Legal Description S8T32 NR16 E BLK 2 Young	g Almas 1st A. LOTS1-4; BLK 11 Meili-Almas A, LOTS 1-4 Site: 24HL1291
Address 34 First Street	
Current Owner Patricia A Brenna Revocable	Trust et al
Private	PO Box 106, Havre, MT 59501-0106
NAD 83	Historic Name Havre Steam Laundry and Baths
Zone: ## Easting: 597353 Northing: 5378462	Common Name Havre Laundry and Dry Cleaning
Moved? ☐ Estimated ✓ Documented	Date of Construction 1904 Estimated
Date of Move:	Documented
Quad Name:	Building Changes 1916- cold storage/Indry, 23- dry cln, 52- grge/strge, 61-boiler, 67-addin
Footprint:	Architect
	Builder
HAVRE	Original Owner Christopher "Shorty" Young
	Original Use Laundry
	Present Use Laundry
	Foundation: Stone
	Exterior Walls: Stucco
	Roof: Composite
	Other Materials: Glass block
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 1½-story building with Mission influences and stucco exterior on the southwest corner of First Street and First Avenue. Historically, three entrances faced First Street across the north elevation. The centered entrance has been in-filled with brick, while the east and west doors are aluminum-frame replacements. Large glass-block windows with centered hoppers flank the eastern, commercial glass door. The sills are concrete and masonry details above the original windows and door openings include basket handle arches with red-painted voussoirs and keystones. The west entrance is a commercial door with a glass transom and pair of one-light, aluminum-framed display windows on each side. West of the west entrance is the north elevation of a one-story shed addition that runs the length of the west elevation. The north elevation of the addition features a small louvered vent at its east side.

A belt course crosses the north elevation just beneath the parapet. Above, within the parapet, is a large sign advertising the business. A second sign is set perpendicular to elevation, above the west entrance. Pilasters at either side of the north elevation have domed Mission caps and the scalloped parapet is also in that style.

The east elevation, facing First Avenue, has the same masonry features above a pair of glass block windows and hoppers to the north end. Five, six-light glass-block windows over five-light hoppers are set off-center to the north across the elevation.

A shed-roofed, concrete-block addition is on the west side of the building. It has an overhead garage door.

An associated two-story building to the west has the same stucco exterior, same parapet, and glass block windows. A Quonset-shaped building south of the west building has four, six-light hoppers and overhead doors.

## Historical Significance

Constructed in 1904, this building has housed a laundry since early in Havre's history. Christopher "Shorty" Young, an early day businessman who was heavily involved in illicit activities including prostitution and bootlegging, is attributed with starting this business that provided a bath and laundry service to the public and his many prostitutes. Young's original business was located in the two block area of the red light district and operated by a Japanese couple. The business was sold for \$7500 in 1904 to a corporation of early day Great Northern Railway conductors, James A. and Walter McKenzie; Dr. Almas Sr., Rancher D. H. Campbell, and Philip Jacoby. They had previously owned a laundry in the Gussenhoven Building, but it was destroyed in the Fire of 1904. Part of the purchase agreement was to sign a "no compete" clause that promised they would not construct a bar at the laundry's new location at 34 First Street. Shorty Young was still connected to the laundry, however, as heat from the laundry traveled through steam pipes to Shorty Young's complex. The building at this address was constructed in 1904 at a price of \$5000 according to an article in the Havre Plaindealer.

In 1916, the laundry plant was enlarged to 140 by 50 feet. In 1923, the dry cleaning plant was housed in a newly built, two-story 24 by 50 foot building west of the main building. In 1931, Walter MacKenzie became the sole owner when the original corporation was dissolved. It was at that time that the name was changed to Havre Laundry and Cleaners. A March 26, 1937 Havre Daily News article reported that washing wool

blankets, drying lace curtains, and hat blocking were all specialties of the laundry.

In 1946, Jim Sleater purchased the business and reincorporated six years later as Havre Laundry and Dry Cleaning Co. In 1953, a linen supply was added and called Northern Montana Linen Supply. Around 1976, the Brenna family took over the business.

Note: The business suffered fires in 1926, 1936, and 1974.

This building is the only one in the survey area that is located within the Meili Almas Addition. H.J. Meili was a native of Switzerland who came to Montana in 1888 as the chief clerk for Great Northern Railway in Great Falls. He was transferred to Havre in 1894 and remained in the service of the railway until he was elected to public office. He held the post as justice of the peace and police magistrate, was one of the first United States commissioners, and later became county deputy assessor and undersheriff. During this time, he ventured into real estate development and insurance sales. J.S. Almas was Havre's first doctor practicing for over 43 years.

Integrity

This building retains a high degree of integrity with little modification to the exterior. Windows are mostly from the historic period and additions and associated building were constructed within the historic period as well.

Statement of Significance

The Havre Laundry and Dry Cleaning building is significant historically and architecturally. It is one of Havre's oldest businesses that has continued in the same location for over one hundred years. It is interesting that the original building was constructed of wood frame the same year that the Fire of 1904 wiped out most of the downtown business district. The building is unique in style as the only type in Havre constructed in the southwestern Mission style of scalloped parapet and stucco.

Form Prepared By

Toni Hagener, Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address

Havre, Montana

Date Entered

Picture:



Торо Мар

