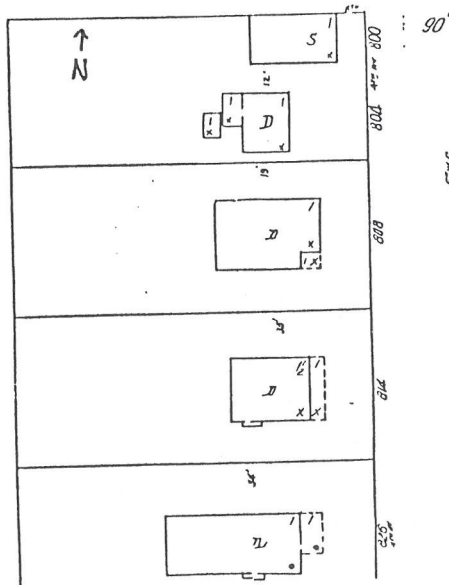


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL  
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 32 Frame# 18

Legal Description: First High School Addition, Block 4, Lot 3 & 4  
Address: 832 Fourth Avenue  
Ownership Name: Ann Lambert  
Address: 832 Fourth Avenue, Havre, MT.  
private: x  
public:

Historic Name: Clyde and Eglantine Roper House  
Common Name: Roper House  
Date of Construction: 1913 (Assessor's records)  
Architect: Unknown  
Builder: Unknown  
Original Owner: Clyde and Eglantine Roper  
Original Use: Single-family Residence  
Present Use: Single-family Residence

Physical Description:

One story wood frame craftsman bungalow. 3 x 3 bay. Gable roof over square plan. Exposed rafters and brackets support overhanging eaves. Asphalt shingles have replaced original wood wood shingles between 1920 and 1939. Aluminum siding has replaced original clapboard. Interior brick chimney. Concrete foundation with no apparent basement (probably a crawlspace).

Enclosed porch covers two-thirds of facade. Porch was enclosed sometime after 1939. Porch has 1/1 double-hung sash windows.

Entry is through porch and reached by concrete steps. Porch has gable roof with brackets.

2/1 double-hung sash windows on walls and rear facade, except for southside which has c. 1960 fixed casement windows.

### Historical Information

Clyde Roper was a prominent Havre-area businessman and rancher. Born in Centralia, Illinois in 1886, Roper came to Havre in 1907. Upon his arrival in Havre, he was employed as a baggageman in the Great Northern Railway freight house until 1909. In 1909, he owned the Roper Transfer Company. He sold the company in 1917. Clyde and his wife Eglantine bought the lots for this house and the rental unit located at 815 Fourth Avenue in August, 1911.<sup>1</sup> This house was built during the summer of 1913 for about \$3,000.<sup>2</sup> Roper and his family moved into the house on July 29, 1913.<sup>3</sup>

In 1913, Roper filed for a homestead ten miles north of Havre. He moved to the homestead with his family during that year, keeping the house in town for his family during the winter months.<sup>4</sup>

In 1914, Roper was robbed of \$30 at gunpoint near Big Sandy by two half-breeds. The crooks shot at Roper as he was making his getaway, when his Model T Ford stalled a few yards from where the crime took place.<sup>5</sup>

In 1916, Roper and R.F. Harding were sued by the Farmer's Co-operative for non-delivery of contracted grain.<sup>6</sup> In 1917, an item appeared in the newspaper stating that Roper had been arrested for resisting arrest by police officer Holtzendorf. Roper drew a shotgun on Holtzendorf when the latter attempted to serve a warrant.<sup>7</sup> By 1917, Roper's homestead had become prosperous. He had acquired sufficient lands adjoining his homestead to become a successful wheat farmer and stockgrower. During Prohibition, Roper became indirectly involved in the death of a Lewistown whiskey smuggler named Jack Harden. According to the Coroner's Inquest, Roper often cashed checks for smugglers on their way to Canada to buy illegal beer and liquor. Evidence given during the inquest suggests that the Roper's homestead and the Northern Auto Garage in Havre was used as a storage depot by smugglers.<sup>8</sup> In 1960, Clyde sold his ranch to John Verploegen of Havre. Roper died in 1964.

Eglantine Roper was born in 1888 to Hypolite and Marie Bessette of Fort Benton. She was educated at Sacred Heart Academy at Missoula and at the University of California. She was employed as Assistant Cashier and Stenographer at the Great Northern Railway freight depot in Havre in May, 1910, where she met Clyde Roper. By November, 1910, she had become the agent for the Westchester, The Michigan and Marine and Orient Fire Insurance Company.<sup>9</sup> She married Clyde in May, 1911.<sup>11</sup> By 1913, Eglantine was a land attorney in Havre, although she was not formally admitted to the

Montana Bar until 1919.

Eglantine and Clyde operated the Northern Auto Company in Havre until 1925. Eglantine owned the garage while Clyde, apparently, acted as manager. Although an attorney, Eglantine appears to have been primarily interested in real estate. During the 1930s, she went to California where she sold real estate. She was also an agent for the U.S. Building and Loan Association of Butte.<sup>12</sup> She, along with Clyde, also sold oil leases in the Shelby area. Eglantine died in 1974.

In 1952, a building permit was issued to Eglantine Roper to build a \$500 addition to the present house. Ed Donahue built the addition.

Footnote Sources:

1. Havre Plaindealer, August 2, 1911.
2. Ibid, May 31, 1913.
3. Ibid, August 2, 1913.
4. Ibid, February 22, 1913.
5. Ibid, April 11, 1914.
6. Ibid, December 23, 1916.
7. Ibid, October 20, 1917; Register of Criminal Actions no. 172, dated October 31, 1917. Clerk of Courts Office, Hill County Courthouse, Havre, Montana.
8. Coroner's Inquest no. 55. Clerk of Courts Office. Hill County Courthouse, Havre, Montana.
9. Havre Plaindealer, May 7, 1910.
10. Ibid, November 19, 1910.
11. Ibid, May 6, 1911.
12. Hill County Democrat, March 4, 1927; Havre Daily News, January 26, 1929.

Grits, Guts and Gusto: A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Commission. (Havre: Bear PAW Printers, 1976), pp. 45-46.

Polk Directory, Havre and Chouteau County, 1909.

Polk Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1915-16 and 1929-30

Sanborn Maps, 1910, 1920 and 1939.



Building Permit no. 3712, dated April 5, 1952. Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana.

Research Sources:

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

Water Record no.451 (1913) and Sewer Record no.311 (1913), Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana

Integrity:

Despite the addition of the aluminum siding and the casement windows along the southside, this structure retains enough of its original configuration, historic fabric and many distinctive features indicative of its craftsman styling.

Significance:

This building maintains a high level of architectural integrity and would strongly contribute to the proposed Historic District. It would qualify for the National Register under criteria C as a good local example of a craftsman-styled bungalow built in Havre during the period of its greatest economic and demographic growth from 1913 to 1917.

Form Prepared by:

Name: Jonathan Axline

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

Date: September 25, 1988.

Revised: October 25, 1988.

Geographical Information

Acreage: Less than one acre

USGS Quad:

UTM's: