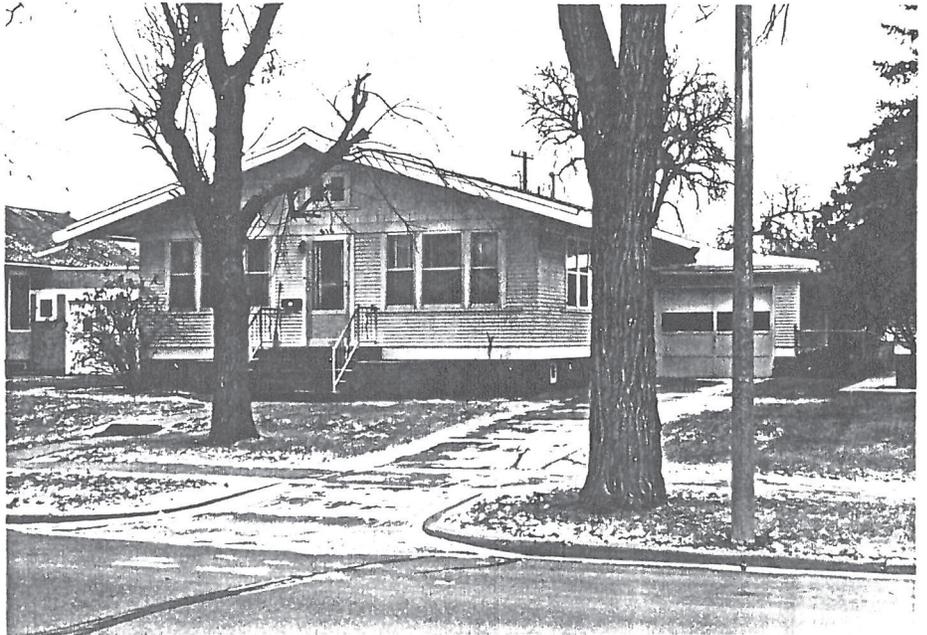
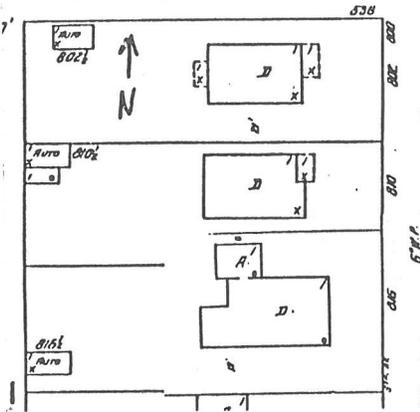


MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 13 Frame# 23

Legal Description: University Addition, Block 3, Lots 14 and 15
Address: 816 Sixth Avenue
Ownership Name: Fay Rathbone
Address: 816 Sixth Avenue
private: x
public:

Historic Name: William J. Merrill House
Common Name: unknown
Date of Construction: 1915 (water record)
Architect: unknown
Builder: unknown
Original Owner: William J. Merrill
Original Use: Single-Family Residence
Present Use: Single-Family Residence

Physical Description:

Single-story, 3 x 3 bay, wood-frame craftsman residence with some unusual design features. Wide and shallow gable-front gable roof (now asphalt-shingled) with a curve just before reaching the ridgeline. Exposed rafters in extra-wide open eaves. Most of the house is sided with narrow-reveal clapboard, while the uppermost zone is wood-shingled. Two brick chimneys - one interior and one endwall (S). Daylit concrete basement.

Centrally-located primary entry is approached via wide concrete steps flanked with new steel hand railings. Brick planting beds flank the concrete steps along the base of the porch.

The entryway is flanked by large tripartite windows. A similar window is found on the side (S) facade. Other windows are mostly 1/1 double-hung with wood sash, occasionally doubled. The basement windows are 3-light wood casement type.

The secondary rear entry is contained within almost-full-width rear gabled porch.

C. 1952 attached single-bay garage built off of the N.W. corner of the main structure. Asphalt covered hip roof. Narrow-reveal clapboard siding. Wide single-leaf wooden overhead door with a row of eye-level lights. The side (N) facade has two 1/1 double-hung windows.

The site is raised from that of the street.

Historical Information:

According to the earliest sewer record this house was originally constructed in 1915 and originally owned by William J. Merrill. The 1920 Sanborn Map depicts a very small dwelling that must have either been replaced and greatly added to by 1939. If many changes were made instead of a complete replacement this would account for the unusual nature of the building overall appearance. In 1923, an article in the Havre Daily Promoter stated that the Home Builders Investment Company was building a house at this address for \$5,000. This could account for the change in appearance of the structure.

According to both the 1915 Fenton directory and the 1929 Polk Directory this house was lived in by William and Mary Merrill and list Mr. Merrill's profession as a conductor for the Great Northern Railway.

A second building permit indicates that the front porch was glassed-in in 1949. A later water record dated 1959 indicates that the house at least underwent some interior renovations.

Footnote:

1. Havre Daily Promoter, August 2, 1923.

Building Permit Nos. 3266, 3818, Dated March 2, 1949, September 22, 1952, respectively, Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana.

Fenton Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1915-16.

Polk's Directory, Havre and Hill County, 1929-30.

Research Sources:

Assessor's Records, Hill County, Hill County Courthouse, Havre,

Montana.

Sanborn Maps: 1920, 1939.

Water Record no. 3185 (1959) and Sewer Record no. 259 (1915),
Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana.

Integrity:

Good. This house seems to be a result of two separate building campaigns, but retains some things of significance. The building is not consistent in its styling, but does retain its historic fabric (exterior clapboard and wood shingle exterior) and some unusual styling features (exposed rafters in open eaves, large tripartite windows). The addition of the new attached garage in 1952 has somewhat diminished this building's integrity and character.

Significance:

This building maintains a high level of architectural integrity and would strongly contribute to the proposed historic district. It would qualify for the National Register under criteria C as a good local example of a craftsman residence built in Havre during the period of its greatest economic and demographic expansion from 1913 to 1917.

Form Prepared By:

Name: Richard Bernstein and Jonathan Axline
Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501
Date: March 25, 1988
Revision: June 22 and October 28, 1988

Geographical Information:

Acreage: Less than one acre
USGS Quad: Havre, Montana
UTM's: