

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

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 Griggs Building/Northern Grocery Company at 2 Fifth Avenue is a two-story building built of common red brick in a running bond pattern with the primary façade facing Fifth Avenue to the east at the southwest corner of Fifth Avenue and Main Street. Both north and south elevations feature ghost signs that occupy a large portion of the top of the walls. The east façade is asymmetrical giving added emphasis to the main building entry at the south side of that elevation. The entry is a single-width pedestrian door and transom defined by involved, three-brick wide, stacked bond columns that flank the opening at the sides and join above the door. The brickwork is further defined by applied white stone creating mock pedestals, columns, and pseudo pediment centered on the door.

The remainder of the main level going north was originally articulated by four groupings of two window openings sharing a common sill stone centered in the remaining space between the entry and the north edge of the building. Renovations have removed the north window pair and replaced them with an overhead door, and brick infilled the next window pair to the south. The upper level windows are about a third shorter than the lower level openings. These windows are also grouped into pairs that match the vertical placement of the lower windows with the exception of the north opening which is a single unit rather than paired. All upper level windows have been infilled and clad with asphalt material with a similar brick pattern.

The upper portion of the entire east façade is embellished with masonry flourishes. The pattern begins six courses above the upper story window openings with raised brick in the shape of an elongated vertical diamond. The center of the diamond pattern is filled with applied white stone to match the material around the entry feature. Above the row of diamonds is an inverted pattern of brick stepped out 1/2 width to create another diamond pattern in the negative (flush) space. The cornice is accentuated by two courses of brick that are corbelled out from the face of the wall, giving visual weight to the parapet.

Historical Significance: In 1916 the Northern Grocery Company constructed this building to warehouse their wholesale grocery business. The business was created in 1912 by T.C. Penny, former proprietor of the Orpheum Theater. He believed that Havre was the logical wholesale distributing center for a radius of several hundred miles. His intent was to eliminate freight charges added to goods that were shipped by rail through Havre to Great Falls and reshipped back to Havre. In 1919, the company bought out the Pioneer Grocery making the Northern Grocery Company the largest local wholesale grocery outlet. In 1920, a fire on the second floor of the warehouse building caused considerable damage to the goods also damaged by firefighter's water. The fire burned out power and phone lines causing that portion of the city to be shut off for several hours.

In 1936 a large garage was constructed to permit loading trucks and their delivery services to be conducted under cover, the same year the business was purchased by the Nash Finch Company, a wholesale house selling nationally known brands such as Del Monte, Libby, Nash Coffee, Pabst beer, etc. The company was based in Grand Forks, North Dakota with 57 wholesale houses. It ceased operation at this location around 1950.

In 1954, the businesses here included United Transfer, Beatrice Foods (Meadowgold), Avery Upholstery, Culligan, and Havre Transfer and

Storage. The Anderson-Hayes Wholesale operated their business here in the 1960s. The building was vacant from about 1984 to 1990 when Griggs Publishing moved here.

Integrity The Griggs Building remains primarily true to its original form, and could easily be returned to its original fenestration with the removal of window infill materials. It retains sufficient integrity to convey its significant historical associations.

Statement of Significance This building is a significant historic representative of the wholesale business sector which served over 40 years at this location in Havre. The strong, architectural commercial style of this building supports how integral it was to the success of economic growth in Havre.

Form Prepared By Wade Bitz, Jim O'Leary, Gary Wilson, Candi Zion

Preparer Address

Date Entered

Picture:



Topo Map

