

Legal Description Site:

Address

Current Owner

Private Current Owner Address

NAD 83 NAD 1983

Historic Name

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Common Name

Moved? Estimated Documented

Date of Construction Estimated

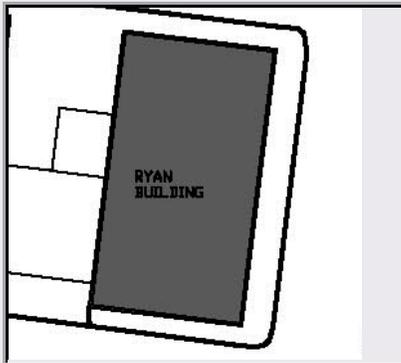
Date of Move:

Documented

Quad Name:

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 The Ryan Building is an expansive structure anchoring the northwest corner of Second Avenue and First Street (US Highway #2), and extending north to Main Street. Both the south and east façade are primary elevations of this structure and share the same basic fenestration elements. Both elevations are articulated with vertical segmentation of the two stories with involved brick columns. The south elevation is segmented into six equal column bays; ten on the east elevation. Each bay is presented with a vertical hierarchy offering classic influences with monumental openings on the ground level, two smaller, equally-sized and spaced picture units on the second level centered in the column bay with transom units above giving the illusion of additional height/importance. The involved columns terminate with a concrete capstone at the same height as the head of the transom window units and is further defined by a continuous soldier brick course which wraps both elevations. All window openings share a simple sloped brick sill detail. A green canvas awning has been added to both the south and east elevations, which obscures the top of the main level openings. A brick entry feature has been added to the east side of the structure which includes stairs and a ramp for access to the entrances as well as a continuous planter box. Both the original structure and east entry feature are red brick set with a running bond pattern.

Historical Significance According to the Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, this was the original site of the first Havre City Hall, jail and fire station. Some of the buildings were of log construction. From 1913 to 1916, the lots were owned and /or sold by Christopher "Shorty" Young, a businessman noted for his illicit whiskey trading; Dr. D.S. MacKenzie, who was also mayor; and/or the city of Havre. In 1917, Dr. MacKenzie and Young sold these three lots to George W. Ryan of Great Falls who was a wholesaler of food stuffs and sundries statewide.

In 1917, the Ryans constructed a large, three-story brick building with a loading dock at the rear of the building on lots 1,2, and 3. A year later, George and Rose Ryan incorporated their Havre store as the family operated Ryan Havre Company. The business employed several local people and handled many nationally known lines of canned goods, foodstuffs, and sundries. The territory of the company included all of north-central Montana serviced by local and regional salesman. Ryan's was well known for their retail outlets.

The 1929-30 Polk Directory indicates W.E. Reill as manager, George Ryan as the buyer, and John Ryan as a shipping clerk. (Frank Ryan at that time was the department manager of Havre's F.A. Buttrey Company.) Ryan's operated in this location for several years until they merged in 1974 with Northern Montana Services Industries to become Ryan's Inc. In 1975, Ryan's Inc. vacated the building. In later years, the building was remodeled for offices and as the Downtowner Serve Your Self Furniture.

Integrity The Ryan Building retains a high degree of integrity, having survived almost completely intact with the exception of upgraded glazing systems.

Statement of Significance Historically, this building is significant because it served the Hi-line as one of the largest food outlets that operated at the same location for 58 years. It is an excellent example, architecturally, of a wholesale warehouse that retains original mass and openings. It is an imposing building anchoring the corner of Second Avenue and First Street.

Form Prepared By

Wade Bitz, Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address

Date Entered

Picture:



Topo Map

