

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Historic Resources of Hardin, Montana

and or common

2. Location

street & number Properties within the Hardin Original Townsite and along the right-of-way of the Burlington Northern Railroad n/a not for publication

city, town Hardin n/a vicinity of

state Montana code 030 county Big Horn code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
Multiple Resource	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (see inventory forms)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Big Horn County Courthouse

street & number Third and Crow

city, town Hardin state Montana

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Resources Survey, Hardin Original Townsite has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office, Montana Historical Society

city, town Bellevue state Montana

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The City of Hardin is located on the floodplain of the Big Horn River Valley, about a mile and a half from the mouth of the Little Big Horn River and about 45 miles east of Billings, Montana. Hardin is about two miles north of the Crow Indian Reservation and about 15 miles northwest of the Custer Battlefield National Monument. The surrounding countryside is primarily bottomland, much of it planted in wheat and sugar beets, and rolling hills used for grazing and dry-land farming. Hardin is situated along the Burlington Northern mainline which runs from Sheridan, Wyoming, to Billings. The tracks run in a northeast to southwest direction and form the south edge of town. The town itself is laid out on a rectangular grid oriented to the cardinal points on the compass. Hardin's main street, called Center, runs north-south and approximates being perpendicular to the tracks in a pattern called a "T-town" and typical of many western railroad towns. The Original Townsite, the area surveyed and the area within which the properties being nominated may be found, is on the east side of town. It contains the historic central business district and some residences. Residential neighborhoods border the Original Townsite on the north and especially the west. A newer "strip" commercial district has developed along the northwest corner in response to Interstate 90 which bypasses the community.

Hardin's Original Townsite and the immediately surrounding blocks are still largely comprised of structures built during the early periods of Hardin's development (1907-1937). Furthermore, many of these early structures have been altered very little over the years. Others, however, have lost integrity due to modifications in storefronts, siding, window configuration, or signage. Nevertheless, they still convey associations pertinent to Hardin's historical significance due to their use, massing, set-backs, and building density. Several structures or more recent construction are interspersed throughout the older parts of town. Nevertheless, Hardin still conveys the visual impression of an early 20th century Montana railroad town, important aspects of which are: the concentration of commercial structures along and adjacent to a main street which has a definite relation to the railroad tracks; commercial structures are one and two story fronting directly on the sidewalk and fully occupying narrow lots; residences surround the commercial district and are situated in the midst of more spacious lots along tree-lined streets.

This nomination includes only properties within the Original Townsite or along the immediately adjacent railroad tracks. It includes a commercial district and a residential district. Contributing structures include those which have been altered but which still convey important associations and which hold the potential to have their integrity restored. Although the surrounding neighborhoods also contain intact examples of Hardin's early residential construction, they have not been inventoried. When they are inventoried, it is anticipated that many properties surrounding the Original Townsite will be added to this multiple resource nomination.

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Hardin's architecture is typical of early 20th century small town residential and commercial architecture. The town contains no outstanding individual examples of any particular architectural style, but rather the town is an excellent collection of typical representatives of a number of styles. Those styles include vernacular commercial, vernacular wood frame residential, early 20th century neo-classical commercial, Craftsman, and (if one would call it a style) the grain elevator.

The vernacular styles are the least well represented. The commercial structures are those which were erected by the first few business people to arrive at Hardin. They erected buildings without professional design assistance and without neighboring examples of styles which could guide them. Rather, they erected buildings based on images they and their contractors brought with them of what the first saloon or the first mercantile or the first drug store in a new townsite ought to look like, given the materials and skills available. Examples of such buildings include Spencer's, Reeder's Drug, and the Johnstone and Tupper store. Each of these buildings has been significantly modified to today's conditions as Thompson's Trucking, Stockman's Bar and Cafe, and the Mission Bar, respectively. Yet, through the modifications, one can sense the simple forms of the vernacular commercial buildings: the simple massing, the simple roof forms (gable or flat), and the false front.

The same is true of the vernacular residential structures: although they have been modified, through the modifications one can see the simple gabled or hipped forms of the first houses built in Hardin to provide basic shelter without an attempt to embrace the tenets of any particular style. Typical modifications include asbestos or hardboard siding or stucco, enclosed porches, side and rear room and porch additions, and the modernization of windows and doors.

The more substantial commercial blocks in Hardin were designed by professional architects, and the style of choice was the early 20th century neo-classicism popular elsewhere in the U.S. during that period. These buildings are rather simple, solid masses with formally arranged rhythms of entrances, fenestration, and restrained and stylized classical ornamentation. Surviving examples include the Gay, Sullivan, and Lee buildings.

Another category of commercial structures is that of the more modest buildings which did not have the benefit of a professional designer but where were built after some professionally designed examples appeared in Hardin. Therefore, their builders had the benefit of neighboring stylistic examples. These could be called popular, and should be distinguished from the first set of vernacular structures because of the local presence of stylistic examples. These buildings typically have a brick facade surrounding a glazed storefront; the whole facade is patterned in a formal manner with a very restricted use of classical ornament such as a simple cornice or corbelled parapet. Examples include the Hardin Meat Market (1910), Eder Hardware (1911), and the Kifer Store (1910). In later years, the

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ornamentation became more abstract with the use of simple patterns of different colored brick. Examples include the Harriet Theatre (1916), The Montana Power Company/Federated Building (1930), and the McMoran building (1919).

The fact that Hardin was not founded until 1907 sets its business district off from most other Montana railroad towns which were founded earlier and, therefore, have several older, Victorian-era commercial structures with a more robust use of ornamentation. Hardin's restrained neo-classicism reminds one of the towns along the Milwaukee Road (Baker, Roundup) which also boomed about 1907, or perhaps along the Great Northern (Malta, Glasgow) which boomed somewhat earlier but were still post-Victorian. A major distinguishing characteristic of the commercial buildings in Hardin is the widespread use of light brown brick. Because most Hardin brick was imported, this is not attributable to local raw materials.

The predominant early residential style in Hardin was the Craftsman style, and it appeared shortly after 1910. Hardin's Craftsman houses exhibit typical elements of the style: one or 1-1/2 story construction, broad eaves decorated with exposed rafters, end brackets and wall boards, projecting windows, wood shingle and clap-board siding, dormers, and ample porches--all arranged in a picturesque manner and set in the midst of a spacious yard.

The last prominent building type, which does not actually have a "style," is the grain elevator. There are three large grain elevator complexes in Hardin along the north side of the tracks. Each of them features a tall main element which houses the main storage bins and the equipment for elevating grain into the bins. These grain elevators are all built of wood crib construction (2 x 4's, 2 x 6's, or 2 x 8's layed up in a stack on each side and joined at the corners by alternating, over-lapped ends) and sheathed with corrugated sheet metal. The elevators are unadorned with the exception of identifying painted signs. Yet, their function and type of construction add a distinguishing characteristic to the landscape of Hardin.

This nomination is a result of a comprehensive historical and architectural inventory of Hardin's Original Townsite sponsored by the Big Horn County Historical Museum. Field work was done by Patricia Nurre, Jackie Redding, Babe Butler, and Deloris Luther, all members of the Big Horn County Oral History Project Committee. Fredric L. Quivik, Architectural Historian at Renewable Technologies, Inc., Butte, Montana, was hired as a consultant by the Big Horn County Historical Museum to supervise the inventory and complete this nomination.

The entire Original Townsite of Hardin was inventoried. All standing structures were recorded with field notes and black and white photographs and their histories were researched in county records, newspapers, and through oral informants. A Montana Historical and Architectural Inventory Form was completed for each standing structure in the Original Townsite. The inventory team and the consultant researched the background history to Hardin's development to create a context for

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assessing the significance of each building. Each standing structure was evaluated as of primary significance, contributing significance, neutral, or intrusive according to the National Register criteria.

Hardin's Original Townsite contains 114 structures of which 23 (20%) are residential and 91 (80%) are commercial. After the buildings were evaluated, boundaries were drawn for two districts as part of this Multiple Resource Nomination.

Hardin's Commercial Historic District contains 23 buildings of which 65 (94%) are commercial and 4 (6%) are residential. Hardin's Residential District contains 23 buildings of which 17 (74%) are residential and 6 (26%) are commercial.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	community planning	landscape architecture	religion
1400-1499	archeology-historic		conservation	law	science
1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture		economics	literature	sculpture
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture		education	military	social
1700-1799	art		engineering	music	humanitarian
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	communications		industry	politics government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			invention		other (specify)

Specific dates 1907-1937 **Builder Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The built environment of the Original Townsite of Hardin is historically significant because it has a predominance of structures which retain a degree of integrity and which, therefore, visually depict the period during which Hardin was founded and grew. That which Hardin's Original Townsite depicts can be divided into three themes: 1) the small town architecture of the early 20th century (1907-1937), 2) the town planning of a western townsite company associated with the railroad's colonization of the frontier, and 3) the business mix and the evolution of businesses in a small agricultural/railroad town.

Hardin, Montana was founded in 1907 by the Lincoln Land Company as an agricultural shipping point along the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy railroad to serve a former portion of the Crow Indian Reservation which had recently been opened to homesteading and agricultural settlement. The Hardin area was one of the last areas of Montana to be settled by whites, in large part because it had been part of the Crow Reservation. Almost as soon as reservations were created in the American West, there was pressure to reduce their size to open more areas to settlers from the eastern parts of the U.S. Such pressure began to intensify concerning the Crow Reservation when the C.B.&Q. built its line through the reservation in 1894.

The C.B.&Q. was a major midwest railroad which had received several large land grants in Iowa and Nebraska during the mid-19th century to help it capitalize the construction of its lines. To ensure that it had enough freight to continue operations, it was a practice of the railroad to encourage the settlement of lands adjacent to its lines, thus creating a market for its services as a shipper of agricultural supplies and production. To facilitate the implementation of this policy, managers of the railroad created several townsite companies to provide for the orderly establishment of town along the lines. The most active of the townsite companies associated with the C.B.&Q. was the Lincoln Land Company. It founded almost 300 separate towns in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Montana.

Late in the 19th century, facing stiff competition from transcontinental railroads such as the Union Pacific and the Northern Pacific, the C.B.&Q. desired its own direct connection to the Pacific coast. Lacking the capital to build such a line, the railroad instead entered into an agreement with the Northern Pacific to utilize NP track from Billings, Montana, for shipments west. Thus, the C.B.&Q. had only to build a line from Wyoming to Billings, which it did in 1894. However, unlike the construction of other lines of the C.B.&Q., which were accompanied by townsite activity to encourage settlement of land adjacent to the lines, this 1894 construction in Montana did not see the immediate creation of new towns because it was across land which was not open for settlement.

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Under continued pressure from whites who wanted to settle reservation land, the Crow agreed to cede all their land between the present northern boundary of the reservation and the Yellowstone River in 1904. Anticipating new settlement along the decade-old C.B.&Q. line in Montana, the Lincoln Land Company moved to acquire the land on which Hardin now sits. Carl Rankin, who lived at the Crow Agency, several miles to the south, was hired as agent for the company and began surveying the townsite in May of 1907. The town was laid out in a variation of the "T-town" in which the main commercial street is perpendicular to the tracks (this was the scheme employed in most Lincoln Land Company towns). The plat was filed immediately at the Yellowstone County Clerk and Recorder's Office at Billings and the first sale of lots was held on May 30, 1907. People immediately began moving to Hardin and during the summer of 1907, the first permanent businesses and residences were built.

The C.B.&Q. immediately established a freight depot and section house at Hardin. The first businesses in Hardin were Edwin Spencer's general store, the Bank of Hardin, Robert Anderson's Hardin Hotel, and Anton Becker's Montana Saloon. By the end of 1907, C. C. Hutton, Carl Rankin, E. A. Howell, and W. E. Reno had completed construction of their houses. On January 10, 1908, E. H. Rathbone published the first issue of the Hardin Tribune in which the following businesses advertised: Spencer's general store, Hutton's grocery store, Smith's hardware, Bank of Hardin, Boylan's coal dealership, Hill and Coulter, blacksmiths, Reno and McDonald, livery and feed, Mouat's meat market, the H. M. Allen lumber company, a doctor named Richardson, Anderson's Hardin Hotel and Bar, the Big Horn Saloon, and the Little Horn Saloon.

In 1910, Hardin Township (which included the townsite plus some of the surrounding farms) had a population of 505. Hardin was incorporated in 1911 and the first city offices were housed at the rear of the Bank of Hardin (in 1912, the City built a wood frame fire hall and council chambers which it occupied until the new masonry City Hall, housing the Fire and Water departments as well, was built in 1920). In 1911, Hardin took on the appearance of an agricultural town with the construction of its first grain elevator by the Denio Elevator Company. In 1913, Big Horn County was created with Hardin as its county seat. Space for the county courthouse was rented in the Sullian Building which was built for that purpose in 1913 (the county continued to rent space in privately owned buildings until the County Courthouse was built as a WPA project in 1937). Hardin and Big Horn County continued to grow, reaching populations in 1920 of 1312 and 7015, respectively. Contrary to the trend in most of the rest of Montana, Big Horn County even experienced modest growth during the 1920's, reaching 8543 by 1930.

Because Hardin was founded in 1907, after Montana was well connected to eastern markets by rail, Hardin architecture reflects the materials and design tastes popular in other parts of the country. For its larger commercial buildings, the community had easy access to architects from larger commercial centers, especially Billings. These architects were steeped in the neo-classical tastes which had

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swept the U.S. in the wake of the classical revival of the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago in 1893. For its residences, the Hardin community had easy access to plans and materials of the Craftsman style through local lumber yards and the railroads. This style was also popular throughout the U.S. in the early 20th century as a means of middle class single families achieving picturesque comfort in homes thought to be conducive to moral growth. Thus, railroads helped put Hardin, in terms of its architecture, squarely in the midst of the mainstream of American tastes.

Taking a broader view of the Hardin built environment, looking at the aggregate of buildings rather than at individual buildings, one further sees the importance of the railroad to Hardin and the role the railroads played in the settling of the West. Railroads wanted orderly townsite development that would facilitate agricultural and commercial growth and, therefore, the growth of the shipping of freight. One physical, visual attribute of such planned, orderly townsite development was the imposition of a street grid on the landscape. That grid typically had a very specific relationship to the railroad, and it was platted to encourage commercial development in one area and residential development in others. Such planning tended to limit unnecessary land speculation and unnecessary commercial settings, and it tended to encourage pleasant residential settings relative to the commercial and transportation activities in town. In as much as these plans fostered amiable community growth, railroads found the planning efforts to be a good investment in building stable agricultural communities and, therefore, in building a stable economic base to support their operations. Hardin is clearly such a town.

Finally, Hardin's built environment visually depicts the business mix of an agricultural/railroad town. Hardin was founded primarily to support a growing agricultural community. Hardin was founded relatively close to Billings, an established major commercial and growing industrial center. Therefore, one would expect Hardin's business mix to be that which met the immediate needs of the surrounding agricultural community. Indeed, this is the case and it can be seen in Hardin's buildings. Businesses include grain elevators for the shipping of agricultural products, lumber yards for marketing building supplies to the surrounding countryside, retail outlets for consumer goods and services, and a few small-scale value-added businesses, such as a creamery or a blacksmith shop, that met local needs more efficiently than a more distant business could. One does not find major warehousing or manufacturing businesses in Hardin. Such businesses existed elsewhere, such as in Billings, and served Hardin by rail.

Hardin's relatively intact collection of early buildings is historically significant because it gives a visual picture of the period when railroads and homesteaders were settling the Great Plains of the American West.

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The area inventoried was divided into two districts, a commercial historic district and a residential historic district, to reflect the predominant building types in each. The commercial historic district encompasses virtually all of the historic commercial structures surviving in Hardin. However, the residential historic district, being limited to the Original Townsite, contains only a small portion of the historic residences in Hardin. Adjacent to the Original Townsite of the north and west are numerous block residences built shortly after Hardin was founded, built predominantly in the Craftsman Style, and still largely unaltered. The Big Horn County Historical Museum plans to inventory the rest of Hardin at a later date. At the completion of that process, it is anticipated that additional properties will be added to this Multiple Resource Nomination in the form of an enlarged residential historic district, additional residential historic districts, or individual historic properties.

Hardin will be using this National Register designation as the basis for a Main Street Revitalization Project. Planners in the local government and at the Big Horn County Historical Museum are currently working with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to have Hardin designated as a Main Street Program site.

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HARDIN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Period of Significance: 1907-1937

Areas of Significance: Architecture, Commerce, Transportation, Exploration/settlement

Acres: approximately 47 acres

Ownership: multiple ownership (see inventory forms)

Status: occupied

Accessibility: yes, restricted

Present Use: commercial

Physical Description

The Hardin Commercial Historic District is located within the Original Townsite of Hardin that was platted by the Lincoln Land Company in 1907. The platt follows the orthogonal grid pattern with a main commercial street set perpendicular to the railway line and all streets set to the cardinal directions, as was typical of each Lincoln Land Company townsite platt. The district contains primarily commercial and light industrial structures. The main commercial street, Center St., developed the character of a typical western United States small town business district with primarily one, two and three story rectangular masonry and frame buildings built to lot lines. Civic buildings, such as the City Water Works, the Big Horn County Courthouse and the town's Carnegie Library were constructed within one block of the center street on perpendicular side streets.

There are three basic styles of commercial architecture found in Hardin's early buildings: vernacular (the first commercial structures built in Hardin); early 20th century Neo-Classical commercial (designed by architects who were expressing the popular idiom of the period); and early 20th century popular (built without architects' designs, but closely following the Neo-Classical idioms of the professional designers as represented by Hardin's architect-designed commercial blocks). The principal type of light industrial structure is the grain elevator.

Hardin's five most prominent commercial blocks are two and three story structures of brick construction built on corners. Each follows the pattern of having a narrow primary facade on a major north-south street and a longer secondary facade characterized by a central pavilion and facing on an east-west street. Lesser buildings have similar Neo-Classical detailing to these five prominent commercial blocks and are also usually of brick construction, but typically have only one articulated facade and are only one or two stories tall. Quite a number of store fronts on buildings in both categories have been altered over time. In order for a building to be considered a contributing structure within the historic district, it must retain its original masonry detailing on the upper floors or on the parapet above the store fronts as well as the overall composition and massing in order to contribute to the rhythmic continuity of the streetscape.

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Statement of Significance:

Hardin was founded as an industrial and shipping point by the Lincoln Land Co. in 1907. The Commercial Historic District is significant because it represents a late period of agricultural community settlement and development in eastern Montana and visually depicts three important themes in the history of the development of small western towns: 1) the small town architecture of the early 20th century (1907-1937); 2) the town planning of a western townsite company associated with the railroads' colonization of the frontier; and 3) the business mix and the evolution of businesses in a small agricultural/railroad town. The period of significance for this district extends to 1937 due to the construction of the Big Horn County Courthouse during that year. The 2 story, Moderne, limestone courthouse represents the culmination of Hardin's development as the commercial and political center of Big Horn County.

Location, Verbal Boundary Description, and Justification:

The boundary of the Hardin Commercial Historic District encompasses those areas within the business district which have a predominance of structures which are of primary significance or which contribute to the significance of the Hardin district, as evaluated by the 1984 inventory of the Hardin Original Townsite. The historic district includes the commercial core of the town as well as the ancillary commercial and transportation related properties located along the railroad right-of-way.

The Commercial District is comprised primarily of buildings which depict Hardin's reason for being: an agricultural trade and shipping center. The district includes the following parcels in the Hardin Original Townsite: Block 1, Lot 6; Block 2, Lots 6-8; Block 7, Lots 3-10; Block 8, Lots 1-16; all of Blocks 9-12; Block 13, Lots 1-6; all of Blocks 9-12; Block 13, Lots 1-6; Block 16, Lots 1-6; and all of Blocks 17 and 18. The Commercial District also includes the property between the above mentioned parcels and a line 10 feet north of and running parallel to the center line of the main track of the Burlington Northern Railroad between the center line of the alley between Cheyenne and Crook and a point 500 feet southwest of the center line of the alley between Crow and Cody. UTM references for Hardin's Commercial Historic District are as follows (all UTM's are in Zone 13):

- A. E-297,290; N-5,067,440
- B. E-297,470; N-5,067,440
- C. E-297,460; N-5,067,220
- D. E-296,830; N-5,066,810
- E. E-296,790; N-5,066,880
- F. F-296,980; N-5,066,880
- G. E-296,980; N-5,067,080
- H. E-297,050; N-5,067,080
- I. E-297,050; N-5,067,020
- J. E-297,100; N-5,067,060
- K. E-297,100; N-5,067,290
- L. E-297,050; N-5,067,290
- M. E-297,050; N-5,067,370

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N. E-297,220; N-5,067,370
O. E-297,220; N-5,067,400
P. E-297,290; N-5,067,400

HARDIN HISTORIC RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT

Period of Significance: 1907 - 1930

Areas of Significance: architecture, exploration/settlement

Acreage: approximately 8 acres

Ownership: multiple ownership

Status: occupied

Accessible: yes, restricted

Present Use: residential

Physical Description:

The Hardin Residential District contains primarily single-family residences, the primary styles being simple vernacular and the Craftsman. Some of the vernacular houses have been modified, but retain sufficient integrity of materials, design, and craftsmanship to allow one to see the simple gabled or hipped forms of the first houses that were built in Hardin to provide basic shelter without an attempt to embrace the tenets of any particular style. Typical modifications include asbestos or hardboard siding or applied stucco finish to the exterior walls, enclosed porches, side and rear room and porch additions. A vernacular building has been judged to have retained sufficient integrity to qualify for listing as a contributing structure within the district when it dates from the historic period of significance and has retained the majority of its original historic fabric, detailing, original fenestration, form, and massing, although exterior walls may have been sheathed in non-historic materials.

The predominant early residential style in Hardin was the Craftsman style and it appeared shortly after 1910. Hardin's Craftsman houses exhibit typical elements of the style: one or 1-1/2 story wood frame construction, broad eaves decorated with exposed rafters, and brackets, and wall boards, projecting windows, wood shingle and clapboard siding, dormers, and ample porches -- all arranged in a picturesque manner and set in the midst of a spacious yard. Almost all of the Craftsman style residences within the historic district have retained an extraordinary degree of historic architectural integrity.

Statement of Significance:

The Hardin Residential Historic District is significant because it exhibits two types of residences that clearly reflect Hardin's growth and development and that are distinctive types of residences found in rural agricultural towns of this period in Montana: the vernacular designs built by the first settlers in the community and, more prominently, the Craftsman style which gained clear ascendancy in Hardin between 1910 and 1920. The Residential Historic District also contains residences of individuals significant to Hardin's early history including Carl Rankin, who surveyed the townsite and was the first agent for the townsite company, and several of Hardin's early business owners.

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The growth of residential neighborhoods in Hardin followed a lop-sided pattern. Although new residential subdivisions were filed with the county very soon after the town's founding and these newly platted areas surrounded the Original Townsite, residential development occurred primarily to the north and east of the commercial district. Further inventory work in Hardin may shed light on the reasons why the residential neighborhoods developed in this manner.

Location, Verbal Boundary Description, and Justification:

The Hardin Residential Historic District is comprised only of those areas within the Hardin Original Townsite survey area which are comprised predominantly of residential structures that date from the first two decades of Hardin's existence. This Residential Historic District does not encompass all of the residences in Hardin that are of historic or architectural significance, but is limited to the buildings located within the geographical limits of the survey area. Other blocks of buildings will likely be added to this nomination during the next few years as more neighborhoods in Hardin are inventoried.

Hardin's Residential Historic District includes the following parcels in the Hardin original Townsite: Block 3, Lots 17 and 18; all of Blocks 4-6. The individual properties are Block 15, Lot 3 and Block 15, Lot 4. UTM references for the district are as follows (all UTM's are in zone 13):

- W. E-296,990; N-5,067,290
- L. E-297,050; N-5,067,290
- X. E-297,050; N-5,067,400
- O. E-297,220; N-5,067,400
- Y. E-297,220; N-5,067,510
- Z. E-296,990; N-5,067,510

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached bibliography.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 55 acres

Quadrangle name Hardin, Montana

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References See UTM references accompanying each district boundary description.

