

Legal Description: ST TNST, Blk 15, Lots (E14')17-(S14")18
 Address: 208 Main
 Current Owner: William and Carol Larkin
 Address:
 (x)private ()public

Historic Name:
 Rasmussen Building
 Common Name:
 Billy's Design Center
 Construction date:
 (x)est. ()doc.
 1940
 Architect:

Builder:
 R.H. Rasmussen
 Original Owner:
 R.H. Rasmussen
 Original Use:
 Confectionery/Bakery
 Present Use:
 Home Design Center



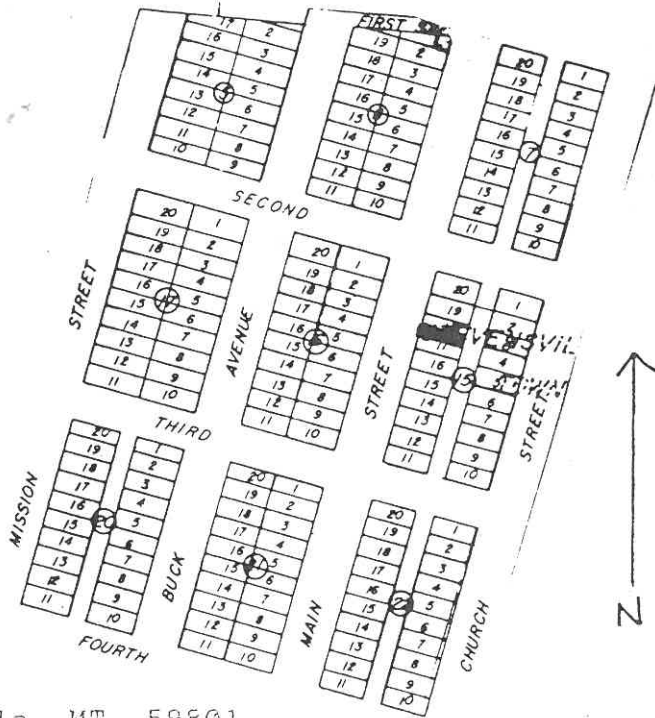
W. Elevation, Sleeve 5, Row 2, Neg 7

GEOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION:

Acreage: less than 1 acre
 USGS Quad: Stevensville
 UTM's:

RESEARCH SOURCES:

- (x) Title Search
- (x) Tax Records
 1764-27-1-12-10
- () Building Permit
- (x) Census Records
- () Sewer/water
- (x) Sanborn maps
- (x) Directories
- (x) Newspapers



FORM PREPARED BY:

Name: Frank R. Grant
 Address: 544 Hastings', Missoula, MT. 59801
 Date:

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Billy's Design Center is a two-story, poured concrete, rectangular (28' x 84') commercial building. The combination sloping/gable roof is covered with corrugated metal.

The poured concrete facade (west) faces Main Street. The facade is framed by full length pilasters. The upper facade is symmetrical. At the center of the plain cornice "R H RASMUSSEN" is molded in the concrete. A large sign reading "BILLY'S DESIGN CENTER" extends across the facade between the cornice and two pairs of 1/1 double hung windows. A flower box is located on the sill of each window. Decorative shutters have been added to all four windows. Covered transom windows, 3-2-2, extend across the base of the upper facade.

The upper facade and the store front are separated by a flat awning. The awning is used as a signboard advertising "DRAPERIES", "CARPET", and "LINOLEUM".

The storefront is divided into three sections. A wooden door with a full length glass leads to the second story stairs at the extreme north side of the north section. A medium sized display window on a concrete bulkhead is located in the south half of the north section. The entrance to the main floor is located in the central section. It includes a double wooden door with full length glass. A large display window on a concrete bulkhead fills the entire south section.

The west half of the ground floor of the south elevation is a party wall with the adjacent building. Rising one story above the adjacent building on the west end, the south poured concrete wall descends in steps to one story at the extreme east end. The gabled center section of the building extends east-west across the east three-fourths of the building and is hidden by the wall on the west. The west end of the gable joins the sloping roof of the west one-fourth of the building. The gable roofline is visible above the wall on the east. Four shed dormers are located in the east two thirds of the roof. Each dormer has a pair of four-pane sliding windows.

The east elevation reveals the combination sloping/gable roof used in this building. The second floor of the building is located within the centered gable. The base of the gable is located below the top of the poured concrete north and south walls, creating a valley between the gable roof and the wall. The sloping roof runs parallel to the gable with its high point at the peak of the gable on the west and the low point at the base of the gable on the east. Dormers are located only on the south side of the gable. The shed dormer roof begins at the peak of the gable and extends about half way to the south wall.

A vent is located in the peak of the gable. Two small single-sash windows are located near the center of the gable. An interior chimney is located on the north side of the peak. An entrance door is located at the far south side of the east elevation. A large service door on the far north side has been infilled and a door added within the infill. The north elevation is a common wall with the adjoining building.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

In 1909 the south half of this building was the location of a restaurant and dwelling. The building was one of a row of wooden false-front buildings that lined the east side of the two hundred block of Main Street. To the north was a vacant dwelling; to the south was a blacksmith shop owned by John A. Smith. That year Smith purchased lot 17 from Henry Benton and Josh Turner. In 1916 Smith sold the north 14 feet of lot 17 to Jacob Rasmussen. (1) Rasmussen's son, Robert, used the building for a bakery and confectionary. (2)

In 1940 Robert Rasmussen purchased the south 14 feet of lot 18 and began rebuilding his store. In addition to being a baker, Rasmussen was an electrician and repaired small electrical appliances and motors. During the following decade he slowly enlarged the building, replacing the wood frame walls with poured concrete. He added the second story and the principal facade. While he rebuilt the building he kept the business open and lived in part of the building. (3)

In 1964 Rasmussen sold the building to Luther Severtson, who in turn sold it to William and Carol Larkin in 1970.

INTEGRITY

Billy's Design Center was built over a decade through a process of replacing existing walls and roofs as money and time were available. The principal facade was completed as a unit and later remodeled. The window treatment of the upper facade and the changes in the storefront have diminished the integrity of the building.

HISTORICAL and/or ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Criteria C.

Billy's Design Center is a distinctive building in Stevensville. The facade is poured concrete without facing brick or block. It has a unique combination gable/shed roof. However, the architecture is not distinguished enough nor is the building old enough to be considered for the National Register of Historic Places.