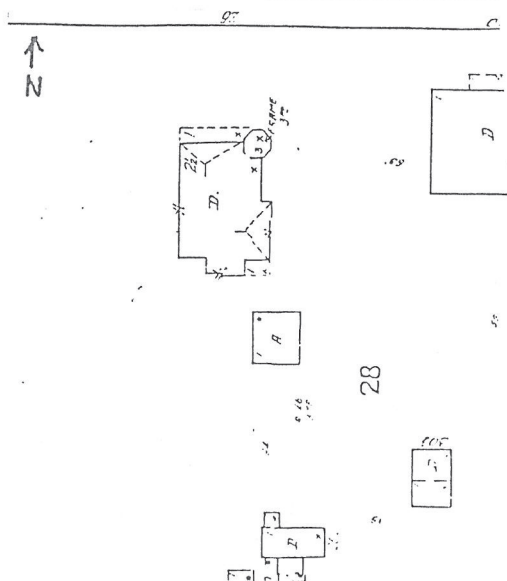


PAMPHLET FILE HAVRE-HILL COUNTY LIBRARY
HAVRE (MONT.) ARCHITECTURE

MONTANA HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL
INVENTORY FORM



Roll# 15 Frame# 2

Legal Description: Gussenhoven Addition, Block 9, Lots 3-5 and
Part of Lot 6

Address: 26 Third Street

Ownership Name: Robert Schlieve

Address: P.O. Box 2604, Havre, Montana 59501

private: X

public:

Historic Name: Joseph Gussenhoven House

Common Name: The Castle

Date of Construction: 1903 (newspaper)

Architect: N/A

Builder: Joseph Gussenhoven

Original Owner: Joseph Gussenhoven

Original Use: Single-family residence

Present Use: Vacant

Physical Description:

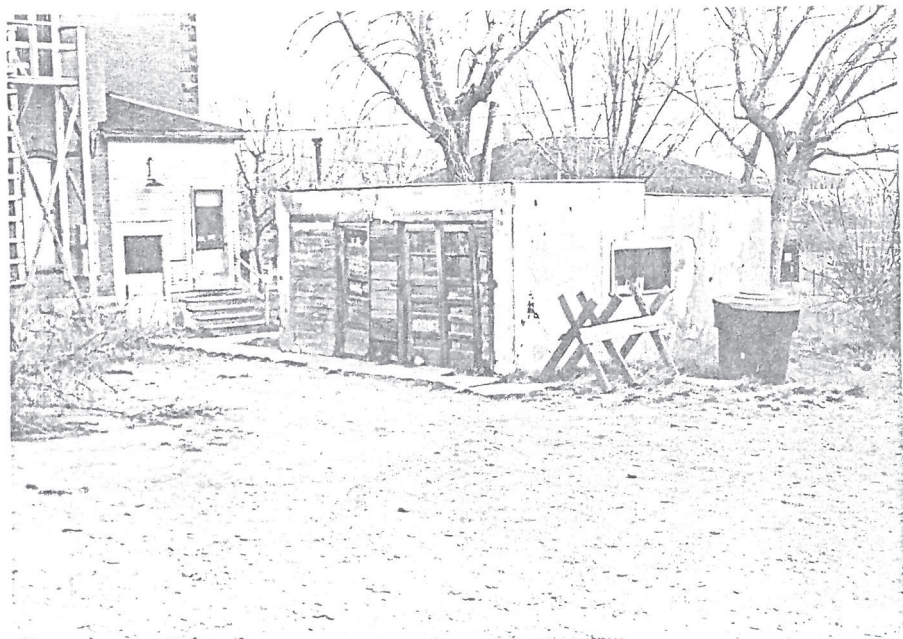
Faces north. Two-and-a-half-story, transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival, brick-and-stone residence. Regular massing with a tower on the northeast corner. The asphalt-shingle roof is hipped with four projecting gables (one on each elevation), numerous pedimented dormers and one interior brick chimney. The brick walls are embellished with sandstone quoins. The foundation is sandstone. The house is situated on the crest of a short but steep hill. A retaining wall separates the property from the street, and concrete stairs provide access from the sidewalk.

The windows of the house are one-over-one double-hung wood sash. It seems that many of the windows have lost their original upper sash detailing. Some lozengeing still survives in the top light of the windows in the attic. Some of the windows are found in pairs. The window frames have segmental arches, with shouldered brick lintels, stone keystones and stone sills. The doors also have segmental arch openings, with shouldered lintels. The door is wood with glass panels, with a transom filling the spandrel area above the door.

The house has two porches. One is located on the first floor, north elevation, with northeast entrance stairs. Four fluted doric columns support the porch roof. A balustrade, solid in the bottom half, spindle in the top half, is suspended between the columns. The other porch is located on the second story north elevation, just east of center, between the gable and the tower. It has the same detailing as the main porch.

