

Legal Description:  Site:

Address:

Current Owner:

Private:  Current Owner Address:

NAD 83  NAD 27

Zone:  Easting:  Northing:

Moved?  Estimated  Documented

Date of Move:

Quad Name:

Historic Name:

Common Name:

Date of Construction:  Estimated

Documented

Building Changes:

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.](#)

Physical Description: This is a one-and-one-half-story building constructed in 1941, the same time as the adjoining building, 201 Third Street, in blond stretcher and header course brick, and facing west onto Third Avenue. It has five store fronts with inset glass doors, fixed glass transoms, sidelights, and two-light display, box windows. There is masonry veneer below the windows. The glass band above the entrances has been infilled, as in the adjoining building with vertical tongue-and-groove wood paneling. A metal canopy extends across the full façade and has signage for the businesses. Single decorative stretches of soldier brick panels are located above each storefront. A band of two soldier belt courses cross the building at the half-story level. The cornice has a masonry cap and three chimneys are located at the roof.

Historical Significance: Noted Havre businessman Henry Stringfellow owned these lots during the first decades of the twentieth century. At this location at the corner of Second Street and Third Avenue, Stringfellow was the president and manager of the Havre Commercial Company (HCC) Department Store, the largest store between St. Paul, Minnesota and Spokane, Washington on the Great Northern Railway. One of Havre's first businessmen, Stringfellow opened a drugstore-general store off of First Street in 1892. The Fire of 1904 destroyed that building, and he replaced it with a new 50-foot by 50-foot brick store on Third Avenue between Second and Third Streets. The store sold clothing, groceries, grass seed, hardware, sewing supplies, wagons and farm implements, etc. The business was so successful that he added a second floor for furniture and extended the building 40 feet.

In 1906, a severe storm called the "Havre Cyclone" nearly totally destroyed the second floor of the HCC, but repairs were completed and he soon was back in competition with his biggest rival, F.A. Buttrey, located across the street. Ten years later, an addition was constructed onto the HCC building that extended toward Second Street and contained Havre Motors that sold Willys, Knight, Overland, and Whippet automobiles.

The 1913-1914 Polk Directory indicates the address of the HCC as 201, 205, 209, and 215 Third Avenue. They advertised as the oldest department store in Havre that featured eight general departments of dry goods, shoes, millinery, suits, clothing, hardware, groceries, furniture, and implements. Stringfellow was the president/manager, W.C. Lange as the vice president, and William Kendig as the secretary/treasurer.

Stringfellow retired from active management in the 1930s and the McCracken Firm, later Havre Furniture, assumed the general merchandise sector. Stringfellow, however, retained the automobile business and upstairs furniture store until he died in 1935. In 1938, the HCC building was nearly destroyed by fire despite the efforts of the fire departments from both Chinook and Havre. The HCC business was eventually moved to the corner of Third Avenue and First Street.

In 1941, the building that is presently at this location including the building housing 205-215 Third Avenue, was constructed by James Sherry to replace the old HCC. The owner of the property at that time was Aaron Praude and on August 16, 1941, the 100 feet by 60 feet building

was officially opened. The Praudes had homesteaded in the Great Falls area, been in Havre since 1926, and owned a shoe store. The building was constructed on the old HHC foundation and blond brick was brought in from Great Falls for use on the exterior facades while the Havre brick was used for interior walls.

Havre Drug, the oldest drug company in the city, occupied the 40 feet by 60 feet area at the corner and Black's Jewelry, Reynolds Grocery, and Pederson Bros. Meats, occupied the remaining 20 feet by 55 feet locations. Each had a separate basement, heating, and air conditioning. A wide marquee with aluminum finish extended the length of the buildings. Other occupants of these buildings include Viola's Beauty Shop in the balcony of Havre Drug, and in the 1950s, tenants include Citizens Bank (201), Margueretes Shop, Blacks, La Mode (previously located at HCC) , Don's Pharmacy, the lawyer offices of William Paul, and Kuhr and Weber, and dentist offices of Wilke and Leeds.

Integrity | This building retains a high degree of integrity as changes to the main (west) façade have been minimal.

Statement of Significance | The building is significant historically because it was the only building within the survey area that was constructed post World War II in a mini-mall style as retail/office spaces which served as the location of many businesses over the years. The building has architectural significance because it has undergone very little modification to the front façade and is one of a few buildings constructed of blonde brick in Havre. The adjoining building, constructed at the same time, makes this location a dominating feature on the constructed landscape.

Form Prepared By | Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address |

Date Entered |

Picture:



