Legal Description SCT: 05 T: 32 N R:16 E	LOT: 009 BLK: 004; S/2 of LTS 9 & 10 Original Townsite Site: 24HL1295	
Address 301 First Street		
Current Owner Burlington Northern & Santa	Fe RR Co, Attn Bob Evans JR	
Private	301 First St Havre, MT 59501-3505	
☐ NAD 83	Historic Name Buffalo Block (building)	
Zone: ## Easting: 597621 Northing: 5378480	Common Name Master Sports	
Moved? ☐ Estimated ✓ Documented	Date of Construction 1904 Estimated	
Date of Move:	Documented ✓	
Quad Name:	Building Changes remodel-1972	
Footprint:	Architect George H. Shanley, Great Falls	
1	Builder Lease and Richards, Great Falls	
	Original Owner Morris Aeurbach	
1 1 1	Original Use retail, rooms	
	Present Use sporting goods	
SPURTS CHI	Foundation: Stone	
	Exterior Walls: Brick	
	Roof: Composite	
5720 mm	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 two-story brick stretcher course building is situated on the corner of Third Avenue and First Street. The south elevation's first-story entrance on First Street has been infilled with a combination of wood siding and stone veneer as well as aluminum storefront windows. The entrance near the center of this elevation has double glass doors and stone veneer pilasters. Windows at each end are five-light box displays. There is also an entrance at the east end of the façade. There is a lit sign and shingled hipped awning that is directly over the main entrance on First Street. The awning wraps around the corner onto Third Avenue. The brick on the west elevation's first story on Third Avenue has been painted. Brick pilasters separate groupings of two sets of windows on the second story on both facades. The windows have rough cut stone sills that make up a continuous band around the building only interrupted by the brick pilasters. Each window has a voussoir brick design above it. All second story window openings have been boarded up. A cast cornice caps the building with an egg and dart design directly below it. Windows at the rear of the building are infilled.

Historical Significance According to a Havre Plaindealer article in April of 1904, \$28,000 was to be spent for the construction of buildings at the Oxford and Buffalo corners. This northeast corner of Third Avenue and First Street was known as the Buffalo corner as it was the location of the Buffalo Saloon before the Fire of 1904. The Buffalo Building was constructed after the fire laid flat the entire block. The fire had been started by an arsonist in the rear of the Gross and Lobert's Hardware Store in the mid-200 block of First Street where they had their undertaking parlor.

The Buffalo Building was constructed in the fall of 1904 housing the Hub Clothing Store owned by Morris Auerbach and Sons. The rooming house upstairs was known as the Buffalo Rooms and operated by the proprietor, Mrs. Jones, as was the rooming house in the Broadwater-Pepin Block across the street. The Hub had its origins in Great Falls/Lewistown and was important in providing clothing to residents of the Hiline. The east side of the building contained a cigar store and billiard parlor while the West Brothers moved into the basement with their saloon.

Around 1913, it became Wheeler's Corner selling clothes, shoes, and men's furnishings. The Ward-Yeon store was also at this location as was the Buffalo Saloon, home of a large painted buffalo head and fixtures from the old Chestnut Saloon. The Buffalo Saloon was a favorite drinking establishment for the cowboys until Prohibition. Pat Yeon owned this saloon and several others in Havre.

About 1917, the Havre Drugstore moved into the building. Daniel H. Boone, owner of the company, had earlier purchased the stock of the H.W. Stringfellow Drug Company after the Fire of 1904 and set up Boone's Drug across the street at the southwest corner of First Street. In 1908, Boone's share of the business was purchased by stockman J.L. Sprinkle, who then sold his interest. Under manager-partner, G. Cashman moved to the southeast corner of the same block.

The Coast to Coast store took over the Buffalo Corner in 1944. It encompassed the whole first floor while the upstairs became the Victory Rooming House. Roy McLaren was owner-operator and at the grand opening on July 15th, offered five piece dinette sets for \$49.95, end tables for \$1.98 and up, a 32 set dinnerware set for \$6.95, and tires for \$14.65 each. The store was purchased by Duane and Joyce Barkus

in 1948 and remained there until 1969 when they moved to Second Avenue. In 1973, Bob Evans opened Master Sports which has been here ever since.

Integrity

Despite alterations to the first story, the Buffalo Building/Master Sports retains sufficient integrity to convey its significant historic and architectural associations.

Statement of Significance

This building is historically significant for its associations with the early commercial development of Havre, as one of the town's early clothing stores, a saloon, drug store, and dry goods store. The building has also been the location of the sporting goods store for 35 years. The building figures prominently on the constructed landscape as an anchor for the corner of First Street and Third Avenue. It gains additional significance for its association with prominent architect George Shanley.

Form Prepared By	B. Miller, G.Wilson, Keith Doll, Jim O'Leary, C.Z.
Preparer Address	
Date Entered	

Picture:



