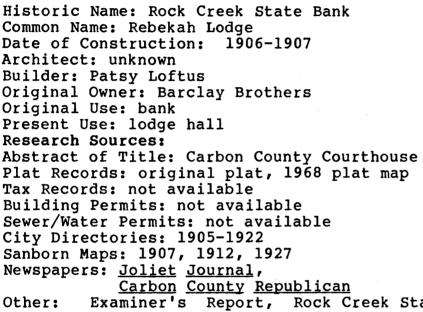
See photograph # 8, 9

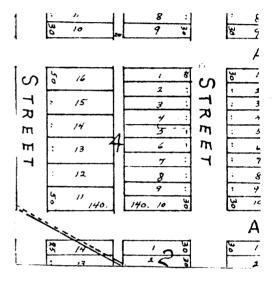
MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

Legal Description: Original Plat Block 4 Lot 1 Address: Main Street, Joliet, Montana Ownership: Name: La Cuesta Rebekah Lodge #56 Address: Joliet, Montana





Roll#4/Frame#6



Other: Examiner's Report, Rock Creek State Bank, MHS Record Series 41, 42.

Location Map

HISTORICAL AND/OR ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

The building is significant as one of the important commercial endeavors in Joliet for the erection of a bank building gave credibility to the town and also reinforced the development of Joliet as the trade center of the surrounding agricultural community in the early 1900's.

Architecturally, it is one of the most substantial brick structures extant in Joliet. It is an excellent example of early 20th century brick commercial vernacular architecture exhibiting Romanesque elements. Banks in small Montana communities were often built on corner lots along the main commercial artery, with the cant entrances a common feature. Generally, the 20th century banks were the most finely detailed masonry structures in the community, giving sense of grandeur and stylistic a sophistication to the commerical streetscape.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

Claude E. Hudson, the cashier for the Bank of Joliet, was instructed by his superiors as early as October, 1905, to "make necessary contract, just as soon as possible, for erection of a new bank building" as reported in the <u>Joliet Journal</u>. The building construction began in December, 1906 on the foundation, though the progress was slow "due to a recent cold snap." The contractor was Patsy Loftus from Billings and the structure was given "finishing touches " in April, 1907 by Mahler and Montgomery, local contractors. The building was built at a cost of \$8078.65.

The Bank of Joliet was organized in 1904 by the Barclay Brothers and located in the Whitney Building on Main Street. The Barclay brother were entrepeneurs in the area and one of the brothers William was connected with the Bridger Bank of Amoretti, Barclay and Company. William Barclay was president of the Joliet Bank and D.M. Barcley was Vice-president. However, before the bank building was completed, the management of the Bank new of Joliet changed and Lee Simonsen of Absarokee with E.W. Pagel of Joliet formed the Pagel Simonsen and Company. The Bank of Joliet became the Rock Creek State Bank which served Joliet and the community until December 15, 1923 when it closed its' doors. The structure was purchased by the Joliet Lodge No. 77 I.O.O.F in $^{\prime\prime}$ April, 1926 and held by this organization until 1979. The building is presently owned by the La Cuesta Rebekah Lodge #56.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

This impressive brick commercial building makes the most of its' corner location with a canted wall entrance onto Main Street. Placed on a high rock faced sandstone ashlar foundation, the division between the sandstone foundation and the brick wall is a smooth faced sandstone ashlar row. This common bond brick building has semi-eliptical arched windows with sandstone keystones and sills. There is a stone water molding extending continuously across the walls at the window levels. The window sills also form a continuous band around the building.

Above the keystones the brick is stepped, maintaining the horizontal pattern. The metal cornice is detailed with dentils and the brick parapet capped with a soldier course. The roof is flat and brick chimneys extend from the rear and towards the front of the building.

The canted entrance has a semi-eliptical arch. Centered over the entrance is a embossed panel with BANK. The entrance has been filled in with plywood, as have been the windows. This has not however disturbed the original form.

The rear of the structure is common bond brick with the segmental arch door and window filled in. There is also a attached small wood frame lean to which encloses the stairs to the basement.

INTEGRITY:

The bank has excellent integrity. The building is one of the most impressive in Joliet and the minor alterations of filling in the windows and door has not disturbed the form in any manner. The original windows exist behind the infill.

FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Joan Louise Brownell Address: Carbon County Historic Preservation Office Red Lodge, Montana Date: August, 1985

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Acreage: less than one acre USGS Quad: Fromberg/7.5 minute/1956 UTM's: 12/658640/5038560

Verbal Boundary: lot 1 of block 4 of the Original Townsite of Joliet.

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