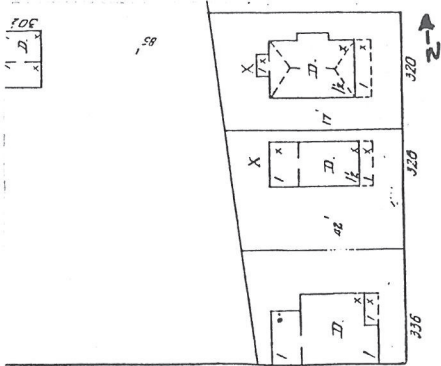


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 1 Frame# 6

Legal Description: Meili-Almas Addition, Block 9, Part of Lots 4-5  
Address: 320 First Avenue  
Ownership Name: Willado Gueterrez  
Address: 320 First Avenue  
private: X  
public:

Historic Name: H. Earl Clack House  
Common Name: The First Clack House  
Date of Construction: c. 1905 (Water record)  
Architect: N/A  
Builder: H. Earl Clack  
Original Owner: H. Earl Clack  
Original Use: Single-Family Residence  
Present Use: Single-Family Residence

Physical Description:

One-and-one-half story, 2 x 3 bay, stone and wood-frame transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival residence. Cross gable roof over irregular plan. The walls of the first floor are rusticated ashlar masonry, while the facades of the gables are clad in square-cut, scalloped, and diamond-shaped shingles. The foundation is a combination of cut stone and poured cement. Wood shingle roof.

The fenestration varies. The first floor of the east (main) elevation has a fixed wood-sash cottage window with a lozenge top light. A similar but smaller cottage window is located in the center of the bay window on the side (N) facade. The side planes of the bay window include narrow windows with lozenge top lights. The main (E) gable has a Palladian window with lozenge side lights. Most of the other windows are 1/1 double-hung sash with lozenge in their upper lights. All main-floor windows are segmentally arched with radiating stone voussoirs.

The right-side main entry is accessed via a full-width open-air porch that runs along the main (E) facade. The porch's hip roof is supported by pairs of corner piers. The porch openings exhibit ogee curves under a wide entablature. The sidewalls are sheathed with narrow-reveal clapboard.

The two large gabled dormers on the side (N & S) facades were added c. 1948.

The site is completely level and bordered on the north by a east-west service alley.

Associated structure: There is a simple shed roof outbuilding on the rear (west) of the lot. It is too small a building to be considered as contributing to the proposed historic district.

Historical Information:

Originally built by and for H. Earl Clack (1881-1955), one of Havre's most successful entrepreneurs of the 1920s and 1930s. He built the house himself with brown sandstone from the MacFarlane quarries south of Havre.

Clack emigrated to Havre from Blossom, Texas in 1903. His sister, Mrs. Maude L. Sands, was already established as a resident of Havre, which probably played an important role in his decision. "His first job was as a hod carrier, assisting the bricklayers building a new school." (A History of Montana, Vol. III) Other early jobs in Havre include an 18-month stint as a cowboy. Afterwards Clack purchased some equipment and livestock from Simon Pepin and established his own transfer business. The 1909 Polk Directory lists his various interests as "Feed/Fuel/Storage/Transfer/Hay and Grain."

In 1911 Clack financed the construction in Havre of the first grain elevator in northern Montana. Eventually Clack financed the construction of a total of five grain elevators along the Hi-Line.

After working for a time as the local agent for the Continental Oil Company, in 1913 H. Earl Clack established the H. Earl Clack Company. The company specialized in the wholesale distribution of gas and oil to over four hundred retail outlets in a four-state

area and eventually marketed its own "Hi-Power" brand of gasoline. Clack financed the construction of several combination gas station/motels along U.S. Highway #2 in Montana and Idaho and is credited with "building the first drive-in gas station in Northern Montana" in c. 1918. The corporation was eventually acquired by Husky Oil in 1954. (A History of Montana)

Footnote Sources:

Grits, Guts and Gusto; A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Commission. (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 236-37.

Lewis, A History of Montana Vol. III.

Research Sources:

Sanborn Maps: 1920, 1939

Assessor's Records, Hill County, Hill County Courthouse, Havre, Montana.

Water Record # 12 (1905) and # 1879 (1948) and Sewer Record # 34 (1905), Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana.

Integrity:

Good. Despite the comparatively-recent addition of the two gabled dormers on the north and south facades, this structure still retains a substantial proportion of its original configuration, fabric (i.e. ashlar stone walls, full-width porch) and styling details (i.e. decoratively-cut exterior wood shingles, Palladian gable window).

Significance:

This structure is one of the most important within the proposed historic district for several reasons. Primarily it a rare and intact example of the use of locally-quarried brownstone and one of a handful of surviving Queen Anne-influenced structures within the district and throughout the city.

Secondarily it is associated with a very prominent local businessman - H. Earl Clack. Clack built it himself and lived there from the time it was built until 1928. It was at that point he financed and moved into a new residence at 532 Second Avenue. His second residence has already been listed on the National Register.

This building would qualify for the National Register under criteria A (commerce) and criteria C.

Form Prepared By:

Name: Richard Bernstein

Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501

Date: February 1, 1988

Revision: March 14 and May 28, 1988

Geographical Information:

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad: Havre, Montana

UTM's: