 and further strengthened the ties between the agricultural community and Joliet. North of the railroad and the school was the racetrack which began operation in 1909. Whereas the schools and churches provided a cultural and

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moral element to the town, the race track, with a baseball diamond and grandstand, provided the setting for the more leisurely activities and a social focal point for the entire region.

The physical development of Joliet, particularly in the commercial district, was stimulated by the presence of a brick factory operated by Tom Collins, who was one of the foremost citizens and businessmen in the town. Born in England in 1861, Collins had settled previously in Billings where he was involved with numerous businesses. He moved to the Gebo-Fromberg area by 1898 and operated a brick yard at this locality. He supplied brick for the region, including the brick for the courthouse and schoolhouse in Red Lodge.

The brick yard in Joliet was successful from its inception, and in 1906 the first kiln produced "145,000 bricks, all contracted for." In 1911 Collins purchased a brick-making machine, hired professionals to manufacture the brick and expected to make over 500,000 bricks that season. Most of the commercial buildings on Main St. in Joliet were of local brick, as the Southern Hotel and the Meyer Block. Collins, himself, built four brick commercial buildings on Main St., a beautiful brick residence for himself, and donated the brick for the Catholic Church.

The presence of a brick factory was of economic importance to Joliet by providing "employment for ten men and a large force of laborers, skilled and common in the building operation." The Carbon County Journal, recognized the brick factory as one of the "important industries of Joliet, furnishing contractors of Joliet and Red Lodge with building materials...and the weekly payroll is considerable." Unfortunately, Tom Collins died in the spring of 1912 and the brick factory closed soon thereafter. The local Joliet paper eulogized Collins as "Joliet's champion builder and a man who has been foremost in the bounding up of the city and who had been identified with almost every step toward the advancement of its interest and general welfare."

Harry Duffield was the most significant contributor to the establishment and development of Joliet. Born in Ontario, Duffield came to Montana in 1882. In 1894, he homesteaded in the immediate vicinity of Joliet and received his patent in 1902. With another homesteader, he was responsible for the initial settlement of Joliet by encouraging people to "squat" on his land and establish businesses. Duffield was one of the directors of the Joliet Townsite and Improvement Company which was incorporated in 1899 and he served as its president and vice-president. He was responsible for the First Addition to the Joliet townsite and served as Joliet's first constable and on both the town council and school board of trustees. Duffield also was a county commissioner between 1898 and 1900. Locally, Duffield was known as one of the town's prime benefactors, donating land for both churches and schools.

The 1912 Polk Directory described Joliet as "an ideal home town, centrally located in Carbon County and in the heart of one of the most substantial farming and fruit growing districts in the Treasure State." By this time, the commercial

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district of Joliet was able to satisfy the needs of the surrounding agricultural community and any further expansion was unnecessary.

The eight individual resources included in this multiple resource area submission possess very strong, well documented historical associations with the businesses, persons, and public institutions that were responsible for the founding and success of this trading and social center. The Joliet Residential Historic District, which includes the areas south of the railroad right-of-way, retains a high degree of cohesiveness and architectural integrity. The commercial area of Joliet is not included as part of this historic district. Rather, the park-like right-of-way strip which runs at the north end of the district ties the two segments of the residential district together visually.

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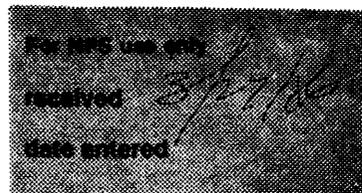
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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Joliet Montana MRA
State Carbon County, MONTANA

Coner

William B. Bushong 5/2/86

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Joliet Residential Historic District

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 5/2/86

Attest

2. Baker and Lovering Store

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

Delores Byers 5/2/86

Attest

3. Smith, T.W., House

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

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Attest

4. Joliet High School

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5. Fire Hall

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for Keeper

William B. Bushong 5/2/86

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6. House on Railroad Avenue

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for Keeper

Delores Byers 5/2/86

Attest

7. Joliet Bridge

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for Keeper

Delores Byers 5/2/86

Attest

8. Rock Creek State Bank

Entered in the National Register

for Keeper

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Attest

9. Southern Hotel

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Delores Byers 5/2/86

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest