

United States Department of the Interior  
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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Lewistown MRA  
State MONTANA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- 11. Lewistown Silk Stocking District  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 6/27/85  
Attest
- Res. etc.* 12. House at 619 W. Janeaux  
~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper William B. Bushong 7/10/85  
Attest
- 13. Huntoon Residence  
Entered in the National Register *for* Keeper Melrose Byers 6/27/85  
Attest
- Res. etc.* 14. Lewistown Merchantile Company  
~~Substantive Review~~ *for* Keeper William B. Bushong 7/10/85  
Attest
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. \_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Attest \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Lewistown nestles below the prairie bench in a vegetated valley, that is further accentuated by 3 small mountain ranges, near the geographic center of Montana. The overall feeling is that of a settlement occupying a defined place that is sheltered from the austerity of the benchland and that is a pleasant haven for both resident and traveler from the characteristic "steppes" of Montana. Viewed from the perimeter of the valley, the community is seen as a mature landscape punctuated by the courthouse dome, church spires and other built landmarks. The valley floor contributes to an identifiable main street by defining the ends of the commercial district. The eastern end of main street is further individualized by the passage of Spring Creek and the Mill Diversion Channel through the community. Spring Creek is tunneled under the commercial district, for about three blocks, to allow development above. The town plat is of particular interest in that it was laid out "mining camp" style, without a survey, and streets run northeast-southwest.

Lewistown is very indicative of the impact of homesteading (perhaps the most representative mid-size community in the region). The Lewistown District, which contained 6,454,000 acres in public land, was to draw thousands of homeseekers to the dry land acres of Central Montana. Lewistown served the needs of the newcomers with an equally fast growing business, industrial, educational, and social complex. The fact that 70% of the main street commercial district and that 90% of the residences in the survey area were built before 1923 and that they have not been significantly altered since their creation speaks to a cohesive and intact group of buildings that are compatible in style, materials, period & methodology. The architectural styles represented in the survey area reflect the growth stages of the community: the presence of buildings constructed during the "emerging" phase, (many of which are locally quarried stone), later followed by "high style" of stylized buildings of more sophisticated construction methodology that were created by architects and engineers who were attracted to Lewistown by the growth, positive economy and cultural associated with a "permanent" city.

In terms of architectural styles, Lewistown could be generalized as exhibiting primarily eclectic characteristics, tempered by some late Victorian embellishments with all its period revival associations, and strongly trending toward the emerging Mid-Western commercial "Main Streets" that are the backbone of so many communities in our region that emerged during the early twentieth century. The eclectic and Victorian work is balanced against a backdrop created by the technologies of craft created stonework, and to a lesser degree, builders' carpentry. The distinguishing architectural associations that set Lewistown apart are in the widespread early use of stone as a building the prolific and exuberant application of important terra cotta on Beaux-Art and period revival buildings, and the rich blend of all masonry technologies from the sedate gray stones to the colorful polychromatic and highly figured brick materials. The masonry technologies of brick and stone also infiltrate the residential areas to a noteworthy rate supplemented by excellent examples of carpentry attributed to Scandinavian and German craftsmen in the community. A high caliber "bungalow" embellished with stick style appointments and linear gable roof residence derived from the "hall" house are perhaps the two most common types of housing.

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Lewistown maintains a strong link to the past through its architecture and, despite some intrusions and alterations to buildings within the Multiple Resource Area, retains the scale and ambience of an early 20th century community.

A comprehensive inventory of all buildings and structures in a 41 block area of Lewistown was conducted by Ken Sievert, Historical Architect from Great Falls, MT and Ellen Cornwall, architectural historian from Lewistown, MT, from 1983-1984. It was found that the vast majority of buildings in the survey area were constructed during the first two decades of the century. Of the area studied, 34% is residential and 66% commercial structures. The Courthouse District, Central Business District, "Silk Stocking" District and individual resources presented in this multiple resource nomination represent the buildings which have retained a high degree of historic integrity and serve as reminders of the founding and development of this small Montana Community.

Detailed descriptions of the three historic districts follow. The independently eligible resources are:

018 Culver Studio	212 5th Ave. N	12/619350/5213200
024 First Presbyterian Church	215 5th Ave. S	12/619600/5213100
026 Armory Civic Center Bldg.	309 5th Ave. S	12/619650/5213050
032 Fergus County High School	412 6th Ave. S.	12/619550/5212850
040 Fergus Co. Improvement Corp.	216 7th Ave. S	12/619400/5213000
041 Residence at	301 7th Ave. S.	12/619450/5212950
048 Residence at	308 8th Ave. S.	12/619420/5212400
095 Residence at	618 W. Janeaux	12/619500/5213050
123 Lewistown Mercantile, Co.,	220 E. Main	12/619800/5213650
218 Huntoon Residence	722 W. Water	12/619440/5212450
226 Residence at	523 W. Watson	12/619530/5212950
238 St. Joseph's Hospital	High St. S.	12/620100/5213750
239 Heating Plant	E. Walton	12/620200/5213700
247 Ayers Residence	316 8th Ave. S.	12/619400/5213750

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1883-1935      **Builder/Architect** multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Lewistown Multiple Resource Area represents the growth and development of a small trading community to a major agricultural and supply center during the first decades of the 20th Century. The buildings and structures included in this nomination stand as evidence of Lewistown's ascension to economic, political, and social importance during the early part of this century, when improved transportation to the city coincided with a massive boom in homesteading activity on the prairie.

In its infancy, Lewistown existed only as a trading post for a nomadic way of life, serving Indian traders, hunters and trappers. Company F., of the 7th Infantry, selected a site near Story's Fort for Camp Lewis, in 1874. Established to protect commerce on the Carroll Trail, the temporary military post was named in honor of a former Major, W.H. Lewis, and it is likely the name "Lewistown", selected ten years later, was derived from the post.

In 1879, some 25 Metis families, descendants of the French and Indian, established the first permanent settlement and before any appreciable white migration occurred, "Big Spring Creek" had 150 Métis families. The present site of Lewistown was taken as homesteads by Francis A. Janeaux and Paul Morase. Many Lewistown streets bear the French names of these first settlers.

Cattlemen began to take advantage of the "open" range in Central Montana in 1880 and the timely discovery of gold in the Judith and Mocassin Mountains spurred the growth of several nearby mining camps. Janeaux was encouraged by these developments to build a store and to plat a portion of his land for a village. Dr. L.A. Lapalme, Lewistown's first M.D., laid out the townsite in 1882 using a fence for a starting line, which is probably the reason the streets of Lewistown run southeast-northwest. Dr. Lapalme's office and residence (site #160) built around 1893 exists as the only frame building in the Central Business District.

The sheep industry, which began around 1882, was a major contributor to the permanent prosperity and the steady development of the area, and many sheep ranchers were to enter banking, land, and/or commercial ventures in Lewistown. George W. Cook, David Hilger, Bernard Stack, James Fergus, William Fergus, S.S. Hobson, J.D. Waite, F.R. Warren, J.S. Huntoon, R. B. Thompson, Samuel Phillips, John Brooks, A.C. Green and G.M. Stone were among the pioneer sheepmen whose names are linked to many businesses and residences within the Multiple Resource Area.

By 1883, Janeaux was indebted to his supplier, T.C. Power and Brother of Fort Benton, for over \$5000 and he agreed to turn over all buildings, merchandise and land necessary to settle his debt to "The Merchant Prince of the Plains". N.M. Erickson was dispatched to the settlement to manage the operation for the Power Brothers in 1883 and began work immediately to build a town, succeeding in establishing a hotel and some mercantile enterprises. He petitioned for a post office designation for "Lewistown" and abandonment of Reed's Fort, a nearby opposition settlement that had been serving as post

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office for "Big Spring Creek". Erickson was successful in this effort and was named Lewistown's first postmaster on March 10, 1884. His efforts to "boom" the town and the political connections of T.C. Power paid off in Lewistown being designated county seat when Fergus County (named for James Fergus) was created from the eastern end of Meagher County in 1885. The white settlers had not only arrived, but had become dominant. Lewistown was becoming the business and trading center for growing stock, farming and mining community. In August of 1899, after several attempts had failed, Lewistown was incorporated as a city. The first officers to assume the reins of government were: Mayor, John P. Barnes; Aldermen, W.H. Culver, William Forsyth, Matthew Regan, W.B. Miner, John M. Parrent and Jas. P. Corcoran; Marshall, James Weaver, who was also street commissioner; Treasurer, J.E. Murray; Clerk, Fred C. Stiles; and police magistrate, Francis MacGowan. W.H. Culver's photography studio and residence (site #018 & 019) and a business building owned by James Weaver (#157) stand within the Multiple Resource Area. By the turn of the century the population of the fledgling community was 1096. The land rush was on ... and Lewistown was to experience tremendous growth as a result. In 1901, the well established Power Merchantile Co. moved to their large new stone facility. (#151).

The building, typical of many early masonry structures, which mark Lewistown's move from trading post to permanent city, is hand cut, coursed sandstone. The nearby presence of good quality building stone, the expense of freighting building materials and the building "boom" encouraged many stonemasons to settle in Lewistown, including a sizeable community of Croatia craftsmen. The population of Lewistown nearly tripled between 1900 and 1910 and the streets were rapidly lined with stone buildings to meet the needs of the fast growing community.

Transportation was most important to the development of the community. Before the Montana Railroad, known as the "Jawbone", gave Lewistown its first train service in 1903, there were about 52 arrivals and departures of stages per week. The Montana Railroad put in several years of strenuous existence before it was purchased and improved by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad in 1908. The "Milwaukee Road" provided convenient access to a developing prairie with regularly scheduled train service. The improved service also had its effect on the built environment, as many structures built in 1909 exhibit increased usage of sophisticated "imported" building materials, such as finely milled lumber and art glass.

Since the railroads, which were major landholders, encouraged homesteading and the consequent expansion of wheat farming, both the Milwaukee and Great Northern railroads were operating branch lines into Lewistown by 1913.

As a singular influence, the "homestead" phenomenon had the most significant impact on the growth of the community. In a short period of time, the town went through the stages of emergence as a growth area, maturing into an established "permanent" city, and finally, stabilized as a centralized exchange for area resources and needs.

It is significant that the architects and engineers continued the widespread use of stone in their earliest buildings when they came to town, resulting in beautiful blends of old world craftsmanship combined with the popular and exuberant eclecticism of America's architecture of the period.

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Additional significance is gained through the areas' association with the resident architectural firms of Wasmandorff and Eastman and the non-resident firms of Link and Haire and Kent & Bell. Numerous structures are attributable to Otto F. Wasmandorff and George Eastmen, whose palette included stone masonry, as seen on the Masonic Temple (#060) and the Presbyterian Church (#024), masterful use of brick, as represented by the 100F/KP Building (#126) and the Bank Electric Building (#177), and knowledge of wood technology utilized on the Crowley (#248) and Cerovski (#048) residences. The most prolific of the non-resident firms in Lewistown was the firm of Link & Haire, who maintained a branch office in the community through the expansion years.

The Power Merchantile Co. (#151) typical of the early stone masonry building tradition in the community, was designed by C.S. Haire in 1901, four years before he entered into a partnership with J.G. Link. The firm contributed both stone and brick additions to St. Joseph's Hospital (#238), the elegant stone Huntoon residence (#218) and numerous brick commercial structures. The Montana Building (#148), Judith Theatre (#147) and the Warr-Lane Building (#154) illustrate their professional and prolific use of terra-cotta during the thriving, expansion years in the community. W.S. Divine, local branch manager for the firm, continued his practice in the community after Link & Haire closed their branch office. His work included the stone (1926) maternity wing of St. Joseph's Hospital (#238) and the 1929 Halpin Block (#162). Architects, J.H. Kent and C.E. Bell, designers of the Montana State Capitol building, worked together on the 1904 Bank of Fergus Co. (#149) and individually on several structures during the early growth years of Lewistown. Kent notably is linked with the 1907 stone Diamond Block (#172), which well illustrates the blend of stone craftsmanship and professional design.

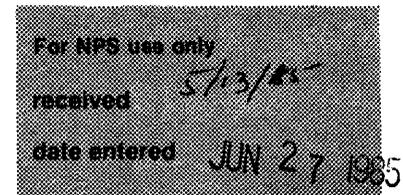
The development of the Lewistown Brick and Tile Co., in 1911, took advantage of nearby clay deposits and had a definite influence on the character of the community after that time. Brick was produced locally until the 1970s.

Rainfall was plentiful in the decade that followed 1909 and farm prices were good, particularly after the outbreak of World War I in 1914. Farm prices rose even higher when the United States entered the war in 1917. 1918 was a bit drier than the year before, but the war was still on and prices remained stable. Disaster hit after the war's end in the form of the worst drought in Montana's history in 1919. For several years, tumbling prices, insect infestation, heat and high winds drove thousands of homesteaders from the land that had so seductively beckoned them to Montana less than a decade earlier. Although Lewistown has not since experienced growth to parallel those formative years, she was firmly established as the trading center for the area, a role she continues to enjoy and that is ironically reflective of her beginning as a trading post.

See Continuation sheets

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Name: Lewistown Silk Stocking District

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The location for the Lewistown Silk Stocking Historic District is as follows:

Beginning at a point corresponding to the west corner on 2nd Ave. of the alley between Boulevard and Washington Street, proceed southwest down alley approximately 250' then southeast to Washington Street then southwest on Washington Street approximately 250' then northwest to centerline of Boulevard Street. Then proceed northeast to 3rd Ave. then northwest approximately 150' then northeast to 2nd Ave. Then proceed southeast to point of beginning.

UTM References:

- A<sub>1</sub> 12/619500/5213600
- B<sub>1</sub> 12/619550/5213500
- C<sub>1</sub> 12/619450/5213400
- D<sub>1</sub> 12/619400/5213550

Acreage: Approximately 4 acres

Owner: Multiple ownership

Status: Occupied

Accessible: Yes, restricted

Present Use: Residential

Physical Description:

The Silk Stocking Historic District is composed of seven architecturally and/or historically significant residences, built for successful pioneer entrepreneur during the opening years of the 20th century. Only minor alterations have occurred to the district's large homes, which date from 1904 to 1919. Located just 2 to 3 blocks from the Central Business District, on Third Ave., the area features mature landscaping and central boulevarding (on Boulevard Street). The 200 block on Boulevard had no alley allowing large grounds for the residents therein. The district retains its original scale and density.

The following buildings contribute to the historic character of the Silk Stocking District:

#240 ✓

#241 ✓

#242 ✓

#243 ✓

#244 ✓

#245 ✓

#246 ✓

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Silk Stocking District, (continued)

**Statement of Significance:**

The Silk Stocking District well illustrates the successes of Central Montana pioneer entrepreneurs. The J.T. Wunderlin and George Wiedeman homes built in 1904 & 1905 were the first in the district. Wunderlin was a partner in the Barnes-King gold mine at Kendall and an organizer of the Empire Bank and Trust Co. in Lewistown. George Wiedeman, a pioneer rancher and businessman, was a partner in the Montana Hardware Co., and assisted in the organization of several businesses, including the Lewistown Brick and Tile Co. As a result of this venture, the 2 1/2 story Wiedeman home, which was designed by C. E. Bell, was given a veneer of the dark red, local brick in 1915. Weymouth D. Symmes, who became owner of the Power Merchantile Co. and Mayor of Lewistown, and John D. Waite were next to build in the area. Waite was a pioneer sheep rancher, banker and senator. The Symmes residence was designed by the local firm of Wasmansdorff and Eastman and the Waite residence was designed by Harry W. Jones of Minneapolis, Minn. Built in 1909, the residences well illustrate the preferred method of construction for the period, utilizing handcut sandstone in construction of the first floor only.

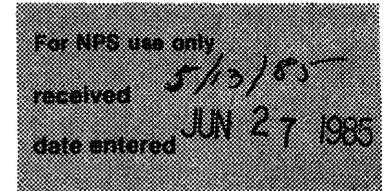
Fred Warren, also a sheep rancher, banker and businessman, built his unique home, between the Wiedeman and Symmes residences in 1915. The high style brick E.C. Swietzer residence, built in 1919 is a showpiece in the district. "Swietzer's" department store was located in the Crowley Block. About the same time, the T.T. Taylor residence was built. Taylor began his career in Lewistown with the Bank of Fergus Co. in 1908. All of these men played an important role in the development of Lewistown and Fergus County and their homes stand as visible signs of the prosperity of the period.

**Boundary Justification:**

This Silk Stocking Historic District consists of seven large residences that were owned and occupied historically by prominent citizens during Lewistown's period of greatest prosperity (1905-1919). This small cluster of buildings was historically perceived as Lewistown's "mansion district" and was locally known by the name of "Silk Stocking District". The northern, eastern, and western boundaries of this district correspond with the boundaries of the Lewistown Historic Resource Survey Area; the southern boundary abuts the Lewistown Central Business Historic District boundary.

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Name: Lewistown Central Business Historic District

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The location for the Lewistown Central Business Historic District is as follows:

Beginning at a point corresponding to the east corner of Washington Street and 4th Ave., proceed northeast to 1st Ave. then southeast on 1st Ave. to the alley between Main and Janeaux Street. Then proceed southwest down alley to 2nd Ave. then southeast to Janeaux Street. Then proceed southwest to 3rd Ave. then southeast to the west corner of the alley between Janeaux and Watson Street. Then proceed southwest down alley 150' then northwest to Janeaux Street. Then proceed southwest to 6th Ave. then northwest to the alley between Main Street and Janeaux, then southwest down alley approximately 120', then northwest to Main Street, then northeast to the corner of Main and 6th, then northeast to Broadway Street. Then proceed northeast to 4th Ave. then northwest to point of beginning.

UTM References:

A<sub>2</sub> 12/619650/5213600  
B<sub>2</sub> 12/619850/5213450  
C<sub>2</sub> 12/618450/5213050  
D<sub>2</sub> 12/619300/5213250

Acreage: Approximately 28 acres

Owner: Multiple ownership

Status: Occupied

Accessible: Yes, restricted

Present Use: Commercial, entertainment, government, religious

Physical Description:

The fact that the Lewistown Central Business District was almost totally created in 20 or so years and that it has not been significantly altered since its creation speaks to a very intact group of buildings that are tremendously compatible and harmonious in their architectural associations.

Functionally, most structures on Main Street were constructed for retail/commercial functions and are still being used for that purpose. Upper levels were often dedicated to apartment or office functions in the thriving growth years, and much of that space is currently vacant. The distinguishing architectural associations that set Lewistown apart are in the widespread early use of stone as a building material, the prolific and exuberant application of imported terracotta on Beaux-Art and period revival buildings, and the rich blend of all masonry technologies from the sedate gray stones to the colorful polychromatic and highly figured brick materials. In addition to the highly stylized structures, Lewistown has its share of "Main Street" commercial structures that are typical of many emerging small towns across the United

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States. These structures are two to four stories in height, masonry in character with relatively plain symmetrical facades, adorned with stamped sheet metal or terra-cotta cornices. Lewistown's Main Street, with few exceptions, retains its original scale & setbacks. First floor storefronts are the most severely altered and impacted parts of historic street facades. Historic photos and maps indicate that several buildings (mostly stone) have been removed on streets adjacent to Main Street. Though there has been some new construction, much of the vacanted space has been given to parking.

The following buildings contribute to the historic character of the Lewistown Central Business Historic District. (Numbers are keyed to the accompanying site map).

✓#004	✓#049	✓#130	✓#141	✓#155	✓#171	✓#183
#006	✓#051		✓#143	✓#156	✓#171.5	✓#186
✓#007	✓#060	✓#131	✓#145	✓#157	✓#172	✓#233
✓#008	✓#063	✓#132	✓#147	✓#158	✓#174	
✓#009	✓#067	✓#133	✓#148	✓#162	✓#176	
✓#010	✓#088	✓#134	✓#149		✓#177	
✓#011	✓#126	✓#136		✓#164	✓#178	
✓#015	✓#127	✓#137	✓#151	✓#167	✓#179	
	✓#128	✓#139	✓#152	✓#168	✓#180	
			✓#154	✓#169	✓#181	

The following buildings are neutral within the Lewistown Central Business Historic District.

✓#003	✓#050	✓#062	✓#160
✓#005	✓#052	✓#066	✓#163
✓#015.5	✓#053	✓#130.5	✓#170
✓#021	✓#054	✓#150	✓#175

The following buildings are non-conforming intrusions within the Historic District.

✓#001	✓#142	✓#181.5
✓#049.5	✓#144	✓#182
	✓#161	✓#184
	✓#165	

**Statement of Significance:**

The Lewistown Central Business Historic District maintains a strong link to the past through its architecture. The 81 building district forms the central core of Lewistown and contains the greatest concentration of significant buildings. The overwhelming architectural significance of this district is its tremendously cohesive and intact grouping of structures: compatible in style, materials, period, and methodology.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary for the Lewistown Central Business Historic District is drawn so as to include the highest concentration on commercial historic structures. Late 1950's and 1960's service stations (located outside the district boundary) have been built at either end of Main Street and serve to mark the eastern and western termini of the historic district. Two prominent

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corner buildings (#186 and #233) are included within the historic district but the remainder of the blocks upon which these buildings are located are excluded due to the high number of non-contributing buildings. The corner structures relate in orientation, material integrity, and historical association to the commercial district at-large and their corner location make them major visual contributors to the historic district streetscape.

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Name: Lewistown Courthouse Historic District

Location and Verbal Boundary Description:

The location for the Lewistown Courthouse Historic District is as follows:

Beginning at the south corner of 6th Ave. and Washington Street, proceed southwest to the corner of 7th ave. and Main, then southeast to the west corner of the alley between Main and Janeaux Street then down alley southwest to a point approximately 130' southwest of 8th Ave. Then proceed northwest to Main Street then southwest to a point opposite 10th Ave. Then proceed northwest to Broadway Street then northeast on Broadway Street to a point approximately 150' southwest of 8th Ave. then northwest approximately 100'. The proceed northeast to 8th Ave. then northwest on 8th Ave. to alley between Washington and Boulevard Street. Then proceed northeast down alley approximately 150' then southeast to Washington Street. Then proceed northeast to Washington Street to point of beginning.

UTM References:

A<sub>3</sub> 12/619250/5213200  
B<sub>3</sub> 12/619400/5213050  
C<sub>3</sub> 12/619050/5212750  
D<sub>3</sub> 12/619050/5213050

Acreage: Approximately 16 acres

Owner: Multiple Ownership

Status: occupied

Accessible: Yes, restricted

Present Use: Residential, commercial, government, education

Physical Description:

The Fergus County Courthouse stands as the pivotal structure in the Courthouse Historic District of Lewistown. The mixed-use district, overlooking the commercial area, contains 27 buildings, 17 of which are residential, including a number of the earliest architecturally and/or historically significant residences in the Multiple Resource Area. The Courthouse is surrounded by substantial residences the City Library, Art Center, Junior High School and three service stations. Despite some intrusions, the district retains its original scale and holds within its boundaries, buildings which will document the stages of development in Lewistown.

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The following buildings contribute to the historic character of the Courthouse Historic District:

✓#028	✓#045	✓#072	✓#185	✓#193	✓#248
✓#033	✓#046	✓#073	✓#188	✓#195	✓#249
✓#034	✓#068	✓#074	✓#191	✓#196	
✓#035	✓#070	#075	✓#192	✓#202	

Structures that are neutral within the historic district:

✓#069	✓#187	✓#206
✓#071	✓#190	✓#207

Structures that are intrusive within the Courthouse district:

✓#027  
✓#194

Statement of Significance:

The Courthouse Historic District is a well preserved area, with good examples of architecture which trace the major stages of development in Lewistown. The district displays the early use of stone as a building material and specialized materials that speak to the development of transportation and industry. The growth of government, medical care and education, as well as the progress made by business and professional men is clearly defined in the districts buildings.

The Lewistown Art Center is housed in the (Pre-1900) Charles Lehman Bunkhouse. Lehman, among the first merchants attracted to Lewistown, purchased considerable property and established a general store in the fledging community in 1893. The coursed, rubble stone bunkhouse stands as visible evidence of the evolution from trading post to emerging permanent community. The skill of the stonemasons, who were drawn to the rapidly growing community in the opening years of the 20th century is well illustrated in the district by the elegant cut stone, "Four-square" Hobensack home, the Carnegie Library and the May Apartments.

Central to the district is the finely preserved Fergus County Courthouse, which rises from the center of a landscaped city block. Built to accommodate the business of the rapidly growing county in 1907, the planned use of brick, instead of native stone, prompted a great public controversy. It was built adjoining a stone jail (1904), which was designed by C.E. Bell, one of the designers of the Montana State Capitol Building in Helena.

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Attorney William Blackford's substantial residence stands directly across Main Street from the Courthouse and illustrates, by the use of finely milled lumber and art glass, the influence of railroad development on the built environment.

The two David Hilger residences sit northwest of the Courthouse. Hilger, who seemed to be involved in almost every enterprise "for the good of the community", lived first in a building that was moved to the site from Fort Maginnis (before 1900). In 1913, the Hilgers built a new Lewistown brick residence. Other notable Lewistown brick structures in the district are: the Attix Clinic and the residences of William Able and Dr. Bright, which were all designed by the local firm of Wasmandorff and Eastman. The firms' knowledge of wood technology exists in the Crowley Residence in the Courthouse District.

**Boundary Justification:**

The western end of Main Street in the vicinity of the Fergus County Courthouse historically developed as a residential area rather than as an extension of the commercial district. The boundaries of the Courthouse Historic District are drawn so as to include those blocks with the highest concentrations of structures that have retained a high degree of historic architectural integrity. The northern and western limits of the Courthouse Historic District are defined by the boundaries of the Lewistown Historic Resource Survey Area. Future historical and architectural inventory in the northwestern residential neighborhoods of Lewistown may provide the basis upon which this historic district could later be enlarged. Three prominent corner structures (#196, #248, and #249) are specifically included within this historic district because of their visual association and importance in contributing to the sense of a coherent entity of the Courthouse district.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Deal, Babbie and Loretta, (eds.), The Heritage Book of the Original Fergus County Area, Fergus County Bi-Centennial Heritage committee, 1976.  
 Hargreaves, Mary Wilma M., Dry Farming in the Northern Great Plains 1900-1925, Harvard University Press, 1957

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 48

Quadrangle name Lewistown, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:625000

### UTM References

A 

1	2
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6	2	0	2	4	0
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5	2	1	3	7	0	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	2
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6	1	9	5	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	1	2	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	2
---	---

6	1	9	1	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	1	2	7	4	0
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D 

1	2
---	---

6	1	9	0	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

5	2	1	2	8	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	2
---	---

6	1	9	5	0	0
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5	2	1	3	6	0	0
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F 

1	2
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6	2	0	1	0	0
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5	2	1	3	8	5	0
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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

### 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 Ken Sievert, Historical Arch. & Ellen Cronwall, Survey Coordinator

organization Lewistown City/County Planning Board date Fall 1983

street & number P.O. Box 739 telephone (406) 538-9046

city or town Lewistown state Montana

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

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

*Maude Shuff*

title SHPO

date 4-19-85

For NPS use only

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

*William B. Bushong*  
 Keeper of the National Register

date 6/27/85

Attest: *See Continuation Sheet for listings*  
 Chief of Registration

date

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Burlingame, Merrill and K. Ross Toole, A History of Montana, Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc., New York, 1957.

Kranzel, Carl Frederick, The Great Plains of Transition, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1955.

The Lewistown Democrat News

The News Argus

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Sanborn Map Company of New York, 1894, 1901, 1908, others.

Sanders, Helen Fitzgerald, History of Montana, Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago, 1913.

Sparlin, Alberta C., The Trail Back, Central Montana Historical Society, 1976.

Stout, Tom (ed.) Montana: Its Story and Biography, Vol. 2, American Historical Society, 1921.

Toole, K. Ross, Twentieth Century Montana: A State of Extremes, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1972.

Zellick, Anna, The Men From Briber; The Croation Stonemasons of Lewistown, Montana: Montana; the Magazine of Western History, Montana Historical Society, Winter 1978.

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Geographical Data (Continued)

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA MRA

Location and Verbal Description:

The Location for the Lewistown, Montana, Multiple Resource Area is as follows:

Beginning at a point approximately 150' southwest of 8th Ave. on Broadway Street proceed northwest approximately 100' then northeast to 8th Ave., then northwest on 8th Ave. to alley between Washington and Boulevard Street then northeast down alley approximately 150'. Then proceed southeast to Washington Street then northeast 1450' then northwest approximately 300' to centerline of Boulevard Street. Then proceed southeast approximately 300' to alley between Boulevard and Washington Street then southwest along alley 250'. The proceed southeast to Washington Street then northeast to 1st Ave. then southeast along 1st Ave. to Broadway Street. Then proceed northeast to High Street then southeast to Main Street. Then proceed approximately 400' northeast to a point opposite Ouellette Street. Then proceed southeast to Water Street then southwest approximately 220' then northwest approximately 120' then southwest to High Street. Then northwest to Janeaux Street then southwest to Miller Street. Then proceed southeast approximately 300' to a point corresponding to Watson Street then southwest to Daws Street then northwest on Daws Street to Janeaux Street. The proceed southwest on Janeaux to 3rd Ave. then southeast on 3rd ave. approximately 180' to alley between Janeaux and Watson Street. Then proceed southwest along alley approximately 150' then northwest to Janeaux Street then southwest on Janeaux Street to 4th Ave. Then proceed southeast on 4th Ave. to the west corner of Water Street then northwest on Water Street to 6th Ave. then southeast on 6th Ave. to the west corner of Spring Street. Then proceed southwest on Spring Street to the east corner of 7th Ave. then northwest on 7th Ave. to the west corner of Water Street then southwest on Water Street approximately 750' then northwest to alley between Water and Watson Street. Then proceed northwest to Janeaux then southwest on Janeaux Street to approximately a point opposite 10th Ave. then northwest to Broadway Street then southeast on Broadway Street to point of beginning.

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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Lewistown MRA  
State Fergus County, MONTANA

Cover 6/27/85

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

1. Armory Civic Center Building

Keeper

6/27/85 S

Attest

2. Heating Plant

already listed with St. Joseph Hospital under 9/13/78

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

3. Ayers House

Entered in the National Register

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

4. Clark-Cardwell House

Substantive Review

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

5. Fergus County High School

Entered in the National Register

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

6. First Presbyterian Church

Entered in the National Register

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

7. House at 301 7th Ave. South

Substantive Review

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

8. House at 301 8th Ave. South

Substantive Review

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

9. Lewistown Central Business Historic District

Substantive Review

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

10. Lewistown Courthouse Historic District

Entered in the National Register

Keeper

6/27/85

Attest

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

Name Lewistown MRA  
State MONTANA

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

11. Lewistown Silk Stocking  
District

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 6/27/85

Attest

*Resub.* 12. House at 619 W. Janeaux

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 7/10/85

Attest

13. Huntoon Residence

Entered in the  
National Register

for Keeper

Melrose Byrum 6/27/85

Attest

*Resub.* 14. Lewistown Merchantile Company

~~Substantive Review~~

for Keeper

William B. Bushong 7/10/85

Attest

15.

Keeper

Attest

16.

Keeper

Attest

17.

Keeper

Attest

18.

Keeper

Attest

19.

Keeper

Attest

20.

Keeper

Attest