

Legal Description Site:

Address

Current Owner

Private Current Owner Address

NAD 83 NAD 27

Historic Name

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Common Name

Moved? Estimated Documented

Date of Construction Estimated

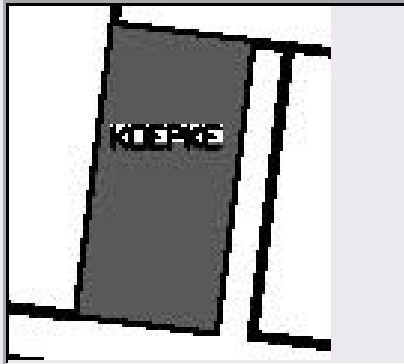
Documented

Date of Move:

Building Changes

Quad Name:

Footprint:



Architect

Builder

Original Owner

Original Use

Present Use

Foundation:

Exterior Walls:

Roof:

Other Materials:

Bibliography Tax Records, Hill County Courthouse: Sewer and Water Permits, Public Works, Havre
Havre Hill County Library:
Grits, Guts, and Gusto. A History of Hill County.
Polk Directories and Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps.
Havre Daily News, various years.; The Plaindealer, various years.; The Promoter, various years.; The Havre Daily Promoter, various years
Interviews: John Inman, Bob and Nancy Doney.

Physical Description This is a one-and-one-half-story red brick commercial building with elements of Art Deco in its design that faces south onto Second Street. The brick is stretcher course with details of standing stretcher course at the foundation, above window and door openings, and near the roofline. Intermittent bands of terra cotta, brick, and terra cotta squares are located near the foundation as well. The building houses two businesses which have replacement commercial bronze glass windows and doors on either side of the south façade. The entrances, located at the west and east ends of the elevation, have glass transoms and canopies with "317" and "319" over them. The "319" entrance originally was a window modified to accompany the second business. The canopies cover what once were multi-light fixed windows. Two, two-light, fixed, metal-framed windows are centered on the elevation replaced original fixed windows with split, ten-light transoms. The same brick and terra cotta surrounds are repeated here. Canopies over the windows say "T. Wayne Koepke Certified Public Accountant" and "Enell, Any Woman, Any Lifestyle".

Brick outlines the doors and canopies in stretcher to header course. A band of standing stretcher course intersects the canopy. Single round windows with iron ornamental grate and header brick surround are located above each entrance. Stretcher course brick bands and terra cotta squares are located near the roofline and above a terra cotta panel that once said "Telephone Building". The roofline is capped with terra cotta. The west side of the building indicates additions over the years. Windows are casements or infilled. The rear is part of the Elks Lodge, has infilled windows, a metal door, and signage, "Elks BPOE 1201" and "use front entrance".

Historical Significance In 1915, Montana Power Company (MPC), owned the original phone company which eventually operated in the building located to the east at 321 Second Street. The building housed the company offices, phone exchange, and power equipment from the previous location. They had 700 phones in Havre when they first started the phone company.

The telephone exchange system had remained separate from the power company in the early years. The first system was located in the baggage room of the Havre Hotel in 1903. Later that year, the system moved into the first electric-lighted building in Havre. Poles extended west to Christopher "Shorty" Young's Concert Hall, east to the Great Northern Railroad shops, and south to Sixth Street on Third and Fourth Avenues. The city of Havre purchased the Fort Assiniboine phone system and combined it with the city system which also rang to fire and police call boxes.

This building was constructed in 1922 and owned by MPC but the phone system had been purchased by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company in November of 1918. Grits, Guts, and Gusto indicates that the same year, the company was paying MPC \$75.00 per month in rent, utilities, and one-half of janitorial expenses.

The front portion of the building served as offices and reception for greeting customers; the operators were located at the back. A rear section was added to the building in the 1950s for the service department. From 1948 to 1959, the company, then known as Mountain States Telephone, added 100,000 phones to their system. By 1959, however, the phone company was relocated in their new building at 200 Fifth

Avenue South. In 1960, there was a children's clothing store in one-half of the building. Later, it became the Blue Gardenia Beauty Shop for many years before the current owners took over.

Integrity The building has undergone minor changes mostly in the windows and doors, additions of awnings and infill of the masonry sign. These, however, appear to be reversible. The majority of the historic fabric including the interesting brick detail are intact.

Statement of Significance The building is significant historically because of its association with the Montana Power Company. This building represents the entrance of the Hi-line into the modern age of technology. Architecturally the building is significant because it is designed in a most unusual style with Commercial Craftsman and Art Deco elements.

Form Prepared By Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address

Date Entered

Picture:



Topo Map

