

Walking Tour of



Looking north on Center Street.
Picture taken on Hardin's second 4th of July.

Hardin, Montana

Welcome To Hardin



Welcome to Hardin, Montana

We sincerely hope you will spend some time with us and enjoy what we have to offer.

The area surrounding Hardin was one of the last of the areas of the Montana plains to be settled. The town site of Hardin was platted in 1907, by the Lincoln Land Company as a shipping point along the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad to serve a former portion of the Crow Indian Reservation recently opened to the homesteading and agriculture settlement.

People objected to naming the town Teddy, Montana, after the president, so the town was named for Samuel H. Hardin, a cattleman near Ranchester, Wyoming, and a friend of the Land Company president Morrell. Early merchants set up tents and within a short time the first permanent business buildings were springing up from the sagebrush flat that had been chosen to be the site of Hardin. By 1922, the business district was well established.

With the formation of Big Horn County on January 3, 1913, Hardin became the county seat of government and the trading center for the ranchers and homesteaders who had settled the land and the Crow Indian people who were now their neighbors.

Today you will see irrigated farming on the Big Horn and the Little Big Horn river bottoms. Dry land farming is found on the higher bench land where fields of wheat and other grain crops are grown. Thousands of head of cattle graze the hill lands as they did in the late 1890's where ranch lifestyle has not changed to any great degree. Bands of sheep which were once common have now shrunk to small farm flocks today.

Hardin is within easy driving distance of many historic sites for your viewing pleasure. The Little Big Horn National Battlefield, Battle of the Rosebud, Big Horn Canyon Recreation Area, Chief Plenty Coups State Historic Park, Big Horn County Historical Museum and Visitors Center, and, of course, Crow Agency, the "Teepee Capitol of the World" during the annual Crow Indian Fair and Pow Wow in August.

May you enjoy your time with us and *"Come visit us again when you can stay longer."*

Prepared by:
Big Horn Historical Society and Museum
Center on Hardin Historic Preservation Office
21 East 4th Street

CUSTER PARK
on 3rd Ave. between Choteau & Crawford Avenues

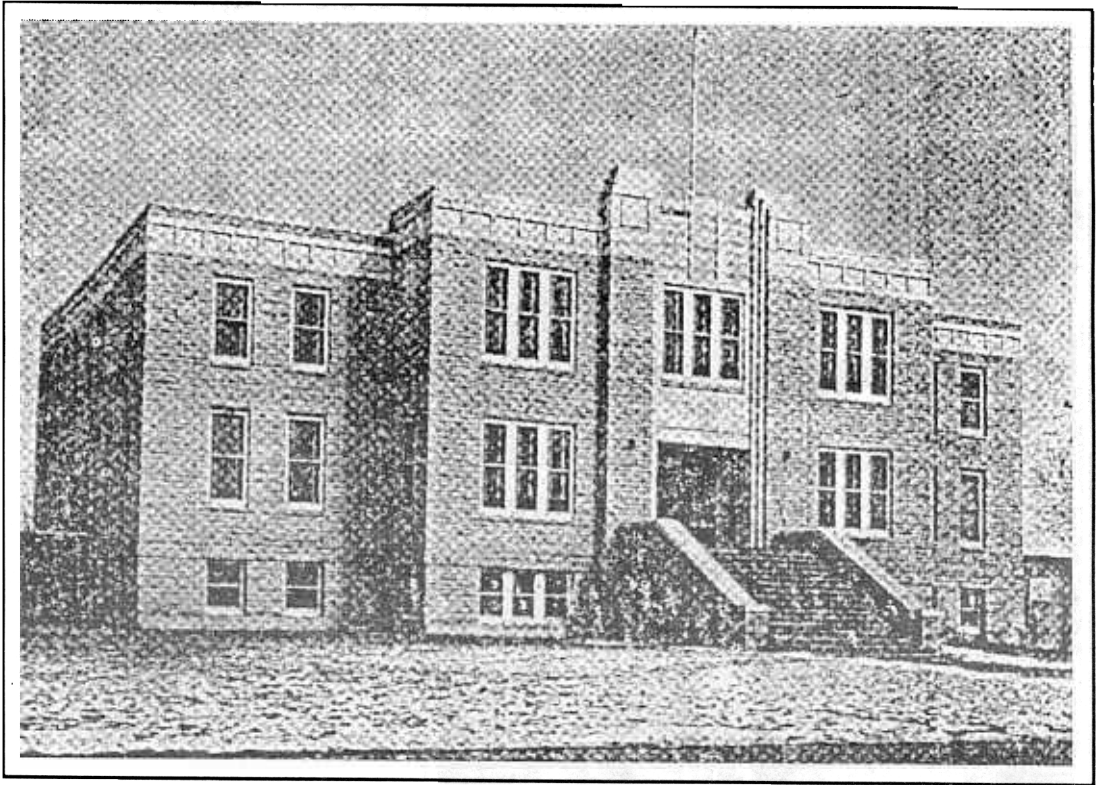
On June 25, 1921, at 5 :00 p.m., the granite monument which sets in the corner of Hardin City Park at Custer Avenue and Third Street was unveiled. This date was the 45th anniversary of the Custer Battle at the Little Big Horn. Libby Custer, delighted by this dedication, sent the General's campaign buckskins to Miss E. Fearis, the librarian, for the library's display case which contained other battle-related items. Libby herself refused the invitation to the ceremonies but sent her cousin John Cass as a family representative. The Montana governor, Joseph Dixon, attended along with Charlie Russell, the artist, and three of Custer's Crow scouts: Curley, White Man Runs Him, and Hairy Moccasin, and thousands of other visitors. The program opened earlier that day with a sham battle at the Custer Battlefield between members of the Hardin American Legion Post and more than 1,000 warriors. The monument will be rededicated in June of 1996, the 75th anniversary of the first dedication.




ACTIVITY: In the space above, copy the information on the dedication plaque.

THE BIG HORN COUNTY COURTHOUSE 121 W. 3rd Street

The Big Horn County Courthouse, a two-story rectangle limestone structure, was built in 1937. The cornerstone of rose-colored limestone is 18x24 inches and holds a copper box 6x6x14 inches which contains various documents and a copy of the day's *Hardin Tribune-Herald*. Prior to its construction, county offices were housed in retail space in the Sullivan and Lee blocks. Construction was heavily subsidized by WPA (Works Progress Administration) to create employment during the Great Depression. The county paid \$20,000 of the \$94,670 cost and WPA paid the rest. Remodeling work was done in 1979 to bring the building in compliance with new codes.



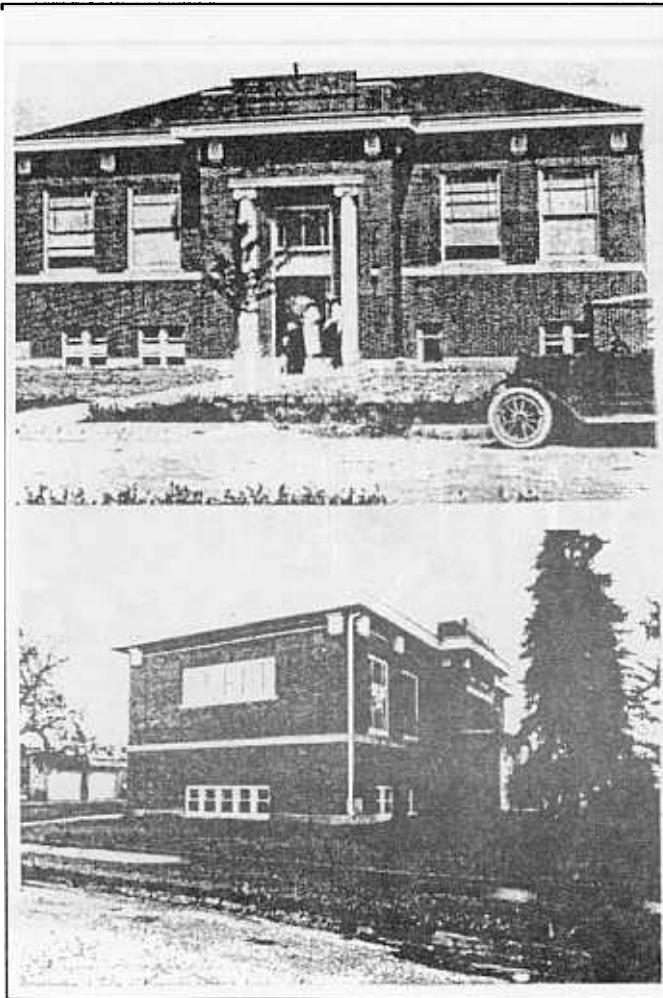
ACTIVITY: On the older picture of the courthouse, draw  in the renovations you see today.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY - BIG HORN COUNTRY LIBRARY

419 N. Custer Avenue

The first building for the library was completed in June of 1919. It also contained one of the first museums in the area. This building was a one-story building on an elevated base with a central pavilion. After several tries and much correspondence, the Carnegie Cooperation gave Hardin a gift of \$15,000. C. L. Pruitt was the architect and Percy Wilcox was awarded the building contract. Until this time one room in the home of W. E. Fearis was set aside for the library. As more and more books were bought through membership drives and a mill levy, the library moved to a rental apartment. The cornerstone contains a sealed metal box. In it are one penny, one dime, one quarter, one thrift stamp, one

postage stamp, a brief history of the library, Big Horn County and Hardin, and a then current issue of the Hardin Tribune. In 1987 the addition to the building was completed.



ACTIVITY:

Locate the cornerstone.

Where is it?

What is written on it?

What makes it different?

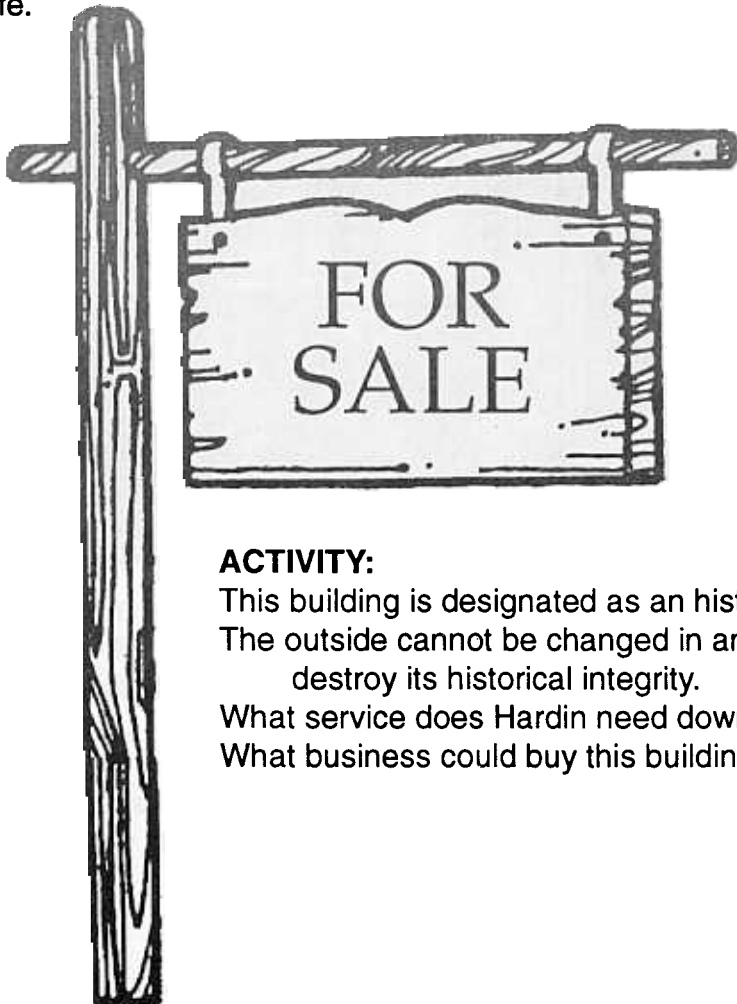
Can you tell where the new
addition begins?

How can you tell?

SULLIVAN BUILDING - CHUCK WAGON CAFE - (VACANT)

8 West Third Street

The Sullivan Building was Hardin's first business block built in 1913. It was named for James J. Sullivan, president of the 3rd Street Investment Company who had the building built. This building was to house the Big Horn County offices which were here from 1913 to 1918, when the offices moved to the Lee (Wilson) Building until 1923. At that time they moved back to the Sullivan Building and remained there until the permanent courthouse was built. The post office was located in this building from 1913 to 1922. Businesses in the building included a jewelry store, a drug store, a grocery store, and a barber shop and beauty salon. The building is now vacant and in dire need of investors to bring it back to life.



ACTIVITY:

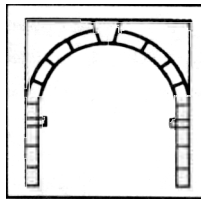
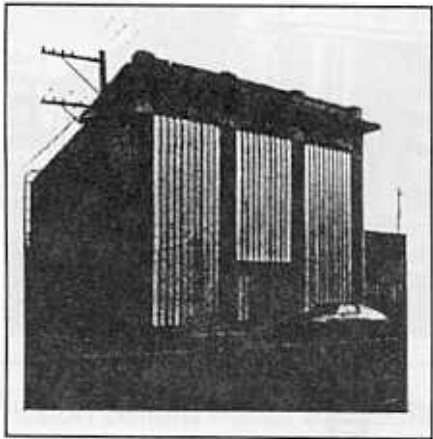
This building is designated as an historical structure.
The outside cannot be changed in anyway that might
destroy its historical integrity.

What service does Hardin need downtown?
What business could buy this building?



SMITH AND LEE BUILDING - GRAHAM STAUNTON 16 W. 3rd Street

This building was started in 1915 by T. C. Smith. The architect was Curtis C. Oehme from Billings. The contractor was Gagon & Co., also from Billings. It was called the Smith and Lee Block. It had all plate glass windows. The upstairs was used exclusively for lodge purposes. The first affair to be held there was the graduating exercises for Hardin High School's class of 1916, which graduated three students: Sina Logan, Lula Snow, and Tom Rowland. The Odd Fellows moved their lodge rooms here. While the names of the businesses changed many times over the years, it has always been used as a garage and repair shop. It is presently known as Graham-Stanton Chevrolet.



ACTIVITY:

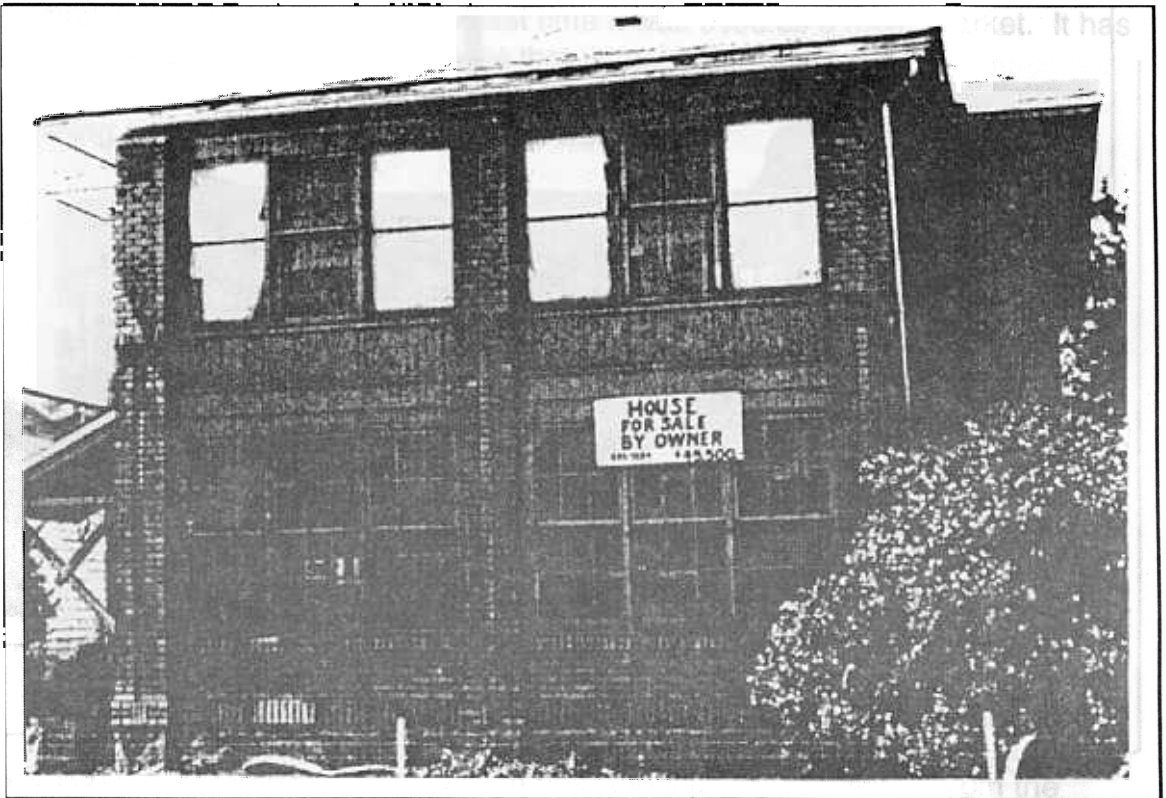
A keystone is the wedge-shaped locking stone in an arch.

Draw the three (3) arches viewed from the north side.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for the student to draw the three arches viewed from the north side. The box is outlined with a simple black line.

KENDRICK HOUSE - KENDRICK HOUSE INN BED & BREAKFAST 206 N. Custer Avenue

The Kendrick House, located at 206 Custer Ave., was built in 1915 by Ernest Adler for Elizabeth Kendrick, who was related through marriage to John B. Kendrick, the Wyoming Senator. Elizabeth had purchased the property from J. W. Johnson, the owner of Johnson and Tupper (The Mission Inn). In spite of her recent divorce, Elizabeth kept the name Kendrick and built a newer elegant, two-story, brick rooming house. It had a full basement, a hot air heating plant, and hot and cold running water in all of the rooms. It was a hostelry until 1943 when it was converted into an emergency hospital called The Winn Hospital. The hospital closed in May of 1946 and, once again, became a boarding house.



ACTIVITY: The brick and iron bar fence is part of the renovation.

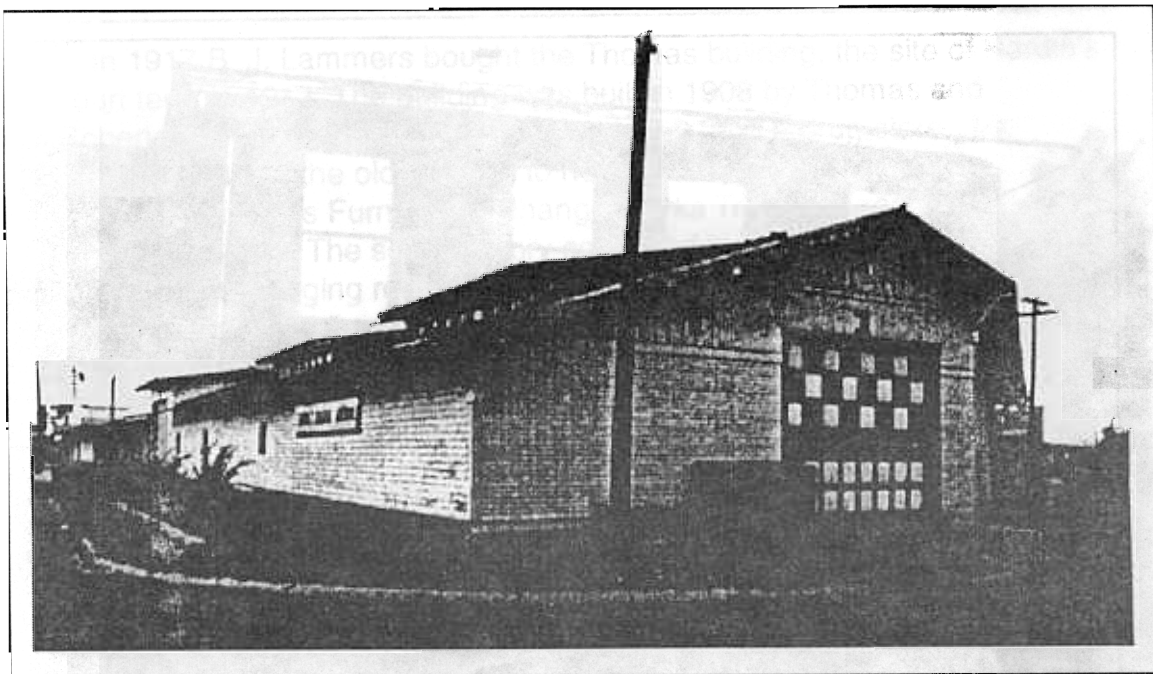
Estimate the number of bars between the brick pillars
and the number of pillars: 2

Count the bars between pillars. Count the pillars.

How many actual bars are in this fence? 2

THOMPSON'S YARDS INC. - FRENCH'S BUILDING MATERIALS 710 N. Crow Avenue


This gable-roofed, wood shed sits on a concrete foundation and was the site of Hardin's first lumberyard. It has a decorative wallboard on the south end and a slightly raised gable roof on the north to accommodate large garage doors. It was built in 1908 by Harry M. Allen, who was bought out by Thompson Yards, Inc. in 1917. Thompson Yards, Inc. was a large corporation that owned numerous lumberyards, sawmills, and forests from Montana to the Pacific Coast. They built the large shed which may have included the original, smaller sheds. It was bought by R. W. Saunders in 1928 and by Troy French in 1971.



ACTIVITY: The right angle brace that supports the roof is called a cantilever.

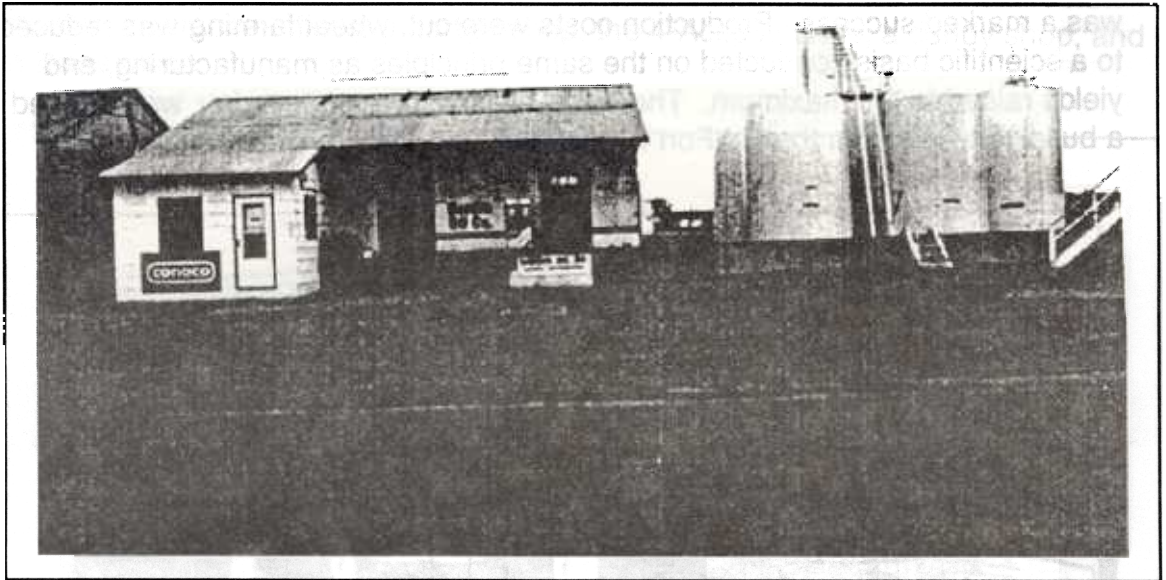
Draw one



How many cantilevers can you see from the west side? 

BULK PLANT - MATOVICH'S CONOCO BULK PLANT
305 N. Railroad Street

The Hardin Oil Company is a wood frame construction built in 1922 by Mutual Oil Company. On the north side is a small shed, an office addition to the east, and on the west is a loading dock. Further west are five cylinder bulk oil tanks. The bulk plant was established as a wholesale outlet for oils, grease, gasoline, and kerosene. Other than signage, the building has been altered very little and is typical of a business established along the tracks in a railroad town.



ACTIVITY:

Tanks #1 and #2 are 15 feet high and 119 inches around and hold 8,900 gallons.
Tanks #3 and #4 are 24 feet high and 132 inches around and hold 17,000 gallons.

What is the total number of gallons held in these four tanks?

Tank #5 is 17 feet high and 10 feet around and holds approximately 10,000 gallons.

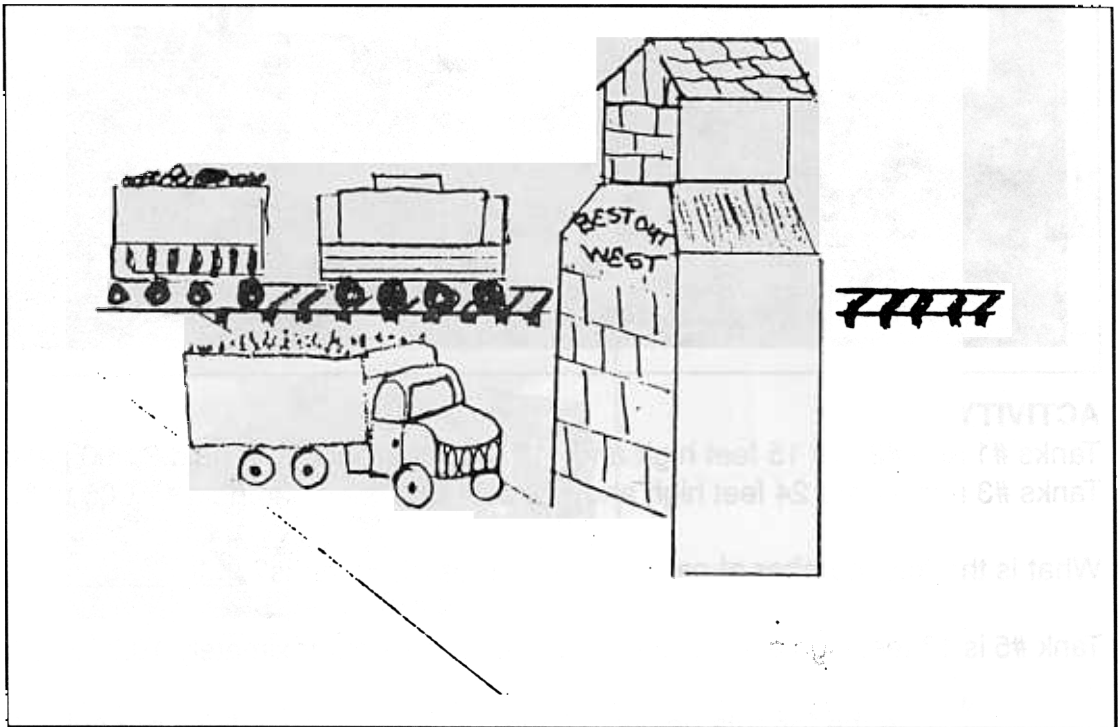
Use the formula below to figure out how many gallons per cubic feet are in this tank.

$$(3.14) \times R \times R \times H(\text{height}) = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} / 10,000 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}} \text{ gallons per cubic feet}$$

CAMPBELL FARMING CORPORATION

Railroad Street

The sheds framed and covered with corrugated iron siding were built in 1913 on Railroad Street for meal storage of the Alfalfa Mill. The mill later burnt to the ground and was not rebuilt. Farmer's Union had a new elevator contracted after that. In 1919 Campbell Farming Corporation took over Farmers' Elevator. Thomas D. Campbell and his associates leased from the government thousands of acres of Indian land in 1918 and embarked on raising wheat on a grand scale. With modern machinery devised by Mr. Campbell and his engineers, the venture was a marked success. Production costs were cut, wheat farming was reduced to a scientific basis conducted on the same principles as manufacturing, and yields raised to the maximum. The office, which still stands today, was housed in a building taken from the old Fort Custer site.



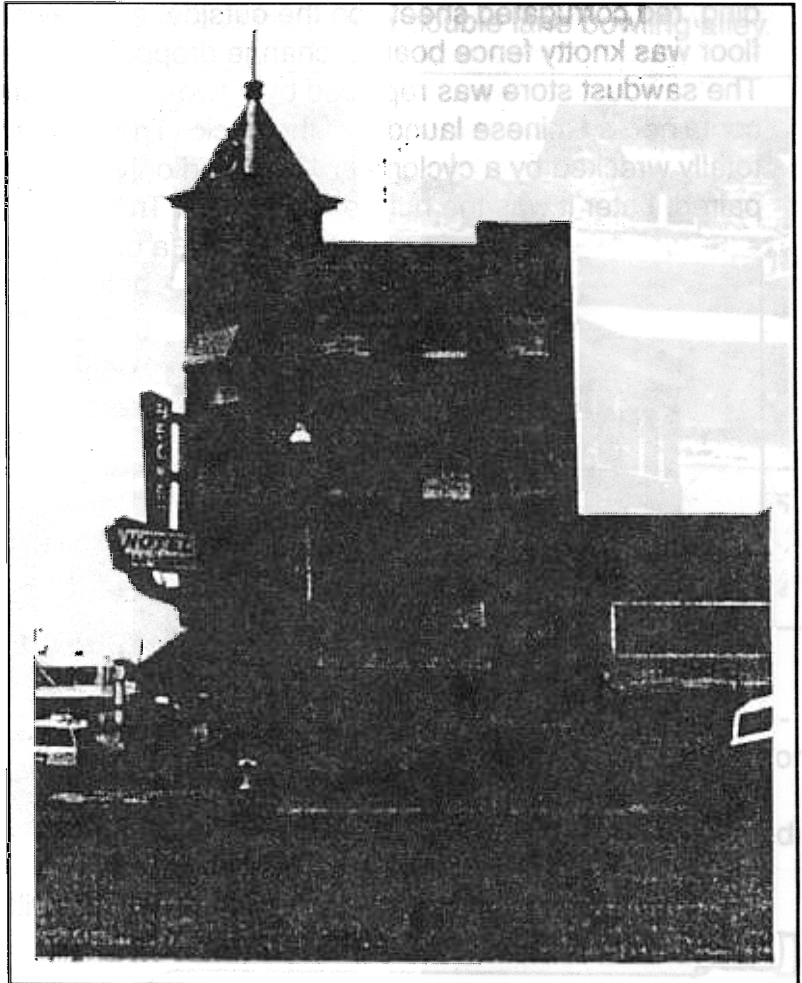
ACTIVITY: If one tin square is approximately 29 inches high, how tall is the elevator?

BECKER HOTEL 200 N. Center Avenue

The Becker Hotel is a three-story rectangular brick building that stands 34-feet high. The hotel was built by Anton Becker in 1908 as the Montana Saloon with family living quarters upstairs. The hotel had a main facade on Center Avenue and a corner entrance. The side facade has five bays, four entries, and several plate glass store fronts. The windows all have metal awnings. The diagonal tower is pressed metal simulating brick topped by an ornate flagpole, and a small baroque dormer. It extends over the entrance and holds the sign "Hotel Becker 1917".

ACTIVITY:

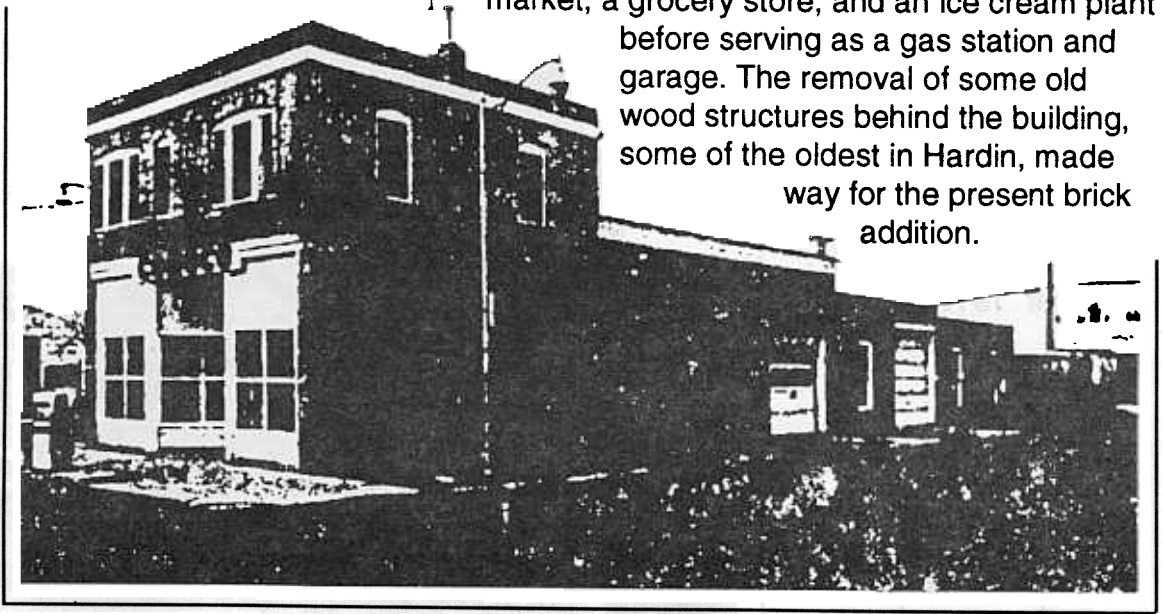
Notice the keystones over the second story windows. Notice the design formed by the lighter brick on the building parapets. What evidence do you see that the overhang (dormer) above the door is NOT made of brick? The north wall still contains what information?



SPENCER'S GENERAL STORE - THOMPSON TRUCKING (ABANDONED)
corner of Railroad Street and Center Avenue

Spencer Store, a general store and post office, was the first building in Hardin in 1907. E. C. Spencer built his first store on the south side of the track but later built the present building on the north side. The store was a "work of art" since the sides were made by putting building paper on the inside of the studding, red corrugated sheets on the outside, and sawdust in-between. Since the floor was knotty fence boards, change dropped on the floor disappeared forever. The sawdust store was replaced by a two-story concrete block store which also contained a Chinese laundry in the back. The roof of the Spencer Store was totally wrecked by a cyclone in 1909, and only the one-story structure was repaired. Later it was the hub for Thompson Trucking. The building housed a meat

market, a grocery store, and an ice cream plant before serving as a gas station and garage. The removal of some old wood structures behind the building, some of the oldest in Hardin, made way for the present brick addition.



ACTIVITY: Observe the south side carefully. Describe what evidence you can see that the building was repaired after the cyclone.

JAMES REID POOL HALL - BIG HORN COUNTY NEWS
204 N. Center Avenue

Anton Becker purchased this lot adjoining the Montana Saloon from J. P. Arnold of Billings in 1910. He erected a one-story brick building which opened in 1911 when the Pioneer Pool Hall moved from the Hardin Hotel across the street. Mutt Larkin, a popular Hardin barber, had his shop here. In 1918 James Reid had a 40-foot addition put on the rear and installed a double lane bowling alley.

In 1926 an indoor golf course, containing nine holes, started here. Throughout the years the building has housed Goering Meat Market in the rear and a Piggly Wiggly Grocery in the front. Roy Greenfield's mother, Mrs. Thompson, opened the Pastime Cafe in 1943. When she died in 1944, Danny Jones ran this cafe until his death in 1973. It was a popular cafe and has fed many

people through the years. The building remained empty for over eleven years when, in 1987, the Mainstreet Program began. It became the Chamber of Commerce Office and the first office of the Historic Preservation and CLG program for Big Horn County. After extensive renovation the building sold to the Big Horn County News for their paper office, and the previously established offices moved into the vacant Becker Hotel to continue the Mainstreet Program. It is now the offices of the *Big Horn County News*.



ACTIVITY:

Sketch the brick embellishments (stud-like decoration) from the side.



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a student to draw or sketch the brick embellishments described in the activity.

PRUITT BUILDING - GREG PATTISON, C.P.A.
208 N. Center Avenue

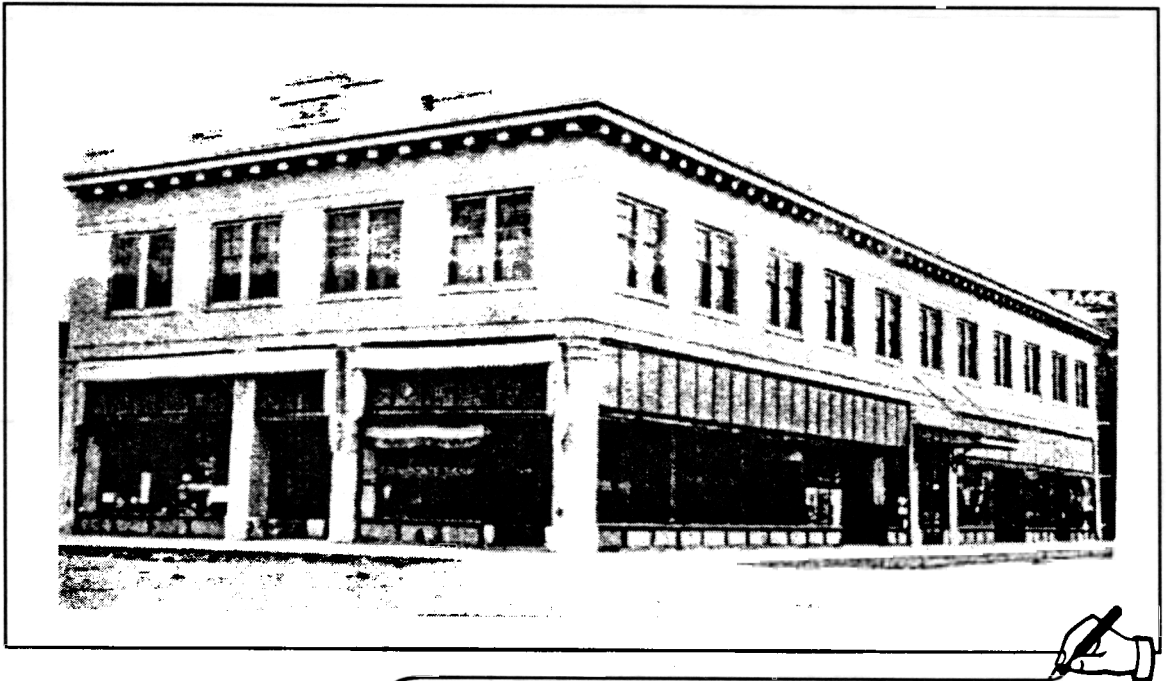
This lot was purchased by Arthur Knudson from Wm. H. Blyth in March, 1910. He immediately built this two-story building which was wired for electric lights by J. E. Weston on May 15, 1910, being the first building wired in Big Horn County. The second electric building was the C. D. Schneider Building next door on the south which was wired on May 17, 1910. There was no electricity in Hardin, yet, but they would be ready for the big day. This building has housed the Star Theater, a Gents Furnishing store and a general mercantile until 1920. Knudson sold the block to Franz Karsten, who sold it to Wes Pruitt in 1915. It has changed hands many times and now houses the office of Greg Pattison.

ACTIVITY: On the second floor, notice the two different architectural styles of windows. Draw each.



**T. E. GAY BLOCK - 4 ACES - BIG HORN INSURANCE - SWEETS 'N SUCH
10 W. 3rd Street - 224 N. Center Avenue - 8 W. 3rd Street**

This second largest business block was built in 1916. Mr. Gay bought the lots from Gwen Burla in 1910. Architects Link & Haire of Billings drew the plans. The formal opening was celebrated with a grand ball in the south store room. The building housed, among other businesses, Gay's Hardware. After the sale to L. S. McAllister, it became known as Hardin Hardware until it went out of business in 1961. The upstairs of the building contained many professional businesses, lawyers, dentists, etc. Today this area is apartments. Downstairs now houses insurance offices, a barber shop, the 4-Aces Lounge, a candy shop, and a lease office.

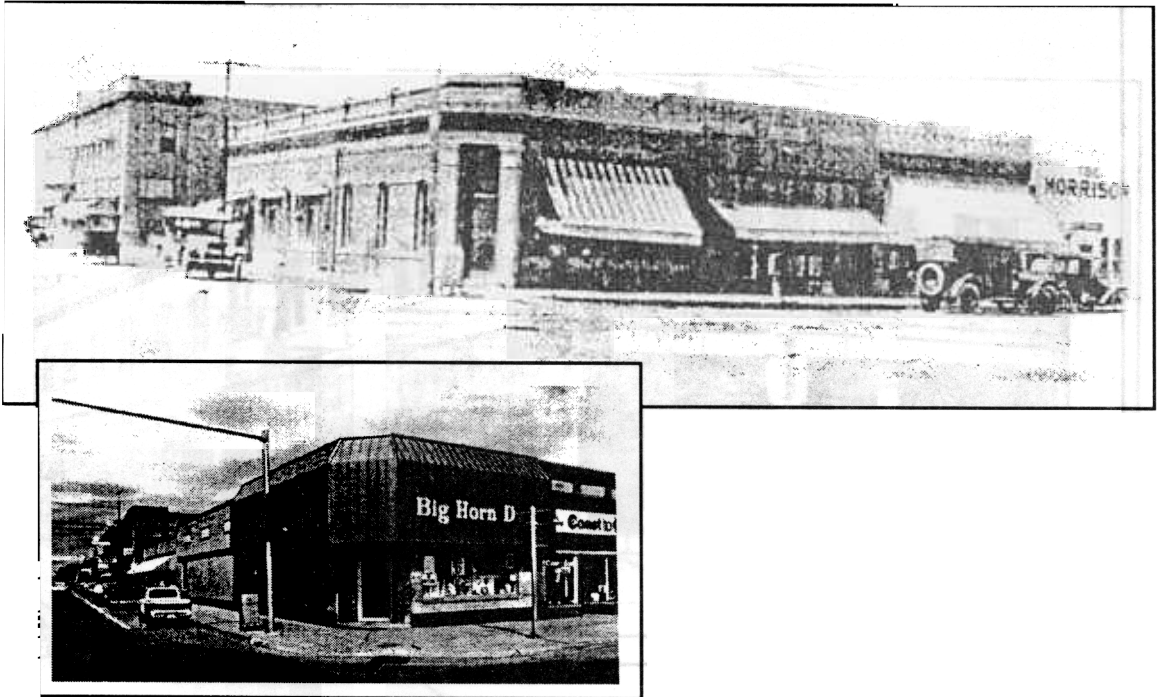


ACTIVITY:

Notice the heavy chain holding the awning. Sketch the metal brackets of the main entryway on 3rd Street.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK - COAST TO COAST 11 W. 3rd Street

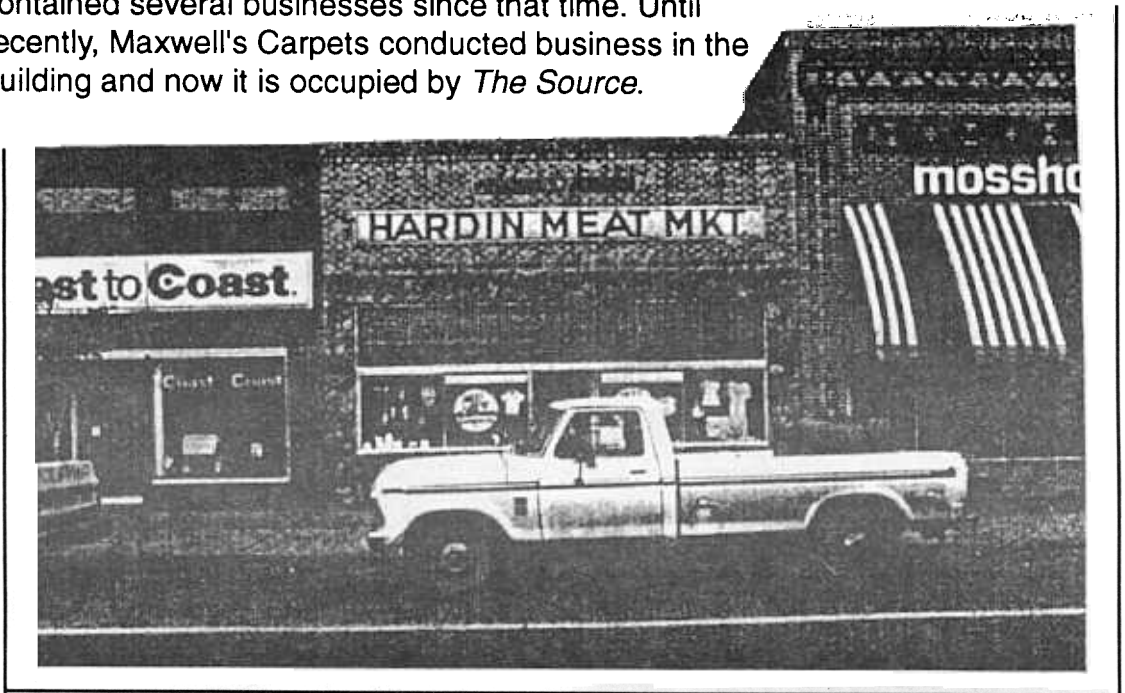
This was the home of Hardin's first bank. The site was the second lot sold on May 30, 1907. It was sold to John Arnold and E. A. Howell, business men from Billings. The original building was enlarged in 1910 and contained various businesses through the years. The bank was called First National Bank and remained so until 1945 when it merged with the Big Horn County Bank. In 1945, after the bank merger, the bank moved across the street into the Gay Building. At that time Archie Grover moved a drug store from the Sullivan Building, where he had been since 1938, becoming Big Horn Drug. When the Big Horn Drug closed its doors in 1993 for the final time, the space was taken by the Coast to Coast Store which is presently in operation.



ACTIVITY: Count the glass squares that were in the original doorway.
What makes these glass squares different?
Where have you seen them before?

HARDIN MEAT MARKET - MAXWELL'S - THE SOURCE
306 N. Center Avenue

This building was originally built and used by Gibson Bros. for a general store. The first kiln of brick in the spring of 1909 was used by Mr. Tolliver to build this store on the second lot north of the new bank building. It was later purchased by the Kopriva Bros. and was called the Hardin Mercantile. During a remodeling project the front of the store was planned as a meat market. The market would be managed by M. L. McGrew, who had purchased the Ebeling Market and changed the name to Hardin Meat Market. In 1921 McGrew sold the market to John Swindle and by this time the market occupied the entire building. In 1950 Swindle sold to Dan and Joe Zeiler. It passed from the Zeilers to Ron Biery who owned it until 1981. This was the last time it was used as a meat market. It has contained several businesses since that time. Until recently, Maxwell's Carpets conducted business in the building and now it is occupied by *The Source*.



ACTIVITY: Choose one brick design near the top of the buildings from the Hardin Meat Market to the end of the block going north.
Copy that design here.

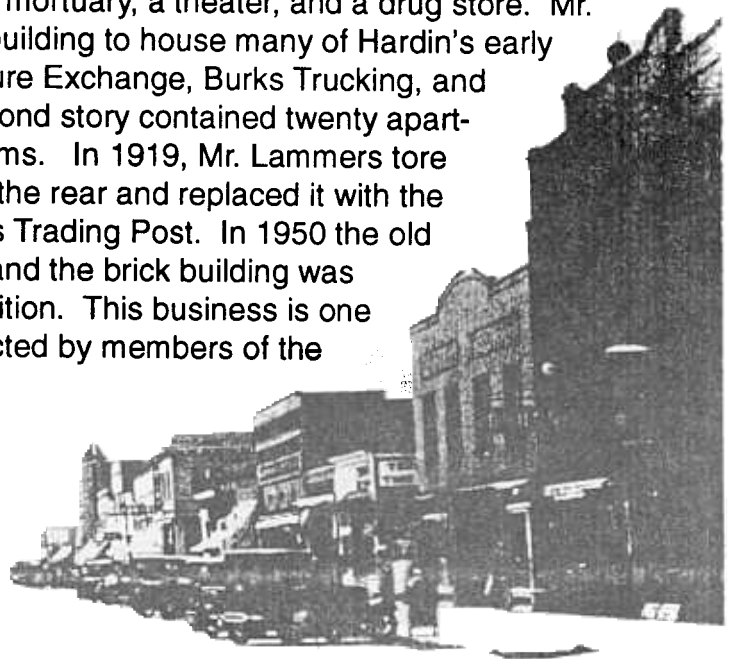
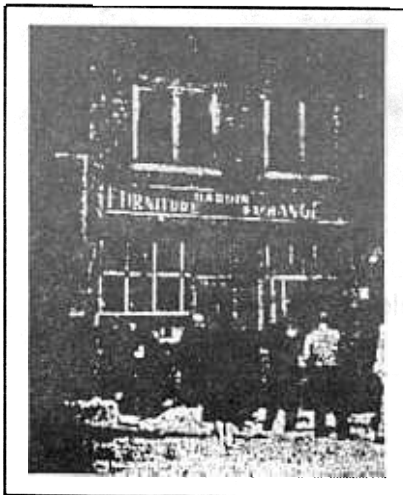


HARDIN FURNITURE EXCHANGE - LAMMERS TRADING POST

17 E. 4th Street



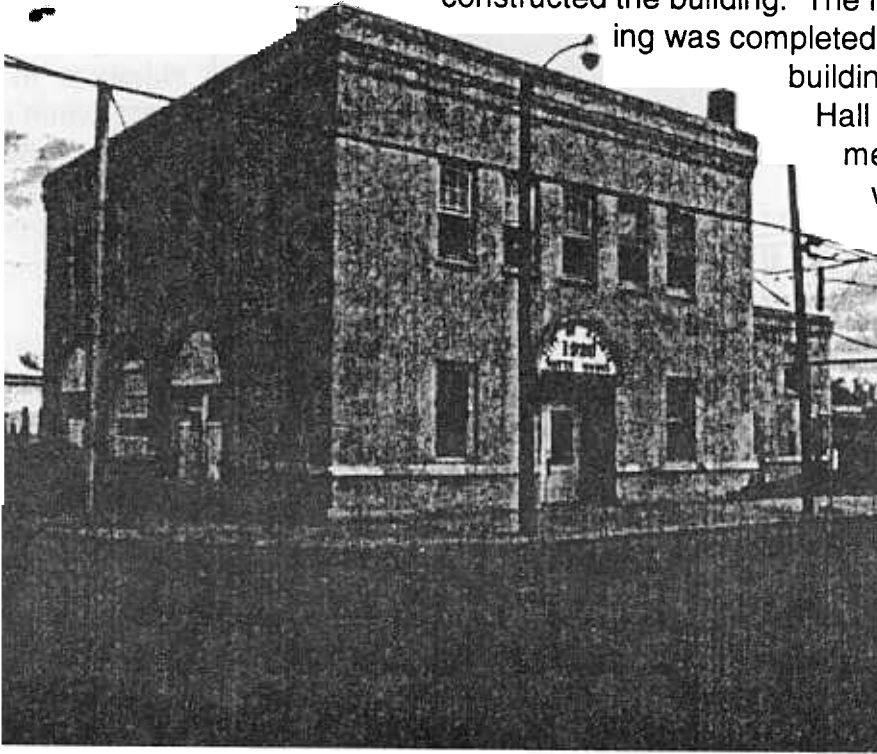
In 1917 B. J. Lammers bought the Thomas building, the site of Hardin's first court term in 1913. The building was built in 1908 by Thomas and MacRoberts. It had housed a mortuary, a theater, and a drug store. Mr. Lammers remodeled the old building to house many of Hardin's early businesses: Lammers Furniture Exchange, Burks Trucking, and Fleming Shoe Shop. The second story contained twenty apartments and twenty lodging rooms. In 1919, Mr. Lammers tore down the old brick building in the rear and replaced it with the structure that is now Lammers Trading Post. In 1950 the old Thomas building burnt down and the brick building was remodeled to its present condition. This business is one of the oldest still being conducted by members of the original family.



ACTIVITY: Looking south from the vacant lot on the corner of Center Avenue and 4th Street, where Lammers used to stand, draw the building skyline without looking at the picture above. Compare the skylines; are they the same?

WATER WORKS or CITY HALL 101 E. 4th Street

The Hardin City Water Works was started in the fall of 1919 and completed in 1920. It was a brick and tile two-story building over underground settling basins. Engineer R. N. Murray of Billings and Security Bridge Co., who built many bridges and numerous water and sewer projects, constructed the building. The inside of the building was completed as needed. The building housed the City Hall and the fire department. The building was stuccoed later.



