

Legal Description  Site:

Address

Current Owner

Private  Current Owner Address

NAD 83  NAD 17

Historic Name

Zone:  Easting:  Northing:

Common Name

Moved?  Estimated  Documented

Date of Construction  Estimated

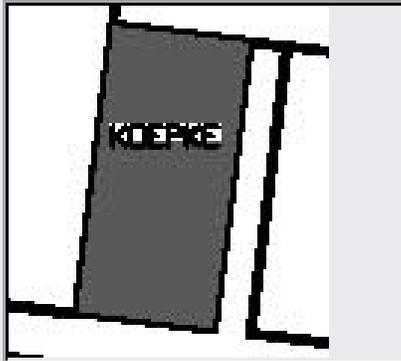
Documented

Date of Move:

Building Changes

Quad Name:

Footprint:



Architect

Builder

Original Owner

Original Use

Present Use

Foundation:

Exterior Walls:

Roof:

Other Materials:

Bibliography

Physical Description

Brick outlines the doors and canopies in stretcher to header course. A band of standing stretcher course intersects the canopy. Single round windows with iron ornamental grate and header brick surround are located above each entrance. Stretcher course brick bands and terra cotta squares are located near the roofline and above a terra cotta panel that once said "Telephone Building". The roofline is capped with terra cotta. The west side of the building indicates additions over the years. Windows are casements or infilled. The rear is part of the Elks Lodge, has infilled windows, a metal door, and signage, "Elks BPOE 1201" and "use front entrance".

Historical Significance

The telephone exchange system had remained separate from the power company in the early years. The first system was located in the baggage room of the Havre Hotel in 1903. Later that year, the system moved into the first electric-lighted building in Havre. Poles extended west to Christopher "Shorty" Young's Concert Hall, east to the Great Northern Railroad shops, and south to Sixth Street on Third and Fourth Avenues. The city of Havre purchased the Fort Assiniboine phone system and combined it with the city system which also rang to fire and police call boxes.

This building was constructed in 1922 and owned by MPC but the phone system had been purchased by the Mountain States Telephone and Telegraph Company in November of 1918. Grits, Guts, and Gusto indicates that the same year, the company was paying MPC \$75.00 per month in rent, utilities, and one-half of janitorial expenses.

The front portion of the building served as offices and reception for greeting customers; the operators were located at the back. A rear section was added to the building in the 1950s for the service department. From 1948 to 1959, the company, then known as Mountain States Telephone, added 100,000 phones to their system. By 1959, however, the phone company was relocated in their new building at 200 Fifth

Avenue South. In 1960, there was a children's clothing store in one-half of the building. Later, it became the Blue Gardenia Beauty Shop for many years before the current owners took over.

Integrity The building has undergone minor changes mostly in the windows and doors, additions of awnings and infill of the masonry sign. These, however, appear to be reversible. The majority of the historic fabric including the interesting brick detail are intact.

Statement of Significance The building is significant historically because of its association with the Montana Power Company. This building represents the entrance of the Hi-line into the modern age of technology. Architecturally the building is significant because it is designed in a most unusual style with Commercial Craftsman and Art Deco elements.

Form Prepared By Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address

Date Entered

Picture:



Topo Map

