

1379 PARK STREET

FAUST FAMILY HOME

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Dr. H. J. Huene and his bride received a wedding present from her father in the amount of \$10,000 to build and furnish a new home in Forsyth. They chose a Colonial Revival architecture and built the home in 1905. In 1936, Frank and Minerva Faust bought the house and raised their two children Ron and Sharon Faust Lincoln, there. Mrs. Faust commented that the house was built the year she was born.

471 NO. 13TH STREET

WINNIE DOWLIN HOME

The construction date of this 1 1/2 story Craftsman residence is not documented, although it probably was erected by Winnie Dowlin c. 1910. Dowlin was a prosperous local businessman who had a number of local homes built, including the two houses immediately to the south. At an early point in the building's history, it apparently became home to an interesting but short-lived Forsyth institution, the Bachelor's Club. The Club functioned as a boarding house, but apparently attempted to maintain a higher standard and a home-like atmosphere, geared to a largely white-collar clientele. The Bachelor's Club faded by the end of the decade. This home is presently owned by Dave and Cindy Channel.

458 N 14TH AVENUE

Exposed rafter tails under the eaves, a bracket under the front porch gable, and multi-light double hung windows are common to the Craftsman style. These details distinguish this hipped roof cottage, built between 1911 and 1916 at the height of the style's popularity. Thomas Patterson, Jr., likely had the house constructed for rental income at the same time he had his own home built one door north. It was a savvy business investment. The population boom that followed the arrival of the Milwaukee Railroad in 1907 created a thriving rental market. Harry and Jessie Butterfield rented the residence in 1916 before purchasing it in 1920. Harry served as county treasurer and then as county clerk and recorder for over sixteen years; in the early teens, Jessie worked at least one year as assistant deputy county treasurer. When Jessie died in 1922 at age fifty-nine, the county courthouse shut its offices for her funeral, a testament to the esteem in which the Butterfields were held.

313 NORTH 11TH AVENUE KELLY-HEBERLE HOUSE

This house was built in 1896. The first known owner was Major J.E. Edwards and his wife, Julia. He was a State Senator, an Indian Agent, organized the Bank of Commerce with E.A. Richardson and Charles M. Bair, owned the Forsyth Electric and Power Plant and organized the Cartersville Irrigation district, to name a few of his pursuits. In later years an addition was added to the house, enlarging the living room, adding a garage to the ground level and a large bedroom and sun porch on the second floor. The cupola off a bedroom was used by the owners' daughter as a playhouse. Russ and Helen Kelly bought the house about 1940 and did extensive remodeling. At some point the cupola was removed, the style of the windows changed, and the house lost its church-like exterior architecture. Tom and Karen Wambolt bought the house and did extensive work on it from 1989 to 1998. It is the home of Brent and Bobbee Heberle.

657 WILLOW STREET

Della Keller built this home in 1942. Prior to the construction of the dike by the Army Corps of Engineers there was a huge barn on the property and, not wanting the wood to be wasted when the barn was torn down to make way for the levy, Mrs. Keller had the home built next to 635 Willow where she resided. This property has stayed in the family for more than 85 years. Presently Paula Seliski, the wife of Mrs. Keller's grandson Don, lives in the home.

216 PROSPECT STREET

WACHHOLZ-VASSAU - SMITH HOME

The intriguing architecture of this home has fascinated many since the early part of the 20th century. John Wachholz was born in Little Russia in 1868 and came to Forsyth in 1893 as a carpenter for the Northern Pacific Railway Company. He married Sophia Gunderson and started his own contractor business in 1910. When their first child Elizabeth was born, Sophia became paralyzed and lived the rest of her life in a wheelchair. According to reliable sources, in 1916, John designed and built a house to accommodate her so she could go through french doors onto the veranda or go out on the second story balcony and sit in the sunshine. During the 1940s, the house was used for other purposes, but then became a family home again. In 1962, it was purchased by Joe and Janet Vassau. It changed hands several times and then became the home of the Rick and Calene Smith family, who have enjoyed it since 1985.

257 SOUTH 8TH STREET

BERGAM - RESTWEL MOTEL

This section house was moved from Northern Pacific Railroad tracks in the 30s or 40s to its present location by the Bergam Family, who lived in it until Charles and Bernice Higginbotham purchased it in 1954. In 1950, on the same property, the Higginbothams began the construction of The Charles Motel. Charles and Bernice owned and operated the motel until 1968 when it was purchased by Clair and Dorothy Loudon and renamed The Restwel Motel. In 1974 Don and Vi Keeler became the new owners until 1991 when it was sold to the current owners, Dan and Diane Murnion. Through all of the changes to the motel, the old section house has remained the home to each owner and their families for over fifty years.



A guide for viewing historic buildings from streets and sidewalks
A Horizons Project assisted by
Business Professionals of America, Forsyth Chapter
The Montana Historical Society

A GUIDE TO HISTORIC



Scandal and intrigue surrounded the construction of Rosebud County Courthouse in 1914. Rosebud County citizens recognized the need for a new courthouse when they passed a \$125,000 bond issue in 1911 to fund the building. To design a suitable replacement for the original courthouse—a wood-frame former schoolhouse—county commissioners hired Montana architects Link and Haire. That highly respected firm ultimately designed courthouses for eighteen of Montana's fifty-six counties. Featuring a colossal portico and an octagonal tower topped by a copper dome, Link and Haire's design was well received, and Gray's Construction Company of South Dakota began excavation amid high praise in 1912.

Trouble commenced when it became clear that the project was more than \$40,000 over budget. In September 1913, the editor of the *Forsyth Times-Journal* lambasted the county commissioners for the cost overrun and brought suit to restrain them from further expenditure. Apparently worried that his company would not be paid in full, Gray's foreman refused to turn over the keys to the completed building, despite a court order. The clash had moments of high comedy: at one point, the foreman locked himself inside the building and secreted himself between the ceiling and the roof. Ultimately, a grand jury vindicated the commissioners. Ruling that the building's design was "imposing and attractive" and its interior "very harmoniously and artistically decorated," the grand jury declared that the county received "full value for the money expended." Their judgment still stands. The elegant Neoclassical building remains one of Rosebud County's architectural jewels.

FORSYTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

Captain William Clark trekked through this area on his journey up the Yellowstone River in 1806. By the time General George Armstrong Custer passed by en route to the Little Bighorn in 1876, homesteads dotted the area. As the Northern Pacific Railroad pushed west in 1882, officials platted the town of Forsyth to serve its crews. They planned the town with a one-sided Main Street facing the railroad right-of-way. Growth at first was tentative with businesses clustered around the principal intersection at Main and Ninth Streets. Early urban development resulted from the efforts of Hiram Marcyes and Thomas Alexander, rival businessmen who controlled much of Forsyth's early economy. As the railroad attracted a more diverse population that included doctors, lawyers, merchants, and service providers, Forsyth became a regional trade and social center.

In 1901 Rosebud County was established with Forsyth as the county seat. Main Street expanded rapidly during the homestead boom of the 1910s. Although drought and depression in 1918 halted most development, Forsyth's importance as a local trade center was undiminished. Today twenty-four buildings span the period 1888-1931, offering small-town ambiance. The Marcyes Building and the Alexander Hotel, built by the town's two rivals, represent the early period. Several fine architect-designed blocks from the twentieth century also enrich the streetscape. The Renaissance Revival style Commercial Hotel (1903-6), the Beaux Arts style Wacholz Building (1917), and the Spanish Eclectic Roxy Theatre (1930) illustrate the vitality of this small but thriving community.

807 MAIN

COMMERCIAL HOTEL



Decorative brickwork marks this impressive hotel, designed by Montana architects Link and Haire. A vivid diamond pattern of light and dark brick provides a decorative band below the cornice, while raised brickwork divides the building vertically. A smooth belt line separates the street facade from the upper levels. In this, it mirrors traditional Renaissance Revival design, which organized large buildings into horizontal layers, with each floor becoming increasingly more refined. Rusticated stone was often used to make the first floor seem rougher than the upper levels, an effect simulated here through brickwork. Owned by pioneer entrepreneur Hiram Marcyes, the hotel was built in stages from 1903 to 1906. Marcyes, who owned a brickyard south of town, had earlier built Forsyth's first

brick business block as well as several other properties. A 1905 newspaper article gave Marcyes "credit for constructing not only the most [buildings], but the largest building in the city"—the new Commercial Hotel. The hotel, it said, was "the result of much personal effort," Marcyes "having been carpenter, mason, and painter . . . at different times."

869 MAIN

DOWLIN & SWEETSER BLOCK



The arrival of the Milwaukee railroad in 1907 and the homesteaders who followed created new business opportunities for Forsyth, which grew in population from 726 people in 1904 to 1,398 in 1910. Recognizing the town's potential, Mayor J. W. Sweetser purchased this tract of land from early Forsyth pioneer Hiram Marcyes in 1907. With financial backing from W. E. Dowlin, he erected this two-story brick business block on Forsyth's unpaved Main Street. At the time, its relatively large scale was atypical, but it quickly became a model for others to follow. The second floor offered rental rooms, while a variety of businesses, including Walter Dean's jewelry and drug store and J. C. Penney, occupied the street-level storefronts. The building's detailed brick cornice may have been inspired by

ones in Anoka, Minnesota. The *Forsyth Times* reported that Dowlin planned to select the building's facade on a trip there to visit family in September 1907. The owners' pride in the structure was obvious: centered beneath the elaborate brick cornice is a concrete panel with the words "Dowlin 1907 Sweetser."

925 MAIN

MERCHANT'S BANK BLOCK



A 1912 fire at the next door American Hotel likely provided the impetus to stucco the facade of this brick building. Thomas Alexander, a pioneer business man and founder of the Merchant's Bank, built the first story of the two-story business block around 1893. Alexander's bank occupied the east half of the main floor; the Post Office occupied the west half. The second story was completed in late 1894 and features a geometric, elaborately corbelled brick cornice. According to local legend, business competitor Hiram Marcyes blackballed Alexander from the Masons. However, Alexander was active in other fraternal organizations, and he incorporated a hall on the second floor "for the use of secret societies". Both bank and Post Office had moved by 1900, and the Main Street storefronts became home to other businesses. In 1903, a short-lived bowling alley was tacked onto the rear of the building. Around 1910, the American Hotel, also owned by Alexander, took over the second floor. A passage-way cut between the second-story walls connected the guest rooms in this building to the main hotel.

971 MAIN

MERCHANT'S BANK



Pioneer businessman Thomas Alexander founded Forsyth's first bank in 1892. In 1898, he built this ashlar stone bank building with material quarried within a mile of Forsyth. Three small panels on the cornice commemorate a year of construction and the building's original function. Although stone was widely used for foundations, Merchant's Bank is one of the few Forsyth buildings built completely of stone. Large, plate-glass commercial windows and an inset entryway originally marked the street level facade. Inside, "commodious vaults of stone and steel" helped safeguard deposits from theft or fire. Capitalized at \$12,000 in 1900, Merchant's Bank was a small bank even for its day. Nevertheless, it remained Forsyth's only bank until 1901. By 1903 the bank had moved, and two storefronts, occupied by a barbershop and a carpentry/tinshop, shared this space. Not long after, J. Z. Northway opened a butcher shop here, where he sold meat and fresh sausage, which were manufactured in the circa 1910 rear brick addition. A community institution, the Forsyth Meat Market operated on Main Street into the 1930s.

167 N. 9TH

CHOISSER BLOCK



This building was erected as a two story commercial block in 1908 by Joseph Choisser. The building's original cost was \$30,000. Choisser was involved in several Forsyth commercial ventures, although much of his energy was devoted to a wholesale liquor business. This building was erected to serve as his liquor warehouse and to provide retail space. This substantial building is significant as one of only two three-story brick commercial blocks in Forsyth. The building also housed the Forsyth Post Office for nearly sixty years. Although the building does not display a high level of ornamentation, the keystone finestrations, the detailed belt course, and the historic pediment lend attractive vernacular detail to the building, at a level typical locally.

175-183 N 9TH

RICHARDSON MERCANTILE IMPLEMENT DIVISION



"Forsyth No Longer a String Town—Side Streets Are Being Utilized" proclaimed a 1910 *Forsyth Times* article lauding the development of Ninth Avenue. Side streets lined with businesses marked a railroad town's coming-of-age, as did construction of brick buildings featuring whatever architectural flourishes their owners could afford. Rusticated quoins and a small brick cornice ornament the facade of this relatively simple one-story building constructed between 1907 and 1910. In 1910, a large wooden warehouse stood in back; the Richardson Mercantile used both the warehouse and this brick storefront for its farm implement division. In 1915 the law firm of Loud, Collins, Brown, Campbell and Wood purchased the building. The firm, which also operated in Billings and Miles City, completely remodeled the structure to make it "as modern as possible." Large plate glass windows provided ample light for the stenographic department, while skylights provided light and ventilation for the private offices of the firm's principals. Later remodels changed the building further, but its function remained constant: law firms continued to occupy this space until 1988.

164-170 N. 9TH

KENNEDY-FLETCHER BLOCK



A pressed metal cornice, door surrounds made of cast iron, and an exposed steel I-beam distinguish the facade of the 1907 Kennedy-Fletcher block. Geo. L. Mesker and Co. of Bedford, Indiana, the largest architectural ironworks in the country, manufactured the decorative metal elements, which feature ornamented floral and leaf designs, simple swags, fleur-de-lis, and other classical motifs. Mass-produced, metal detailing was a less expensive form of decoration than stone. By contrast, the steel I-beam separating the first and second floors has a primarily structural purpose. The I-beam transfers weight away from the large display windows used to beckon customers. Its defining decorative rosettes are actually a glorified plate-and-bolt assembly that holds structurally important tie rods. The largest commercial building in Forsyth at the time of its construction, the department store was also the first brick commercial block erected off Main Street. E. A. Richardson bought the business in 1908. In 1916, he sold an expanded operation to his department managers, who transformed the building into three separate stores that sold groceries, dry goods, and hardware and furniture.

933 MAIN

DROESE PHARMACY



In 1882 pioneer Thomas Alexander traded a parcel of land to the Northern Pacific in exchange for other property nearby. Alexander's farm became the town of Forsyth and Alexander became an important local merchant and real estate developer. Among his other ventures, he constructed four brick buildings on Main Street's 900 block. In 1897 he rented this one to a hardware and saddlery shop; construction of the second floor, which features a cornice decorated with a row of short pilasters, was still underway. In 1902 Alexander sold the western commercial style building to Peter Droese, who operated a drugstore here until 1933.

Droese helped found Forsyth's telephone service in 1900 and, despite being a man, worked as its first "Hello Girl." In the teens, Droese succeeded the building's exterior, which perhaps had suffered damage when the nearby American Hotel burned in 1912. In 1933, Ike Blakesley and Jack Mason converted the drugstore into "Club Cigar," later known as Blakesley's. Ike's son Glen continued to operate the popular bar and lunch room into the 1980s.

981 MAIN

ROXY THEATRE



"May You Prosper Well in Your New Theatre with Your Steadfast Faith in Forsyth," read one of the many ads that filled the August 28, 1930, *Forsyth Times*. Car and clothing merchants joined building contractors and suppliers in congratulating Anthony Wolke and Frank Faust on the construction of their new theatre. Movies had played in Forsyth since the turn of the century, first in the Commercial Hotel, then in a converted Main Street storefront. The Roxy, however, was the first building in Forsyth constructed specifically as a theatre; it was also one of the few buildings constructed in Forsyth during the Great Depression. Equipped with RCA sound-producing equipment, the new theatre boasted red velvet curtains, spring cushion seats, Spanish lanterns in the foyer, and six small Spanish balconies in the auditorium itself. The Spanish décor carried to the exterior, where stucco walls and exotic-looking Spanish roof tiles tempted passersby to escape the sometimes grim reality of the Depression. Entrance into the realm of romance and entertainment cost only fifty cents (sixty cents for balcony seats).

1001 MAIN

VANANDA STATE BANK BUILDING



Symmetrical facades, conservative designs, and the use of durable material, particularly stone and brick, typified small-town Montana bank buildings like this one, originally constructed in Vananda, seventeen miles northwest of Forsyth. In the days before Federal Deposit Insurance, such designs conveyed a sense of permanence and stability. These solid buildings promised a prosperous future for the young communities they served. Vananda was born in 1915 of the homesteading boom and the Milwaukee railroad. In 1917, the bank hired Forsyth builder Louie Wahl to construct the first "semi-fireproof" building in town for \$6,000. The stately little bank was open only five years before it failed in 1923, a victim of

ongoing drought and depressed commodity prices. The building then served as a post office and home to the postmaster's family of twelve until 1959. By that time, Vananda was practically a ghost town. In 2002, the building was carefully separated and lifted from its foundation. Then, in 2003, this 100-ton structure was moved across sixteen bridges to its present location in downtown Forsyth.

1187 MAIN

BLUE FRONT ROOMING HOUSE



The Northern Pacific Railroad was the lifeblood of many small Montana towns like Forsyth which was founded in 1882 to serve as an operations base for rail crews. Since unmarried men filled most railroad positions, towns like Forsyth had need of inexpensive basic housing facilities. Originally the railroad provided housing for its Forsyth workers but when the section house burned in 1902, the railroad did not replace it. Gustaf "Gus" Swanland built this rooming house in 1912 to fill a need for housing in Forsyth. He lived there himself along with his single tenants, many whom were Northern Pacific Railroad employees. Although advertised as the Swanland Hotel, the building was commonly known as the "Blue Front" because of its bright blue paint. A 1905 city ordinance required fire-resistant brick construction, and like its neighbors, the vernacular Italianate style facade was enhanced with a layer of

light-colored brick veneer. A bracketed wooden cornice and pediment soften the rather austere, utilitarian image. Both stories reflect typical boarding house living arrangements with small wall-papered rooms opening onto a central hallway. The spartan sleeping rooms had little space, not even closets, but the Blue Front's common kitchen, parlor, and dining room offered a more homelike atmosphere. The Blue Front's interior, which survives almost intact, provides a fascinating glimpse into the turn of the century accommodations.

1043 MAIN

MASONIC TEMPLE



Terra-cotta medallions sporting the Masonic emblem of square and compass and the words "Masonic Temple" centered beneath the cornice proudly announce this building's primary purpose. Chartered in 1898, the Forsyth Masonic Lodge met in borrowed quarters until 1905, when enthusiastic Mason Hiram Marcyes included a lodge room in his new Commercial Hotel. Six years later, the Masons hired Miles City architect Brynjulf Rivenes to design this Beaux Arts style temple, constructed of local brick from Marcyes' brickyard and finished with a facade of high-fire Hebron brick trimmed with Bedford limestone. Rent from the first-floor storefronts subsidized the building's \$21,000 price tag. The second floor boasted the lodge room as well as a cloakroom and clubroom designed for members of the short-lived Forsyth Club. During the 1918 flu epidemic, clubrooms were converted into a temporary hospital. In 1921 the public library, founded by the Forsyth Woman's Club, occupied the space. While the library moved to the old courthouse in 1927 and into its current building in 1971, Masons continue to meet in this lodge, built by their predecessors in 1911.

1025 MAIN

MCCUISTION BUILDING



A rear door big enough to drive through hints at this building's original purpose. Rancher, banker, and businessman Joshua P. McCuiston initially planned to construct a one-story automobile dealership and repair shop here, but the demand for office space led him to add a second story. McCuiston purchased this lot in April 1913, and almost immediately Miles City contractor Charles Weston began construction of the two-story garage and office building. Arthur Sickler sold Fords, Hudsons, and Franklins in this location and ran the Main Street Garage, which advertised itself as a "Tourist's Headquarters," offering "Everything for the Auto Traveler." Automobile tourism was new and entailed some risk. In 1916, a young man caused a fire when he stopped at the garage for gas. After the attendant began filling his tank, the "tenderfoot" lit a match over the gas tank to check the progress. Luckily, the fire only damaged the car itself. Forsyth gained its first stand-alone filling station in 1923, and Sickler sold his business to McCuiston in 1924. However, automobile dealerships continued to sell cars here until 1950.

701 WILLOW

FORSYTH WATER PUMPING STATION



Recognizing that successful communities require infrastructure, Forsyth's civic leaders proposed construction of a waterworks and sewerage system in 1906. As the town council asserted when it posted the bond issue, "We desire to improve the town. . . . If the people do not want the city to advance, they may signify their desire by their votes." Approving \$45,000 for a waterworks and \$5,000 for sewerage, a majority of voters signaled their support for municipal progress. Construction of the waterworks fell to the Des Moines Bridge Building Co. The project included building a brick pumping station, settling ponds, and a concrete reservoir on the bluffs above town and installing a network of pipes through Forsyth's developed streets. Forsyth's frugal city council did not believe in architectural frills; the stark, industrial design of the pumping station reflects its utilitarian purpose. By February 1908 the waterworks was complete; city residents had only "to tap the mains" to "pipe the purest and clearest of water" into their homes and businesses, according to the *Forsyth Times*. The newspaper's description of the water's purity was somewhat exaggerated, as Forsyth's 1917 typhoid scare and boil order attest. Nevertheless, the new water system did represent a considerable advance for the community, especially in the area of fire suppression. The amount of water needed to fight a fire in the business district determined the design specifications for Forsyth's waterworks, and the community quickly took advantage of its new capacity, establishing a volunteer fire department within weeks of the waterworks' completion.

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NORTH 3RD

FORSYTH BRIDGE



Although heavy rain disrupted the celebrations, it couldn't dampen the enthusiasm Forsyth residents felt for their new bridge, dedicated on July 4, 1905. Prior to the bridge's construction, Rosebud County residents had to ford the Yellowstone River in low water or depend on an irregular ferry service; the nearest bridge was forty-five miles downstream at Miles City. Rosebud County commissioned William S. Hewett and Co. to construct this pin-connected Pennsylvania through-truss bridge for \$53,200. One of Montana's most prolific bridge builders, Hewett was responsible for the construction of at least fifteen Montana bridges in and around the Yellowstone Valley between 1897 and 1906. Construction began on December 22, 1904. The crew poured the massive concrete piers before assembling the large steel components, fabricated in the east and shipped to Forsyth by rail. Warming weather and spring flooding sometimes forced the bridge crew to work chest deep in cold water. Nevertheless, construction was completed ahead of schedule. Providing convenient access to the county seat and the Northern Pacific terminal, the bridge saw a marked increase in traffic after construction of the Milwaukee railroad brought homesteaders to north Rosebud County. Originally three spans in length, the southern span crossed the primary river channel; the two northern spans crossed the flood plains. When the bridge was closed in 1958, replaced by a concrete bridge several hundred yards upstream, two of its three spans were salvaged for scrap metal. The southernmost span remains, an example of the tremendous public investment in infrastructure that accompanied the homesteading boom.

933 MAIN

WACHOLZ BUILDING

With fellow Scandinavian investors, early Forsyth residents Nels and Sophie Gunderson bought a substantial wood-frame building on the corner of Ninth and Main in 1885. Directly across from the depot, the corner was a prime business location. Nels died soon after, leaving Sophie to manage the property, which housed a saloon and lodging house. Once brick business blocks began to replace the other first-generation wooden buildings along Main Street, the Gunderson building was likely considered something of an embarrassment. In 1916, it was apparently condemned. By that time, Sophie had married John Wachholz, a local carpentry foreman. The couple hired Billings architect Curtis C. Oehme to design a new building for the corner. "A decided improvement to the city," it featured Beaux Arts style terra-cotta ornamentation and a stepped parapet at the roofline. A primary investor in the new \$30,000 building, Charles Westphal moved his menswear store, The Hub, into the two-story brick structure in December 1917. Other early tenants included the Club Buffet and the City Drug Store.

905-925 MAIN

ALEXANDER HOTEL

Sunrays filtering through a window apparently ignited straw packing in the basement of the J. E. Choisser Wholesale Liquor Company in July 1917. Bottles of liquor burst in the flames, fueling a fire that ultimately gutted the two-story building. Self-made entrepreneur Joseph Choisser built the original business block in 1908 for approximately \$30,000. The post office shared one of the storefronts with a newsstand from 1910 to 1968. A women's clothing store was also a long-term tenant. The manager of the Alexander Hotel, Choisser used the second floor as a hotel annex. A pedestrian overpass connected the two buildings. After the fire, Choisser hired Billings architect Curtis Oehme to renovate and add a third story to the property. The original 1908 pediment, inscribed "J. E. Choisser," tops the three-story building, one of only two in Forsyth. Oehme's design included a central, open light well to draw sunlight and fresh air into each hotel guestroom. Today, the building—remodeled again in the 1980s—remains a hotel frequented primarily by railroad crews laying over in Forsyth.

FORSYTH RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Founded for the railroad, Forsyth's residential neighborhoods were platted in 1882 but much of the land lay undeveloped until the 1900s. Forsyth's first-generation homes were simple dwellings rapidly constructed of wood or log to serve the immediate needs of the railroad workers who were Forsyth's first residents. The historic district northeast of the commercial area was home to many of these. By the 1890s, however, the railroad crews had moved on, the population had become more diverse, and the town was more settled. The landmark vernacular Gothic style Methodist Episcopal Church, built in 1890, represents this earliest period of permanent development.

A few carpenter-built American foursquare and gable-front-and-wing cottages survive from the 1890s. These dwellings follow the national folk housing trends of the era. Builders and owners added distinctive details such as bay windows, small dormers, and porches, lending each home a distinct personality. As Forsyth residents prospered, fashionable Queen Anne style residences began to lend prestige to the neighborhood. After 1901, domestic building styles became more varied when pattern books made the latest architectural plans widely available. Forsyth enjoyed rapid growth and new prosperity in the first decades of the 1900s. Stylish Colonial Revival homes and Craftsman bungalows reflect the optimism of the homestead era. Today the historic district is a dynamic mix of these later elements interspersed with the earlier carpenter-built cottages. The quiet, inviting avenues personify the enthusiasm of hard-working citizens and early town boosters.

1180 CEDAR

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND MANSE



When an overheated furnace set fire to the First Presbyterian Church in December 1919, the congregation lost everything but the Prairie style manse built next door in 1910. While church members temporarily held services in the Masonic Hall, news of the fire and pleas for help rebuilding spread through the national Presbyterian press. Among those who responded was an unnamed benefactress from Illinois, a member of Chicago's distinguished Fourth Presbyterian Church. Because she admired her own church building, the benefactress hired Howard Van Doren Shaw, a Chicago architect associated with Fourth Presbyterian, to design a new church for Forsyth. Shaw's design, as adapted by Montana architects McIver and Cohagen, echoed on a much smaller scale the basic lines of the prestigious Chicago church. The result: this beautiful single-story yellow brick building with a tall gabled clerestory flanked by three small cross gables. Its simplified Gothic style details include buttressed walls and a prominent pointed-arch entranceway. Although church trustees originally estimated reconstruction would cost \$30,000 to \$35,000, Shaw's design was more ambitious than they expected, and more than the small congregation, hit hard by the declining homesteading economy, could afford—even with substantial national support. Compromises were made; for example, many of the church's rectangular windows lie beneath window arches originally intended to frame dramatic stained glass, and some of the interior detailing remained uncompleted until the 1970s. In 1950 Forsyth's Presbyterians and Methodists joined together to form the Federated Church; the united congregation continues to meet in this downtown landmark.

1059 CEDAR

NORTHWAY RESIDENCE



This is a single-level vernacular foursquare residence with a truncated hip roof. Wall surfaces have recently been covered with horizontal aluminum siding, and window openings have been flanked with non-functional shutters. The foundation is of stone, with some concrete areas. A single-bay gabled hood shelters the concrete entry stoop. There is a central brick chimney. Small shed-roofed additions exist on the building's east façade and north façade (likely historic). Windows appear to be largely original; most are wood-framed, one-over-one double-hung. The home is white, with green trim. This lot was owned by Thomas Alexander in the 1890's. A notice in the October 3, 1895 *Forsyth Times* indicated that J.F. Kennedy was building a new four-room house for Alexander opposite the "school house." The article probably referred to either this building or the home at 1095 Cedar. This home is clearly visible in an 1898 photograph of the town, and appears in Sanborn undecombed, the porch may have been removed when the porch was re-sided. Although no specific historical events have been linked to this building, this home is a representative example of the many square, hip-roofed homes erected in early Forsyth. These wood-framed vernacular buildings were generally erected locally between 1895 and 1915 as homes for married railroad workers and blue-collar Forsythians.

209 N 11TH

WILSON RESIDENCE



Dr. Arthur C. Wilson moved to Forsyth after graduating medical school in 1891. He worked as a surgeon for the Northern Pacific Railroad, as a medical examiner for insurance companies, and as the county health officer. Forsyth's first resident physician, he also maintained an active general practice and is said to have covered "the territory between Miles City and Musselshell and to the Wyoming line." He and his wife Ida had this home built in 1903 either replacing or substantially enlarging the small wooden home that occupied this lot by 1897. The two-and-one-half story residence on a double corner lot reflected the prominence of its owners, who lived here until Dr. Wilson's death in 1929. Popular Queen Anne elements ornament the home: a wraparound porch, two-story octagonal bay, and decorative leaded glass. Although it looks like an addition, the one-story room behind the house was part of the original design. Placing the kitchen under separate roof minimized fire risk. Bucket brigades could more easily reach a one-story roof, perhaps saving the main house in case of a kitchen fire.

241 N. 11TH



By 1897, a single-story home stood on this site. Owners had added a wing and two porches by 1910, but by 1920 that house had been replaced with this one-story bungalow. The full-length front porch tucked beneath the roof, exposed rafter tails, and decorative wooden brackets on both home and garage all suggest Craftsman style influence. When railroad conductor William Moore and his wife, Ruth, purchased the home in 1918, it was worth more than \$2,500. Four years later, the couple sold it to Northern Pacific yardman Fred Gardkey, who rented it to various tenants. Among them was Burt Clark, a self-proclaimed "finger print expert." In 1928, Fred and his wife, Bessie, died of pneumonia within days of each other. Fred did not have a will, and his estate was tied up in court until 1936. That year, roundhouse foreman T. E. Beals and his wife, Ella, purchased the home for \$675—much less than its \$1,250 appraised value. They continued to own and presumably rent out the residence until Ella sold the property in 1946.

389 N. 11TH

F. V. H. COLLINS RESIDENCE



In 1901 prosperous rancher Thomas Hammond built "a fine residence in Forsyth ... one of the architectural adornments of the city." He and his wife, Adelaide, and their four children used the home as a town house until 1905. That year they sold the two-story, four-square residence to Fred and Jemima Collins. A prominent lawyer and real estate developer, Fred later made a fortune in coal and oil near Roundup. By 1910 the Collinses had added a one-story back addition and remodeled the front porch to create a jutting, prominent entryway. They changed the porch a second time before 1920 to feature a screened second-floor sleeping room and balustrade atop the second story. Decorative leaded glass, original fixtures, and a secret room behind the second-floor bathroom add interest to the home's interior, as does a fireplace lined with river rocks. Local sources say that Jemima Collins collected the rocks herself, and that before bringing them inside, she placed them in a fire in the backyard to make sure they could stand the heat of a fireplace.

610 N. 12TH AVENUE



Standing just outside the original town site, this two-story home is believed to be one of the first residences constructed so close to the Yellowstone River. It was a dangerous place to build since despite early dikes, the river was still prone to floods. The concrete block foundation of this wooden home dates its construction to around 1906, after local mason Carson Conn had begun manufacturing the “pressed stone building material,” which he “guaranteed against frost and dampness.” Although several local buildings used the material in their foundations, only two Forsyth homes prominently feature the decorative concrete blocks.

These were built by E. A. Richardson, founder of the Richardson Mercantile, and his nephew and employee E. A. Cornwell. Hal Withington, who is believed to have built this home, may well have learned about the technology from them. He worked with both men as manager of the Richardson Mercantile’s grocery department.

542 N. 12TH AVENUE



Northern Pacific conductor Frank Runyan and his wife, Nellie, built this one-story bungalow in 1914. County jailor Dick Wright and his wife, Edith, lived here from 1919 to 1923. A. J. and Ina Freeman owned the home in 1940. A. J. was justice of the peace; Ina helped found the Forsyth library and served as its first librarian. In 1942 dentist Craig Phillips and his wife, Julia, rented the residence, which they purchased in 1949. Before the Phillipses moved in, the house had been used as a duplex. One family lived in the daylight basement and the other on the main floor. Both families shared the bathroom on the back stairs landing. A community-

minded dentist, Craig served on both the school board and the hospital board. According to his daughter, he charged the same rates from 1934, when he opened his Forsyth practice, until his death in 1966. After Craig died, Julia worked for thirty years as secretary of the Federated Church. She lived here full time until 1990 and then in the summers until her death in 2000.

510 N 12TH

SORENSEN RESIDENCE



Northern Pacific Railroad engineer Thomas Sorenson and his wife Hannah built this one-and-one-half story residence circa 1910. That year the Norwegian immigrant couple lived here with their five children and two boarders, both of whom also worked for the railroad. The large gambrel roof dormer distinguishes this home from its neighbors. That distinctive shape—often associated with barns—characterizes Dutch Colonial Revival architecture. However, other elements—including the first floor octagonal bay, pedimented dormer, inset porch, and asymmetrical massing—reflect a number of different styles. The stylistic mix suggests that the design came from a pattern book, a book of mass-produced architectural plans. Such plans sometimes came with precut lumber for easy assembly on site; other times, the popular plans simply provided local builders with specifications for complex structures that may otherwise have been beyond their skill. In either case, pattern books expanded housing options for families like the Sorensens who wanted more than what local builders could easily offer, but who could not afford to hire an architect to design a home exclusively for them.

440 N. 12TH

MEREDITH HOUSE



Around the turn of the century, Forsyth was a thriving little community and a lot was purchased at 440 N. 12th Avenue. A house was built by Guss Huff about 1910 and then sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert (Shorty) Meredith in 1920 for \$2500.00. He even had to borrow the 50% down payment but was thankful he had a good job to make the payments. About 1931, Mr. Meredith paid two men \$500 to hand dig the basement and use a conveyer belt and a team of horses to remove the dirt. Then the rock foundation was completely placed by hand. Many remodels and an addition were necessary to accommodate the Meredith’s growing family, which ultimately numbered eight children who grew up in this house. In May, 1917,

Shorty went to work as an auto mechanic and followed that trace until his retirement. He lived in the house for 65 years. In 1985 Grant and Cindy Larsen bought the house and have redecorated and remodeled every room and the front porch to fit a special theme and décor. There are many details including stenciling, rag painting, a paneled ceiling in the den and Victorian bric-a-brac. The summer of 1999, Cindy and Grant built and painted the unique fence and gateway. Their yard is a flowered haven with a winding stone pathway and garden ornaments. With the help of Clay Blackwell, they took on the project of removing those same stones from the basement through a window and redoing a basement wall. They built a fountain base from the stones. They discovered a small safe cemented into the rock wall and eventually found a key hanging from a nail on a rafter. Excitedly, they opened the safe and found ----- recipes!

411 N 12TH

HEFFERIN RESIDENCE



Early Pioneers Thomas and Mary Alexander owned large swaths of land around Forsyth, including most of this block, which they subdivided into lots. They sold this tract to Edward Jones in 1903, who likely built this asymmetrical two-story residence soon after. Builders like Jones had begun to turn away from Victorian excess after the turn of the century. Although this home features a number of Queen Anne elements--multiple roof faces, an octagonal bay, and decorative spindlework--it is less ornate than earlier examples of the style. Edwin and Isobel Katzenstein rented the home in 1912. Edwin, known affectionately as “Katzie,” was proprietor of the Forsyth News Co., a community institution. John and Mabel Hefferin lived here with their family in 1914. Hefferin was co-owner of a Main Street sa-

loon. That he and Mabel lived in this elegant home on a prestigious corner reflected the family’s rising fortunes, as the Twelfth Avenue residence was certainly quieter and more comfortable than their earlier accommodations on Main Street.

389 N. 12TH

E. A. CORNWELL RESIDENCE



“E. A. Cornwell, the popular Forsyth merchant and banker, will move this week into the first cement block house ever built in Forsyth,” reported the *Forsyth Times* on October 3, 1907. “It is fitted with steam throughout, electric lighted, and modern in every convenience.” a relatively new technology in 1907, cement blocks cost less than wood or stone, came in a variety of finishes, and were easier to lay than brick. According to local mason and cement block manufacturer Carson Conn, the material was “the warmest in winter; the coolest in summer. Guaranteed against frost and dampness.” Nevertheless, in Forsyth the material was mainly used for foundations. In fact, Forsyth’s only other cement block home was that of prominent merchant E. A. Richardson, Cornwell’s uncle and employer. Clearly a

fan of the new technology, Richardson owned the land on which this house was built and may have had some say in the home’s design. In 1909 Richardson transferred the title to Cornwell, who lived here with his wife, Edith, into the 1920s.

325 N 12TH

LIDA PARKER RESIDENCE



Cattleman Lafayette H. Parker and his wife, Lida, purchased a small home on this lot in 1910. Lafayette died two years later of tuberculosis, but Lida continued to live here, and in 1917 she obtained a mortgage to replace her home with a two-story clapboard residence with a full basement, which she opened as a boarding house. Both Forsyth newspapers commented on the new construction. The *Democrat* called the building “among the best and most expensive residences being constructed in the city this year,” while the *Times-Journal* noted that “the house will be thoroughly modern in every respect” with steam heat and “hot and cold running water.” For the lodgers’ convenience the upstairs bathroom did not have a washstand; instead each bedroom had its own sink. In 1920 Parker lived here with her divorced daughter and two-year-old granddaughter, three single male lodgers (an engineer, railroad fireman, and bookkeeper), and a married couple and their ten-month-old baby. She sold the building in 1928, but it continued to serve as a boarding house until 1966, after which it became a private residence.

316 N 12TH

E. A. RICHARDSON RESIDENCE



Cast concrete block was an exciting new technology in the 1900s. While critics labeled it “cheap and vulgar,” builders and homeowners embraced it as a “substantial and beautiful substitute for stone.” Durable, affordable, and simple to manufacture, the material—virtually unheard of in 1900—was widely used by 1906, when Forsyth mason Carson Conn began producing concrete blocks in a variety of finishes. Nationally, cast concrete brought architectural ornamentation within financial reach of the masses. In Forsyth, however, this elegant “free classic” Queen Anne house is one of the few to feature the decorative substitute. In typical Queen Anne style, the 1908 home boasts a variety of surface shapes and textures, while its classical front porch columns and hipped roof suggest a Colonial Revival influence. E. A. and Lillian Richardson, for whom the house was built, moved to Forsyth from Crow Agency in 1907 to take advantage of the booming homestead economy. Richardson first opened his Forsyth store in 1903; under his watchful eye, it grew into the city’s largest department store.

214 N. 13TH

MCCUISTION RESIDENCE



The deep eaves and flared rooflines of this two-story home were meant to evoke the Far East, while its octagonal tower, ornamental brackets, decorative beveled glass, and corbelled chimneys reveal the attention to detail that accompanied the home's construction. Forsyth contractor Louis Wahl built the elegant residence for rancher and businessman Joshua McCuiston and his wife, Grace, in 1914. Grace, who had traveled to Asia, had a great appreciation for eastern architecture and was reportedly intimately involved with the home's design and construction. She is said to have checked every load of lumber delivered to the site, sending back any boards that didn't meet her specifications. Described by the Forsyth *Times* as "one of the most costly in the city," the residence served as the McCuiston's "town house." In 1928 they sold it to Whit and Elsie Carolan. The home's location was particularly convenient for Whit, a lawyer who served as county attorney and whose office was at the county courthouse. Elsie, who taught piano to generations of Forsyth children, lived here until 1978.

262 N. 13TH

BEEMAN RESIDENCE



Arrival of the Milwaukee railroad and the masses of homesteaders who followed in its wake meant land-office business for Forsyth. As Rosebud County seat, Forsyth provided plenty of work for lawyers like Henry Beeman, who opened a title abstract company in 1911. The following year, he and his wife, Maude, erected this Craftsman style home a half block from the county courthouse where Henry conducted much of his business. The one-and-one-half story residence boasts many classic Craftsman style features, including a front gable dormer, exposed rafter tails, and decorative roof brackets, while an inset front porch and polygonal side bay window enhance the structure. In the 1920s, the Beemans, who had two children, let rooms to unmarried schoolteachers. Before becoming a lawyer, Henry served as Forsyth's first superintendent of schools. Both Henry and Maude were active in the community. Henry worked as county attorney for eight years and city attorney and clerk for thirty years, while Maude was a charter member of the Forsyth Woman's Club. Widowed in 1958, Henry continued to live here until his death in 1963.

273 N 13TH

BLAND RESIDENCE



"The three Longley cottages in the eastern part of the city have been completed and are ready for occupancy," announced the *Forsyth Times* in November 1901. Two of those cottages were almost certainly this hipped-roof residence and its twin next door, both owned by M. Longley. The homes are typical of Forsyth's turn-of-the-century masonry residences, most of which have since been covered with stucco. Mass production of decorative details allowed even modest houses to partake of architectural fashion. In the case of these two homes, the fish scale shingles ornamenting their front gable ends and the turned wooden posts supporting the gabled porch roofs visually reference the popular Queen Anne style. In 1914 real estate salesman Arthur Bland lived here with his wife, Maude, and their daughter, Marvel. The public administrator for Rosebud County from 1913 to 1928, Bland had to scramble to make a living after the homestead boom dried up; by 1920 he was working for the railroad as a brakeman. In 1928, the Blands moved to Billings, where Arthur once again sold real estate.

286 N. 13TH

MEYERHOFF RESIDENCE



Emmett and Anna Meyerhoff arrived in Forsyth in 1902 and quickly became prominent in Forsyth society. The assistant cashier of the newly organized Forsyth State Bank (later First National Bank), Meyerhoff was bank president by 1913. Anna was active in the Forsyth Woman's Club, whose meetings she sometimes hosted here, while Emmett was a committed Mason and a founding member of the Chamber of Commerce. He also served a term as mayor. The Meyerhoffs purchased this plot in 1907, and sometime before 1910 constructed an elegant, hipped-roof bungalow. The home boasts an interesting combination of decorative features including Craftsman style exposed rafter tails and multi-paned windows. After the agricultural depression forced the closure of all of Forsyth's banks in 1923, the Meyerhoffs moved to Los Angeles, where Emmett found work as an accountant. Forsyth businessman Walter Dean purchased the home in 1945 for his son, Walter, and daughter-in-law, Esther. In the early 1960s, during the Cold War, the Deans installed a bomb shelter in the basement. Although Walter died in 1998, Esther remained here until 2004.

310 N. 13TH

HARRY AND FRANCES CORNWELL RESIDENCE



Decorative half-timbering and an intricate roofline distinguish this elegant one-and-one-half-story home. Mary Philbrick had the residence built as a wedding present for her daughter Mary Frances and son-in-law Harry Cornwell, a hardware merchant. The Philbricks were a wealthy Rosebud County ranching family, and Mary reportedly gave "munificent gifts of property" to each of her three children on their marriages. Harry and Frances Cornwell married in Minneapolis in 1916, and the house was still under construction when they returned to Forsyth after a month's honeymoon. One of Forsyth's largest and most finely detailed Craftsman style residences, the home features many of that architectural style's hallmarks, including large overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, wooden braces, and multi-pane windows. The Cornwells enclosed the front porch sometime after 1941. The Cornwells raised two children in this home, and their son Howard, who later managed the Philbrick family ranch holdings, lived here into the 1990s.

342 N. 13TH

VREDENBURGH AND SAWTELLE SANITARIUM



Osteopaths Norman Vredenburg and Claude Sawtelle built this Craftsman style bungalow in 1915 as a "sanitarium," a small hospital and nursing home. From its inviting inset front porch to its prominent hipped dormers, the building looked more like a house than a hospital. However, according to its newspaper advertisements, the sanitarium served as a center for "Osteopathy, Hydrotherapy, Electrotherapy, Violet Rays, Electric Light Sweat Baths, and the famous Ozone Treatment." In particular, the partners specialized in "chronic and maternity cases, eye, ear, nose, and throat work," and optometry. Dr. Vredenburg lived next door while Dr. Sawtelle resided at the hospital. Many such private hospitals opened in towns across Montana before resources were available to construct larger facilities. In this case, the venture was short-lived. The sanitarium closed before the 1918 flu epidemic hit Forsyth; flu victims received treatment at a makeshift emergency hospital in the Masonic Lodge. Forsyth finally gained a permanent hospital when Rosebud County contracted with Deaconess organization to open a thirty-two-bed facility in 1922.

357 N 13TH

MAURICE AND MARY LORD RESIDENCE



When the 1907 arrival of the Milwaukee road boomed Forsyth, carpenter Maurice S. Lord decided to open his own business. "It won't cost you anything to talk to me," he advertised, "and if I can't suit you as to price and quality, then give the job to the other fellow and we will still be friends." A few years earlier, he and his wife Mary built this two-story transitional Queen Anne/Colonial Revival home. Lord likely constructed the residence himself. Its unusual T-shaped floor plan was a good advertisement for his skills as a homebuilder, especially since the house doubled as his office. Nevertheless, evidence suggests that business was slower than he hoped. Plumbers who added a bathroom in 1909 sued the Lords for payment, and three years later Richardson Mercantile temporarily attached a lien to the property. The Lords sold the home in 1912 and left Forsyth to try their hand at farming. By 1914, however, the family had moved to Columbus, where Maurice once again worked as a carpenter.

426 N. 13TH AVENUE



A large front porch, prominent south bay, and double corner lot give a prosperous appearance to what is—at its core—a typical four-square home. Carpenter Charles Bailey built the residence at the beginning of Forsyth's boom, which followed its selection as county seat in 1901. In 1905, he sold the home to Sidney and Josephine Erwin. Erwin owned the J. H. Austin livery stable in 1910. He survived the transportation revolution by transforming his livery stable into a garage by 1920. That year, he sold the home to Guy and Ethel Haywood, who lived here for decades with their two children. Guy was a physician who worked for both the Northern Pacific and the Milwaukee railroads and served as county coroner. Ethel was a music and art teacher. Although few married women of means worked in the 1920s, and many school districts refused to hire married women, Ethel taught school even after the birth of her first child. By 1930, however, she fulfilled her calling more conventionally, by offering music lessons from home.

474 N. 13TH AVENUE



A single-story octagonal cutaway bay with prominent wooden brackets and a multi-sided screen porch mark the street façade of this T-shaped, two-story home. An excellent example of vernacular Queen Anne style architecture, the home displays much historic detail common to the form: irregular angles, cutaway bays, decorative multi-paned windows, wood bracketing, a large porch, and a flared roofline. Inside the home, many of the corners are convex rather than the traditional 90 degrees. According to papers found tucked inside the home's walls for safekeeping, the house was built in 1897. However, it was not moved to this lot until circa 1909. Robert Lane, who owned a sheep ranch near Big Porcupine, lived here with his wife, Dora, and their three children from 1909 to 1914. Rosebud County rancher Charles Straw and his wife, Mabel, owned the home between 1914 and 1918. Both the Lanes and the Straws left Rosebud County before 1920, likely due to the extended drought, which made it difficult to make a living from the land.

290 14TH

THURSTON RESIDENCE



Small touches add elegance to this one-and-one-half-story Colonial Revival residence and matching garage. Particularly noteworthy are its overall symmetry, prominent eave returns, shingled gabled ends, and classical pillars supporting the hipped roof of the front porch. The home's relative lack of adornment owes much to the early twentieth century's emphasis on simplicity and clean lines. Its longest-term residents were Andrew and Ellen Thurston and their four daughters. Andrew managed the Yellowstone Elevator Company before becoming a car salesman while Ellen was locally known for her hospitality. The popular Forsyth couple may have built the home after purchasing the lot from prominent businessman and banker Emmett Meyerhoff in 1919. They owned the residence until 1937. The wooden home with clapboard siding has changed little since it was first built. Except for the modern porch screens, storm windows, and metal roof, the exterior looks much as it did in 1920. The interior still boasts hardwood floors, wood trim, crown molding, and even some of the original light fixtures.

281 N. 17TH

ROSEBUD COUNTY DEACONESS HOSPITAL



"Remember the 1918 Flu epidemic" declared a notice advocating support for the Rosebud County hospital. In 1918 and 1919 influenza killed over 5,000 Montanans. Flu victims in Forsyth received care at the Masonic Hall, temporarily converted into an emergency hospital, but the epidemic underscored the need for a well-equipped hospital close to home. Despite drought and declining crop prices, Rosebud County voters responded to the call, passing a \$70,000 bond issue in November 1919 and a second \$20,000 bond issue in 1920. Billings architects McIver, Cohagen, and Marshall designed the hospital and then modified the plan when post-World War I inflation placed the original design out of financial reach. The thirty-two-room

hospital, constructed by Billings contractor Alfred Lyle, included a lobby, kitchen, offices, patient rooms, and solarium on the main floor, operating theaters and additional patient rooms on the second floor, and laundry and storage areas in the daylight basement. The hipped-roof building ornamented with a row of stone medallions exhibits Georgian Revival style features in its symmetrical composition and classical detailing. To manage the hospital and nurses' training school, the county contracted with the Deaconess organization, a Methodist women's order that opened its first Montana hospital in 1896 in Great Falls. On April 22, 1921, Rosebud County Deaconess Hospital held an open house and "shower day"; approximately 1,000 visitors, many bearing donations for the hospital's food pantry, came to admire the new facility. Three days later, under direction of Deaconess superintendent Lyra Sanborn, the hospital admitted its first patient.

390 S. 7TH

CLAUDE O. MARCYES HOUSE



Five brick houses, all built by early Forsyth merchant Hiram Marcyes, lined this block in 1903. Marcyes arrived in Forsyth in 1882 when it was just a tent town. In 1888 he built the first brick business block in Forsyth; fifteen years later he constructed the grand Commercial Hotel. The owner of a brickyard, Marcyes was responsible for most of Forsyth's brick residential construction. While the town's other businessmen built elegant wooden homes on the north side, Marcyes built a brick house for himself (since razed) and several rental properties on the south side. He also had south side homes built for each of his five children, including this one-and-one-half story Queen Anne style residence, constructed in 1899 for his oldest son Claude. Claude was in college when his father built this house. In 1910 he was living on a nearby ranch. He may have used this residence as a town house until he sold it in 1916. In the 1920s he worked for the Northern Pacific Railroad. He reportedly crossed the picket line during a 1923 strike, after which the Northern Pacific relocated him to Missoula, where he worked as foreman in the tool department. Relatively few turn-of-the-century Forsyth homes display this level of detail and complexity. The residence's contrasting textures, steeply pitched roof, patterned shingles, and asymmetrical façade all speak to its Queen Anne origins, while its graceful three-part Palladian window adds particular visual interest.

262 S. 7TH

BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS HALL



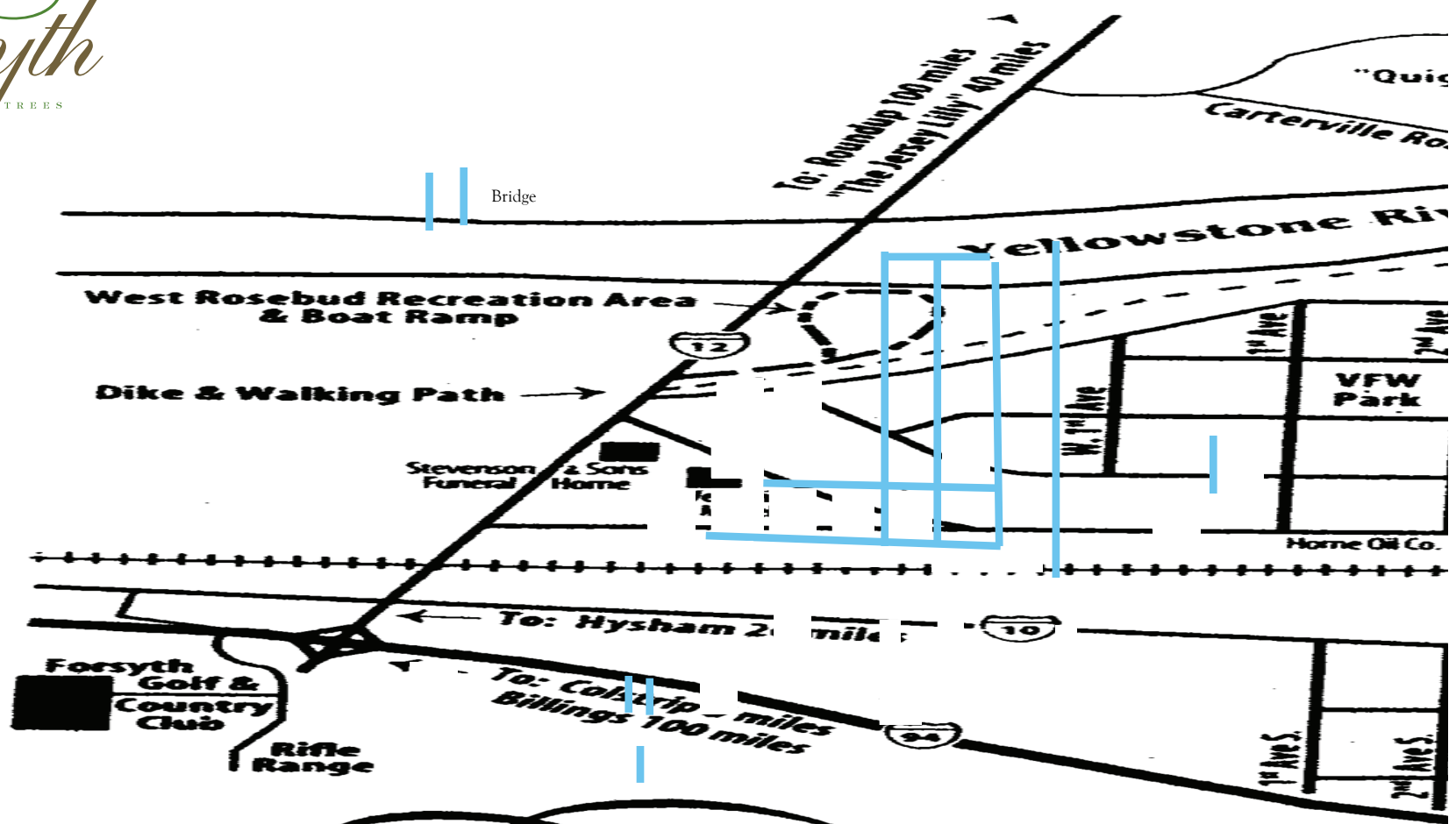
On May 8, 1882, the first train rumbled through Forsyth, and the growing town soon became home to many Northern Pacific Railway workers. Among them were locomotive engineers, whose skills were in high demand, particularly in the West during the heady days of railroad expansion. The Forsyth engineers operated their steam-powered locomotives to the crew change point of Billings (and later Laurel). By September 1882 enough engineers had moved to Forsyth to form Division 195 of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers (BLE), the United States' first railroad union. Founded in Detroit in 1863, the BLE generally avoided strikes in favor of negotiations; it became a pioneer in collective bargaining and a strong lobby for railroad safety. BLE Division 195 built this meeting hall in 1886 with labor and funds donated by its members. Constructed of logs, the hall was later sided and eventually stuccoed. The building contains a small vestibule, a closet, and a single meeting room that still boasts its original wood floor, baseboards, and chair rails. From 1886 to 1899 the engineers leased the land on which the hall stands from the Northern Pacific Railway; in 1899 they purchased the lot when the railroad sold the land to a townsite company, creating Forsyth's NP Addition. Many organizations used the BLE Hall for meetings, dances, and family gatherings, and one early Forsyth congregation worshipped here until it could build its own church. One of the best surviving examples of Forsyth's early architecture, it is still occasionally used by the BLE.

209 S. 7TH

HERMAN AND HANNAH ANDERSON HOUSE



Twenty-year-old Herman K. Anderson arrived in the United States in the late 1880s. One of over 1.5 million Swedes who left their homeland between 1850 and 1930, he quickly found work in North Dakota and eastern Montana on the Northern Pacific Railroad. Lonely, he corresponded with an old sweetheart, Hannah Svenson, and convinced her to join him in America. She traveled first to New York, where she worked at a children's home to earn money before moving west. The couple married in 1895 in Glendive, Montana. In 1902 the Andersons returned to Sweden to visit family and investigate buying a farm. Some 13 percent of Swedish immigrants to the United States returned home, but the Andersons soon decided that they preferred life in the United States. Herman once again found work with the Northern Pacific, and the family lived briefly in Howard, Montana, before moving to Forsyth in late 1903. In 1908, longing for their own home, the Andersons hired contractor J. W. Waddell to build them an eleven-room house. It was completed just in time for the birth of the family's fifth, and last, child. The comfortable, two-story, clapboard residence with a large wraparound porch was within easy walking distance of the railroad shop where Herman worked until his retirement in 1935. The home remained in the family until 1954. A subsequent owner converted it into five small apartments, but the building's exterior looks much as it did when Swedish, rather than English, resounded in its halls.



HISTORY OF FORSYTH, ROSEBUD COUNTY, MONTANA

The Crow Indians were the first known inhabitants of this area. Captain William Clark and his crew passed the future site of Forsyth by boat, on the Yellowstone River July 28, 1806. The homesteaders started moving into the area in 1876. C.O. Marcyes, the son of a founder of Forsyth, wrote in 1927, "the birth of the village of Forsyth in 1882 was due to the advent of the Northern Pacific Railroad, which was pushing forward, laying its ribbon of steel onward toward the setting sun." The town was named after General James W. Forsyth, of the 7th Calvary. For the sum of \$400, the railroad bought the original plat of land from Thomas Alexander. Alexander and the railroad reached an agreement whereby land was traded for land, and the town was born. In 1901 Rosebud County was created from the western half of Custer County.

The most spectacular building in Forsyth is the Rosebud County Courthouse which was built in 1913 at the cost of \$173,000.00. To quote Mark Hufstetler of the Montana Historical Society, "Forsyth can look back on a long history of cycles of growth and decline. Through each period of decline, though, Forsyth has managed to survive with the resources needed to face the future. The future, of course, is far from certain, but if the past is any precedent, Forsythians should face the future quite well."

By: Donna Coate