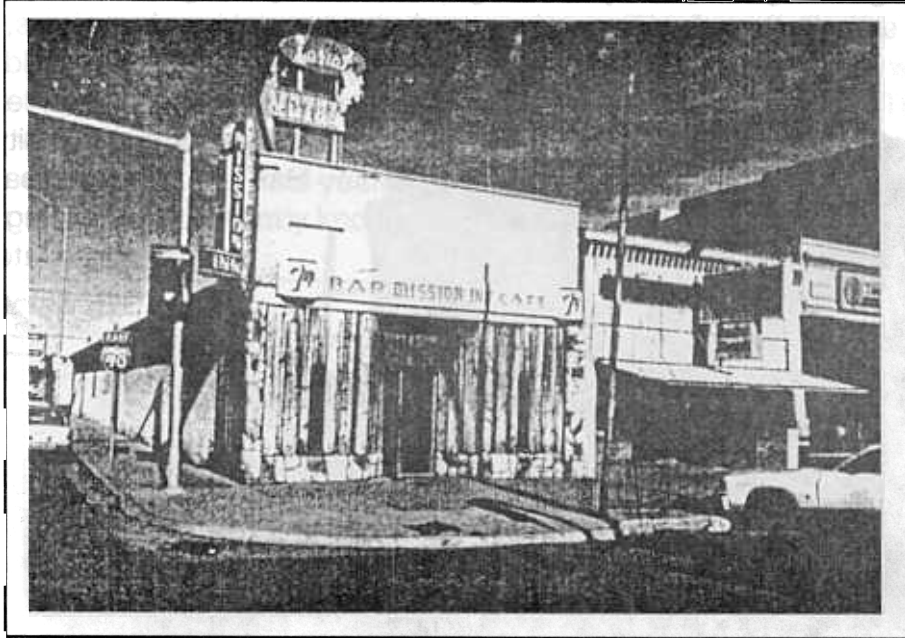
As the rest of the block became available, the city bought it for storage for city equipment. Aside from the stucco facades, the Water Works has changed little.

ACTIVITY: Notice the lampposts' globes.
Draw one of the lampposts.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for drawing a lamppost.

JOHNSTON & TUPPER - MISSION INN (VACANT)
223 N. Center Avenue

This one-story building was built in 1909 by J. W. Johnston and Steve Tupper. The store carried baled hay, grain, flour, and feed. In 1910 the building



was extended to the alley with a steel ceiling that still remains. In 1915 when a gas pump was placed in front of the building, the city council issued an order that all hitching posts be removed from Center Avenue. After the partnership dissolved, the

Mission Billiard Parlor and Cafe was started in the rear with a 3rd Avenue entrance. In 1929 the entire building was remodeled for use as the Mission Inn run by the Buzzettes who bought it in 1938. It has had several owners since then but has been known as the Mission Inn for over 55 years.

ACTIVITY: Notice the hammered "steel" over the door. Notice the stucco overlay on the south side's original boards and lathe. Make a rubbing of the stucco.



A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a student to write or draw.

HARDIN STATE BANK - SAL'S LAST STAND WESTERN WEAR

219 N. Center Avenue

This one-story brick building was built in 1911 for the Hardin State Bank with Percy Wilcox in charge of the construction. The frame building that stood on this lot was purchased by the Hardin State Bank and moved to the adjoining vacant lot to the south, and business was conducted here until the brick building was completed. In June of 1917 Model Clothiers, owned by S. J. Marguisee and his uncle Jacob, opened here. In about 1929 the building was enlarged and Sam continued to run Model Clothiers until 1949. Keith Martin started Martin's Western Wear here and did business for the next 18 years moving to the next block in 1967. In the years since, it has housed several other businesses, a flower and gift shop, a second-hand store, a plumbing supply store, the Jailhouse Art Gallery, and presently is the site of Sal's Last Stand Western Wear.



ACTIVITY: This entrance and those on either side are recessed.
What would be the advantage?

SAVOY HOTEL AND CAFE - THE PLAZA 217 N. Center Avenue

The Savoy Hotel and Cafe, the first three-story building in Hardin, was built in 1917. W.A. Dedrick was the architect and J. W. Van Houten contracted the carpentry. It was very modern at that time – a full basement with a steam heating plant, electric lights throughout, and two bathrooms with hot and cold water on each floor. The cafe itself, a family place because it sold no liquor, had French beveled plate glass mirrors on the south wall and private dining rooms and a barber shop on the north. It was completed two months ahead of Mr. Beck's Becker Hotel. In 1945 Harvey Cort bought it. The Cort Hotel and Bar was destroyed by fire in December of 1987.

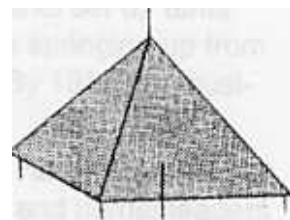
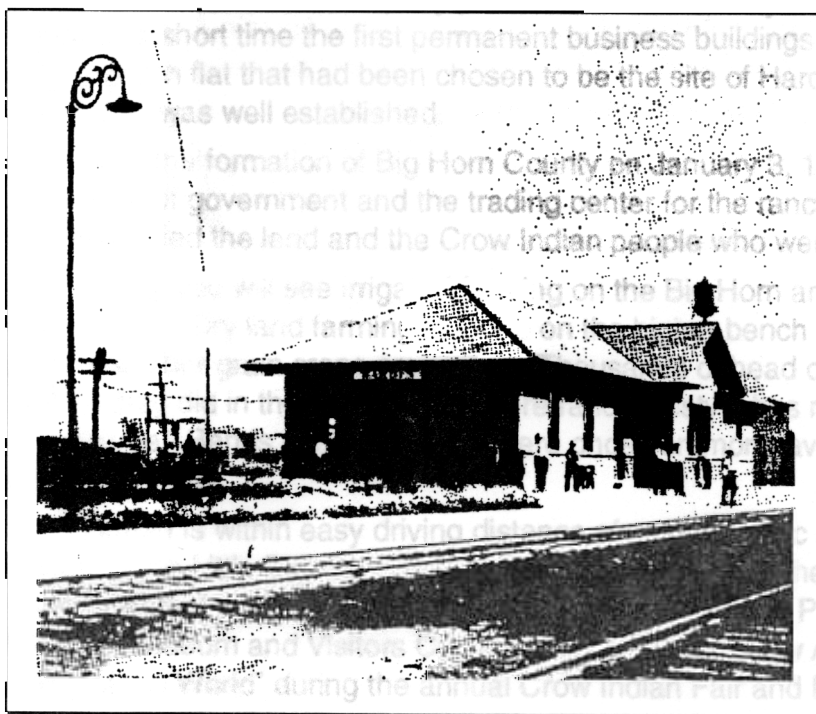


ACTIVITY: In whose memory is the plaza dedicated? Draw a simple sculpture to place in the plaza.

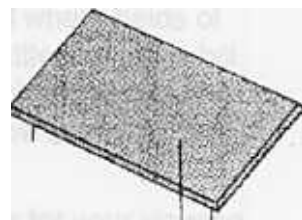
A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a drawing. It occupies the lower right portion of the page, below the activity instructions.

HARDIN DEPOT - BURLINGTON NORTHERN RAILROAD DEPOT (VACANT) Railroad Street

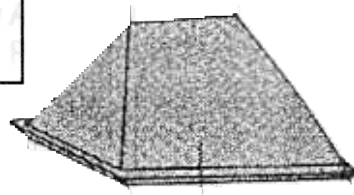
On August 4, 1922, B. J. Jabst Building Co. was contracted to build the cross-shaped one-story masonry building that is the present depot. In 1907 Hardin's first depot was brought from Fort Custer after being cut into small sections and moved on a train through the Big Horn Bridge. The design was similar to Burlington Northern depots in Nebraska. Two years later it was expanded twelve feet on the east and fifty feet on the west for freight room. The entire building would be two stories with the living quarters upstairs. When the new depot was contracted, part of it was moved and remodeled into a residence at 522 North Crook.



pavilion roof



gable roof



hip roof

ACTIVITY:

The present depot has which type of roof?

How do you know?

Prepared by

Paulette Frazer, Peggy Kimmet, Kathy Stenerson

Printed by

District Printing

Hardin School Districts 17H & 1

Histories and photos provided by

Big Horn County Historic Preservation Office

Jackie Redding - H. P. officer