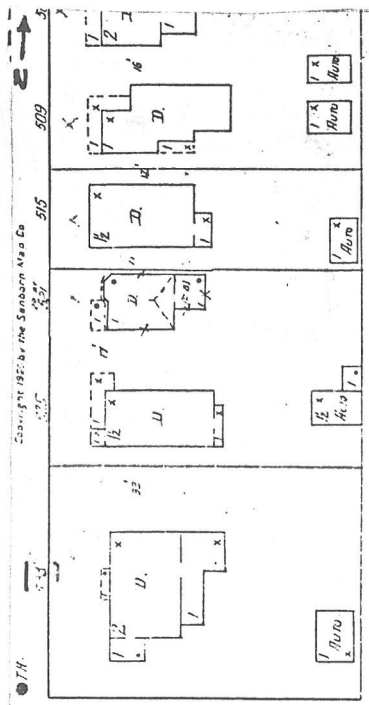


HAVRE-HILL COUNTY LIBRARY.

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 4A Frame# 20A-21A

Legal Description: Decelles Second Addition, Block 4, Part of Lot 8, All of lots 9 and 10

Address: 535 Second Avenue

Ownership Name: Bob J. Siebrasse

Address: 535 Second Avenue

private: x

public:

Historic Name: Frank A. Buttrey House

Common Name: Buttrey House

Date of Construction: 1919 (water record)

Architect: Frank F. Boussout

Builder: probably Christ Fuglevand

Original Owner: Frank A. Buttrey

Original Use: Single-family residence

Present Use: Multi-family residence

Physical Description:

Large two-story, Neo-Colonial Revival, wood-frame residence. Shallow hip roof with open eaves and decoratively-carved exposed rafter ends. Rectangular plan with some recent rear additions. The exterior is sheathed with wide-gauge clapboard siding. Two interior brick chimneys service five interior fireplaces.

The fenestration varies. Most of the first floor and the second-story sun room on the south side have ten-light wood casement windows (The second story was added to the original first story sometime after 1939); the latter are in continuous bands. The second floor of the main block has 8/8 and 6/6, double-hung, wood sash windows with plain wood sill and trim. The two smaller second-story windows in the center of the main facade have flower boxes just below, which are supported by wooden modillions.

The main entry is centrally located and enclosed within a foyer with a gable roof and exposed rafters with carved ends. The entry door is flanked by 15-light sidelights and wooden Tuscan columns. The entry is approached via steps, landing and walk, all made of brick.

A large single-story hip roof addition has been constructed onto the rear of the main block and a separate entry (205 Sixth Street) was established on the south side in 1984.

Asphalt shingle roof. (Originally wood shingle roof that was extant until 1939.) Brick planting beds line the front of the structure's concrete foundation.

Associated structure: A large detached two-bay garage was built in 1984 onto the rear of the lot and faces south onto Sixth Street. Asphalt-shingled shallow gable roof. Aluminum siding. It would be a contributing structure within the proposed historic district.

Historical Information:

The earliest water and the sewer record establish the original date of construction of this house as 1919.

This house was originally built for Frank A. Buttrey (1868-1949); one of Havre's and the region's most prominent businessmen and entrepreneurs. In 1902 Frank Buttrey settled in Havre along with his wife Jane, who shared many business responsibilities. In August of that year they established their first shop in Havre which they named the "Fair Store."

Their store and merchandising practices received a great deal of attention because of their modern and innovative approach in dealing with the public and their employees. For instance, the sales staff was encouraged to informally meet on their own time, in order to discuss store-wide procedures and develop possible improvements. Another novel practice associated with the Buttrey store was the refunding of fares to those customers who traveled to Havre by train. Perhaps the store's greatest contribution to the region and the state of Montana, was the establishment of the state's first radio station, KFBB, in the early 1920s. The station broadcasted from quarters within the Buttrey's department store in downtown Havre.

Footnote Sources:

Sanborn Maps: 1910, 1920, 1939.

Grits, Guts and Gusto: A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Commission. (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 225-29.

Robert C. Lucke, Historic Homes of North Central Montana (Havre, Montana, Robert C. Lucke Enterprises, 1977), pp. 44-45.

Integrity:

Despite the extensive additions to the rear in 1984 in order to accommodate the structure's use as a multiple-family residence, those sections of the architect-designed building that are most visible from the street and the public passing-by, are basically unchanged.

Significance:

This Neo-Colonial Revival structure is one of the largest and most stylish within the locality of Havre. It is associated with the Buttrey family - one of the earliest and most successful in Havre's early and formative history in the first two decades of the twentieth century. It would qualify for the National Register under criteria C as an important example of the Neo-Colonial Revival as executed by Frank F. Bossout, a locally important architect, and under criteria A (commerce) due to its association with the Buttreys; both of whom were essential in the establishment of a statewide chain of merchandising outlets.

Form Prepared By:

Name: Richard Bernstein
Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501
Date: December 9, 1987
Revisions: April 10, and May 30, 1988

Geographic Information:

Acreage: Less than an acre
USGS Quad: Havre, Montana
UTM's: