

Legal Description Site:

Address

Current Owner

Private Current Owner Address

NAD 83 NAD 27

Historic Name

Zone: Easting: Northing:

Common Name

Moved? Estimated Documented

Date of Construction Estimated

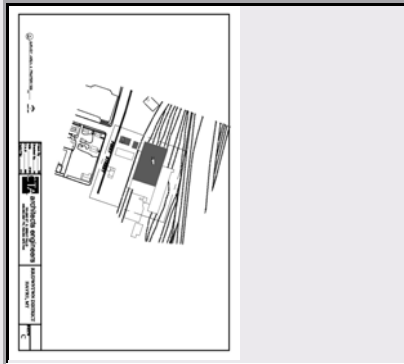
Documented

Date of Move:

Building Changes

Quad Name:

Footprint:



Architect

Builder

Original Owner

Original Use

Present Use

Foundation:

Exterior Walls:

Roof:

Other Materials:

Bibliography 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 Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) Diesel Shop is a stately red brick building firmly anchored in the solid, unadorned detailing of the industrial age. Both the west and south elevations of the building function as primary facades, as the south elevation fronts First Street, but is obscured by the adjacent Centennial Grain Elevators. The west elevation is less expansive, but more visible and houses the large overhead doors that provide access for the locomotives that give the structure purpose. Both elevations share architectural elements including common bond brick pattern, involved pilasters that terminate into a continuous four to six course concrete band below the parapet, and leaded glass block, industrial windows that articulate the building into a two story profile. The typical vertical bay between involved pilasters is two-1:3 ratio width to height openings with leaded glass over a single industrial sash tilt-in awning window. The window pair is copied vertically within the bay giving the impression of a second level within the warehouse space. The south elevation is composed of twelve equal-sized bays, though the first story of the nine easternmost bays is obscured by a metal-clad shed-roofed addition. This addition is unfenestrated, and features a single metal overhead door centered in its west elevation. The west elevation of the Diesel Shop has only two full-height bays to the south and four single-story bays to the north. The west elevation substitutes the lower window pair of the two full height bays with a single overhead door with a concrete header spanning the opening. The remaining four bays of the west façade each have one overhead door centered between the involved pilasters which terminate approximately six feet above the overhead doors with a similar concrete band connecting the top of the pilasters. The parapet of both the west and south façades is a concrete material of similar depth to the band material. A single pedestrian door is cut into the pilaster between the third and fourth bays on the west elevation and is articulated with heavy, sculpted concrete posts that flair into the structure for the head condition over the door.

Historical Significance In 1945, Great Northern (GN) Railway expanded their operations to include 5400-horsepower diesel locomotives and a shop to service them. The shop was designed to eventually service all of the diesel engines between Hillyard, Washington and Havre. Construction began on the diesel shop in the late summer of 1944 and was completed by May of 1945. A 95-foot by 290-foot diesel shop and 55-foot by 100-foot parts storehouse were built west of the roundhouse at a cost of \$381,000.

In 1949, a remodeling project costing \$325,000 was undertaken to add two more locomotive stalls and make improvements. Work was also completed on the original four-stall, and improvements on the east end of the building included enlarging the lunch room, locker room, restroom, and the construction of an office. The main contractors were O'Neil, Riordan, and Anderson Construction Company. The subcontractors were Neuworth Bros. and Lancaster of Havre for brickwork, Havre Electric, J.W. McCauley Plumbing of Havre, Oil City Roofing of Shelby, Neil Nelson Printing of Lewistown, and Ralph Lessinger, plasterer of Spokane. According to F.J. Gavin, Great Northern president, in a May 30, 1950 Havre Daily News article, the GN expected to have 262 diesel electric motors in service by 1952.

Integrity The Diesel Shop is architecturally unblemished with the exception of a metal building addition anchored to the south elevation from the fourth bay of the building east and extends beyond the main structure. Despite these changes, the building retains a high degree of integrity, sufficient to convey its significant historic and architectural associations.

Statement
of
Significance

This building is historically significant because of the crucial role the railroad has played in moving goods and people continuously for over 100 years. While a significant architectural element on its own, the diesel shop gains additional significance for its associations with the historic development of Havre due to the key roll the railroad has played in the economic structure of the region; past and present. It is a striking architectural example of a massive industrial building that, in the evening, is brightly lit because of its huge expanse of original windows.

Form Prepared By

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Preparer Address

Date Entered

2/12/2008

Picture:



Topo Map