This house has a number of architectural details worthy of note; the dentils of the porch, the lozenge pattern in the upper sash of the attic windows, the stone sills, keystones and quoins, and the tower with the pointed octagonal cap.

The house has experienced a number of alterations. The windows may have originally had leaded detailing in the top light. The stove pipes on the west elevation seem to be more recent additions. The stairs to the porch are flanked by newer wrought iron handrails. The roofing material has been changed as has the wall surface of the tower, gable pediments and pents.



Roll # 22 Frame # 3

Associated structures:

1) This building was originally constructed as a well-house c. 1903 and then doubled in size to accommodate its use as garage c. 1920. The northern half is original while the southern half was added later. It has a flat roof with stepped parapet walls along the perimeter and a stucco exterior. The right half retains its three-leaf wooden sliding track garage door. It is situated directly behind the main house and faces west.

Two other structures (26 1/2 and 30 1/2 Fourth Street) are situated further to the south. They are now functioning residences (See individual building forms) but probably originally served as residences for the men and servants associated with the Gussenhoven family or business.

Historical Information

According to an item appearing in the Plaindealer in 1903, Joseph Gussenhoven had just commenced building his new \$8,000 residence. The house was built with brick manufactured at his neighboring brickyard. Gussenhoven was also building a reservoir with a 1500 gallon capacity to supply water to the brickyard. The siting of the house was probably greatly influenced by the fact that much of Gussenhoven's brick and lumber operations were located just to the west.

This house was built and lived in by Joseph Gussenhoven (1869-1955), a locally important businessman. Gussenhoven, along with his family emigrated to the United States from Holland. Gussenhoven's father had been trained as a civil engineer and was brickmaker in Green Bay, Wisconsin until 1872. At that point he moved to Omaha, Nebraska, where he was newly employed as a surveyor for the Union Pacific Railway. For a period the entire family returned to Holland.

In 1891 Joseph Gussenhoven first came to Havre after a brief stay in Minot, North Dakota where he worked as a bookkeeper. He entered the mercantile trade and gradually developed a myriad of other business interests. In 1893 he lead the movement for open drilled wells. He opened the first steam laundry in Havre in 1897, and by 1902 he was engaged in the brick and lumber business. Gussenhoven was the area's first major contractor and builder. Some of his earlier known buildings include a gymnasium at Fort Assiniboine and the U.S. Weather Building on Second Street in Havre; both built in 1903. Like his own house they were primarily of masonry and supports the fact that he was responsible for the construction of his own home.

In 1910 he discontinued the making of bricks and was principally involved only in lumber. In 1912 he purchased Citizen's National Bank of Havre and served as its president until 1913. In 1914 he became owner and publisher of the Hill County Beacon. Later, he subdivided his property into the area formally called the

Annexation Plat, but commonly known as the Gussenhoven addition.

Once the eight children that Gussenhoven had raised were grown he moved out of this house in 1929. (See 30 Third St. Inventory Form.) It was used afterwards as a boarding house for single women; many of them young working girls. At one point the woman who ran the boarding house, Irene (last name unknown), called the place "Irene's Castle" (referring, most likely, to the famous actress Irene Castle). It has been nicknamed "The Castle" ever since.

In 1985 the house suffered a tremendous fire. Nothing of the original interior survives today. It stands today vacant and unused.

Footnote Sources:

1. The Havre Plaindealer, October 31, 1903.

Grits, Guts and Gusto; A History of Hill County. Compiled by the Hill County Bicentennial Committee. (Havre: Bear Paw Printers, 1976), pp. 252-54.

Robert C. Lucke, The Historic Homes of Northern Montana. (Havre: Hill County Printing, 1977), pp. 19-20.

Sanborn Maps: 1910, 1920, 1939.

Research Sources:

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

Sewer Record no. 33 (1906), Department of Public Works, City of Havre, Havre, Montana

Integrity:

This building suffered a terrible fire recently and is in need of extensive repair and maintenance, for little if anything of the interior survives today. Despite the loss of all interior furnishings and appointments, this structure remains one of the impressive within the community and for much of the state of Montana. The building retains its original Queen Anne massing and configuration and its most signal feature; the corner octagonal tower. It still retains a great deal of its historic fabric, such as the masonry walls and much of its original styling details; in this the porch, window arches and corner quoins.

Significance:

This building is perhaps the most impressive and beloved within the local community. Its generous use of masonry materials (i.e. locally-fired brick and locally-quarried sandstone) is quite rare

for residential buildings in this region. Its transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival styling and massing are still visibly distinctive and unique to Havre and this portion of the state of Montana. This building would qualify for the National Register under criteria C and would be a primary contribution to the proposed historic district.

Form Prepared by:

Name: Rebecca Bernstein and Jonathan Axline
Address: Bear Paw Development Corp., PO Box 1549, Havre, MT 59501
Date: February 5, 1988
Revision: May 27 and November 7, 1988

Geographical Information

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