A

Zone	Easting			Northing					

B

Zone	Easting			Northing					

C

Zone	Easting			Northing					

D

Zone	Easting			Northing					

E

Zone	Easting			Northing					

F

Zone	Easting			Northing					

G

Zone	Easting			Northing					

H

Zone	Easting			Northing					

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Fredric L. Quivik, Architectural Historian

organization Renewable Technologies, Inc. (Under contract to the Big Horn County Hist. Society) date September 1984

street & number 630 Utah telephone (406) 782-2386

city or town Butte state Montana 59701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

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The boundary encompasses those areas within the original townsite which have a predominance of structures which are of primary significance or which contribute to the significance of the Hardin district as evaluated by the 1984 inventory of the Hardin Original Townsite.

The Commercial District is comprised primarily of buildings which depict Hardin's reason for being: an agricultural and railroad commercial and shipping center. It includes the following parcels in the Hardin Original Townsite: Block 1, Lot 6; Block 2, Lots 6-8; Block 7, Lots 3-10; Block 8, Lots 1-16; all of Blocks 9-12; Block 13, Lots 1-6; Block 16, Lots 1-6; and all of Blocks 17 and 18. The Commercial District also includes the property between the above mentioned parcels and a line 10 feet from and running parallel to the center line of the main track of the Burlington Northern Railroad between the center line of the alley between Cheyenne and Crook and a point 500 feet southwest of the center line of the alley Crow and Cody. UTM references for Hardin's Commercial Historic District are as follows (all UTM's are in Zone 13):

A.	E-297,290; N-5,067,440	I.	E-297,050; N-5,067,020
B.	E-297,470; N-5,067,440	J.	E-297,100; N-5,067,060
C.	E-297,460; N-5,067,220	K.	E-297,100; N-5,067,290
D.	E-296,830; N-5,066,810	L.	E-297,050; N-5,067,290
E.	E-296,790; N-5,066,880	M.	E-297,050; N-5,067,370
F.	E-296,980; N-5,066,880	N.	E-297,220; N-5,067,370
G.	E-296,980; N-5,067,080	O.	E-297,220; N-5,067,400
H.	E-297,050; N-5,067,080	P.	E-297,290; N-5,067,400

The Residential District is comprised primarily of residential structures which date from the first two decades of Hardin's existence in the area immediately surrounding the commercial district. This Residential Historic District does not by any means encompass all of the residences in Hardin which could contribute to a Hardin residential district. Others will probably be added later as more neighborhoods in Hardin are inventoried. Hardin's Residential Historic District includes the following parcels in the Hardin Original Townsite: Block 3, Lots 17 and 18; all of Blocks 4-6.

UTM references

for the district are as follows (all UTM's are in Zone 13):

W.	E-296,990; N-5,067,290
L.	E-297,050; N-5,067,290
X.	E-297,050; N-5,067,400
O.	E-297,220; N-5,067,400
Y.	E-297,220; N-5,067,510
Z.	E-297,990; N-5,067,510

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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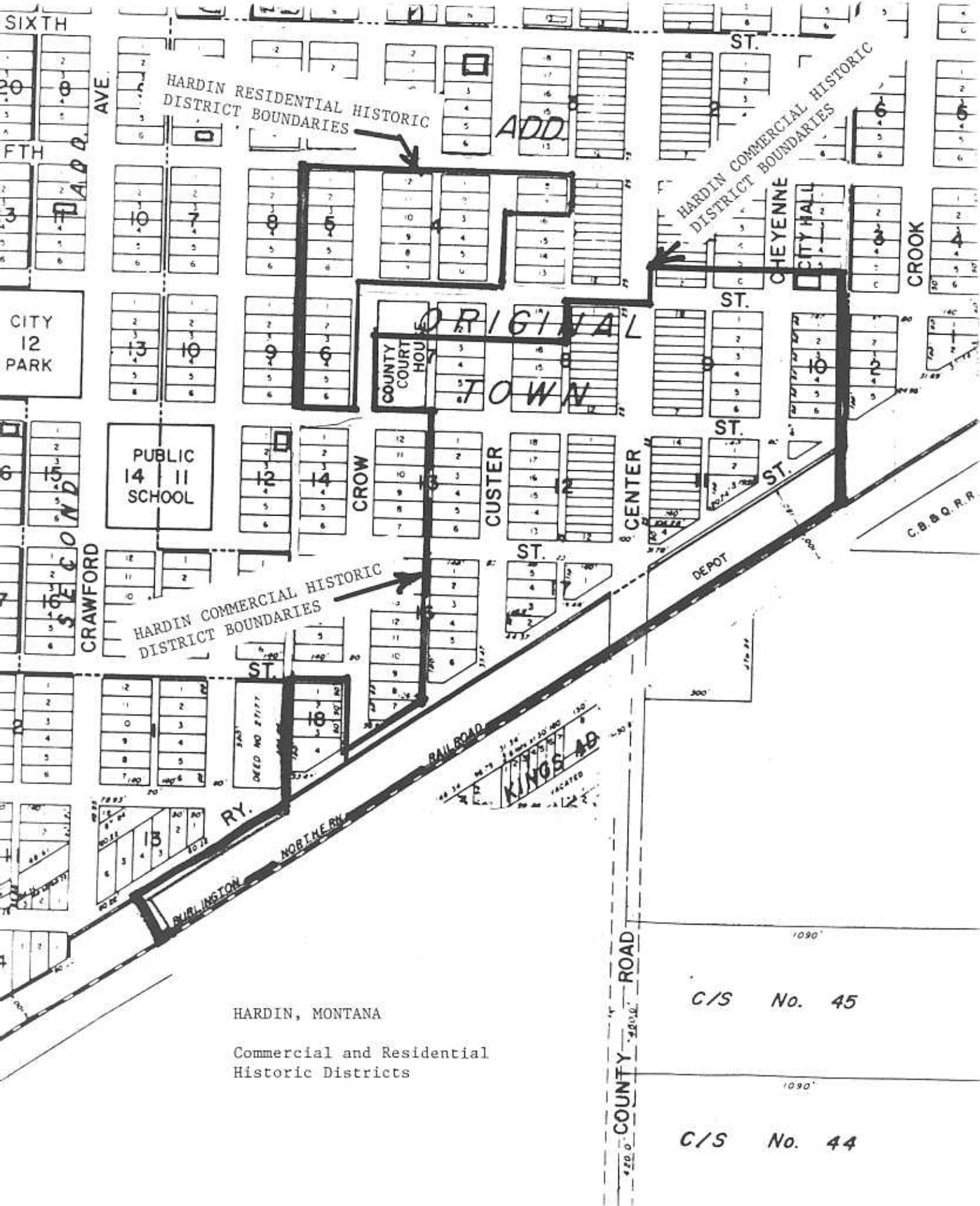
HARDIN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT - Historic Resources of Hardin
Site # 2-13H2564

CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

Bachelor-Scott Lumber Co. & J.M. Broat Lumber Co.	202 W. 1st St.
Bakery (Wagon Wheel Bar)	312 N. Center
Becker Hotel	200 N. Center
Ben Franklin Building	220 Center Ave
Big Horn Abstract	209 N. Custer
Big Horn Bar or Exchange Saloon	218 N. Center
Big Horn Implement	305 N. Cheyenne
Big Horn Saloon	214 and 214½ N. Center
Chicago, Burlington, & Quincy Depot	10 E. Railroad St.
Coger Building	213 N. Center
Denio Milling Company	320 W. Railroad St.
Eder Hardware	304 N. Center
English & Bovum Lumber Yard	202 N. Custer - destroyed 1939
Farmers Union Elevator	506 Railroad St.
French's Storage Shed	Custer Avenue and 2nd St.
Gay, T. E., Building	222 and 224 Center Avenue
Goering Building	314 and 316 N. Center
Hardin Drug Company	221 N. Center
Hardin State Bank	219 N. Center
Hardin Meat Market	306 N. Center
Hardin Photo Service	309 N. Center
Harriet Theatre	316, 318, 320 Center Avenue
Dr. Haverfield's (Dornberger House)	310 N. Custer
Johnston and Tupper	223 N. Center
Kendrick House	206 N. Custer
Knudson Building	215 N. Center
Kopriva's Mercantile Store	310 N. Center
Lammers' Second-Hand Store	17 E. 4th
Lee or Yergey Building	322 and 324 N. Center
McEvoy's Rooming House	216 N. Center
McMoran Building	317 N. Center
Mutual Oil Company	305 N. Railroad St.
Occident Elevator	206 W. Railroad St.
Pearl Theatre	305 N. Center
Pruitt Building	208 N. Center
Reid's, James, Pool Hall	204 N. Center
Savoy Hotel and Cafe	217 N. Center Avenue
Schneider's, C.B., Confectionary	206 N. Center
Smith-Lee & Chevy Garage	16 W. 3rd St.
Spencer's General Store	124 N. Center
Sullivan Building	19½ and 27 W. 3rd St.
Thompson Yards, Inc.	Custer and Railroad Avenue
Water Works (City Hall)	101 E. 4th

The Hardin MRA includes:

24BH0613	Burke, Thomas H., House
24BH1982	Boyum, John, House
24BH1983	First Baptist Church
24BH1984	Ebeling, William, House
24BH1985	Sullivan, James J., House
24BH1986	Ping, J.J., House
24BH1987	Eder, Charles S., House
24BH1988	Sullivan Rooming House
24BH1989	Haverfield Hospital
24BH1990	Kopriva, Francis, House
24BH1991	Reno Apartments
24BH1992	St. Joseph Catholic Church
24BH1993	Tupper, J.S., House
24BH2564	Hardin Commercial Historic District
24BH2565	Hardin Residential Historic District



HARDIN RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

HARDIN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

ORIGINAL TOWN

HARDIN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

HARDIN, MONTANA
 Commercial and Residential
 Historic Districts

C/S No. 45

C/S No. 44

LAUREL 64 MI.
BILLINGS 48 MI.

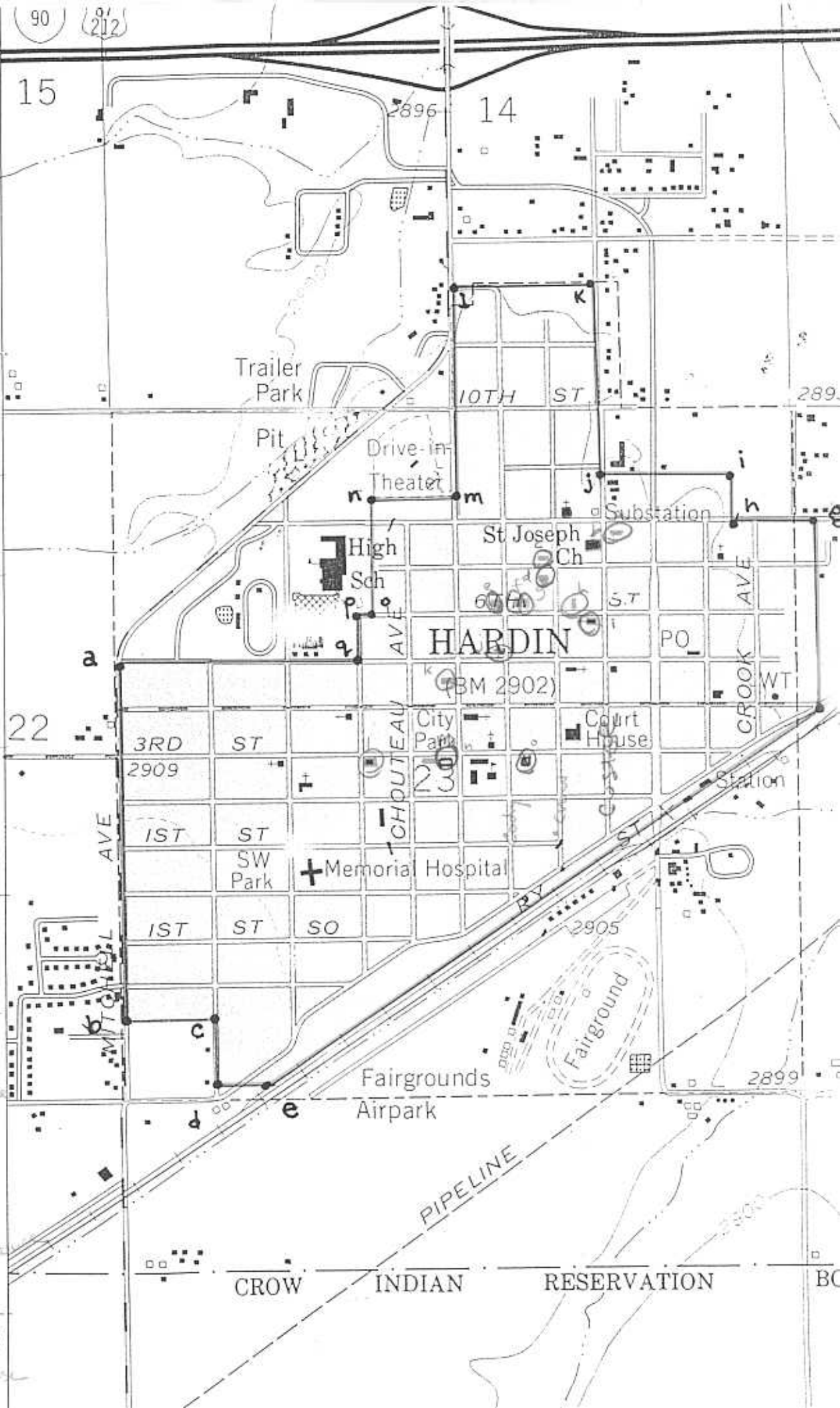
90 212

15

14

- reno Apartments
296200/5067500
- St Joseph Church
297160/5067800
- Wm Eberling House
297050/5067750
- Wilbur Fish House
297040/506770
- Thomas Burke House
296930/5067640
- John Boyum House
296760/5067665
- Sullivan Rooming House
296980/5067665
- JJ Ping House
297140/5067640
- First Baptist Ch.⁵⁰⁶⁷
297190/5067600
- J. S. Tupper House
286920/5067550
- Francis Kopriwa House
296810/5067460
- Haverfield Hospital
296600/5067270
- Charles S Eder House
296780/5067300

5066



James J Sullivan House
297000/5067260